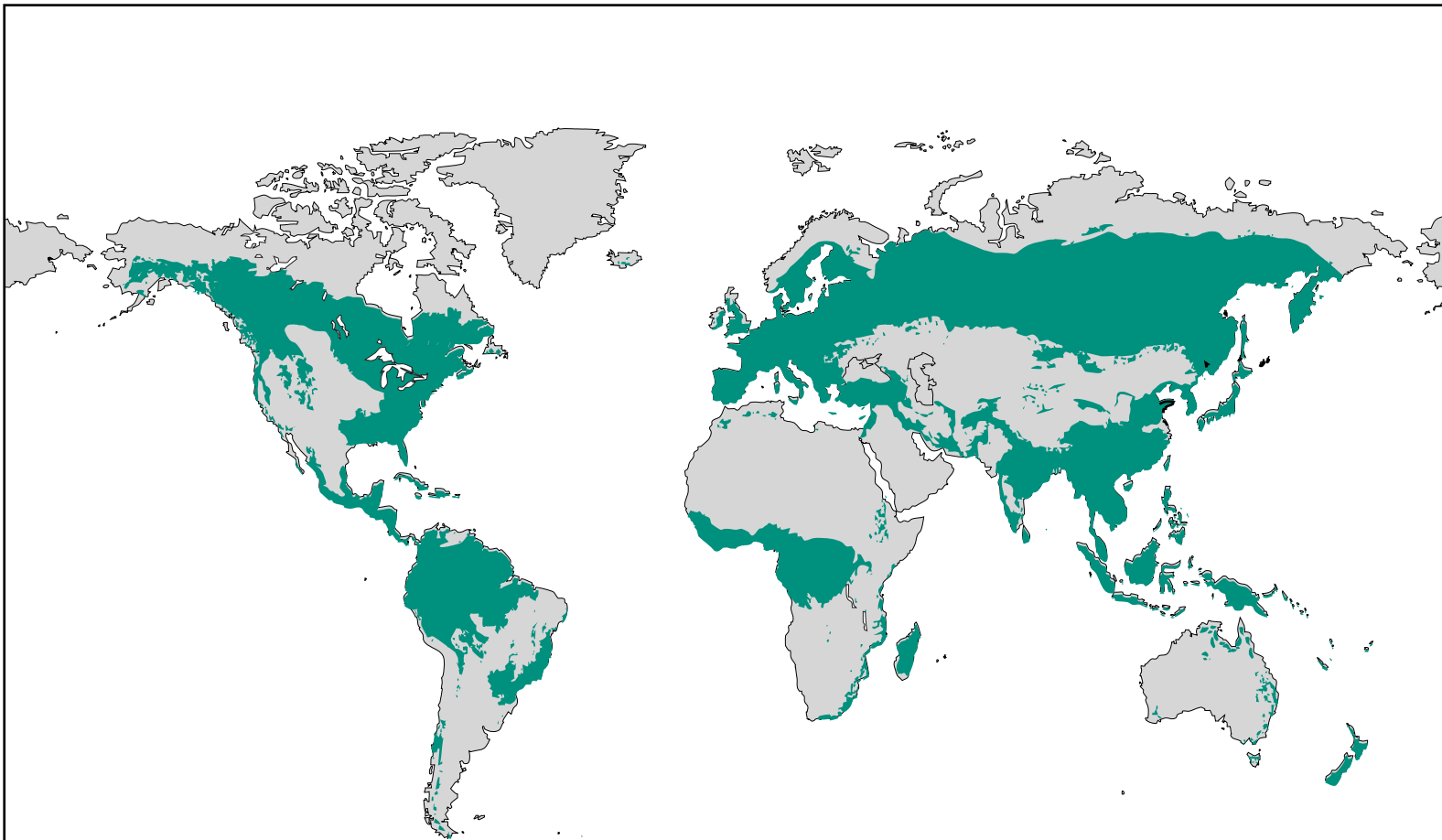


DEFORESTATION

People have always cut forests for two basic reasons: to clear land for agriculture and settlement, and for the wood itself. Wood is vital for shelter and furniture construction, and in many countries it remains the basic fuel for heating and cooking meals. The cutting of forests is a worldwide activity, from parts of Siberia and Alaska to the tropics of Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Timber harvesting and conversion to farmland have already removed almost 50 percent of the earth's original forest cover, much of it in temperate regions. Today, these human activities account for the loss of at least 16 million hectares of forests every year, mainly in the tropics. Such direct destruction of forests is the primary reason for today's massive extinction of species.

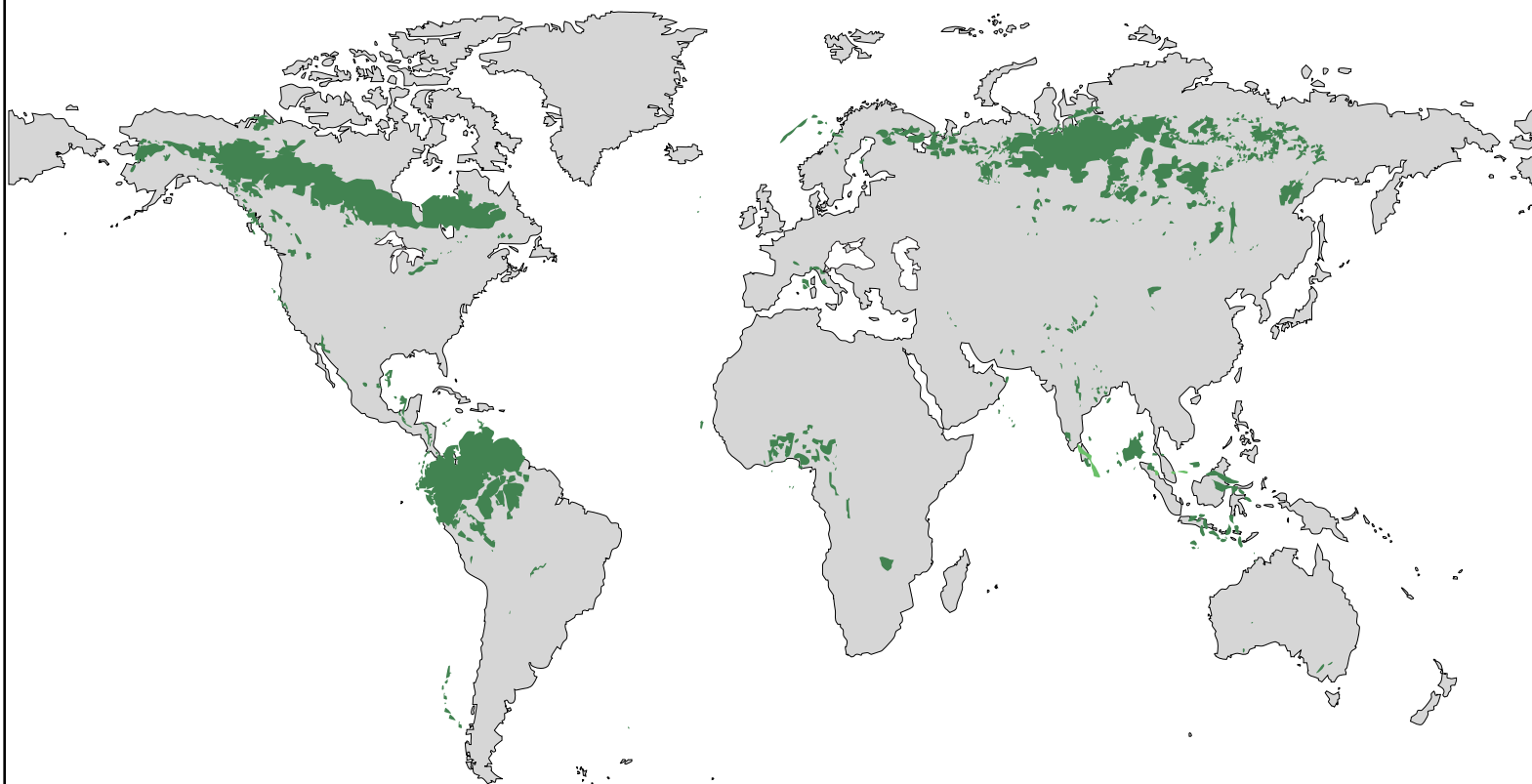
FOREST LOSS OVER TIME




 = ORIGINAL FOREST COVER

8,000 YEARS AGO

FOREST LOSS OVER TIME



 = REMAINING FRONTIER FORESTS
(INTACT NATURAL FOREST
ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE RELATIVELY
UNDISTURBED AND LARGE ENOUGH
TO MAINTAIN ALL OF THEIR
BIODIVERSITY)

1997