

**Forum:** Environmental Committee

**Issue:** Prevention of the deforestation of the Amazon and mitigation of its current effects

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**Position:** Co-Chair

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## INTRODUCTION

The Amazonian rainforest. Covering 40% of South America and containing 20% of the world's liquid freshwater, this amazingly rich woodland is home to 50,000 plant species, more than 370 types of reptiles and over 400 Indigenous and ethnic groups. It is one of the most important forests on the planet, since it is largely responsible for the stabilization of the Earth's climate.

Being almost the size of the US, the Amazon spans eight countries that are responsible for its well-being. Unfortunately, 20% of its area has been destroyed due to deforestation and another 6% has been highly degraded. Moreover, according to a study from RAISG in 2023 the Amazon could lose half of what it has lost in the last two decades in just five years, meaning that it will reach the point of no return. Responsible for that are mostly corporations that exploit natural resources in the area excessively for their benefit, as well as governments, such as that of Jair Bolsonaro which ruled Brazil between 2019 and 2023 that turn a blind eye to the destruction.

Forests are vital for the survival of the planet and of the human race and therefore it is of the utmost importance to protect them. Many NGOs and organisations have dedicated themselves to this cause, but further it is important to understand why saving the Amazon is important, who can help achieve that goal and how to do so.

## KEY TERMS

### **Rainforest<sup>1</sup>**

A forest in a tropical area, rich in biodiversity that experiences consistent rainfall.

### **Freshwater<sup>2</sup>**

Living in or containing water that is not salty.

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<sup>1</sup> WWF. "Amazon | Places | WWF." *World Wildlife Fund*, World Wildlife Fund, 2023, [www.worldwildlife.org/places/amazon](http://www.worldwildlife.org/places/amazon).

<sup>2</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. "Freshwater." *@CambridgeWords*, 10 Apr. 2024 [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/freshwater/](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/freshwater/)

### **Biodiversity<sup>3</sup>**

It consists of all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive: food, clean water, medicine, and shelter.

### **Flora<sup>4</sup>**

All the plants of a particular place or from a particular time in history.

### **Fauna<sup>5</sup>**

All the animals that live wild in a particular area.

### **Cattle Ranching<sup>6</sup>**

Farm consisting of a large tract of land along with facilities needed to raise livestock (especially cattle).

### **Indigenous Tribes<sup>7</sup>**

Used to refer to, or relating to, the people who originally lived in a place, rather than people who moved there from somewhere else.

### **Ethnic Groups<sup>8</sup>**

A social group or category of the population that, in a larger society, is set apart and bound together by common ties of race, language, nationality, or culture.

### **Hectares<sup>9</sup>**

Unit of area in the metric system equal to 100 acres, or 10,000 square metres, and the equivalent of 2.471 acres in the British Imperial System and the United States Customary measure.

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<sup>3</sup> Hancock, Lorin. "What Is Biodiversity and Why Is It under Threat?" *World Wildlife Fund*, 2024, [www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-is-biodiversity](http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-is-biodiversity).

<sup>4</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. "Flora." @CambridgeWords, 25 Oct. 2023, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/flora](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/flora). <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna>

<sup>5</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. "Fauna." @CambridgeWords, 24 Aug. 2022, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna).

<sup>6</sup> "Cattle ranch." *Vocabulary.com Dictionary*, Vocabulary.com, [https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/cattle\\_ranch](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/cattle_ranch).

<sup>7</sup> ---. "INDIGENOUS | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 2019, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/indigenous](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/indigenous).

<sup>8</sup> The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Ethnic Group." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 25 July 2017, [www.britannica.com/topic/ethnic-group](http://www.britannica.com/topic/ethnic-group).

<sup>9</sup> "Hectare | Unit of Measurement." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/science/hectare](http://www.britannica.com/science/hectare).

### **Acres<sup>10</sup>**

A unit for measuring area, equal to 4,047 square metres or 4,840 square yards.

### **Logging<sup>11</sup>**

The activity of cutting down trees in order to use their wood.

### **Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)<sup>12</sup>**

Voluntary group of individuals or organizations, usually not affiliated with any government, that is formed to provide services or to advocate a public policy.

### **Point of no return<sup>13</sup>**

It refers to the destruction of forest to a degree that is irreversible.

### **Erosion<sup>14</sup>**

The situation of soil, stone etc. being gradually damaged and removed by the waves, rain, or wind.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Importance of the Amazon**

The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest, covering 6.000.000 km<sup>2</sup>, an area equivalent to 40% of South America. It is a vast region, full of wonders unknown to most. Eight countries share this miracle of nature, namely Brazil (61.9%), Peru (11.4%), Bolivia (8.4%), Colombia (6%), Venezuela (5.6%), Guyana (2.5%), Suriname (1.7%), Ecuador (1.6%) and French Guiana (1%)<sup>15</sup>. People often refer to the forest as the lungs of the planet and thus highlight its importance. But why is the Amazon so important? What characteristics make it vital for our survival?

### Water

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<sup>10</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. "Acre." @CambridgeWords, 24 July 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/acre.

<sup>11</sup> ---. "Logging." @CambridgeWords, 9 Mar. 2022, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/logging.

<sup>12</sup> Karns, Margaret . "Nongovernmental Organization." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 Oct. 2018, [www.britannica.com/topic/nongovernmental-organization](http://www.britannica.com/topic/nongovernmental-organization).

<sup>13</sup> "Point of No Return Definition & Meaning | Britannica Dictionary." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2024, [www.britannica.com/dictionary/point-of-no-return#:~:text=of%20no%20return](http://www.britannica.com/dictionary/point-of-no-return#:~:text=of%20no%20return)

<sup>14</sup> ---. "EROSION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 4 Nov. 2019, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/erosion.

<sup>15</sup> "Amazon Land Area Distribution by Country." *Statista*, [www.statista.com/statistics/1251193/amazon-land-area-distribution-country/](http://www.statista.com/statistics/1251193/amazon-land-area-distribution-country/)

The Amazon rainforest holds about 20% of the world's liquid freshwater<sup>16</sup>. That means that it contributes heavily to the water cycle, providing the rest of the world with water as well as supplying local communities and species with a vital resource and, consequently, preserving the rainforest's rich biodiversity.

### Flora

Being composed of 1.4 billion acres of dense forests<sup>16</sup> means that the Amazon is very rich in plant species. More than 50.000 types of flora reside in the area, making it one of the richest in the world in plant species. Thanks to all those trees and smaller types of green, the rainforest can hold up to 200 billion tons of carbon. That means that it is responsible for the Earth's stability and well-being and slows down the rise of temperature, sea levels and air pollution.

### Fauna

The Amazon is home to a multitude of animals extinct in other parts of the world, such as jaguars, harpy eagles, and pink river dolphins, and it is home to sloths, black spider monkeys, and poison dart frogs. It also hosts 3.000 freshwater fish, more than 370 types of reptiles and over 1.000 different species of birds<sup>17</sup>, the most characteristic being the Macaw. Because of that, many areas of the Amazon are considered protected, and are vital for preventing the extinction of the aforementioned species.



*Macaw, a bird species, one of the most characteristic in the Amazon*

### Humans

First estimated at 32,000-39,000 years ago, human settlement has always been part of the forest's ecosystem. More than 400 indigenous tribes reside in the Amazon<sup>18</sup> and most of them live off natural resources and implement traditional practices. What is truly marvelous about these people is that they cohabit the forest alongside animals and nature. They coexist, meaning that their way of life is a prime example of sustainability.

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<sup>16</sup> WWF. "About the Amazon." *Panda.org*, 2020, [wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge\\_hub/where\\_we\\_work/amazon/about\\_the\\_amazon/](http://wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/amazon/about_the_amazon/).

<sup>17</sup> ---. "What Animals Live in the Amazon? And 8 Other Amazon Facts." *World Wildlife Fund*, 2010, [www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-animals-live-in-the-amazon-and-8-other-amazon-facts](http://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-animals-live-in-the-amazon-and-8-other-amazon-facts).

<sup>18</sup> WWF. "Amazon | Places | WWF." *World Wildlife Fund*, World Wildlife Fund, 2023, [www.worldwildlife.org/places/amazon](http://www.worldwildlife.org/places/amazon)

## ***Leading causes of the destruction***

Having analyzed what makes the Amazon so important, it is necessary to also note what causes this great destruction. In general, most of the damage comes from deforestation for various reasons, but there are other reasons that lead to the catastrophe we see today.

Cattle ranching is the largest driver of deforestation in the Amazon. Cattle ranchers clear forests to pasture the cattle. Due to there being funds and power surrounding the global demand for meat vast contents of the Amazon, containing a range of rare species, have been bulldozed for soy farming.

Moreover, legal and illegal logging play a major part in the causes of deforestation. Prime trees are the targets, and usually their removal causes additional deforestation and forest losses. Mining of minerals like gold, bauxite, and iron ore as well as supplementary roads and settlements created to service mining endeavors, contribute further to deforestation.

Roads, highways and dams being constructed in areas that were previously untouched are now allowing people to access these remote parts which means further carbon release from trees cut down. The Trans-Amazonian Highway is probably the most striking demonstration of this crisis. During the construction of said roads, many fires were caused. Fires have been rising in the last years in the area, a highlight being the fires of 2019 and 2022 that caused irreversible damage. Both natural and human-induced fires play a significant role in the destruction of the Amazon. Fires are often set to clear land for agriculture but can spread uncontrollably, especially in drier conditions exacerbated by climate change.

The expansion of cities and towns leads to forest clearance. Population growth and migration into the Amazon region increase pressure on forest land, contributing to deforestation. Changes in weather patterns and increased frequency of droughts have caused stress to the forest, making it more susceptible to fires and dieback. This exacerbates the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.

Over time, the Amazon has increasingly seen illegal activities flourish - primarily related to logging and mining as well as land grabs encouraged by weak law enforcement and corruption. They, in turn contribute to massive destruction of the forest. The groups realizing these activities also favor economic growth over conservation, as policies that encourage development privilege short-term benefits. Providing incentives for agriculture, mining or infrastructure projects can result in more logging. The global need for beef, soy, timber and minerals further fuels this process of deforestation. Global consumption is a major driver of deforestation in the Amazon.



*Image taken showing the aftermath of a big operation in the Amazon*

## Negative Effects

### Environmental Consequences

Undeniably the deforestation of the largest rainforest in the world is going to impact environmental balance. Many species will be lost, both animals and plants, such as jaguars and Amazon River dolphins, making the ecosystem not viable for many others, leading to an eventual reform of the Amazonian ecosystem, one that will be way less rich and diverse. Moreover, due to the unstable climate that is slowly being created in the area, erosion will occur, meaning the water cycle will be disrupted, and the soil will be degraded, making it way more difficult to save and restore the forest.

### Climate Consequences

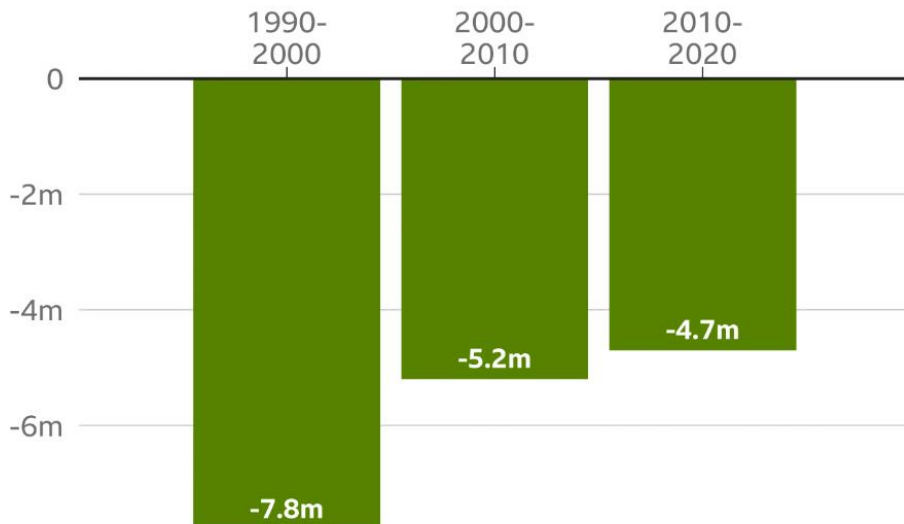
As far as the atmosphere goes, CO2 emissions will greatly increase, reducing our timeframe to act. A rise in emissions also means that the temperature will increase, and the atmosphere will be more polluted than ever, making the planet a very difficult place to live in. Main causes of that effect will be the extensive drought and eventual desertification of the forest due to the various fires that occur.

### Socioeconomic Consequences

Knowing that more than 400 indigenous tribes live in the area, it is undeniable that they will have to relocate if their home is destroyed. Many valuable resources will also be lost, when they could have easily lasted way more than they did, for example minerals that are being overexploited at the moment. Profits will also decrease, making the economic situation of the world much direr than it already is.

## The world's forests are still decreasing in size

Average area of forest lost each year by decade (hectares)



Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2020



Diagram showing the loss of forests each decade since the 1990s

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

## Brazil<sup>19</sup>

During the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Brazil has had a rocky relationship with the forest. During the Bolsonaro Administration, deforestation was in an all-time high due to policies favoring agriculture and mining development, the primary causes for the destruction of the forest. Data from Brazil's National Institute for Space Research shows that more than 3,908km<sup>2</sup> were cleared in the first 6 months of 2022. On the other hand, the recently appointed Lula Administration pledged to reverse the effects of deforestation and strengthen conservation efforts, as mentioned in their report "Govern to not surrender".

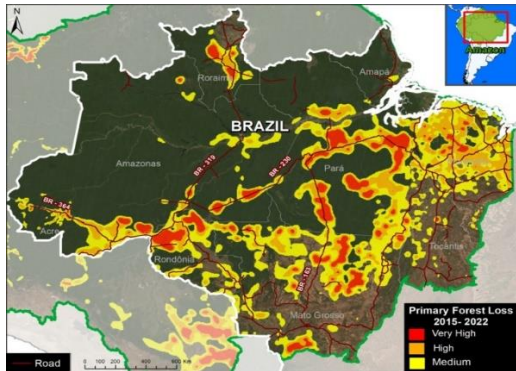
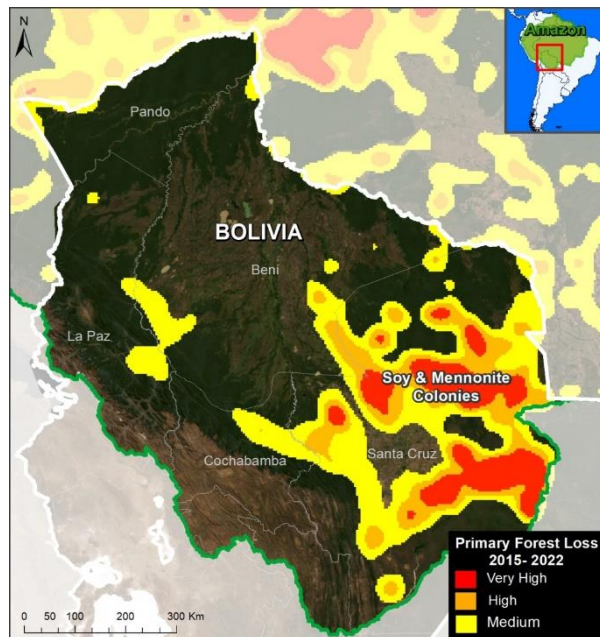


Illustration of forest loss in Brazil in the time period 2015-2022, by MAAP

## Bolivia<sup>19</sup>

The Bolivian part of the Amazon has faced many challenges in recent years and is currently plagued by fires, deforestation and a conversion to agriculture. Economic growth is, undeniably, put to the forefront, seeing as the country has the second highest percentage of deforestation in 2023 among the eight who share the forest. Further, it has converted many areas into places useful for agriculture or has exploited said areas excessively, making the ecosystem of the forest unstable. With 5-10% of the Bajo Paraguay Forest in Eastern Bolivia burned and the Indigenous tribe of Guarasug at risk, it is undeniable that the rainforest is facing many problems. Luckily, the Rainforest Trust, in cooperation with the Guarasug and the local government, has created some conservation areas, saving over 2 million acres of the Amazon.

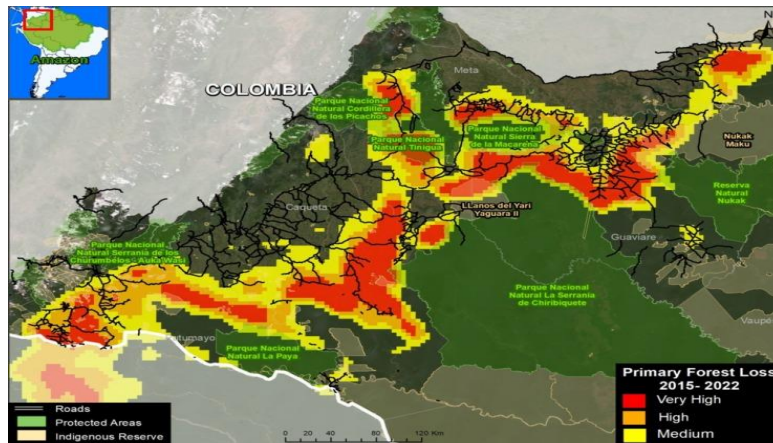


Map included in MAAP's 2023 report regarding forest loss in the Amazon

<sup>19</sup> "MAAP #200: State of the Amazon in 2023." MAAP, 4 Dec. 2023, [www.maaproject.org/2023/state-of-the-amazon/](http://www.maaproject.org/2023/state-of-the-amazon/)

## Colombia<sup>19</sup>

Deforestation in Colombia spiked following the 2016 peace agreement between the local government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) guerilla group, only decreasing in 2022. Especially under Gustavo Petro's administration, deforestation dropped by 49% in the year 2023, attributed to the government's "Total Peace" plan. Leading cause of the phenomenon is land grabbing, coca plantations as well as cattle pasture, both last problems being connected to the agricultural domain.



Picture showcasing forest loss in Colombia during 2015-2022, by MAAP

## Peru<sup>19</sup>

Having the third highest percentage of deforestation in the Amazon, Peru has



Coloured map illustrating the destruction of the Amazon in 2015-2022

lost more than 7,000 hectares of land. One of the main perpetrators for this destruction are the new Mennonite colonies that appeared during 2023, as well as gold mining in the southern Amazon, which has eliminated 24,000 hectares of trees between just 2021 and 2023. Other causes of deforestation in the region include oil and gas exploitation as well as illegal logging. Although the state of the Peruvian Amazon is not the greatest, it is undeniable that the government has made steps towards improvement. Signing the Paris Agreement, partnering with NGOs to create conversion programs and seeking support from international funding, such as the Green Climate Fund, as well as creating a strong local legal framework seem promising actions towards a brighter future. Unfortunately, though, one of the

laws protecting biodiversity, the Forest and Wildlife Law, has been updated since December 14<sup>th</sup> of 2023, stating that it will be easier to acquire title deeds, facilitating deforestation and exploitation of natural resources.

## European Union

Although they are located on the other side of the Atlantic, the Union has taken measures against the destruction of the rainforest. To name the most important, they

include environmental clauses in their trade agreements, as stated in Regulation 2023/1115, they aid in ensuring that products are deforestation-free, they help financially conservation projects. Moreover, they put diplomatic pressure on countries disregarding environmental balance, namely Brazil. In general, they are very involved in environmental policies, and they participate in international forums like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**

Established in 1961, by Victor Stolan and Max Nicholson, former Director General of British government agency Nature Conservancy, the organization’s main goal is to establish a brighter future for humanity and the environment, where everyone can live alongside nature. Some of their goals include creating a zero-carbon world, conserving the world’s most important forests, achieving healthy oceans and many more. As far as the Amazon is concerned, they have launched forest restoration and conservation programs, promotion campaigns for sustainable practices, such as the Forest Stewardship Council Certification (FSC), community support for the habitats of the area.

### **Rainforest Alliance**

Founded in 1987, by Daniel Katz, the Rainforest Alliance is a non-profit organisation that focuses in preserving the environment. They aim to make sustainable production the new status quo and help enforce environmental policies around the world. Specifically, they enforce certification programs that evaluate a company’s environmental sensibility, they educate local business owners and farmers how to better utilise sustainably forest resources, they provide collaboration and partnership opportunities to locals to help them grow and they hold international corporations accountable for their disregard of environmental wellness.

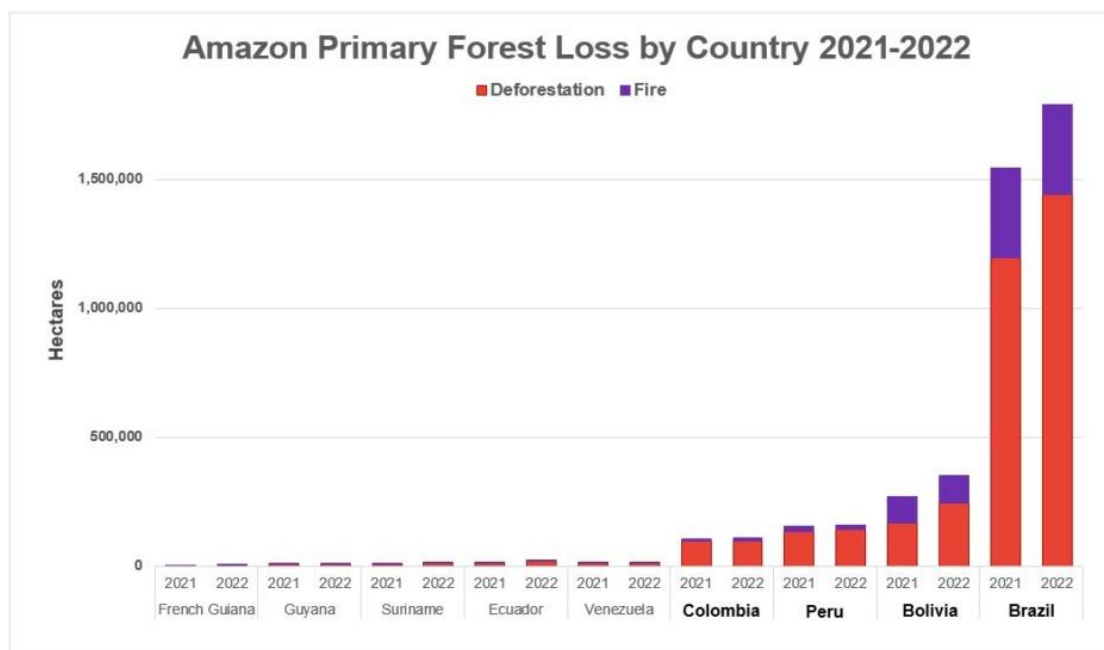


Diagram showing the causes of forest loss and how much damage they caused in each country

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
5th-16th June 1972	Signing of the Stockholm Declaration.
July 1978	Introduction of Act.
June 1992	Opening of Convention on Biological Diversity for signing.
21 <sup>ST</sup> March 1994	UNFCCC is established.
2009	First Amazon Summit.
23 <sup>d</sup> September 2014	Climate Summit where NYDF was signed.
12 <sup>TH</sup> December 2016	Paris Agreement is enforced.
1 <sup>ST</sup> January 2019	Ascend of Jair Bolsonaro.
Beginning of 2019	More than 40.000 Forest Fires reported in the Amazon.
2019	Report by NYDF Assessment Partners proving that deforestation has increased since NYDF was signed.
October 2020	17.326 Fires in the rainforest.
30 <sup>TH</sup> November - 12 <sup>TH</sup> December 2021	COP26 takes place.
August 2022	33.116 illegal fire hotspots recorded.
7 <sup>TH</sup> August 2022	Proposition of "Total Peace" plan in Colombia by Gustavo Petro.

22 <sup>ND</sup> August 2022	3.358 fires detected in the Amazon; most recorded in a 24-hour period since 2007.
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Launch of “Total Peace” Plan in Colombia by President Gustavo Petro.
September 2022	Report “Govern to not Surrender” in Brazil by President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva.
1 <sup>ST</sup> January 2023	Election of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio de Silva.
16 <sup>TH</sup> February 2023	Wildfires in old-growth areas are reported to have risen 125% by Global Change Biology.
June 2023	Enforcement of Regulation (EU) 1115/2023.
11 <sup>TH</sup> November 2023	Data are published showing a 22% decrease in deforestation in the Amazon.

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### *Amazon Cooperation Treaty*

In July 1978 eight countries, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela to be exact, signed the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, that recognizes the transboundary nature of the forest. This treaty’s aim is to facilitate the cooperation between the countries whose territory includes the Amazon.

### *The Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment*

During the first world conference on the environment, that took place in 1972 in Stockholm, the Stockholm declaration and action plan for the human environment was signed, making environmental issues a priority for world leaders. It contained three main sections: Global Environmental Assessment Program, Environmental Management Activities and International Measures to Support Assessment and Management Activities.

### *The Convention on Biological Diversity*

In the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity was open for signature. The countries that sign it are legally binned to conserve biodiversity, to sustainably use

its resources and share the profits equitably. Its goal is to put an end to environmental degradation and to guarantee a sustainable future for the generation that will come.

### ***The Paris Agreement***

A legally binding international UN treaty under the UNFCCC on climate change, signed by 196 parties, the Paris Agreement's goal is to limit global warming to 1.5°C, in the best-case scenario, by reducing greenhouse emissions. Since its signing, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, the pact urges countries to make changes within their borders in order to minimize the environmental impact of greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the global percentage by 43% by 2025. As far as the Amazon is concerned, countries like Bolivia have vowed to reduce deforestation as to help minimize the effect of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and other greenhouse gases.

### ***Amazon Summit***

Held in Brazil, the Amazon Summit is a "landmark" gathering, as characterized by Brazilian president Luiz Inacio de Silva, where the eight leaders of the countries hosting the forest gather to discuss relevant issues. First held in 2009, the Summit's main goal is to discuss relevant strategies regarding the well-being of the forest and the suppression of armed groups. They aim for a more sustainable future for the rainforest, cooperating with indigenous and ethnic groups, creating an agenda towards those goals to guide the countries in the upcoming years.

### ***United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)***

Established in 1994, the UNFCCC is one of the main forums that lead environmental research and progress. It is part of the UN, and its main goal is to stabilize greenhouse emissions and "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system", as mentioned on their site linked in the biography. The convention has implemented a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, categorizing countries and "forcing" them to act.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### ***The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF)***

After UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call for action against climate change, an alliance of governments, companies, NGOs and indigenous tribes was announced, called The New York Declaration on Forests or NYDF for short, aiming to put an end to forest destruction. Endorsed on the Climate Summit of 2014 by more than 150 parties, this ten-goal declaration was one of the first to put an actual timeline to stopping deforestation and other such menaces to the health and prosperity of forests. Unfortunately, according to a 2019 report by the NYDF Assessment Partners, deforestation rates have increased dramatically since then, falling far short of the 50% decline stated in the declaration.

### ***Pledge During COP26***

As a promise made by more than 100 world leaders, it aims to end and reverse deforestation by 2030. It included almost 14bn English pounds or 19.2bn American dollars. This way, the destruction of forests and their exploitation for commercial purposes should diminish and, contrary to the previous attempt, the role of indigenous

people is highlighted. During the meeting in Glasgow, world leaders vowed to help each-other's country achieve this goal as well as 30 of the world's biggest companies.

### ***Report "Govern to not Surrender"***

First introduced in September of 2022 by Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva, this report is a step towards the manifestation of the Brazilian President's promise to restore environmental protection and reduce criminal activity in the Amazonian rainforest. In partnership with the Brazilian Forum for Public Security and the Sovereignty and Climate Centre, this document outlines the necessary steps to eliminate forest fires, land grabbing, illegal mining and deforestation in the Amazonian rainforest.

### ***"Total Peace" Plan***

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Columbia's newly appointed president Gustavo Petro proposed the "Total Peace" plan. Although its main goal is to dismantle armed groups that cause violent episodes and terror throughout the country, this plan has greatly benefited the Amazonian rainforest. Specifically, deforestation has decreased by 49% since the plan was launched in 2023 with a goal of cutting deforestation to 140,000 acres a year, thanks to the program's environmental protection policies and border peace efforts. Moreover, the environmental protection has increased by incorporating environmental concerns into peace negotiations and making the protection of the Amazon a major goal for the country. Community engagement and the protection of indigenous communities are also prioritized via community forestry programs, support in various aspects and a more enhanced role in the conversation regarding the well-being of the forest.

### ***Regulation (EU) 2023/1115***

The EU Deforestation Regulation enforced in June 2023 dictates that all products exported and imported within the borders of the European Union should be deforestation-free. This regulation is also beneficial to producing countries that have an opportunity to create a positive commercial relationship with the EU by using consistently sustainable methods to develop their products. This type of regulation can be helpful for European and global economies, seeing as it obligates companies and countries alike to create a sustainable system of production and reform their way of exploiting forest resources as well as their relationship with indigenous communities and ethnic groups.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### ***Social Domain***

#### Raising Awareness

It is of the utmost importance that the public realizes the well-being and survival of humanity are intertwined with the rainforest. The Amazon contains 150-200 billion tons of carbon, helping with the stabilization of CO2 percentages in the atmosphere and minimizing the effects of climate change.

### ***Legal Domain***

#### Creation of treaties

Undeniably, the eight governments whose land is covered in the Amazonian rainforest, as well as the UN, should create treaties and pacts that will forbid the destruction of the forest and will demand legal persecution, along with fines, for those who don't respect it.

#### Monitor the situation with real life monitoring

Using satellites and other data collecting tools is useful in stopping possible violations of treaties signed by the country-members and in discerning the people who are responsible for the situation. Furthermore, such evidence can be used in a future legal battle in the ICJ, if any parties violate the treaty.

### ***Economic Domain***

#### Minimisation of commercial activity in the forest

Having in mind that the rainforest exists within the borders of eight countries and that only they can permit commercial activity in the region, it is highly crucial that these states minimise the exploitation of the forest and the activities of private companies. Laws should be enforced by the local government and the UN that will define said regulations and put an end to the destruction of the biodiversity of the forest for profit.

### ***Ecological Domain***

#### Restoring the forest

An immediate solution to the issue would be the attempt to restore the rainforest, using campaigns and resources from donations and state funds for a tree planting operation of a large caliber. This way, the natural habitat of a plethora of species will be restored and the displaced populations will gain back their home. Moreover, any animals hurt or in the brink of extinction should be taken care of and receive the appropriate medical attention.

### ***Technological Domain***

#### Investing in Eco-Friendly Technological Advancements

Advanced science, like AI, can greatly improve the issue and minimize the devastating effects of the destruction of the forest. By using high tech machines, scientists and experts can better assess the damage, handle the effects and find faster ways to restore the forest to its original state. The creation of drones to set out faster fires, the creation of eco-friendly houses is one of the many ways technology can aid in saving the Amazon.

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