



GA4: Environmental Committee

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Issue: Alleviating deforestation in the Amazon

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I. Introduction

Throughout history and into modern times, forests have been razed to make space for agriculture and animal grazing and to obtain wood for fuel, manufacturing, and construction by a process called deforestation, which is the purposeful clearing of forested land. Deforestation represents one of the largest issues in global land use. In the practice of clear-cutting, all the trees are removed from the land, which completely destroys the forest. In some cases, however, even partial logging and accidental fires thin out the trees enough to change the forest structure dramatically. Forests play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance by absorbing carbon dioxide, producing oxygen, conserving biodiversity, and regulating the climate and water cycles. However, over the past several decades, forests around the world have been cleared or degraded at an alarming rate due to human activities such as agriculture, logging, mining, and infrastructure development. This deforestation not only contributes significantly to climate change through the release of stored carbon but also leads to habitat loss, endangering countless species and disrupting entire ecosystems. Globally, regions such as the Amazon rainforest, Southeast Asia, and parts of Africa have been particularly affected, with severe consequences for both local and global environments. The loss of forest cover diminishes biodiversity, exacerbates soil erosion, and reduces the resilience of communities that depend on forest resources for their livelihoods.

The Amazon rainforest, often referred to as the "lungs of the Earth," plays an indispensable role in regulating the global climate, preserving biodiversity, and supporting indigenous communities. Despite its critical importance, this vital ecosystem faces relentless deforestation, driven largely by economic pressures, agricultural expansion, and exploitation of natural resources. The Amazon spans several countries in Central and South America, making its protection a crucial regional and global priority. Overall, deforestation, which is the large-scale removal of trees and forested land, is one of the most pressing environmental issues facing our planet today and it needs to be tackled to ease the effects of climate change on our planet.



II. Involved Countries and Organizations

Brazil

Brazil is the most significant country involved in the issue of deforestation in the Amazon, as the majority of the rainforest (close to two-thirds) lies within its borders. The country has a central role in global environmental discussions, with the Amazon being vital to both national development and global climate health. Brazil's involvement in deforestation is closely tied to its economic activities, such as agriculture, including cattle ranching and soy production, logging, and mining. These industries contribute significantly to the country's GDP but also drive deforestation at alarming rates.

Between 2001 and 2023, Brazil's Amazon lost nearly a fifth of its rainforest, or more than 266,000 square miles, according to the World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch. Large-scale deforestation in Brazil began in the 1960s, but it accelerated rapidly under President Jair Bolsonaro (2019–2022), particularly in the states of Pará and Mato Grosso. Brazil has historically been one of the largest contributors to deforestation in the Amazon. However, over the past two decades, the country has made significant strides in reducing deforestation through various policies and programs. The most notable was the creation of the "Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon" (PPCDAm), which aimed to reduce illegal logging and increase protected areas. Despite this, the rate of deforestation began to rise again, particularly since 2019, due to changes in government policy, weak enforcement of environmental laws, and a relaxation of restrictions on agricultural land use.

Bolivia

Bolivia, a landlocked country in South America, is also a significant player in the efforts to address deforestation in the Amazon basin. After Brazil, Bolivia has recorded the most deforestation, with more than 30,700 square miles of tree cover lost between 2001 and 2023.

Bolivia's government is involved in deforestation issues through its policies on agriculture and land use. Over the years, Bolivia has promoted the expansion of the agricultural frontier, particularly for soy farming and cattle ranching, which have contributed to deforestation in the Amazon region. However, Bolivia has also been engaged in international conservation efforts and has joined regional initiatives aimed at preserving the Amazon's biodiversity. The Bolivian government has historically prioritized the rights of



indigenous communities and land reform in its national development policies, often seeing the expansion of agriculture as a pathway to economic growth. However, Bolivia has also participated in various international dialogues focused on the environmental crisis in the Amazon and has committed to reducing deforestation. President Luis Arce has said, "We are committed to finding solutions that do not harm our people but protect our forests for future generations" (Arce, 2021). This statement reflects Bolivia's desire to balance economic development with environmental preservation.

Peru

Peru, another key country in the Amazon region, shares borders with Brazil and has a significant portion of the Amazon basin within its territories. Like Brazil, Peru's economy depends on industries that drive deforestation, including agriculture, logging, and illegal mining. However, the country has made efforts to address environmental degradation and promote sustainable land use.

Peru is involved in deforestation through its agricultural expansion, illegal gold mining, and logging activities. While the Peruvian government has committed to forest conservation and biodiversity protection, enforcement of environmental regulations has often been inconsistent. In recent years, the government has sought to balance economic development with environmental sustainability, particularly in the face of growing global demand for natural resources. Peru has expressed concern about the Amazon's environmental challenges but has also focused on the economic benefits derived from its natural resources. The government has worked to address illegal mining and logging through various initiatives, such as the National Forest Conservation Program for Climate Change Mitigation. However, despite these efforts, deforestation remains high due to pressures from informal and illegal activities that undermine state enforcement.

Colombia

Colombia, located in the northwestern part of South America, is another crucial country in the Amazon basin, with a portion of the rainforest extending across its territories. Deforestation in Colombia is driven by similar factors to those in other Amazon countries, including illegal logging, mining, and agricultural expansion.

Colombia's involvement in the deforestation issue is largely due to its agricultural and mining sectors, as well as the illegal drug trade. The country has made strides in implementing environmental protection policies, and there has been growing recognition of the importance of the Amazon region for climate change mitigation. The Colombian government has been involved in various efforts to curb deforestation, including signing the 2015 Paris Agreement and committing to reduce deforestation by 2020, although challenges



remain. Colombia has expressed deep concern over the deforestation of the Amazon and its implications for biodiversity and climate change. In recent years, Colombia has focused on strengthening its environmental policies, improving the enforcement of environmental laws, and engaging in international partnerships for sustainable development.

United States of America (USA)

The United States, while not located in the Amazon region, plays a significant role in the deforestation issue through its consumption of Amazonian products like soy, beef, and timber. The USA is also a major donor to international environmental programs aimed at combating deforestation. The USA has a strong interest in the preservation of the Amazon due to its role in climate change mitigation. American companies are significant importers of products linked to deforestation, and there has been increasing pressure on US corporations to adopt sustainable sourcing practices. Additionally, the US has provided funding and technical support to countries in the Amazon Basin for forest conservation and sustainable development. The USA views the preservation of the Amazon as essential for global environmental health, particularly in terms of climate change and biodiversity. The Biden administration has committed to supporting international efforts to reduce deforestation, including funding initiatives such as the Amazon Fund, which aims to provide financial resources for conservation and sustainable development.

The United Nations (UN)

The UN has been a crucial player in promoting global efforts to combat deforestation. Through programs such as REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), the UN has worked to incentivize countries to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable land management. The UN's climate agenda highlights the importance of the Amazon in achieving global climate goals and ensuring a stable future for all nations.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

The WWF has been instrumental in raising awareness and supporting conservation projects in the Amazon. As a global environmental organization, the WWF works closely with local governments, businesses, and communities to promote sustainable development and reduce deforestation in the region.

III. Focused Overview of the Issue



Deforestation in the Amazon is an environmental issue that continues to be a major concern across Latin America and beyond. Tropical forests play a critical role in both local and global ecosystems. They provide habitat for wildlife, sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, protect biodiversity, and provide valuable resources for nearby communities. It is estimated that over 20% of global rainforests have already been destroyed due to land clearing for agricultural production, logging, mining, and other human activities through deforestation. In addition to its devastation of the natural environment, deforestation also contributes significantly to changing climates by releasing tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. As aforementioned, deforestation refers to the decrease in forest areas across the world that are lost for other uses such as agricultural croplands, urbanization, or mining activities. Greatly accelerated by human activities since 1960, deforestation has been negatively affecting natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and the climate. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates the annual rate of deforestation to be around 1.3 million km² per decade.

1. Overview of the Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest, the largest rainforest in the world, is a lush and vibrant ecosystem spanning nine countries in South America, covering an area of over 5.5 million square kilometers, of which almost 60% is in Brazil. It is famously known as the 'lungs of the world,' producing 20% of the Earth's oxygen and playing a crucial role in regulating the planet's climate. But it's not just the ecological importance that makes the Amazon Rainforest a wondrous place. The rainforest is home to over one million Indigenous people and millions of species of plants and animals, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

However, the Amazon Rainforest is facing significant threats given the rates of deforestation, mainly from human activities like deforestation, mining, and agriculture, but also from natural events like forest fires. These activities have devastating impacts on the ecosystem and the people who depend on it, including Indigenous communities who have called the rainforest home for thousands of years. Despite these challenges, the Amazon Rainforest can be restored with collective support. Many organizations and individuals are working to protect the rainforest through sustainable practices, conservation efforts, and education initiatives. And we can all do our part, whether it's reducing our consumption of products linked to deforestation or supporting eco-friendly practices.

2. Causes of Deforestation in the Amazon

One of the leading causes of deforestation is the expansion of agricultural land, accounting for more than 70% of deforestation rates. Agricultural practices, such as clearing vast areas of forest for farming, logging, and fuelwood use, are primary activities that contribute significantly to deforestation. Both



subsistence farming, where farmers grow crops to feed their families, and commercial agriculture, which produces crops for export or domestic use, are responsible for hundreds to thousands of hectares of forest being taken down. Agriculture is the largest contributor to deforestation in the Amazon. In countries like Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia, vast areas of forest are cleared to make way for crops such as soybeans, which are primarily exported to global markets, and cattle ranching, which is another major driver of deforestation. According to the World Resources Institute (WRI), roughly 80% of deforestation in the Amazon is driven by agricultural activities, with cattle ranching being responsible for the largest share. The expansion of monoculture farming, including soy cultivation, poses significant risks to biodiversity, as it replaces diverse forest ecosystems with single-crop landscapes. Additionally, land grabbers and illegal settlers often invade protected lands, clearing forests to increase agricultural production.

Logging and wood harvesting are also among the leading causes of deforestation across the world, especially in North America, where trees are cut down for timber used in furniture, paper, and other products. Forests are valuable resources that provide timber products for construction, furniture, and paper. Unfortunately, this often leads to unsustainable logging practices that destroy millions of hectares of forested land every year. Timber extraction, both legal and illegal, is another major cause of deforestation. The logging industry targets valuable hardwood species like mahogany and rosewood, which are often sold to international markets. While some logging activities are conducted legally under government permits, illegal logging is rampant, particularly in remote areas of the Amazon. The lack of strong enforcement and corruption in some regions make it difficult to address this issue effectively.

In addition to agriculture and logging, illegal mining for gold, silver, and other minerals is rapidly expanding in the Amazon. Mining operations, often carried out by informal or illegal actors, lead to widespread deforestation and soil degradation. The demand for minerals like gold and iron ore drives mining in the Amazon, and mining activities are causing widespread destruction to the rainforest, including water pollution and soil degradation.

Lastly, human population growth as well as urbanization is also a significant contributor to deforestation in the Amazon. Urbanization and the expansion of cities have a significant impact on deforestation, contributing to the destruction of forested land across the globe. As urban areas grow, they require more resources to sustain their populations, increasing demand for products like beef and agricultural goods. This demand fuels deforestation both directly—through the conversion of forested land into housing or agricultural land—and indirectly—by increasing pressure on forests to provide resources. The expansion of cities often leads to the need for more land for housing and settlements, as well as for the construction of roads and other infrastructure to service the city. In places like Latin America and



Sub-Saharan Africa, the expansion of cities has driven significant forest loss over the past few decades. For example, in the past 20 years, Brazil has lost more than 16 million hectares of forested land to urban expansion, mining, and agriculture, with much of this loss occurring in the Amazon region. As the world's population continues to grow, the demand for food, housing, and natural resources also increases. This directly impacts deforestation as the need for more land for agriculture and settlements fuels the conversion of forests into farmland and urban areas.

3. Effects of Deforestation in the Amazon

Deforestation can result in more carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. That is because trees take in carbon dioxide from the air for photosynthesis, and carbon is locked chemically in their wood. When trees are burned, this carbon returns to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. With fewer trees around to take in the carbon dioxide, this greenhouse gas accumulates in the atmosphere and accelerates global warming. This exacerbates the effects of climate change, contributing to rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and more frequent natural disasters. The Amazon plays a crucial role in regulating the global climate by acting as a carbon sink. The trees of the Amazon absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping mitigate climate change. When trees are cleared or burned, this carbon is released back into the atmosphere, contributing to the global warming crisis. In fact, the destruction of the Amazon accounts for nearly 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, One of the most significant effects of deforestation in the Amazon is the displacement of Indigenous peoples. These communities have a deep connection with the land and depend on it for their survival. When forests are cut down, their homes, livelihoods, and very existence are threatened. Healthy forests support the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people globally, one billion of whom are among the world's poorest. This means there are many people depending on forests for survival and using them to hunt and gather raw products for their small-scale agriculture processes. But in developing countries such as Borneo, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brazil, or Mexico, land tenure systems are weak. This allows big businesses to get these lands and use them for other ends, disrupting local people's lives. Locals then have to make one of two choices. They can decide to abandon "their" land and migrate somewhere else, avoiding conflict and embracing the challenge of a new different life. Or they can stay and work for the companies exploring it in remote plantations – often getting unfair wages and working under inhumane conditions.

Another impact of deforestation is the loss of biodiversity. The Amazon is home to an incredible array of species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. When forests are destroyed, these animals lose their habitat, and many cannot survive. This, in turn, affects the balance of the entire ecosystem, and the consequences can be far-reaching. From mammals to birds, insects, amphibians, and plants, the forest



is home to many rare and fragile species, and 80% of the Earth's land animals and plants live in forests. By destroying forests, human activities are endangering entire ecosystems, disrupting natural balance, and threatening all forms of life. The natural world is complex, interconnected, and made of thousands of inter-dependencies and among other functions, trees provide shade and colder temperatures for animals and smaller trees or vegetation that may not survive with the heat of direct sunlight. Besides, trees also feed animals with their fruits while providing them with the food and shelter they need to survive. When forests are logged or burned, many species are driven toward extinction. Some scientists believe we are already in the midst of a mass extinction period.

Deforestation also leads to soil erosion, which affects the quality of the soil and its ability to support plant and animal life. The Amazon is known for its fertile soil. Even so, when forests are removed, the soil can quickly become depleted, leading to a loss of productivity and economic opportunities for local traditional communities. Deforestation exposes soil previously protected by the forest canopy to the open sun and air. This can make the soil more fragile and less nutrient-rich. Plant cover protects the soil, holding it in place. When deforestation damages plant cover, the soil becomes fragile and susceptible to landslides and mudslides when wet and desertification when dry. When farmers deforest an area to plant crops, the crops they plant do not protect the soil as well as the forest canopy. As a result, the soil is eroded and leached of minerals, eventually forcing farmers to deforest a new area to gain access to richer soil for their crops, thus repeating the process while leaving the original land unable to support new plant life. It also contributes to polluted waterways and increased flooding, further damaging the ecosystem.

4. Recent Trends of Deforestation in the Amazon

Deforestation has been a hot topic for quite some time now, and it's not going away anytime soon. In fact, in the past years, deforestation rates in the Amazon have been on the rise, and the consequences are dire. In 2022, the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest witnessed a dramatic peak in deforestation: it lost the equivalent of nearly 3,000 soccer fields a day. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), approximately 10 million hectares of global forests are lost every year. Picture an area the size of Iceland but without the icy coolness. Instead, it's a wasteland. According to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rose more than 50% in the first three months of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Now, the Amazon Rainforest loses an average of 1.4 billion trees each year. When trees are cut down, they release carbon dioxide, a significant contributor to the climate crisis we're facing. That is why deforestation is responsible for roughly 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions each year.



Deforestation is a complex issue with many contributors. Large-scale agricultural industries, timber companies, governments, infrastructure developers, and even everyday consumers all have some responsibility. This is because activities like clearing forests for agriculture, logging, weak laws, and meeting the demands of the global market all contribute to deforestation. This is why we must all collaborate to address deforestation: Governments, industries, and consumers must work together. Sustainable forest management, responsible sourcing, conservation efforts, and improved governance are important first steps we must take. By addressing these sustainable practices, we can make a difference in protecting our forests.

IV. Key Vocabulary

Deforestation: the process of clearing, removing, or destroying forests or stands of trees from a land area, often to make way for agricultural activities, urban development, or logging.

Logging: The process of cutting, processing, and moving trees to a location for transport.

Biodiversity: The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Agriculture: The practice of growing crops or raising animals.

Indigenous Communities: Groups of people who are the original inhabitants of a specific geographic region. These communities have distinct cultural, linguistic, and historical ties to their ancestral lands, which are often passed down through generations.

Soil Erosion: A gradual process that occurs when the impact of water or wind detaches and removes soil particles, causing the soil to deteriorate.

Cattle Ranching: The practice of raising herds of animals on large tracts of land.

Ecosystem: A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Urbanization: The increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.

Greenhouse Gasses: Gasses in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat and enhance climate change.

Reforestation: The conversion of previously forested land back to forest by increasing the number of trees.



V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
June 1992	Brazil commits to environmental protection, including tackling deforestation, under the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, emphasizing sustainable development goals.
2004	Brazil launched the PPCDAm (Brazil's Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon) to curb Amazon deforestation, focusing on enforcement and monitoring.
2006	Brazil, with support from Norway, creates the Amazon Fund to finance projects aimed at reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable development.
2009	Brazil reports a 72% reduction in deforestation compared to 2004 levels, attributed to improved enforcement and monitoring.
2012	The Brazilian Congress passes the Forest Code Reform, easing restrictions on protected areas, sparking debates over its impact on deforestation.
2014	Brazil adopts a policy aiming for an 80% reduction in deforestation-related emissions by 2020, reinforcing its climate commitments.
December 2015	The Paris Climate Agreement was signed, committing to eliminate illegal deforestation by 2030 and reduce emissions by 37% by 2025.
May 2016	The Temer government reduces protected areas in the Amazon, allowing for increased agricultural expansion, criticized by environmentalists for weakening deforestation protections.
2017	Deforestation rises by 29% compared with 2016, exacerbated by illegal activities and reduced enforcement under the current government.



August 2019	The Amazon wildfires take place. The surge in Amazon fires prompts international criticism, with countries like France and Germany threatening to halt trade deals with Brazil due to environmental concerns.
2020	Norway and Germany suspend contributions to Brazil's Amazon Fund due to concerns over the Bolsonaro administration's deforestation policies.
November 2021	At COP26 (Global Commitment to Protect the Amazon), world leaders commit to halting deforestation by 2030, with pledges of financial support for Brazil's conservation efforts.
January 2023	President Lula returns, pledging to reverse deforestation policies and reinstate protections for the Amazon.
2023	Norway and Germany resume their support for the Amazon Fund, signaling renewed confidence in Brazil's commitment to environmental protection.
2024	Under Lula's administration, the Amazon Defenders Act is proposed to increase penalties for illegal deforestation and enhance protection for indigenous lands.

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

On September 25, 2015, the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 – "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was established. This resolution enhanced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 15, which aims to "protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss." It implicitly addresses deforestation by promoting sustainable forestry and land use.

Link: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf



Additionally on April 27th, 2016, the UN Security Council Resolution 2282 – "The Role of the United Nations in the Prevention and Resolution of Conflict" was established. This resolution discusses the link between environmental issues, including deforestation, and global peace and security. It emphasizes the need for the UN to consider environmental degradation, such as deforestation in the Amazon, as a source of conflict, leading to initiatives aimed at integrating environmental protection into peacekeeping and conflict resolution strategies. Link: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n16/118/51/pdf/n1611851.pdf>

Moreover, in 1978, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) was signed. The ACTO includes Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. This treaty encourages cooperation among the Amazonian countries to address deforestation and promote sustainable development in the Amazon region. The organization works on projects to monitor deforestation, implement sustainable forestry practices, and promote environmental education.

In 1992, The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was ratified by Brazil, was signed. The CBD requires signatories, including Brazil, to protect biodiversity, which is directly threatened by deforestation. It promotes sustainable practices that prevent habitat loss and supports the conservation of ecosystems like the Amazon Rainforest. The Convention encourages countries to integrate biodiversity considerations into national policies and development plans.

Additionally, in December 2015, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement were signed. The Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC directly links deforestation to climate change. Brazil, as a signatory, has pledged to reduce deforestation in the Amazon and to meet commitments for carbon emission reductions. The agreement aims for global efforts to limit the rise in global temperatures, with forest conservation playing a significant role in carbon sequestration.

While the resolutions and treaties listed above set important frameworks for addressing deforestation and environmental protection, they often lack enforcement mechanisms. For instance, the Paris Agreement provides financial incentives but relies heavily on voluntary national actions, which can be inconsistent. Similarly, the UNFCCC and CBD set targets but don't mandate specific actions for protecting the Amazon, making it difficult to directly curb deforestation without further commitments from individual nations. These agreements have been successful in raising awareness and setting long-term global targets for environmental protection. However, they have often failed to achieve immediate action due to the economic interests at play in countries with high deforestation rates. For example, Brazil's economic reliance on agriculture and livestock, which drives deforestation, often clashes with environmental protection efforts. Additionally, political instability and changes in government leadership, such as under Jair Bolsonaro, have led to weakened enforcement of environmental policies. The ACTO, while encouraging cooperation among



Amazonian countries, struggles with differing national interests, particularly around land use and resource exploitation, hindering significant action against deforestation.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Despite numerous attempts to tackle deforestation in the Amazon, many solutions have failed due to a combination of weak enforcement, political challenges, and economic interests. Below are key efforts that did not achieve lasting success:

2006 Brazil-U.S. Deforestation Agreement: This agreement aimed to reduce deforestation in Brazil with U.S. financial support, but it faced difficulties in implementation. The initiative lacked sufficient funding and political backing, especially after Brazil's economic priorities shifted toward infrastructure development, which often promoted deforestation. Additionally, the Brazilian government struggled to enforce environmental laws effectively, leading to minimal impact on deforestation rates.

2012 Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA): This initiative created a network of protected areas across the Amazon to safeguard biodiversity and reduce deforestation. While it succeeded in expanding the protected area network, illegal logging, land grabbing, and cattle ranching continued within and around these zones due to weak enforcement, insufficient resources for protection, and the high economic incentives driving deforestation. ARPA's limited budget and lack of sustainable funding also hindered its success.

2015 Brazilian Forest Code Reforms: Brazil's 2015 Forest Code aimed to strengthen protections for forests and regulate land use. While it initially appeared promising, the code included loopholes that allowed for further land development and deforestation. The reforms also lacked effective monitoring and enforcement, and political changes in Brazil, particularly under President Bolsonaro, led to a reduction in environmental protections and an increase in deforestation rates.

2016 Rio+20 Summit: During the Rio+20 Conference, nations globally pledged to halt deforestation by 2020. However, without binding agreements or a concrete mechanism for enforcement, this goal was not achieved. In Brazil, political and economic factors, including the prioritization of agricultural expansion and insufficient government action, undermined the efforts to protect the Amazon.

2012 National Climate Change Policy Targets: Brazil set ambitious goals to reduce deforestation as part of its National Climate Change Policy. While the country made significant progress in reducing deforestation between 2004 and 2012, the subsequent political and economic shifts under Bolsonaro's



administration led to the dismantling of environmental protections, increasing deforestation rates again by 2020. The lack of consistent political commitment and the prioritization of agribusiness interests in the Amazon undermined these targets.,

2019-2020 International Financial Support Proposals: In 2019, the G7 countries pledged \$20 million to support Amazon conservation efforts, but the Brazilian government, under President Bolsonaro, rejected the offer, citing concerns over national sovereignty. This rejection significantly undermined international efforts to provide financial aid and support to Brazil's environmental protection programs, further complicating efforts to halt deforestation.

VIII. Possible Solutions

Addressing deforestation in the Amazon requires a multifaceted approach that combines enforcement of existing regulations, international cooperation, sustainable development, and economic incentives.

One of the most practical ways to lessen deforestation in the Amazon is for the government to enforce laws that govern it. For example, the Brazilian government can create laws and regulations prioritizing sustainable agricultural activities and forestry practices. The government can also implement measures that penalize individuals and companies that engage in illegal deforestation such as illegal mining. This way, there will be a clear message to people that deforestation is impermissible. The environmental legislation and enforcement can also be strengthened. Countries can be encouraged to strengthen national environmental regulations that limit deforestation, especially in protected areas. This includes improving monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws, ensuring compliance with existing treaties, and enhancing the transparency of deforestation data. Additionally, the use of technology can be expanded, such as satellite imagery and drones for real-time monitoring of deforestation and illegal logging activities.

Moreover, implementing nature-based solutions could also help tackle the issue of deforestation. Nature-based solutions are a promising pathway towards mitigating deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. One such approach involves the restoration of degraded lands through reforestation efforts, which involves planting a diverse range of native tree species and allowing them to grow and regenerate over time. This can help prevent further deforestation by creating a barrier between remaining forests and areas susceptible to land-use change.

Additionally, sustainable agriculture practices can be promoted. Governments and international organizations can be encouraged to provide financial support and incentives for sustainable farming



practices that reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. This includes promoting agroforestry, where crops are grown alongside trees to preserve biodiversity, as well as sustainable cattle ranching that limits the expansion of farmland into forested areas.

Moreover, supporting non-profit organizations that work towards protecting rainforests and planting trees is another way to combat deforestation. Rainforest Trust, Amazon Watch, and Rainforest Alliance are some of the many nonprofit organizations individuals can donate to. These organizations help reduce deforestation by purchasing land in the Amazon to protect it from logging and cattle ranching. The international funding for conservation programs that aim to protect the Amazon, which channels financial resources to support sustainable development projects and conservation initiatives can also be boosted. It can be ensured that such initiatives are sufficiently funded and supported by both national governments and international stakeholders.

Additionally, it can be ensured that people are offsetting their carbon footprint to reduce the effects of deforestation. By offsetting carbon emissions that cannot be reduced or avoided, individuals can effectively reach net zero or carbon neutrality. This can be achieved by implementing carbon-reduction strategies and offsetting hard-to-abate emissions.

Moreover, public awareness can be raised to tackle this issue. Global educational campaigns can be launched to raise awareness about the importance of the Amazon Rainforest and the consequences of deforestation on biodiversity and climate change. This can foster consumer demand for sustainable products and increase public pressure on governments and corporations to take action. Local awareness and education programs in Amazonian countries can be promoted to inform communities about the environmental and economic benefits of forest conservation, sustainable land management, and the dangers of deforestation.

Since Indigenous communities in the Amazon also play a central role in this issue, programs that increase livelihoods for Indigenous communities and local populations through sustainable economic opportunities, such as ecotourism or non-timber forest products (e.g., nuts, fruits, medicinal plants) can be promoted. This can reduce the reliance on activities like illegal logging or land conversion for agriculture. Empower Indigenous communities to play a central role in the protection of the Amazon by securing their land rights and enabling them to manage their territories in a sustainable way.

IX. Useful Links

1. <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/deforestation/>



2. <https://fsc.org/en/blog/what-is-deforestation>
3. <https://www.green.earth/blog/deforestation-in-the-amazon-rainforest-causes-effects-solutions#:~:text=To%20tackle%20deforestation%20in%20the,in%20protecting%20this%20vital%20ecosystem.>
4. <https://youmatter.world/en/definition/definitions-what-is-definition-deforestation-causes-effects/>
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