

Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

By: Joel Satnarine, NY

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world, and it plays a crucial role in the planet's health. However, deforestation in the Amazon is an issue that has been a major concern for decades. The destruction of the forest has devastating consequences for biodiversity, the local communities, and the climate. Deforestation is a major contributor to the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and leads to the extinction of thousands of species.

The main cause of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest is human activities, particularly agriculture, logging, mining, and cattle ranching. The demand for products like soybeans, beef, and timber drives the need for land, leading to the destruction of vast areas of the forest. The

expansion of infrastructure such as roads and dams also contribute to deforestation. These activities have caused an alarming rate of deforestation, with approximately 17% of the Amazon rainforest already lost, and more than 20,000 square kilometers being lost each year¹. Deforestation has a significant impact on the climate, as trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. The loss of the Amazon Rainforest is responsible for around 10% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, making



it a crucial factor in climate change². The destruction of the forest also leads to changes in weather patterns, such as droughts and floods, that can have devastating effects on local communities. The loss of the Amazon Rainforest also has a severe impact on biodiversity. The rainforest is home to approximately 10% of the world's known species, including many unique and endangered species². Deforestation destroys habitats, making it difficult for species to survive, and leading to the extinction of many animals and plants. The loss of biodiversity has a significant impact on the ecological balance of the planet, affecting the survival of all living organisms.

Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest is a complex issue that requires action on a global scale. Governments, international organizations, and individuals must work together to address the root causes of deforestation and find sustainable solutions. Measures such as protecting indigenous rights, promoting sustainable agriculture, and investing in renewable energy can help reduce deforestation rates. The preservation of the Amazon Rainforest is crucial to the health of the planet and the survival of all living organisms.

References:

1. "Amazon Rainforest Now: How Much Of It Is Left?" *Rainforest Rescue International*
<https://rainforestrescueinternational.org/amazon-rainforest-now-how-much-of-it-is-left/#:~:text=In%20the%20past%2050%20years%2C%2017%25%20to%2020%25,more%20expanses%20of%20the%20Amazon%20rainforest%20were%20cleared>
2. "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." *Worldwildlife.Org*
www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation