Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

2
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Table of Contents

3
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Introduction

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted at the United Nations Headquarters, New York on the 9 May 1992. In accordance with Article 20, it was open for signature at Rio de Janeiro from 4 to 14 June 1992, and thereafter at the United Nations Headquarters, from 20 June 1992 to 19 June 1993. By that date, the Convention had received 166 signatures. The aim of the UNFCCC is to stabilize global greenhouse emission and to reduce these harmful gasses into the atmosphere as to prevent dangerous climate change. In order to competently prevent this one of the key matters to be discussed and resolved is the question of reducing deforestation around the world with, a special focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

Deforestation is one of the most demanding concerns of the contemporary global community as, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that on average 18 million acres of forest is destroyed every year in order to make the land available for other uses. In 2017 alone about 39 million acres of forest disappeared. This demonstrates that the issue is increasingly getting worse unless measures are introduced to reduce international deforestation. Therefore it is crucial for global communication and action against continued deforestation.

Furthermore, forests are crucial as they cover 31% of the land area on our planet. They produce vital oxygen and provide homes for people and wildlife. Many of the world's most threatened and endangered animals live in forests and, 1.6 billion people rely on benefits forests offer, including food, fresh water, clothing, traditional medicine and shelter.

4
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Additionally deforestation is a particular concern in tropical rainforests as much of the world' biodiversity live in these forests and these homes are being destroyed for agriculture, human living spaces and for other pressures which, can be

seen in the graph below. One of the most infamous examples of this type of deforestations is in the Amazon. Around 17% of the forest has been lost in the last 50 years, mostly due to forest conversion for cattle ranching. Deforestation in this region is particularly rampant near more populated areas, roads and rivers, but even remote areas have been encroached upon when valuable mahogany, gold and oil are discovered.
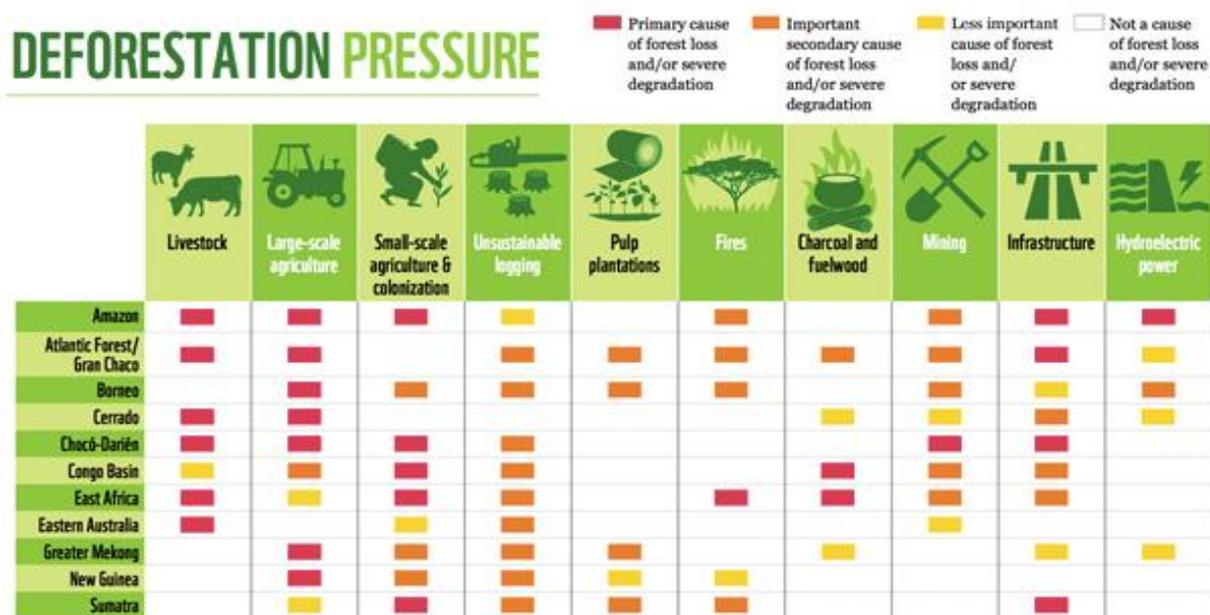
DEFORESTATION PRESSURE

Legend:
- Primary cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation (red)
- Important secondary cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation (orange)
- Less important cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation (yellow)
- Not a cause of forest loss and/or severe degradation (white)

	Livestock	Large-scale agriculture	Small-scale agriculture & colonization	Unsustainable logging	Pulp plantations	Fires	Charcoal and fuelwood	Mining	Infrastructure	Hydroelectric power
Amazon	Primary	Primary	Primary	Less important		Primary		Secondary	Primary	Primary
Atlantic Forest/ Gran Chaco	Primary	Primary		Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Less important
Borneo		Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary		Secondary	Less important	Secondary
Cerrado	Primary	Primary					Less important	Less important	Less important	Less important
Chocó-Darién	Primary	Primary	Primary	Secondary				Primary	Primary	
Congo Basin	Less important	Secondary	Primary	Primary			Primary		Secondary	
East Africa	Primary	Less important	Primary	Primary		Primary	Primary	Secondary	Secondary	
Eastern Australia	Primary		Less important	Secondary				Less important		
Greater Mekong		Primary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary		Less important		Less important	Less important
New Guinea		Primary	Secondary	Primary	Less important	Less important				
Sumatra		Less important	Primary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary			Primary	

Table 2: Summary of main pressures on forests in different deforestation fronts

5
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Key Terms

Deforestation
Deforestation, clearance, or clearing is the removal of a forest or stand of trees where the land is thereafter converted to non-forest use.

Climate Change
A change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

WWF
The World Wide Fund for Nature, aims to conserve nature and ecological processes by preserving biodiversity, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful use of resources and energy.

Illegal Logging

Illegal logging is the harvest, transportation, purchase or sale of wood in violation of laws. The harvesting procedure itself may be illegal, including using corrupt means to gain access to forests; extraction without permission, or from a protected area; the cutting down of protected areas; or the extraction of timber in excess of agreed limits.

Forest Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests. TheFSC does this by setting standards on forest products, along with certifying and labeling them as eco-friendly.

6

Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Impacts of Deforestation

Arguably the most important impact of deforestation is the increased amount of greenhouse emissions. With the loss of forests we also lose the tree's ability to mitigate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. Along with this, Deforestation represents around 15% of such emissions. If this issue is not solved then, considerable climate changes will occur along with specie losses.

However, this is not the only impact of deforestation with another being: the disruption of livelihoods as millions of people rely on the natural resources the forests offer. Furthermore with the loss of forest also comes the loss of forrest dependant jobs which, leads to social conflict and migration such as the situation seen in the Greater Mekong in Southeast Asia. Furthermore the industries and agriculture replacing the forests in Brazil are notorious for exploiting poor workers to work under inhumane conditions sometimes, under gunpoint.

Moreover, deforestation is responsible for over 140 species of animals becoming extinct each day. It is estimated that within the next 25 years 10% of the world's animals species will die out. This will lead to more drastic climate change which will be more difficult to reverse in the coming years therefore, it is urgent to act now against deforestation.

Previous Attempts to Solve Issue

Organizations such as WWF have been actively involved in this issue as well as further organizations and charities. In order to tackle this issue this organizations have been setting up programs and schemes in order to reduce the amount of deforestation occuring.

One of these attempts have been the set up of "protected areas" in the areas of mass deforestation. This program consists of securing forest ecosystems as parks. This has proven key to preserve species and also protecting the biodiversity that live in the areas. Moreover, with enough funding more areas can be set up which, will reduce the impacts of deforestation and also raise awareness for the issue.

Another area needing more attention has been the issue of illegal logging. In order to cope with this point organizations have provided guidance on best practices related to legality and responsible sourcing to hundreds of companies around the world, including in the US, and support an alliance that monitors the status of the remaining natural forests in Sumatra province of Riau. Furthermore, the encouragement of consumers to buy wood products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council is key in solving this issue.

Along with the other previous attempts "eyes in the Forest" is another organization which monitors the status of the remaining natural forests in Sumatra province of Riau. They then share the information worldwide in order to create more international communication and to empower those working to protect the natural and

8

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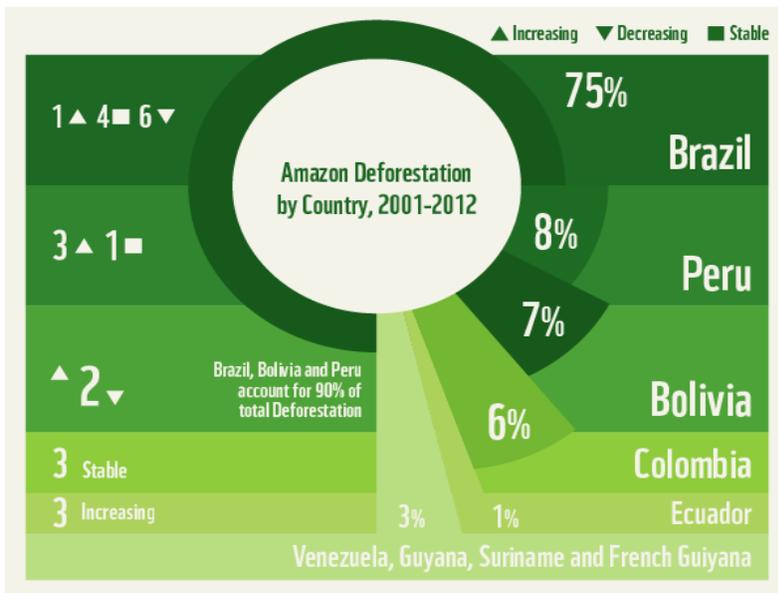
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critical habitat. This is an organization that should be set up in more areas of

deforestation in order to monitor the happenings in other vulnerable forests.

Overall, from these other previous attempts we can see that international

communication is one of the key factors in combating deforestation and corruption of

companies within these areas. Additionally, promoting and educating the wider

population about this issue is essential as to ensure that they buy wood from credible

companies and also becoming more aware of the topic.

9
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Graphs and statistics in issue

INFOGRAPHIC

Deforestation Trends

Amazon Deforestation by Country, 2001-2012

▲ Increasing ▼ Decreasing ■ Stable

1▲ 4■ 6▼

3▲ 1■

▲2▼

Brazil, Bolivia and Peru account for 90% of total Deforestation

3 Stable
3 Increasing

75% Brazil
8% Peru
7% Bolivia
6% Colombia
3% 1% Ecuador
Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiyana

A COUNTRY-LED PARTNERSHIP TO **RESTORE 20 MILLION HECTARES**

8.5mha MEXICO
1.2mha GUATEMALA
1mha COLOMBIA
.05mha COSTA RICA
3.2mha PERU
.5mha ECUADOR
4.1mha CONSERVACIÓN PATAGÓNICA
$365m Financial commitment by private sector impact investors to fund restoration projects in the region.
.1mha CHILE
1.6mha BOSQUES MODELO

http://bit.ly/1vX51dz

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10
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

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Involved Parties

List of parties which either ratify or accept the convention

Afghanistan	Djibouti	Liechtenstein	Serbia
Albania	Dominica	Lithuania	Seychelles
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Luxembourg	Sierra Leone
Andorra	Ecuador	Madagascar	Singapore
Angola	Egypt	Malawi	Slovakia
Antigua and Barbuda	El Salvador	Malaysia	Slovenia
Argentina	Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	Solomon Islands
Armenia	Eritrea	Mali	Somalia
Australia	Estonia	Malta	South Africa
Austria	Eswatini	Marshall Islands	South Sudan
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Mauritania	Spain
Bahamas	European Union	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Fiji	Mexico	St. Kitts and Nevis
Bangladesh	Finland	Micronesia	St. Lucia
Barbados	France	Monaco	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Belarus	Gabon	Mongolia	State of Palestine
Belgium	Gambia	Montenegro	Sudan
Belize	Georgia	Morocco	Suriname
Benin	Germany	Mozambique	Sweden
Bhutan	Ghana	Myanmar	Switzerland
Bolivia	Greece	Namibia	Syrian Arab Republic
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Grenada	Nauru	Tajikistan
Botswana	Guatemala	Nepal	Thailand
Brazil	Guinea	Netherlands	Macedonia
Brunei Darussalam	Guinea-Bissau	New Zealand	Timor-Leste
Bulgaria	Guyana	Nicaragua	Togo
Burkina Faso	Haiti	Niger	Tonga
Burundi	Honduras	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Cabo Verde	Hungary	Niue	Tunisia
Cambodia	Iceland	Norway	Turkey
Cameroon	India	Oman	Turkmenistan

11
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Canada	Indonesia	Pakistan	Tuvalu
Central African Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Palau	Uganda
Chad	Iraq	Panama	Ukraine
Chile	Ireland	Papua New Guinea	United Arab Emirates
China	Israel	Paraguay	United Kingdom
Colombia	Italy	Peru	United Republic of Tanzania
Comoros	Jamaica	Philippines	United States of America
Congo	Japan	Poland	Uruguay
Cook Islands	Jordan	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Kazakhstan	Qatar	Vanuatu
Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	Republic of Korea	Venezuela
Croatia	Kiribati	Republic of Moldova	Viet Nam
Cuba	Kuwait	Romania	Yemen
Cyprus	Kyrgyzstan	Russian Federation	Zambia
Czech Republic	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Latvia	Samoa	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lebanon	San Marino	
Denmark	Lesotho	Sao Tome and Principe	
	Liberia	Saudi Arabia	
	Libya	Senegal	

12
Measures to Reduce Deforestation around the World with a Special Focus on the Tropical Rainforest.

UNFCCC Committee Guide

Further Reading

https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation

https://www.carbonbrief.org/deforestation-in-the-tropics-affects-climate-around-the-world-study-finds

https://www.conservation.org/stories/Pages/11-deforestation-facts-you-need-to-know.aspx

https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/forests/solutions-to-deforestation/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation

http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/forests/deforestation_fronts/deforestation_in_the_amazon/