**Committee:** Youth Delegate Forum (YDF)

**Issue:** Tackling the Issue of Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

**Student Officer:** Despoina Batsiou

**Position:** Deputy President 

# PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this year’s 8th DSTMUN. My name is Despoina Batsiou and I am an 11th grade student at Arsakeio High School of Thessaloniki. It is my greatest honour to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents of the Youth Delegate Forum.

First of all I would like to congratulate you all on your decision to participate in this conference as I am confident it will benefit you in many ways, by enhancing your debating, public speaking and collaborative skills while giving you the opportunity to view the world in a new and different way. However, my personal experience has taught me that MUN is not only about debate and politics but also the memories and relationships we create along the way. Either it is your first time or not, I am positive you are going to have a wonderful experience.

This year’s agenda consists of two topics of major importance. In this study guide you will find the information needed in order to comprehend the second topic which is “Tackling the Issue of Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. Nevertheless, all delegates are strongly encouraged to do their own research as it will help them have a deeper understanding of the matter.

If any questions may occur please feel free to contact me at despobp@gmail.com I’m looking forward to meeting you all soon.

Kind regards,

Despoina Batsiou.

# TOPIC INTRODUCTION

 Expanding across nine South American countries the Amazon Rainforest is the largest and most diverse tropical rainforest on Earth. Containing some of the world’s richest and most impressive biodiversity, it is home to millions of animals, plants and insect species with more being currently discovered. It is also enriched by the culture of indigenous people who have been living in harmony with the forest for centuries. The rainforest is responsible for restoring a large part of the planet‘s scar on dioxide, rightfully giving it the name “the lungs of the earth”. Nonetheless, the Amazon Rainforest’s ecosystems and global importance are currently at risk due to deforestation.

With approximately 17% of the Amazonian land having been lost in the past 50 years[[1]](#footnote-0)It is vital to comprehend some of the key causes of deforestation. Cattle ranching, especially in Brazil, continues to be the primary cause, with forests constantly being cleared creating pastures for beef production. Industrial agriculture also contributes significantly, with the global demand for soy driving extensive soy farming. Provided that the causes mentioned are part of unchecked agricultural expansion, the land cleared is also prone to fires, another leading cause of deforestation. Climate change has had a negative impact on controlling fires[[2]](#footnote-1), either they are set naturally or they are part of criminal activities. Nonetheless, illegal activities such as gold mining and logging are an obstacle in protecting the Amazon Rainforest as well. Finally, the responsible governments with the weak law enforcement seem to have also mishandled the situation.

 The continuous deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest can have severe yet at the same time permanent consequences both on a regional and global scale. The Amazon’s critical role in regulating the Earth’s climate can be negatively affected by its destruction, as immense amounts of carbon dioxide will be released in the atmosphere contributing to global warming. Locally, deforestation disrupts rainfall patterns, leading to prolonged droughts and threatening agricultural productivity across South America. Equally alarming is the loss of biodiversity. Millions of living species are threatened to become extinct and lose their habitat with many having already been affected. The lives of Indigenous communities who are dependent on the rainforest for their survival also seem to have been disturbed, especially by the action of illegal logging. Many scientists believe that the Amazon has reached a tipping point, where if immediate action is not taken the tropical rainforest can be transformed into a dry savanna bringing even more consequences in the horizon.

# DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

## Agroforestry

“A[griculture](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/agriculture) that [involves](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/involve) [growing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/growing) and [caring](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/caring) for [trees](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sycamore).”[[3]](#footnote-2)

## Biodiversity

“The [number](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/number) and [types](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/type) of [plants](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/plant) and [animals](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/animal) that [exist](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/exist) in a [particular](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/particular) [area](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/area) or in the [world](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/world) [generally](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/generally).”[[4]](#footnote-3)

## Cattle Ranch

“A farm consisting of a large tract of land along with facilities needed to raise livestock (especially cattle).”[[5]](#footnote-4)

## Climate Change

“Periodic modification of Earth’s climate brought about as a result of changes in the atmosphere as well as interactions between the atmosphere and various other geologic, chemical, biological, and geographic factors within the Earth system.”[[6]](#footnote-5)

## Crop Rotation

“A [method](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/method) of [farming](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/farm) where a [number](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/number) of different [plants](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/plant) are [grown](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/grown) one after the other on a [field](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/field) so that the [soil](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/soil) [stays](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/stay) [healthy](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/healthy) and [fertile](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fertile).”[[7]](#footnote-6)

## Deforestation

“The clearing or severe thinning of a forest or other wooded area, leaving few or no trees.”[[8]](#footnote-7)

## Drought

“A [long](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/long) [period](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/period) when there is little or no [rain](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rain).”[[9]](#footnote-8)

## Forest Canopy

“Aboveground plant structures and the interstitial spaces between them, which collectively form the interface between the soil and the atmosphere.”[[10]](#footnote-9)

## Global Warming

“A [gradual](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gradual) [increase](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/increase) in the earth’s [temperature](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/temperature), [caused](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cause) by [gases](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gas), [esp](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/esp). [carbon](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/carbon) [dioxide](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dioxide), [surrounding](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/surrounding) the [earth](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/earth).”[[11]](#footnote-10)

## Indigenous People

“Tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations.”[[12]](#footnote-11)

## Industrial Agriculture

“The [business](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/business) of [producing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/produce) [crops](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/crop) and [animals](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/animal) on very [large](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/large) [farms](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/farm), often [involving](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/involve) the use of [chemicals](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/chemical).”[[13]](#footnote-12)

## Logging

“The [activity](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/activity) of [cutting](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cutting) down [trees](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sycamore) in [order](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/order) to use [their](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/their) [wood](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wood).”[[14]](#footnote-13)

## Mining

“Process of extracting useful minerals from the surface of the Earth.”[[15]](#footnote-14)

## Photosynthesis

“The process by which green plants and certain other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy. During photosynthesis in green plants, light energy is captured and used to convert water, carbon dioxide, and minerals into oxygen and energy-rich organic compounds.”[[16]](#footnote-15)

## Reservoir

“A [natural](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/natural) or [artificial](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/artificial) [lake](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/lake) for [storing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/store) and [supplying](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/supply) [water](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/water) for an [area](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/area).”[[17]](#footnote-16)

## Savanna

“Vegetation type that grows under hot, seasonally dry climatic conditions and is characterized by an open tree canopy above a continuous grass understory.”[[18]](#footnote-17)

## Slash-and-burn

“R[elating](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/relate) to a [type](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/type) of [farming](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/farm) that [involves](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/involve) [cutting](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cutting) and [burning](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/burning) [trees](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sycamore), [crops](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/crop), etc. before [planting](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/planting) new [ones](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/one).”[[19]](#footnote-18)

## Timber

“W[ood](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wood) from [trees](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sycamore) that is used for [building](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/building), or [trees](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sycamore) [grown](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/grown) for this use.”[[20]](#footnote-19)

## Tropical Rainforest

“T[hick](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/thick) [forest](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/forest) that [grows](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/grow) in [hot](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hot) [parts](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/part) of the [world](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/world).”[[21]](#footnote-20)

## Wildfire

“A [powerful](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/powerful) [fire](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fire) that [burns](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/burn) out of [control](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/control) [across](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/across) a [large](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/large) [area](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/area).”[[22]](#footnote-21)

## Zoonotic Disease

“Disease that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans.”[[23]](#footnote-22)

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## Major Causes of Deforestation

### Fires

In recent decades, Amazon deforestation due to wildfires has been seriously escalating. Human activities have been a major factor, which in combination with climate conditions have caused severe damage. Agribusiness expansion has had a prominent role in the usage of fires as a way of clearing land. Deforesters have been taking advantage of the poor law enforcement, especially in Brazil, setting fires and converting forest vegetation into mostly agricultural land, for the purpose of cattle ranching and soy cultivation. This may be interpreted as beneficial for farmers however, the Amazon becomes even more susceptible to wildfires.

Climate change acceleration poses unprecedented challenges for forest preservation with everlasting periods of drought and higher temperatures significantly affecting fire containment. As the forest loses its humidity and the rainfall patterns are disturbed, the Amazon is unable to suppress fires naturally resulting in wildfires that cause extensive forest loss. Having experienced one of the most severe droughts in history, the Amazon Rainforest lost over 44.2 million acres of land to wildfires in 2024. The area lost to fire in the Amazon grew by at least 66% compared to 2023[[24]](#footnote-23).

###  Figure 1: Fires ravaging Brazil’s Amazon, July 2024[[25]](#footnote-24)

The 2019 summer fires also caused severe damage to the rainforest, especially for Brazil and Bolivia. Beyond that, climate change does not only contribute to the forest’s proneness to fire, it can also be aggravated as immense amounts of carbon dioxide are sent to the atmosphere from its burning.

### Agriculture

Cattle products like beef, dairy or leather are integral pieces to the lives of many people across the globe however, the impact these products have on the environment is often neglected. Cattle ranching is actually the leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest, being responsible for 80% of the rainforest’s destruction[[26]](#footnote-25). With the global demand for beef continuing to grow farmers are seeking for large areas of land for their cattle to graze. As a result, slash-and-burn techniques will be used depleting the forest cover. These techniques can also be responsible for the outbreak of wildfires, further damaging the rainforest.

Similarly, soy cultivation has become a threat in the sustained commitment to protecting the Amazon Rainforest. With many farmers destroying and taking advantage of more Amazonian land, the process of reforestation is continuously facing obstacles. Nonetheless, considerable engagement has emerged in tackling the issue, with measures already having been implemented. Specifically, Brazil’s Soy Moratorium has contributed in limiting the land loss of soy cultivation. Additionally, the EU being the second largest importer of soy[[27]](#footnote-26), addressed the importance of ensuring that soy cultivation is not directly linked to deforestation implementing the EU Deforestation Regulation. The regulation mandates that products like soy should be proven to not have originated from deforested lands before entering the EU market.

### Logging, Mining and Infrastructure Developement

Throughout the years logging has become a major contributor to deforestation in the Amazon, driven by the demand for valuable timber. Illegal logging involving the cutting of more trees than allowed as well as harvesting in protected or indigenous areas has become widespread raising serious concerns. Studies have in fact shown that between 2020 and 2021 almost 40% of the area where activity was detected was not authorized[[28]](#footnote-27). Illegal logging can also lead to extensive damage beyond the targeted trees, with surrounding trees often being harmed. Nevertheless, the transportation of timber necessitates road infrastructure, further contributing to deforestation by fragmenting forests and opening remote areas to exploitation.

Mining has also had a significant role in the issue of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. The past two years gold mining has been responsible for the destruction of 4,219 hectares of rainforest[[29]](#footnote-28). The mining activities are mostly encountered in Indigenous land, contributing to the disturbance of the Indigenous peoples beside the destruction of the forest. Indirect and illegal mining is considered to have led to extensive deforestation, as it is more difficult to be controlled.

Infrastructure development in the Amazon Rainforest, particularly the construction of roads, highways, and hydropower dams is promising for national and regional growth. However, when inadequately planned it can lead to further deforestation. A recent example is the Avenida Liberdade, a four lane highway that is currently under construction in preparation for the COP30 Summit in the Brazilian city of Belem, provoking concern about environmental impact. Hydropower dams have also contributed to the destruction of the rainforest, by flooding forests for reservoirs while displacing populations as they attract more people to the dam location with related jobs.

## Major Effects of Deforestation

### Loss of Biodiversity

The Amazon Rainforest is home to approximately 80% of the world’s biodiversity with many animal, plant and insect species not being found anywhere else in the world. Yet, most of these species are threatened to be extinct while others have already been lost because of deforestation.

It is vital to understand that deforestation extends beyond the loss of trees and does not only have consequences on a regional level. The elimination of forest cover is also affecting millions of unique animals and insects by destroying their habitats. Furthermore, the destruction of the forest canopy becomes an obstacle to the regulation of the temperature, altering the rainforest’s climate and undermining species survival and reproduction. As valuable fauna and flora are becoming extinct the ecosystem is thrown out of balance leading to decline in species diversity.

Many of the currently endangered plant species can also be beneficial for medicine, as they have been used for medicinal purposes by indigenous communities for centuries. Their disappearance can have a negative impact on scientific research. Another threat posed by the degradation of biodiversity is the emergence of zoonotic diseases, increasing the risk for disease outbreaks and introducing new ways for zoonotic diseases to reach human communities. The Amazon Rainforest has actually been identified as a region with a high likelihood for future outbreaks.

### Climate Change Acceleration

For centuries the Amazon Rainforest has been the largest carbon sink on the planet, storing carbon in trees and soil through photosynthesis. However, studies in 2021 showed that it is now becoming a carbon source, releasing more CO2 than it is able to absorb[[30]](#footnote-29). This shift is primarily driven by deforestation. When trees are cut down the carbon stored is released as CO2 onto the atmosphere. Similarly, fires have had a significant role in accelerating carbon emissions. Deforestation also reduces the rainforest’s ability to cool the Earth leading to higher regional temperatures and decreased rainfall.

Many scientists have actually warned that the Amazon may be reaching a tipping point, risking the loss of 50-70% of the forest and shifting to a savanna-like landscape, which can further worsen climate acceleration. As a result between 200 and 250bn tonnes of carbon dioxide would be released between 2050 and 2100, making it completely impossible to limit global warming to 1.5C[[31]](#footnote-30), a target set by the Paris Agreement. Moreover, the rainforest’s inability to regulate the climate would lead to extreme weather patterns such as droughts and floods, disrupting rainfall systems as far away as Colombia and Argentina, while also reducing agricultural productivity worldwide.

### Disturbance of Indigenous and Local Communities

For thousands of years the Amazon Rainforest has been enriched with the culture of the indigenous communities calling it their home. These communities are currently encountering a range of devastating repercussions due to the rampant destruction of their ancestral territory. Losing traditional land and having their cultural identity threatened.

Indigenous groups have in harmony been living in the rainforest for generations, caring for their ancestral lands. They have had an important role in the conservation and sustainable management of the rainforest, with studies actually showing that indigenous lands in the Amazon [have significantly lower rates of deforestation](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00815-2.epdf?sharing_token=u4L1Aiw8OhhrlyQfbdVvFtRgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0N3_s28w6hYjdmpEiHNTwFP6RBF3QZR7PmMF_8k9KAgE8prD2VuQbfx-Qvji2QNlSGKnYUZnpKjeDhhIcEEKxfcWO1vTvTd_is-aJ8gTdgTMnXUv6f6TISZM8mzTkrPb3RY6rmLPPvQ6E1McQCqUHxk) compared to other areas[[32]](#footnote-31). The forests provide them with nutritional sources like nuts, fruits and the means to hunt. This delicate balance however is disturbed by deforestation. Activities like logging, mining and farming are becoming a threat to the survival of the indigenous people by endangering their homes and traditional ways of life. Simultaneously the cultural identity of the communities is also affected as the loss of forests can be linked with the destruction of sacred sites and the disruption of rituals. Their health and well being can also be affected. Deforestation can cause extinction of valuable plants used as medication while also causing pollution through activities like mining.

 The Yanomami are one of the tribes that have been severely affected by deforestation, as they are currently fighting for their survival. Living in a region where valuable minerals like gold can be found they have to face the invasion of illegal gold miners. Even though the Yanomami territory is a nationally protected area where mining is banned, invaders interested in taking advantage of the land are cutting down forests, poisoning rivers and bringing deadly diseases to the tribe. Such circumstances are threatening the indigenous peoples rights.

### Figure 3: An illegal mine on the Mucajaí River, in the Kayanau region of the Yanomami territory[[33]](#footnote-32)

## Call for Urgent Action

Having considered both causes and consequences of a deforested Amazon, it is vital to understand that the rainforest is currently facing an unprecedented crisis. Driven by human activities that most of the time seem to be interlinked, the Amazon’s deforestation is accelerating at an alarming rate. The consequences have already begun to unfold, affecting the people not only at a regional but at a global level too. The risk of reaching a tipping point where the Amazon Rainforest can no longer sustain itself is a global concern and immediate and coordinated action should be taken.

# MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

## Brazil

 The part of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil covers around 60% of the entire Amazon Basin, therefore, Brazil has had the most significant role in preserving the forest. However, the Brazilian Amazon has lost 18% of its rainforest in the last 40 years due to deforestation[[34]](#footnote-33) , despite deforestation rates having dropped since the early 2000s. The loss of forest has been primarily fueled by illegal logging, agriculture and infrastructure development. Yet, recent wildfires have devastated the rainforest threatening Brazil's previous progress achieved through stricter enforcement policies. Alarming is also the fact that these fires have been intensified by the long drought periods that the Amazon encountered in 2024, which is a consequence of climate change.

## Peru

 Peru holds the second largest share of the Amazon Rainforest following Brazil. Engaging in the protection of the forest, Peru implemented the Forestry and Wildlife Law in 2011. A recent amendment to this law has provoked reactions, debating whether illegal deforestation practices can now be legalised. The law mandated that any changes in forest land use were to undergo strict state approval through authorizations and detailed environmental studies thus to ensure that forests were protected against reckless development[[35]](#footnote-34). However, the amendment now allows landowners and companies to convert forested land and use it for other purposes without being required to get state authorization. This modification could potentially increase the deforestation rates while posing threats for the Peruvian indigenous communities. It also raises compliance issues with the EU Deforestation Regulation which mandates that products of Amazon origin should be proven to not originate from deforested areas prior to entering the EU market.

## China

 Despite being geographically distant, China has been notably involved with the ongoing issue of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest, particularly within the Brazilian Amazon. Being the largest importer of soy and beef, the country’s considerable demand for these commodities has been a significant contributor to deforestation, especially in states like Mato Grosso. China has also financed and invested in infrastructure projects such as planned railways connecting agricultural centers to Amazon River ports for the purpose of facilitating commodity exports. These projects have benefited economic integration and growth yet they also pose risks of increasing forest destruction by improving access to previously remote forest areas[[36]](#footnote-35). China’s possible engagement in enforcing stricter regulations and supporting sustainable practices is substantial for eliminating deforestation from supply chains and protecting the Amazon’s vital ecosystem.

## Norway

 Norway has had a significant role in supporting the efforts of combating deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. Primarily through financial contributions to the Amazon Fund, the country is fighting for the reduction of deforestation and the promotion of sustainable development. In 2024 Norway announced the provision of USD 60 million dollars to the Amazon Fund, responding to Brazil reaching 31% low in deforestation over that year[[37]](#footnote-36).

## European Union (EU)

 The European Union has been actively involved with actions aiming at the protection of the Amazon Rainforest. The EU has been particularly interested in reducing its consumption footprint on land while also funding collaborative regional initiatives that support indigenous communities and sustainable forest management[[38]](#footnote-37). The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) aimed at preventing imports linked to deforestation and promoting sustainable trade is one of the most prominent examples.

## WWF (World Wildlife Fund)

 The World Wildfire Fund has been actively working for the preservation of the Amazon Rainforest since the 1970s, engaging with local communities and partnering with governments. They have protected and managed the protected areas, especially through the Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program[[39]](#footnote-38). They have also promoted sustainable practices to combat deforestation, while raising awareness on the importance of the Amazon and being advocates for change.

# BLOCS EXPECTED

## Block A

Block A consists of countries that prioritize the immediate and effective preservation of the Amazon Rainforest like Norway, Germany, Sweden, other EU countries, or Costa Rica. Their goal is to discuss and find solutions on how to tackle deforestation, mostly through strict environmental policies, international cooperation and sustainable development.

## Block B

Block B consists of countries that seek for a balance between environmental protection and economic development like Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, or China. Their goal is to discuss and find solutions that are effective for protecting the Amazon Rainforest while ensuring economic growth.

# TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| **Date** | **Description of event** |
| --- | --- |
| 1960s  | Deforestation in the Amazon began, primarily because of human activities such as agriculture and logging[[40]](#footnote-39)  |
| 5th-16th June 1972 | Signing of the Stockholm Declaration[[41]](#footnote-40)  |
| 3rd July 1978 | Signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty[[42]](#footnote-41) |
| 29th December 1993 | The Convention on Biological Diversity was entered into force[[43]](#footnote-42) |
| 21st March 1994 | The UNFCCC is established[[44]](#footnote-43) |
| 2004-2012 | Deforestation rates in Brazil decline sharply due to enforcement policies[[45]](#footnote-44)  |
| 2006 | Implementation of the Amazon Soy Moratorium[[46]](#footnote-45) |
| August 2008 | The Amazon Fund was founded[[47]](#footnote-46) |
| 2009 | The first Amazon Cooperation Treaty Summit (Amazon Summit) took place[[48]](#footnote-47) |
| 2012- now  | Deforestation rates meet increase primarily because of weakened environmental policies, reduced enforcement capacity, dismantling of governance mechanisms and pressures for economic development[[49]](#footnote-48)  |
| September 2014 | The New York Declaration on Forests was adopted[[50]](#footnote-49) |
| 12th December 2015 | The Paris Agreement was adopted by 195 parties[[51]](#footnote-50) |
| 31st October - 12th November 2021 | COP26 was held in Glasgow[[52]](#footnote-51) |
| 29th June 2023  | The Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products was entered into force[[53]](#footnote-52) |
| 8th-9th August 2023 | The 4th Amazon Summit took place where the the Declaration of Belém was approved[[54]](#footnote-53)  |
| 2024 | The Amazon Rainforest experienced record drought and fires[[55]](#footnote-54) |
| 22nd August 2025 | The 5th Amazon Summit took place[[56]](#footnote-55) |

# RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

## The Stockholm Declaration

Adopted in the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment the Stockholm Declaration is the first global cooperation on environmental issues. It contained 26 principle[[57]](#footnote-56) and aimed at raising awareness about the environment and the need to protect it. The declaration marked the start of a dialogue between all nations on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air, water, and oceans as well as the well-being of people around the world.

## Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT)

 ACT was signed by the eight Amazonian countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela in 1978. It is a legal instrument that recognizes the transboundary nature of the Amazon[[58]](#footnote-57). The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) was oriented for the purpose of achieving sustainable development in the Amazon region through joint actions.

## Amazon Cooperation Treaty Summit (Amazon Summit)

 The leaders of the Amazon region countries are brought together by the Amazon Summit for the purpose of discussing the future of the Amazon Rainforest. The summit has addressed topics regarding tackling climate change, cooperating with indigenous peoples and the importance of sustainable development. During the 2023 summit the Declaration of Belém was approved, comprising 113 paragraphs of political guidance and joint action development on the protection of the Amazon[[59]](#footnote-58).

## Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity has been enforced since 1993. The 196 signatory nations are legally obliged to conserve biological diversity, sustainably use its resources and share the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources fairly and equitably[[60]](#footnote-59). Its overall objective is to encourage actions, which will lead to a sustainable future where ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity are protected from rising threats such as habitat loss, [climate change](https://instituteofsustainabilitystudies.com/insights/guides/climate-change-and-business/), and pollution.

## New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF)

The New York Declaration on Forests was adopted in the 2014 UN Climate Summit addressing the importance of tackling climate change while prioritising the protection and restoration of forests. It calls for the halt to forest loss by 2030, the restoration of 350 million hectares of degraded forestlands, the improvement of governance and the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation[[61]](#footnote-60). The declaration has been endorsed by national governments, multi-national companies, Indigenous communities and non-governmental organizations committed to achieve the NYDF goals.

## COP26

In the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow UK the issue of tackling deforestation was raised among others. More specifically, over 130 leaders, representing more than 90% of the world’s forests, committed to work together to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 in the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use[[62]](#footnote-61). The pledge included $19.2 billion of public and private funds for the purpose of tackling deforestation[[63]](#footnote-62). The Amazon Rainforest is directly affected by the pledge as Amazon region countries like Brazil and Colombia were included in the signatories.

# PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

## REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation)

REDD+ is a global conservation framework under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and The Paris Agreement that encourages through incentives countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, conserve and sustainably manage forests, and enhance the capacity of forests to store carbon[[64]](#footnote-63). If they do so, developing countries can receive results-based payments for emission reductions. One of the most important benefits of the REDD+ framework is the support of Indigenous peoples’ struggles to protect their forests and resources alongside the cutting down of carbon emissions. The countries of the Amazon region have been assisted through the implementation of mechanisms like the Amazon Fund, supporting projects that aim to reduce deforestation and promoting sustainable use of the rainforest.

## EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

Aiming to reduce its impact on deforestation and forest degradation the European Union implemented the EU Deforestation Regulation on June 29 2023. The Regulation sets strict rules under which products can be exported or imported within the EU. In particular commodities like cattle, wood, cocoa, soy, palm oil, coffee, rubber, and some of their derived products, such as leather, chocolate, tyres, or furniture should be proven to not be originated from recently deforested land or have contributed to forest degradation[[65]](#footnote-64). This Regulation has a significant effect on the Amazon Rainforest as cattle ranching and the cultivation and exportation of soy has contributed significantly to deforestation.

## Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM)

Brazil’s Amazon Soy Moratorium was introduced in 2006 and was implemented indefinitely in 2016. Under the ASM commodity traders agreed to not purchase soybeans that were cultivated in land deforested after 2008. The moratorium has had a significant role in reducing deforestation linked to soy production while promoting environmental sustainability in the soy supply chain. Namely, soy-driven deforestation has been limited to less than 2%[[66]](#footnote-65). Despite its success the Mato Grosso state, Brazil’s largest soybean supplier, was in 2025 by Brazil’s Supreme Court no longer permitted grant tax incentives from companies that remain signatories to the moratorium. Such a decision has provoked reactions from many Organizations, including Greenpeace, that highlight the major consequences it can have in protecting the Amazon.

## The Amazon Fund

The Amazon Fund is a REDD+ mechanism created by the Brazilian government and managed by the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES). The mechanism focuses on the reduction of the emissions released by the destruction of the rainforest while highlighting the importance of conservation and sustainable management. Its role is to support projects related to forest management, environmental control, sustainable forest use, and recovery of deforested areas[[67]](#footnote-66). Norway and Germany are the largest donors, while Denmark, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America have also contributed significantly.

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

## Support and protect the rights of the Indigenous Communities living in the Amazon Rainforest

 Protecting the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, which are currently threatened by deforestation practices, while involving them in reforestation efforts is vital for preserving the rainforest. For this to happen the responsible governments should secure formal land titles for Indigenous territories while also ensuring that the protected areas are not threatened by illegal mining with the help of environmental NGOs. Campaigns organised by aforementioned NGOs or governments that promote the indigenous peoples sustainable agroforestry practices alongside direct climate financing and development funds to indigenous communities by other countries can also be beneficial for helping preserve the Amazon rainforest, while also meeting the needs of the local communities.

## Use of new and advanced technologies as a way to fight and monitor deforestation

Nations can use technologies like satellite imaging and drones for monitoring and managing the forests. Satellite data can provide useful information on extreme climate conditions such as drought periods and heatwaves contributing to the detection of possible fire outbreaks. Additionally, drones can be very beneficial for monitoring vast areas of forest while also identifying locations where illegal logging and mining activities are taking place. These projects can be achieved with the support of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the World Bank, through funding or the provision of such technologies.

## Implementation of reforestation and restoration campaigns

Member states, especially those of the amazon region or NGOs can organise reforestation and restorations campaigns helping expand and restore deforested and degraded areas. The plantation of new trees, especially those threatened to become extinct, is crucial for protecting biodiversity. Schools and Universities can also be encouraged to participate, further educating the youth on the importance of preserving the Amazon Rainforest.

## Strengthening and implementing stricter environmental laws

Amazonian countries are encouraged to implement or amend their existing environmental laws so that they provide clear guidelines on the protection of forested lands while also safeguarding the habitats of endangered species. It is essential that environmental laws decisively address illegal deforestation. Furthermore, sustainable agriculture and forestry practices such as agroforestry, crop rotation, and selective logging should be prioritised and enforced as they are substantial for mitigating forest clearing.

## International cooperation on deforestation solutions

 When working together, countries can establish a united effort that notably impacts the fight against deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. Through the adoption of global agreements, standards for the protection of forested areas can be enforced across national boundaries. Such agreements should recognise the Amazon Rainforest as a global heritage of crucial importance, acknowledging that its destruction will have consequences beyond a regional level and that its protection should be a global effort. These partnerships will facilitate shared strategies and resources to amplify the impact of cohesive action against common threats. Global climate financing is also essential for supporting the efforts towards safeguarding the Amazon Rainforest. Through providing funds to mechanisms like the Amazon Fund countries can have a noticeable impact on protecting the Amazon.

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