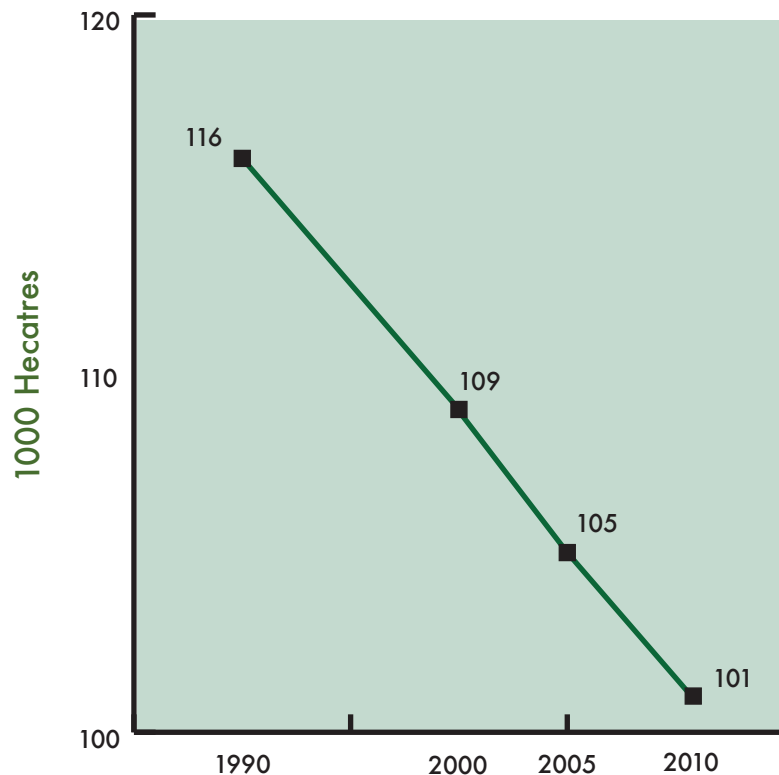


# Haiti Faces Grave Deforestation Problems

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti, has dealt with extensive deforestation, and much of the remaining 3.8% forested land is being cleared for agriculture and fuel. Harvesting young trees for charcoal, which fuels 60% of Haiti's domestic energy production, is a viable way to make a living for the poverty-stricken. A growing urban population is increasing the demand for coal and wood fuel, which adds further stress to the environment and adds even more reason why byproducts of deforestation, like erosion and loss of biodiversity.

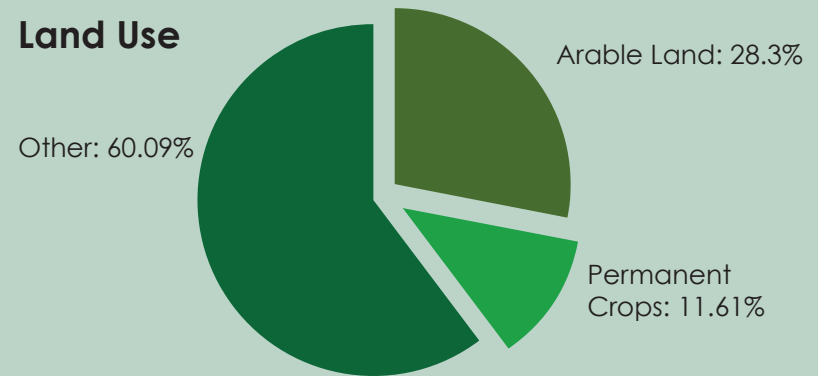
## Trends in Total (Net) Forest Cover

In total, between 1990 and 2005, Haiti lost 9.5% of its forest cover, or around 11,000 hectares.

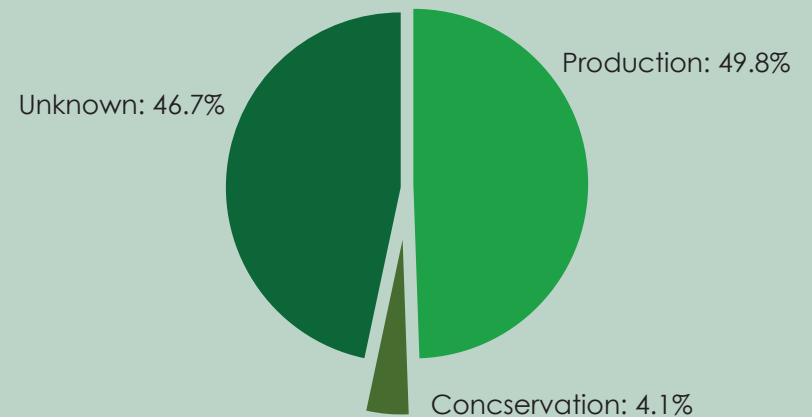


Source: [www.mongabay.com](http://www.mongabay.com)  
Lauren Martin

## Land Use



Land that is suitable for growing crops, or arable, is used to plant small, young trees to burn into charcoal but also includes trees that are considered too valuable, like mango trees.



## Designated Functions of Forests (2005)