

CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN AMAZON

CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN AMAZON: UNRAVELING THE ROOTS OF A GLOBAL CONCERN

CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN AMAZON ARE COMPLEX AND DEEPLY INTERTWINED WITH ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE "LUNGS OF THE EARTH," PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING GLOBAL CLIMATE BALANCE, BIODIVERSITY, AND WATER CYCLES. UNDERSTANDING WHAT DRIVES THE RELENTLESS CLEARING OF THIS VITAL ECOSYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL FOR SHAPING EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGIES. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON, SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE UNDERLYING ISSUES AND THE RIPPLE EFFECTS THEY CREATE.

AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION: THE LEADING DRIVER

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON IS THE EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE. AS GLOBAL DEMAND FOR FOOD AND COMMODITIES GROWS, VAST SWATHS OF FOREST ARE CLEARED TO MAKE ROOM FOR CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.

COMMERCIAL CATTLE RANCHING

CATTLE RANCHING ACCOUNTS FOR ROUGHLY 70% OF DEFORESTED LAND IN THE AMAZON. LARGE-SCALE RANCHERS CLEAR FORESTED AREAS TO CREATE PASTURES FOR BEEF PRODUCTION, WHICH IS A LUCRATIVE INDUSTRY BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE LOW COST OF LAND ACQUISITION IN THE REGION ENCOURAGES THIS PRACTICE, OFTEN AT THE EXPENSE OF FOREST COVER.

CROP CULTIVATION AND SOY FARMING

SOYBEAN FARMING HAS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED IN THE AMAZON BASIN, DRIVEN BY GLOBAL DEMAND FOR ANIMAL FEED AND BIOFUELS. FARMERS OFTEN CLEAR FORESTED AREAS TO PLANT SOY, WHICH CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO DEFORESTATION RATES. THIS AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION IS FURTHER FUELED BY ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, MAKING REMOTE AREAS MORE ACCESSIBLE.

LOGGING: LEGAL AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES

LOGGING, BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, CONTRIBUTES HEAVILY TO THE DEGRADATION AND LOSS OF AMAZONIAN FORESTS. TIMBER EXTRACTION NOT ONLY REMOVES VALUABLE TREES BUT ALSO OPENS UP THE FOREST TO FURTHER EXPLOITATION.

COMMERCIAL LOGGING INDUSTRY

SUSTAINABLE LOGGING PRACTICES EXIST BUT ARE OFTEN OVERSHADOWED BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS FOCUSED ON SHORT-TERM PROFITS. LOGGING COMPANIES SELECTIVELY HARVEST HIGH-VALUE TIMBER SPECIES, WHICH CAN LEAD TO FOREST FRAGMENTATION. THIS FRAGMENTATION WEAKENS THE ECOSYSTEM AND PAVES THE WAY FOR ADDITIONAL DEFORESTATION ACTIVITIES.

ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ITS IMPACTS

ILLEGAL LOGGING REMAINS A MAJOR CONCERN, AS IT BYPASSES ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT. THIS PRACTICE OFTEN INVOLVES UNREGULATED CUTTING, WHICH DESTROYS LARGE AREAS OF FOREST AND UNDERMINES CONSERVATION EFFORTS. ILLEGAL LOGGING IS FREQUENTLY LINKED TO CORRUPTION AND WEAK GOVERNANCE, MAKING IT A CHALLENGING ISSUE TO TACKLE.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND URBANIZATION

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, SUCH AS ROADS, DAMS, AND URBAN EXPANSION, ARE INCREASINGLY ENCROACHING UPON THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, FACILITATING DEFORESTATION AND HABITAT LOSS.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND ACCESS

BUILDING ROADS INTO PREVIOUSLY INACCESSIBLE FOREST AREAS ALLOWS FOR GREATER HUMAN ACTIVITY, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, LOGGING, AND MINING. THESE ROADS FRAGMENT THE FOREST AND SERVE AS GATEWAYS TO ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE TRANS-AMAZONIAN HIGHWAY IS A NOTABLE EXAMPLE, HAVING SIGNIFICANTLY ACCELERATED DEFORESTATION SINCE ITS CONSTRUCTION.

HYDROELECTRIC DAMS AND ENERGY PROJECTS

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS OFTEN REQUIRE CLEARING LARGE AREAS OF FOREST TO BUILD DAMS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE. WHILE THESE PROJECTS CONTRIBUTE TO ENERGY SUPPLY, THEY DISRUPT ECOSYSTEMS AND DISPLACE LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THE FLOODING CAUSED BY RESERVOIRS CAN ALSO LEAD TO THE LOSS OF FORESTED LAND.

MINING AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

MINING FOR MINERALS, GOLD, AND OTHER RESOURCES IS ANOTHER MAJOR CAUSE OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON. THE EXTRACTION PROCESS INVOLVES CLEARING FORESTS AND CONTAMINATING WATERWAYS.

GOLD MINING

GOLD MINING, PARTICULARLY ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE OPERATIONS, LEADS TO SIGNIFICANT DEFORESTATION AND POLLUTION FROM MERCURY USE. THESE ACTIVITIES OFTEN OCCUR IN REMOTE AREAS, MAKING REGULATION DIFFICULT. THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION CAUSED BY MINING THREATENS BOTH BIODIVERSITY AND THE HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS.

OTHER MINERAL EXTRACTION

BESIDES GOLD, THE AMAZON HOLDS DEPOSITS OF BAUXITE, IRON ORE, AND OTHER VALUABLE MINERALS. LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS REQUIRE CLEARING VAST FORESTED REGIONS AND BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, CONTRIBUTING TO HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND SOCIAL CONFLICTS.

FIRE AND CLIMATE CHANGE: AMPLIFYING THE PROBLEM

FIRES, WHETHER NATURALLY OCCURRING OR HUMAN-INDUCED, ARE INCREASINGLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREST LOSS IN THE AMAZON. CLIMATE CHANGE EXACERBATES THESE FIRES AND MAKES THE FOREST MORE VULNERABLE.

INTENTIONAL BURNING FOR LAND CLEARING

FARMERS AND RANCHERS OFTEN USE FIRE AS A CHEAP AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO CLEAR LAND. HOWEVER, THESE FIRES CAN EASILY SPREAD OUT OF CONTROL, DAMAGING LARGE FOREST AREAS. THE DRY SEASON, INTENSIFIED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, MAKES THE AMAZON MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO WIDESPREAD BURNING.

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS

RIISING TEMPERATURES AND CHANGING PRECIPITATION PATTERNS HAVE MADE THE AMAZON MORE PRONE TO DROUGHT, WEAKENING FOREST RESILIENCE. THIS CLIMATIC STRESS CAN LEAD TO TREE MORTALITY AND INCREASED VULNERABILITY TO FIRES, PESTS, AND DISEASES — ALL CONTRIBUTING INDIRECTLY TO DEFORESTATION.

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AND POLICY CHALLENGES

UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION ALSO REQUIRES EXAMINING THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH THESE ACTIVITIES OCCUR.

POVERTY AND LAND TENURE ISSUES

MANY LOCAL COMMUNITIES RELY ON CLEARING FOREST FOR SUBSISTENCE FARMING AND ECONOMIC SURVIVAL. LACK OF SECURE LAND TENURE OFTEN RESULTS IN UNSUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES, AS LANDHOLDERS SEEK TO ASSERT OWNERSHIP BY CLEARING FORESTS.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ENFORCEMENT

WEAK ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND POLICIES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION. IN SOME CASES, GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES AIMED AT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INADVERTENTLY PROMOTE FOREST CLEARING BY PRIORITIZING SHORT-TERM GAINS OVER SUSTAINABILITY.

GLOBAL MARKET DEMAND

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR BEEF, SOY, TIMBER, AND MINERALS DRIVES DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON. GLOBAL TRADE NETWORKS CONNECT CONSUMERS FAR REMOVED FROM THE RAINFOREST TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THEIR CONSUMPTION CHOICES, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE SOURCING AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY.

PROTECTING THE AMAZON: WHAT CAN BE DONE?

ADDRESSING THE CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON REQUIRES A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH THAT INVOLVES

GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES, AND CONSUMERS ALIKE.

- **PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** SUPPORTING AGROFORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES CAN REDUCE PRESSURE ON THE FOREST.
- **STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT:** IMPROVING MONITORING AND PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES HELPS CURB UNAUTHORIZED DEFORESTATION.
- **EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:** RECOGNIZING AND SECURING INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN FOREST CONSERVATION.
- **ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION:** CONSUMERS CAN INFLUENCE DEFORESTATION BY CHOOSING PRODUCTS CERTIFIED AS SUSTAINABLE.
- **INVESTING IN RESTORATION:** REFORESTATION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS HELP REPAIR DAMAGED AREAS AND RESTORE BIODIVERSITY.

BY UNDERSTANDING THE MULTIFACETED CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON, WE CAN BETTER APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS AND THE URGENT NEED FOR COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS. PROTECTING THIS EXTRAORDINARY FOREST IS NOT JUST AN ECOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE—IT'S A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY THAT IMPACTS THE HEALTH AND FUTURE OF OUR PLANET.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST?

THE PRIMARY CAUSES INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION, LOGGING, CATTLE RANCHING, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND MINING ACTIVITIES.

HOW DOES CATTLE RANCHING CONTRIBUTE TO DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON?

CATTLE RANCHING LEADS TO DEFORESTATION AS LARGE AREAS OF FOREST ARE CLEARED TO CREATE PASTURELAND FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING.

WHAT ROLE DOES AGRICULTURE PLAY IN AMAZON DEFORESTATION?

AGRICULTURE, ESPECIALLY SOY FARMING, DRIVES DEFORESTATION AS FORESTS ARE CLEARED TO MAKE WAY FOR CROP CULTIVATION.

HOW DOES ILLEGAL LOGGING AFFECT THE AMAZON RAINFOREST?

ILLEGAL LOGGING RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT TREE LOSS, DISRUPTING ECOSYSTEMS AND LEADING TO FURTHER FOREST DEGRADATION AND DEFORESTATION.

IN WHAT WAY DOES INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CAUSE DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON?

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND DAMS OPENS UP PREVIOUSLY INACCESSIBLE FOREST AREAS, FACILITATING MORE LOGGING AND LAND CLEARING.

How do mining activities contribute to deforestation in the Amazon?

Mining operations require clearing large forest areas for extraction sites and access roads, causing deforestation and pollution.

What is the impact of government policies on deforestation rates in the Amazon?

Certain policies promoting agricultural expansion or lax enforcement of environmental laws can increase deforestation, while conservation policies can help reduce it.

How does population growth influence deforestation in the Amazon?

Population growth increases demand for land and resources, leading to more forest clearing for housing, farming, and infrastructure.

Additional Resources

Causes of Deforestation in Amazon: An In-Depth Examination

Causes of Deforestation in Amazon have long been a subject of intense scrutiny among environmentalists, policymakers, and researchers worldwide. The Amazon rainforest, often referred to as the “lungs of the Earth,” plays a critical role in global climate regulation, biodiversity maintenance, and indigenous livelihoods. Yet, it faces unprecedented threats from human activities leading to large-scale forest degradation. Understanding the multifaceted causes behind this environmental crisis is essential to designing effective conservation strategies and sustainable development policies.

Understanding the Primary Drivers of Amazon Deforestation

Deforestation in the Amazon is not a result of a single factor but rather a complex interplay of economic, social, and political forces. These forces operate at local, national, and global scales, driving the systematic clearing of forested land. Among the most significant causes are agricultural expansion, logging, infrastructure development, and mining activities.

Agricultural Expansion: The Leading Cause

Agriculture stands out as the predominant driver of deforestation in the Amazon. Vast tracts of forest are cleared to make way for cattle ranching and crop cultivation. Brazil, which contains roughly 60% of the Amazon basin, has seen a surge in cattle farming due to burgeoning global demand for beef and leather.

- **Cattle Ranching:** Roughly 70% of deforested land in the Amazon is used for pasture. This form of land use is favored because it is relatively low-cost and yields products with high economic value.
- **Soybean Cultivation:** Soy farming has expanded rapidly in recent decades, especially in the southern Amazon. Soy is a critical commodity for animal feed worldwide, and its cultivation contributes significantly to forest clearance.

The conversion of forest into agricultural land not only reduces carbon storage capacity but also disrupts the delicate ecological balance, threatening countless species.

ILLEGAL AND LEGAL LOGGING PRACTICES

LOGGING, BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, CONTRIBUTES SUBSTANTIALLY TO FOREST LOSS IN THE AMAZON. TIMBER EXTRACTION IS DRIVEN BY DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR WOOD PRODUCTS AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS SEEKING EXOTIC HARDWOODS.

- ILLEGAL LOGGING: THIS REMAINS A MAJOR PROBLEM DUE TO WEAK ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND CORRUPTION. ILLEGAL OPERATIONS OFTEN TARGET VALUABLE SPECIES, LEADING TO SELECTIVE LOGGING THAT WEAKENS FOREST STRUCTURE.
- LEGAL LOGGING: EVEN SANCTIONED LOGGING ACTIVITIES, IF NOT MANAGED SUSTAINABLY, CAN RESULT IN DEGRADATION AND HEIGHTENED VULNERABILITY TO FIRES AND FURTHER CLEARING.

LOGGING ROADS FACILITATE EASIER ACCESS TO PREVIOUSLY REMOTE FOREST AREAS, ACCELERATING DEFORESTATION BY OPENING NEW FRONTIERS FOR AGRICULTURE AND SETTLEMENT.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND URBANIZATION

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, INCLUDING ROAD CONSTRUCTION, HYDROELECTRIC DAMS, AND URBAN EXPANSION, PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN SHAPING DEFORESTATION PATTERNS.

- ROAD NETWORKS: THE BUILDING OF HIGHWAYS SUCH AS THE TRANS-AMAZONIAN HIGHWAY HAS BEEN LINKED TO INCREASED DEFORESTATION BY ENABLING TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS AND PEOPLE INTO FOREST INTERIORS.
- HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS: LARGE DAMS FLOOD EXTENSIVE FOREST AREAS, DISPLACING COMMUNITIES AND FRAGMENTING HABITATS.
- URBAN GROWTH: EXPANDING CITIES AND TOWNS INCREASE DEMAND FOR LAND AND RESOURCES, OFTEN ENCROACHING ON FORESTED ZONES.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS OFTEN ACT AS CATALYSTS, INDIRECTLY FACILITATING FURTHER FOREST LOSS BY IMPROVING ACCESS AND ATTRACTING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

MINING AND OTHER EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES

MINING OPERATIONS TARGETING MINERALS LIKE GOLD, BAUXITE, AND IRON ORE HAVE INTENSIFIED IN THE AMAZON BASIN. BOTH ARTISANAL AND LARGE-SCALE MINING CONTRIBUTE TO DEFORESTATION AND POLLUTION.

- LAND CLEARING: MINING REQUIRES CLEARING VEGETATION TO ACCESS MINERAL DEPOSITS, LEAVING LANDSCAPES BARREN AND VULNERABLE TO EROSION.
- WATER CONTAMINATION: THE USE OF MERCURY AND OTHER CHEMICALS IN MINING CONTAMINATES RIVERS AND SOILS, AFFECTING AQUATIC LIFE AND HUMAN HEALTH.
- SOCIAL DISPLACEMENT: MINING OFTEN DISRUPTS INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, UNDERMINING TRADITIONAL LAND STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF MINING EXTENDS BEYOND IMMEDIATE DEFORESTED AREAS, IMPACTING THE BROADER ECOSYSTEM.

ADDITIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS

BEYOND DIRECT CAUSES, SEVERAL UNDERLYING SOCIOECONOMIC AND GOVERNANCE-RELATED FACTORS EXACERBATE DEFORESTATION RATES.

POPULATION PRESSURE AND LAND TENURE ISSUES

POPULATION GROWTH IN AMAZONIAN REGIONS DRIVES INCREASED DEMAND FOR LAND AND RESOURCES. MIGRANT FARMERS AND SETTLERS OFTEN CLEAR FORESTS TO ESTABLISH LIVELIHOODS.

- LAND CONFLICTS: AMBIGUITIES IN LAND TENURE AND WEAK PROPERTY RIGHTS INCENTIVIZE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION AND FOREST CLEARING AS A MEANS TO CLAIM LAND.
- POVERTY AND LACK OF ALTERNATIVES: ECONOMIC HARDSHIP PUSHES COMMUNITIES TOWARDS UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR SHORT-TERM SURVIVAL.

RESOLVING LAND TENURE DISPUTES AND PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPTIONS ARE CRITICAL TO REDUCING DEFORESTATION PRESSURES.

WEAK ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE AMAZON'S NATURAL RESOURCES DEPENDS ON ROBUST GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS.

- CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL WILL: IN SOME CASES, WEAK INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND CORRUPTION UNDERMINE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.
- POLICY INCENTIVES: AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AND POLICIES FAVORING DEVELOPMENT OVER CONSERVATION CAN DRIVE DEFORESTATION.
- MONITORING CHALLENGES: THE SHEER SIZE AND REMOTENESS OF THE AMAZON COMPLICATE MONITORING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS IS ESSENTIAL TO CURB ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LAND USE.

GLOBAL MARKET DEMAND AND TRADE DYNAMICS

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR COMMODITIES SUCH AS BEEF, SOY, TIMBER, AND MINERALS DIRECTLY INFLUENCES DEFORESTATION TRENDS.

- EXPORT-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE: BRAZIL'S ROLE AS A LEADING EXPORTER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TIES AMAZON DEFORESTATION TO GLOBAL CONSUMER MARKETS.
- TRADE AGREEMENTS: BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TRADE POLICIES CAN EITHER INCENTIVIZE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES OR EXACERBATE FOREST LOSS DEPENDING ON THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS.

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHAPING LAND-USE DECISIONS IN THE AMAZON BASIN.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AMAZON DEFORESTATION

THE CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN AMAZON ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO SEVERE ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES. LOSS OF FOREST COVER REDUCES BIODIVERSITY, DISRUPTS CARBON SEQUESTRATION, AND ALTERS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CLIMATE PATTERNS. FRAGMENTATION OF HABITATS THREATENS ENDEMIC SPECIES, WHILE INCREASED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. MOREOVER, DEFORESTATION AFFECTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LIVELIHOODS, UNDERSCORING THE MULTIFACETED IMPACT OF FOREST LOSS.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF CAUSES AND POTENTIAL SYNERGIES

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THESE CAUSES DO NOT OPERATE IN ISOLATION. FOR EXAMPLE, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OFTEN PRECEDES AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION; LOGGING ROADS OPEN THE FOREST TO SETTLERS AND MINERS, AND WEAK GOVERNANCE ALLOWS ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO FLOURISH. ADDRESSING DEFORESTATION THEREFORE REQUIRES INTEGRATED APPROACHES THAT CONSIDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND SOCIAL EQUITY SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE AMAZON'S FATE HINGES ON HOW EFFECTIVELY THESE INTERTWINED CAUSES ARE MANAGED AND MITIGATED IN THE FACE OF ONGOING PRESSURES. WHILE CHALLENGES ARE SUBSTANTIAL, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN SATELLITE MONITORING, INCREASED GLOBAL AWARENESS, AND COMMITMENTS FROM GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTORS OFFER PATHWAYS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP OF THIS VITAL ECOSYSTEM.

Causes Of Deforestation In Amazon

causes of deforestation in amazon: Information and communication technologies and broad-based development Jeremy Grace, Charles Kenny, Christine Zhen-Wei Qiang, World Bank,

causes of deforestation in amazon: *Causes of Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon* Sérgio Margulis, 2004 This report suggests that, in contrast to the 1970s and 1980s when occupation of Brazilian Amazonia was largely induced by government policies and subsidies, recent deforestation in significant parts of the region is basically caused by medium- and large-scale cattle ranching. Following a private rationale, the dynamics of the occupation process gradually became autonomous. Among the causes of the transformation are technological and managerial changes and the adaptation of cattle ranching to the geo-ecological conditions of eastern Amazonia which allowed for productivity gains and cost reductions. The fact that cattle ranching is viable from the private perspective does not mean that the activity is socially desirable nor environmentally sustainable. Private gains need to be contrasted with the environmental (social) costs associated with cattle ranching and deforestation. It also is legitimate to argue that the private benefits from large-scale cattle ranching are largely exclusive, having contributed little to alleviate social and economic inequalities. However, decreases in the price of beef in national markets and increases in exports caused by the expansion of cattle ranching in Eastern Amazonia may imply social benefits that go beyond sectoral and regional boundaries. --Résumé de l'éditeur.

causes of deforestation in amazon: *Regional Cooperation in Amazonia* Maria Antonia Tigre, 2017-08-28 In *Regional Cooperation in Amazonia: A Comparative Environmental Law Analysis*, Maria Antonia Tigre provides a broad overview of the international, regional and national law applied to the Amazon rainforest and investigates efforts at regional cooperation for the protection of the Amazonian ecosystem. For the last four decades, cooperation among the eight countries in which the rainforest lies was primarily induced by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT). Originally adopted to ensure national sovereignty, the ACT gradually evolved towards a framework for sustainable development. Based on the challenges faced by the treaty and its subsequent instruments, Maria Antonia Tigre analyzes ways in which the ACT can be more effectively applied, leading to practical results that reduce deforestation. These specifically relate to the enforceability of the right to the environment, the implementation of protected areas, and the development of financial mechanisms to fund initiatives.

causes of deforestation in amazon: Global Environmental Harm Rob White, 2013-01-11 This book brings together original cutting edge work that deals with global environmental harm from a wide variety of geographical and critical perspectives. The topics covered in the book are global, regional and local in nature, although in each case there are clear transnational or global dimensions. The book explores topics that provide theoretical, methodological and substantive insights into the nature and dynamics of environmental harm, and the transference of this harm across regions, continents and globally. Specific topics include the criminal nature of global warming, an ethnographic study of pollution and consciousness of environmental harm,

environmental destruction associated with huge industrial developments, chaos theory and environmental social justice, de-forestation as a global phenomenon, illegal trade in endangered species, and transference of toxicity. The collection as a whole reinforces the importance of eco-global criminology as a dynamic paradigm for theory and action on environmental issues in the 21st century. The criminological perspectives presented herein are important both in discerning the nature and complexities of global environmental harms and, ultimately, in forging responses to them.

causes of deforestation in amazon: Climate and Geo-Sciences A.L. Berger, S. Schneider, J.Cl. Duplessy, 2012-12-06 It has been widely recognized recently that in order to make scientific progress on large and important problems (eg, carbon dioxide effects on climate, viability of various sites for nuclear waste disposal etc.), it is necessary to integrate knowledge from wide ranging sets of disciplines. This is certainly true in the climate sciences, for progress in understanding the cause of the ice ages or the effects of industrial pollution on the future climate or even the likelihood of severe climatic consequences in the aftermath of nuclear war. All require state-of-the-art input from many geoscience disciplines climatology, oceanography, meteorology, chemistry, ecology, glaciology, geology, astronomy, space technology, computer technology, mathematics etc. Major international meetings have called for interaction of such geo-science disciplines to solve real world problems. To move beyond the rhetorical level, the NATO Special Programme on Global Transport Mechanisms in the Geo-Sciences whose activities started in 1983, decided to organise his closing symposium on such a topic which focus on the relationship between climate and geo-sciences. This symposium was held at the end of May 1988 at the Universite Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. One hundred-and-thirty participants from the 16 NATO countries and a number of non-NATO countries assembled for the Symposium. Another feature was the attendance by special invitation of 16 promising young scientists who might well become leading scientists on climate and geo-sciences in their respective countries in the next century.

causes of deforestation in amazon: The context of REDD+ in Peru: Drivers, agents and institutions Hugo Che Piu, Mary Menton, 2014-09-09 This country profile contains an analysis of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Peru, and the economic, institutional and political context in which REDD is emerging in the country. Peru has a total forest area of approximately 73 million hectares, almost 60% of national territory. In the past few years, deforestation decreased from 150,000 ha/year to 106,000 ha/year but it still represents one of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the country. While it has decreased recently, an increase is expected during coming years due to development policies that support the expansion of road infrastructure in the Amazon, an increase in agricultural production and support for the extractive sectors. The government has declared a goal of reducing to zero the deforestation rate across 54 million hectares of primary forest by 2021, and has initiated the preparation process for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus) at a national and subnational level. While the pilot projects are already underway, with international and national funding, and even certification according to international standards, the national government is still in the process of developing REDD+ and MRV (Measuring, Reporting and Verification) strategies under the leadership of MINAM. Even if REDD has solid support within certain sectors of the government and civil society, it will face big challenges during the implementation phase due to a lack of intersectoral coordination and support to a socioeconomic development that would stimulate conservation and stop deforestation and degradation. In the process of preparation for REDD+, the country has advanced with the processes of safeguarding the participation of the civil society and the protection of native and local communities' rights. At the same time, the challenges concerning weak governance at a national and regional level and conflicts of interest are threats to the effective, efficient and equitable implementation in the long-term.

causes of deforestation in amazon: The Sustainability Secret Kip Andersen, Keegan Kuhn, 2016-07-12 This companion to the documentary *Cowspiracy* explores the devastating environmental impacts of animal agriculture—and new paths to sustainability. The 2014 documentary *Cowspiracy*

presented alarming truths about the effects of animal agriculture on the planet. One of the leading causes of deforestation, greenhouse gas production, water use, species extinction, ocean dead-zones, and a host of other ills, animal agriculture is a major threat to the future of all species, and one of the environmental industry's best-kept secrets. The Sustainability Secret expands upon Cowspiracy in every way. In this updated volume, the film's co-creators reveal shocking new facts and interview the leaders of businesses, environmental organizations, and political groups about the disastrous effects of animal agriculture. Extended transcripts, updated statistics, tips on becoming vegan, and comprehensive reading lists provide an in-depth overview of this planetary crisis and demonstrate effective ways to offset the damage.

causes of deforestation in amazon: Environmental Change and Security Project Report, 1999

causes of deforestation in amazon: *Environmental Change and its Implications for Population Migration* Jon D. Unruh, Maarten Krol, N. Klot, 2008-01-18 This volume provides an ample overview of state-of-the-art understanding of the multi-dimensional phenomenon of migration, in the characterisation of migration drivers, in environmental and agro-economic case studies and modelling issues as well as socio-political analyses. The analysis is geared to the consequences of climatic change, and the effects on soil, water and extreme weather that will drive populations to migrate.

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