Keeping watch over tropical forests by satellite

In the Amazon basin, deforestation is mainly due to the expansion of stockbreeding. Over the past 30 years therefore, 17% of the Amazonian forest - a surface area equal to France - has been converted, mainly into pasture.

- In Asia, the forests are increasingly giving way to commercial crops, notably to plantations of rubber trees (Hevea) and palm oil trees to satisfy the global demand for biofuel.
- In Africa, deforestation never ceases to progress, giving way to agricultural land. This effect is accentuated by countries like China which buy land to feed their population.

Did you know? Some companies apply low-impact logging and operational techniques to limit damage to the forest: felling area delimited on a satellite image, inventory, locating and marking trees for cutting, strict limitation of tracks.