

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Background Guide Topic:

Preventing Deforestation Caused by Human Activities



Director's Note

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Environment Programme of Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations 2023! My name is Milan Yamaoka, and I will be serving as the director of the Beginner I committee. I am a junior at Senzoku Gakuen High School. As an elementary school student in a Japanese public school, I saw Model United Nations as something extremely intellectual and almost unapproachable. At the time, I did not have any confidence in making speeches in English. Moreover, I did not have much interest in international affairs. However, After experiencing life overseas and receiving the recommendation of a friend, I overcame my reluctance and participated in an in-school-conference for the first time in high school and found diplomacy to be very intriguing, and now I enjoy MUN conferences from the bottom of my heart. I hope you will find the same passion and support at our conference.

This year's theme, "Renaissance ~Reviving the Groundwork of Diplomacy," resonates with the work to prevent deforestation and revive our healthy planet. In many cases, areas affected by deforestation extend over various countries, making it difficult to tackle the issue with the efforts of one country alone. Therefore, only through reviving diplomacy and having countries come together to discuss this topic can effective solutions be found.

Participating in an external MUN conference can be stressful and terrifying, especially with a group of experienced delegates making outstanding speeches. Although frequent speakers may stand out the most, it is not always the case that they are the most successful delegates. It is more important to speak confidently, even if it is just once, than it is to make the most speeches. Do not be afraid to make mistakes; the chairs will always be there to help out!

Thank you so much for joining us, and we hope to have a great two days discussing deforestation. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Milan Yamaoka

Director of United Nations Environment Programme

Senzoku Gakuen Model United Nations Club

Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations



Introduction of the Committee

History of Committee¹

UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) was founded in 1972 following the UN Conference on the Human Environment. Currently with 193 member states, this committee is dedicated to addressing the world's environmental problems through providing leadership and encouraging partnership between countries.

Brief Introduction to Topic

Deforestation is the extreme loss of trees due to rapid industrial development, an issue that must be addressed by all countries as its consequences, such as climate change, land erosion, and biodiversity decline, have a worldwide impact.

Key Terms

Agrobiodiversity²

Also known as agricultural biodiversity, agrobiodiversity is a broad term that includes all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and

¹ Environment, U. N. (n.d.). About UN environment programme. UNEP. Retrieved July 29, 2022, from <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment>

² Unit, B. (2008, April 23). *What is agricultural biodiversity?* Convention on Biological Diversity. Retrieved August 4, 2022, from <https://www.cbd.int/agro/whatis.shtml>

agriculture, and all components of biological diversity that constitute the agricultural ecosystems.

Agro-Industry

Agro-industry is the term for businesses dealing with the supply, processing and distribution of farm products. Agro-industry is often considered the first rung of the ladder to fully fledged industrialization.³

Biodiversity⁴

Biodiversity is the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi.

Cattle Ranching⁵

Ranching is the practice of raising herds of animals on large tracts of land. Ranchers commonly raise grazing animals, such as

³ ECOSOC. (2017). (rep.). *Global Expert Meeting on Agriculture and Agro-industries Development towards Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems to Inform the 2017 ECOSOC Special Meeting on Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialization Background Report* (pp. 1–18).

⁴ Biodiversity. National Geographic Society. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/biodiversity>

⁵ *Ranching*. National Geographic Society. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/ranching>



cattle and sheep. Cattle ranching specifically refers to the ranching of cattle.

Deforestation⁶

Deforestation is the deliberate clearing of forested land for agriculture and animal grazing, and to obtain wood for fuel, manufacturing, and construction.

Erosion⁷

Erosion is the geological process in which earthen materials are worn away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water. While plant roots can possibly create cracks within the ground, they can also help in solidifying soil and therefore preventing erosion from easily happening.

Forest Fragmentation⁸

Forest Fragmentation is the division of habitat into smaller and more isolated fragments separated by a matrix of human-transformed land cover.

⁶ Deforestation. National Geographic Society. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/deforestation>

⁷ Erosion. National Geographic Society. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/erosion>

⁸ 3D. B. Lindenmayer, J. Fischer, *Habitat Fragmentation and Landscape Change: An Ecological and Conservation Synthesis* (Island Press, Washington, DC, 2006).

Greenhouse Effect⁹

The greenhouse effect is a process that occurs when gasses in Earth's atmosphere trap the Sun's heat. Because of this effect, the temperature of Earth is warmer than it would be if there was no atmosphere.

Logging¹⁰

Logging is the process of felling and harvesting trees in order to use their wood for buildings, paper, or other purposes.

Current Situation

In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all members of the United Nations. Goal 15 of the SDGs urges countries to “sustainably manage forests, combat deforestation, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss” making transformative changes to restore and protect nature.¹¹

⁹ NASA. (n.d.). What is the greenhouse effect? NASA. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/greenhouse-effect/>

¹⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). Logging. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/logging-forestry>

¹¹ United Nations. (n.d.). *Goal 15 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>



Goal 15 is a response to widespread deforestation, which now affects the lives and livelihoods of millions of people now. Since the turn of the millennium, the world has been losing around 5 million hectares of forest every year. Forest area from 2001 to 2020 went from 22,556,000 hectares to 21,946,000 hectares in Congo and from 521,274,000 hectares to 496,619,600 in Brazil and recorded the largest acceleration in forest loss from 2001 to 2020.¹²

CO₂ emissions (climate change)

Since 2000, the world has lost about 10% of its tree cover. As a result, deforestation contributes up to 10% of the carbon dioxide emissions caused by human activity. This figure rises to 15% if forest degradation (changes that negatively affect a forest's structure or function but that do not decrease its area), and tropical peatland emissions are included.¹³

¹² Ritchie, H. (2021, February 23). *Cutting down forests: What are the drivers of deforestation?* Our World in Data. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://ourworldindata.org/what-are-drivers-deforestation>

¹³ Guardian News and Media. (2022, February 28). *Deforestation emissions far higher than previously thought, study finds.* The Guardian. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/28/deforestation-emissions-far-higher-than-previously-thought-study-finds-aoe>

Desertification

Since forests play a significant role in the water cycle, overexploiting the land by deforestation leads to land degradation in typically dry areas. Removing trees upset the balance of nutrients in the soil and takes away the roots that help bind the soil together, leaving it at risk of being eroded and washed or blown away. The Amazon rainforest generates around half of its own rainfall. This means that clearing the forests runs the risk of causing the local climate to dry, adding to the risk of desertification.¹⁴

Flooding

Deforestation has had a significant impact on flooding. Each 10% increase in deforestation increases the danger of flood by up to 28 percent.¹⁵

Soil erosion

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) estimates that as much as half of the world's topsoil has already diminished because of deforestation. Unsustainable agriculture

¹⁴ *Explainer: Desertification and the role of climate change.* Carbon Brief. (2020, September 2). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.carbonbrief.org/explainer-desertification-and-the-role-of-climate-change/>

¹⁵ Press Coverage | 10.10.2007 | Rights and Resources Initiative. (2020, March 16). *Deforestation increases flooding risks.* Rights + Resources. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://rightsandresources.org/deforestation-increases-flooding-risks/>



practices and other improper land use changes, such as illegal deforestation, can accelerate erosion up to a thousand times. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicts that by 2050, it may reduce up to 10 percent of crop yields, which is equivalent to removing millions of land from crop production.¹⁶

Habitat reduction

Deforestation reduces habitats for wildlife. Animal species threatened by forest loss may also face increased competition with others, and can be at higher risk of being killed by predators who have also lost their natural habitat. Every day, the world loses 137 species of animals, plants and insects due to deforestation.¹⁷

Consisting of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and parts of China, the Greater Mekong is one of the world's most significant biodiversity hotspots and home to rare wildlife. Yet, illegal logging is devastating the region's forests. In 2020 alone, the Greater Mekong countries, excluding China, lost 1.1 million hectares

¹⁶ United Nations. (n.d.). *Soil erosion must be stopped 'to save our future', says UN Agriculture Agency* | | *UN news*. United Nations. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052831>

¹⁷ *Save forests and heal the climate*. Stand For Trees. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://standfortrees.org/deforestation-effects-on-animals/>

(2.7 million acres) of forest.¹⁸

Case Studies

Subtopic I: Commercial

Agriculture and Livestock Grazing

Agriculture expansion continues to be the principal driver of deforestation and forest fragmentation and the associated loss of forest biodiversity. Between 2000 and 2010, 40% of tropical deforestation was caused by large-scale commercial agriculture, mainly due to livestock grazing, soya bean cultivation, and oil palm production, and local subsistence agriculture, a system of agriculture that produces a minimum and often inadequate return to the farmer,¹⁹ replaced another 33%.²⁰ While farming land has increased its area, ironically, the resilience of human food systems and their capacity to adapt to future environmental

¹⁸ *The greater mekong region: A hotspot of wildlife and crime*. Mongabay Environmental News. (2021, November 17). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/the-greater-mekong-region-a-hotspot-of-wildlife-and-crime/>

¹⁹ United Nations "Subsistence Agriculture for Green Economy and Subsistence Life | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/subsistence-agriculture-green-economy-and-subsistence-life>.

²⁰ *Document card : FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. Document card | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8642en>



changes heavily rely on biodiversity, whose loss is driven by deforestation. With forests covering 33% of global land area, and as climate change escalates the risks to food systems, the role of forests in absorbing and storing carbon and tackling climate change is continuously increasing in the agricultural industry.²¹



Livestock Grazing in Amazon

Livestock takes up 77% of global agricultural land, corresponding to approximately 27.3% of habitable land, 40,000,000 km².²² In addition, livestock

²¹ *The biodiversity that is crucial for our food and agriculture is disappearing by the day*. FAO. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1180463/icode/>

²² Ritchie, H. (2017, October 3). *How much of the world's land would we need in order to feed the global population with the average diet of a given country?* Our World in Data. Retrieved July 24, 2022, from <https://ourworldindata.org/agricultural-land-by-global-diets>

grazing alone is responsible for the release of 340 tons of carbon into the atmosphere per year, equivalent to 3.4% of the total current global emission. Brazil, the leading livestock producer in the Amazon region, ranks third as the largest producer of meat in the world, after China and the United States.²³ For nearly every Amazonian country, extensive cattle ranching is the leading cause, responsible for 70-80% of deforestation.²⁴ In addition to driving forest conversion, cattle pastures increase the risk of wildfire, severely damaging riparian (river bank) and aquatic ecosystems, causing soil erosion, river siltation, and contamination with organic matter; nonetheless, trends indicate the continuous expansion of livestock production in the Amazon.²⁵

²³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2022). *Meat Market Review Overview of market and policy developments 2021*. Rome.

²⁴ Skidmore, M. E., Moffette, F., Rausch, L., Christie, M., Munger, J., & Gibbs, H. K. (2021). *Cattle ranchers and deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon: Production, location, and policies*. In *Global Environmental Change* (Vol. 68, p. 102280). Elsevier BV. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102280>

²⁵ *Unsustainable cattle ranching*. WWF. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2022, from https://wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/amazon/amazon_threats/unsustainable_cattle_ranching/ (*Unsustainable Cattle Ranching*, n.d.)



The Amazon region is the 3rd largest exporter of global agricultural commodities by value, ranking first in beef exports.²⁶ The scarcity of suitable land for the expansion of livestock production in the United States, Western Europe, China, and many other regions combined with the rising international demand for agro-industrial commodities has hastened the recent acceleration of livestock production and area expansion taking place in the Northern Brazil region.²⁷

Soya Bean Production in Amazon

In the Amazon region, soybean fields expanded by one million hectares (Mha) between 2001 and 2006, and the direct transformation of forests into soy production farms resulted in record-high deforestation rates.

In response to criticism of retailers and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), agribusinesses have introduced the Soy

²⁶ *USDA agricultural projections to 2028*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 24, 2022, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/outlooks/92600/occe-2019-1.pdf?v=7184.8>

²⁷ Nepstad, D. C., Stickler, C. M., Filho, B. S., & Merry, F. (2008). Interactions among Amazon land use, forests and climate: prospects for a near-term forest tipping point. In *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* (Vol. 363, Issue 1498, pp. 1737–1746). The Royal Society. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2007.0036>

Moratorium (SoyM), an agreement that attempts to regulate the destruction of forests for the planting of soy in the Brazilian Amazon. Farms transgressing the SoyM are determined to use a satellite and airborne monitoring system – developed by industry, NGOs, and government partners – and are prohibited from selling to SoyM signatories.²⁸

Subtopic II: Infrastructure

Infrastructure represents the physical systems that support the development of a region/country, with some examples being transportation, communication networks, and schools.²⁹

While infrastructure projects are important in the development of a nation, such projects can generate problems such as the large costs for development, lack of technology for certain nations, and demand for

²⁸ Gibbs, H. K., Rausch, L., Munger, J., Schelly, I., Morton, D. C., Noojipady, P., Soares-Filho, B., Barreto, P., Micol, L., & Walker, N. F. (2015). Brazil's Soy Moratorium. In *Science* (Vol. 347, Issue 6220, pp. 377–378). American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaa0181>

²⁹ Team, T. I. (2022, July 15). Infrastructure definition. Investopedia. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/infrastructure.asp>



sustainability.³⁰ Moreover, the development of infrastructure in nations has negative effects on deforestation. Intrusive infrastructure projects require roads for rapid transportation of goods and people, and therefore cuts through forests and destroys them. Infrastructure also indirectly causes deforestation through allowing industries to enter forests.³¹

Therefore, infrastructure projects must be designed to use energy sustainably, and should not threaten the natural environment.

Indonesia (Papua)

Road networks have increased by over 40 percent since the early 2000s in key tropical forest areas.³² One example of increasing

road networks is seen in Indonesia, where the construction of the Trans-Papua Highway is underway. In the past, Indonesia has decreased protected areas of land in order to have access to more benefits such as minerals, and therefore it is a concern as the same could happen with this highway.

While the Trans-Papua helps increase access to minerals, fossil fuels, timber, and land for agri-business development, the 2,500 mile highway also cuts through Lorentz National Park, a World Heritage site, and threatens the forests as well as the indigenous people that live there. Research suggests that the construction of this highway will result in deforestation, forest fragmentation, and biodiversity loss.³³ It is also estimated that this project could result in the loss of 13% of forest land in Papua by 2036.³⁴

³⁰ Oyedele, O. A. (n.d.). Infrastructure problems of developing nations and Sustainable Development. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305904424_INFRASTRUCTURE_PROBLEMS_OF_DEVELOPING_NATIONS_AND_SUSTAINABLE_DEVELOPMENT

³¹ *Infrastructure and extraction: A host of deforestation*. World Rainforest Movement. (n.d.). Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin-articles/infrastructure-and-extraction-a-host-of-deforestation>

³² Robert N. Proctor and Londa Schiebinger, Robert N. Proctor and Londa Schiebinger, Hurdle, J., Hurdle, J., Pearce, F., & Pearce, F. (2020, November 19). A wave of infrastructure projects to cause widespread deforestation in coming decades, report finds. Yale E360. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from [https://e360.yale.edu/digest/a-wave-of-infrastructure-](https://e360.yale.edu/digest/a-wave-of-infrastructure-projects-to-cause-widespread-deforestation-in-coming-decades-report-finds)

[projects-to-cause-widespread-deforestation-in-coming-decades-report-finds](https://e360.yale.edu/digest/a-wave-of-infrastructure-projects-to-cause-widespread-deforestation-in-coming-decades-report-finds)

³³ William, Laurance • January;17, Robert N. Proctor and Londa Schiebinger, Hurdle, J., Pearce, F. (n.d.). A highway megaproject tears at the Heart of New Guinea's rainforest. Yale E360. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/a-highway-megaproject-tears-at-the-heart-of-papuas-rainforest>

³⁴ Gaveau, D. (2021, October 21). Road to uncertainty: Research reveals how Trans Papua may strip 4.5 million hectares of forest by 2036. Phys.org. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://phys.org/news/2021-10-road-uncertainty-reveals-trans-papua.html>



Cameroon

Cameroon is a part of the Congo Basin, located in west-central Africa. The country has underdeveloped energy and transportation systems; therefore, infrastructure projects are important for benefits such as enabling easier access to markets, boosting GDP, and lowering the costs of transportation.³⁵

In Cameroon, the construction of the hydropower Lom Pangar dam has led to the flooding of 30,000 hectares of forests, and has also caused the emission of methane from floating wood and tree trunks in the water.

A non-governmental organization called SAILD monitors changes in forests of Deng Deng National Park, a national park in Cameroon. This organization combines fieldwork and satellite imagery data from Global Forest Watch and the Cameroon Forest Atlas to monitor the impact of the Lom Pangar dam.³⁶

³⁵ Infrastructure projects in Congo Basin need greater oversight, report says. Mongabay Environmental News. (2021, November 4). Retrieved August 1, 2022, from <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/infrastructure-projects-in-congo-basin-need-greater-oversight-report-says/>

³⁶ Ngeunga, M. (2020, April 16). Filled with Deadwood, Lom Pangar dam threatens climate. InfoCongo. Retrieved August 1, 2022, from

Subtopic III: The Wood Industry

The global community is heavily dependent on wood material; many products that are used in daily life are made of wood: firewood, paper, building materials, energy utilities, furniture, televisions, food flavorings, and even fragrances. The United States alone uses 10 to 15 billion cubic feet (more than 100 million tons) of wood each year in the form of wood and paper products as well as wood for energy.³⁷

However, demand for wood in developed countries coupled with the need for foreign trade in developing countries has encouraged many developing countries to cut wood faster than forests can be regenerated. This overcutting causes loss of forest-based livelihoods, increases soil erosion and downstream flooding, and accelerates the loss of species and genetic resources.³⁸

<https://infocongo.org/en/lom-pangar-le-lac-de-barrage-aux-bois-morts/>

³⁷ Entryway. Forest Atlas. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://forest-atlas.fs.fed.us/benefits-wood-products.html>

³⁸ Environmental hazards from logging. Environmental hazards from logging | World Problems & Global Issues | The Encyclopedia of World Problems. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/132946>



Nigeria

In Nigeria, the forestry sector has played an important role in the country's socio-economic development, being one of the highest revenue- and employment-generating sectors in the country.³⁹

However, due to the indiscriminate and uncontrolled logging or felling of trees, Nigeria lost 55.7% of its primary forest to deforestation between 2000 and 2005.⁴⁰

This has had negative effects such as ecological imbalance caused by migration of wildlife, soil erosion, and desertification. The disposal of generated solid wood waste, such as sawdust, shavings, trimmings, and glue waste disposal have also polluted the air and the land.⁴¹

³⁹ The impacts of forest industries and wood utilization on the environment. Home. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.fao.org/3/XII/0122-A2.htm>

⁴⁰ Saka-rasaq, O. (1970, January 1). *Forest loss in Nigeria, the impact on climate and people from the perspectives of illegal forest activities and government negligence*. Theseus. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.theseus.fi/handle/10024/170981>

⁴¹ The impacts of forest industries and wood utilization on the environment. Home. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.fao.org/3/XII/0122-A2.htm>

Furthermore, deforestation in Nigeria has also led to loss of biodiversity. Nigeria's current biodiversity status shows that the country has an estimated 500 viral species, 3,423 fungal species, 748 algae and 2,455 species of higher plants. Already, more than 484 plant species in 112 families are threatened with extinction, while many have already been lost due to deforestation.⁴²

In order to mitigate the acceleration of deforestation caused by the wood industry, fast growing tree species have been considered effective for fuelwood plantations.⁴³

Brazil

In recent years, Brazil has experienced rapid deforestation. From 2001 to 2021, Brazil lost 62.8Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 12% decrease in tree cover since 2000.⁴⁴ Brazil is a leading producer, processor, and consumer of wood-based products;

⁴² *Vanishing point for Nigeria's rainforest*. WWF. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?2035%2FVanishing-point-for-Nigerias-rainforest

⁴³ The impacts of forest industries and wood utilization on the environment. Home. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.fao.org/3/XII/0122-A2.htm>

⁴⁴ Vizzuality. (n.d.). *Brazil deforestation rates & statistics: GFW*. Global Forest Watch. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/BRA>



roundwood production totalled 254.4 million cubic meters in 2015, and the forestry sector contributed USD 22.5 billion to the economy in 2011, which is approximately 1.1% of the GDP.

Illegal logging has long been an extensive problem in Brazil, and corruption, illegality and fraud remain widespread in the forest sector.⁴⁵

An analysis by non-governmental organizations revealed that it is not possible to differentiate between authorized and illegal logging in five of the seven states that produce the most wood in the Amazon, which raises suspicions that wood harvested in Brazil for both international and domestic consumption may have criminal origins. Regions such as national parks, conservation units, and indigenous lands lost 280km² to logging between August 2019 and July 2020. Among the most affected are the Campos Amazônicos, Tenharim Marmelos, Batelão and Aripuanã National Parks. The Baú Indigenous Land had the largest illegally logged area in protected lands in

⁴⁵ Preferred by Nature. (n.d.). *Brazil*. NEPCoN - Preferred by Nature. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://preferredbynature.org/sourcinghub/timber/brazil>

Pará, with 1.58km² of timber illegally extracted.⁴⁶

Not only does illegal logging accelerate deforestation, it also creates social conflict with indigenous and local populations and leads to violence, crime, and human rights abuses. Revenue from illegal logging activities has been used to fund civil wars, organized crime, and money laundering, all of which threaten international security. Illegal logging also undermines the trade in legal and well-managed timber by responsible companies by undercutting its price and making it less competitive.⁴⁷

In order to identify illegal logging, the Timber Exploitation Monitoring System (Simex), an Amazon monitoring tool based on satellite images, was developed in 2008 to evaluate Forest Management Plans and map areas subjected to logging in the region.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Bourscheit, A. (2021, October 6). *Most of the wood consumed in Brazil may come from illegal deforestation in the Amazon*. InfoAmazonia. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from

<https://infoamazonia.org/en/2021/09/21/most-wood-consumed-brazil-illegal-deforestation-amazon/>

⁴⁷ Deforestation and illegal logging threaten the world's forests. Greenpeace Australia Pacific. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.greenpeace.org.au/what-we-do/protecting-forests/threats/>

⁴⁸ Entenda o sistema de Monitoramento da Exploração Madeireira (Simex). Imazon. (2021,



Past Actions

The United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with universal membership. Since its inception in 2000, the Forum has reached numerous milestones including agreement on the first United Nations Forest Instrument in 2007, the establishment of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) in 2015, and agreement on the first United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 in 2017, all of which contributed to creating concrete achievement goals. The Forum's programmes of work are designed to reflect its contribution to the Global Forest Goals and targets.⁴⁹

UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030

In April 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the first ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030. It provides a global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests as well as to halt deforestation and forest degradation. At the

September 1). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://amazon.org.br/imprensa/entenda-o-sistema-de-monitoramento-da-exploracao-madeireira-simex/>

⁴⁹ 2030 - United Nations. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Global-Forest-Goals-booklet-Apr-2019.pdf>

heart of the Strategic Plan are six Global Forest Goals and twenty-six associated targets to be achieved by 2030, which are voluntary and universal.⁵⁰

These Goals are:

1. Reverse Forest Cover Loss
2. Improve Forest Benefits and Livelihoods
3. Protect Forests and Use Sustainable Forest Products
4. Mobilize Resources
5. Promote Inclusive Forest Governance
6. Cooperate and Work Across Sectors⁵¹

REDD+

REDD+ is a climate change mitigation solution developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The framework was adopted at COP19 in Warsaw, December 2013.⁵² The aim of REDD+ is to encourage developing countries to contribute to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation efforts by slowing,

⁵⁰ United Nations. (n.d.). United Nations Forum on forests " about UNFF. United Nations. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/about-unff/index.html>

⁵¹ Home. International Model Forest Network. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://imfn.net/global-forest-goals/>

⁵² About redd+. UNREDD. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.un-redd.org/about/about-redd>



halting, and reversing forest loss and degradation, and increasing removal of greenhouse gas from the earth's atmosphere through the conservation, management and expansion of forests. Examples of REDD+ activities are: reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation and enhancement of forest-carbon stocks, and the sustainable management of forests. There is a package of coordinated REDD+ actions defined by each country and included in national strategies and action plans.⁵³

The New York Declaration on Forests

The New York Declaration on Forests is a political declaration calling for global action to protect and restore forests. Adopted in 2014 and updated in 2021, it sets out 10 goals to stop natural forest loss by 2030, restore 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands, improve governance and the rights of forest communities, increase financial flows to

forests, and reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.^{54,55}

COP25

At COP25, which took place in December 2019, a Leadership Dialogue was held to determine how to halt deforestation. The COP25 presidency initiated the Santiago Call for Action on Forests, a plea for progress on seven essential activities, including reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing carbon sinks that absorb atmospheric carbon, such as primary forests as well as reforested and restored areas.⁵⁶

⁵³ Fao.org. Overview | REDD+ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.fao.org/redd/overview/en/>

⁵⁴ Clea Paz-Rivera Senior Programme Manager. (n.d.). A renewed call to halt deforestation by 2030: United Nations Development Programme. UNDP. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.undp.org/blog/renewed-call-halt-deforestation-2030>

⁵⁵ Support@donny.vip. (2022, August 3). New York Declaration on Forests. Forest Declaration. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://forestdeclaration.org/resources/the-new-york-declaration-on-forests/>

⁵⁶ United Nations. (n.d.). At COP25, UN agencies commit to turn the tide on deforestation | UN Desa Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/cop25-deforestation.html>



Questions to Consider

- What percentage of your country is forested?
- What role do forests play in your country's economy or environment?
- How much of your country's forests have been lost so far?
- What is the main reason for deforestation in your country?
- What is in danger if deforestation continues in your country?
- What past actions has your country taken?
- Does your country have regulations regarding deforestation?
- Has your country signed any treaties regarding deforestation?
- Is your country successful in cooperating with other countries in terms of prevention of deforestation?

Guidelines for Position Papers

Position papers must clearly articulate the current situation of your country, briefly explain the past actions it has taken, and further denote possible solutions. Papers

may also include international resolutions and strategies to combat the issue discussed in your committee; however, the main focus **must** be on your country. When developing your position papers, please focus on information that directly relates to the topic. General information about your country, such as its geographical location, major cities, or major trade exports, should not be included to lengthen your report. Remember that delegates and chairs do not have a lot of time during the conference to read the position papers. If you want to successfully press the case of your country, you want your position papers to get to the point quickly and persuasively.

Closing Remarks

We would like to thank you again for your participation in JMMUN. Please keep in mind that this background guide is only a brief introduction to the conference. We highly recommend every delegate to research in depth and consider multiple possible solutions to combat deforestation caused by human activities. Again, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns! We are looking forward to seeing you all in March.



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