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**Protecting Democracy in an Age of Severe Political Polarization and
Extremism by promoting constructive discourse**

Environmental Committee

*Preserving the Amazon Rainforest
and protecting Brazilian wildlife.*

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RESEARCH REPORT



Forum: GA3 Environmental

Issue: Preserving the Amazon Rainforest and protecting Brazilian wildlife.

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Introduction

The Amazon Rainforest is important in terms of biodiversity, regulating climate conditions, and to worldwide ecosystems, as it offers a home to about 10% of all known species on Earth. It has been under great threat from agricultural-driven deforestation, logging, mining, and climate change, among other illegal activities like poaching. The main conservation efforts include creating protected areas, spreading sustainable practices, and involving indigenous people in taking care of their habitats. It calls for stronger legislation concerning the environment and a rise in international cooperation. After all, the salvation of the Amazon is not an affair of the Brazilians alone but of the whole planet; therefore, solidarity is required to combat the various environmental threats against its unique biodiversity.

Definition of Key Terms

- Biodiversity
 - Definition: The variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem, including the diversity of species, genetic variation, and ecological processes.
- Deforestation

- Definition: The large-scale removal of trees from forested areas, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land and loss of habitat for wildlife.
- Sustainable Practices
 - Definition: Methods of resource use that meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, often involving eco-friendly agriculture and responsible tourism.
- Ecosystem Services
 - Definition: The benefits that humans derive from natural ecosystems, including clean water, pollination of crops, carbon storage, and climate regulation.
- Conservation
 - Definition: The responsible management of natural resources to prevent exploitation, degradation, and extinction of wildlife and habitats.
- Protected Areas
 - Definition: Designated regions, such as national parks and wildlife reserves, established to conserve natural resources and protect biodiversity from human activities.
- Climate Change
 - Definition: Long-term alterations in temperature and typical weather patterns in a place, often exacerbated by human activities, affecting ecosystems and wildlife.
- Indigenous Knowledge
 - Definition: Traditional ecological knowledge held by indigenous peoples, encompassing their understanding of local ecosystems and sustainable resource management practices.
- Illegal Activities
 - Definition: Actions that violate laws or regulations, such as poaching, illegal logging, and unregulated land use, that threaten wildlife and habitats.
- Reforestation
 - Definition: The process of planting trees in an area where the forest has been depleted, aimed at restoring ecosystems and promoting biodiversity.

General Overview

The Amazon Rainforest is the "lungs of the Earth," a crucial ecosystem in maintaining the climate of the entire world and sheltering about 10% of all known species. On the other hand, this high level of biodiversity is threatened by severe deforestation, induced by agricultural development, wood extraction, and mining, resulting in habitat loss and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change escalates this with changes in

weather patterns, elevating drought and wildfire frequencies, while other illegal activities, like poaching, further disrupt ecological balance. In response, conservation strategies involve creating protected areas, such as national parks; the introduction of sustainable agricultural and tourism practices; and involving indigenous communities in the process, who bring valuable traditional knowledge of local ecosystems. Conservation can be best achieved by the strengthening of environmental laws and increased international cooperation. After all, the protection of the Amazon and Brazilian wildlife is an urgent challenge that must be approached from a multidisciplinary perspective if this irreplaceable ecosystem is to be passed on to future generations. Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Timeline of Events

Pre-20th Century	<i>Indigenous Cultures: Indigenous peoples have lived in the Amazon for thousands of years, practicing sustainable land management and maintaining biodiversity.</i>
1900s	<i>Early Deforestation: Beginning in the early 20th century, deforestation starts to increase due to rubber extraction and the expansion of agriculture.</i>
1960s	<i>Infrastructure Development: The Brazilian government initiates projects like the Trans-Amazonian Highway, leading to significant deforestation and increased access for logging and agriculture.</i>
1980s	<i>Environmental Awareness: Global awareness of deforestation and its impact on climate and biodiversity begins to grow, leading to the first international discussions on rainforest conservation.</i>
1992	<i>Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development highlights the importance of sustainable development and conservation of the Amazon.</i>
2010	<i>Forest Code Reform: Brazil reforms its Forest Code, which initially aimed to protect forests but faced criticism for allowing increased deforestation.</i>
2015	<i>Paris Agreement: Countries, including Brazil, commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, emphasizing the importance of protecting forests like the Amazon.</i>

2019	<i>Increased Deforestation Rates: Reports indicate a significant rise in deforestation rates in the Amazon, largely attributed to policy changes and increased agricultural activities.</i>
2020	<i>Global Outcry: Environmental organizations and international communities raise alarms over the escalating deforestation and wildlife threats, prompting calls for action.</i>
2021	<i>Conservation Initiatives: New efforts emerge to engage indigenous communities in conservation and sustainable practices, recognizing their role in protecting the rainforest.</i>
2023	<i>Strengthened Policies: Brazil's government implements stronger environmental protections and enforcement measures to combat illegal activities and promote rainforest conservation.</i>

Treaties and Events

Key treaties and events in Amazon Rainforest conservation show the commitment of the world towards this vital ecosystem. The Earth Summit in 1992 brought into focus the issue of sustainable development and gave rise to Agenda 21, which pressed for the need to save the Amazon. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Rio Declaration both bring forth Brazil's commitment to biodiversity and public participation, respectively. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement recognize the Amazon's role in climate regulation, while the Amazon Cooperation Treaty promotes regional collaboration. Notwithstanding such efforts-like the New Forest Code in 2012, which aimed to balance agriculture with conservation-criticism arose over potential increases in deforestation. International Day of the Amazon celebrates all such continuous effort and collective action that has lately focused on the active involvement of indigenous communities in nature conservation. Put together, these treaties and events have come to reflect the multi-level and interrelated nature of international, national, and local responses called for by the challenges of Amazon conservation.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Past efforts to solve the problems of Amazon Rainforest conservation have had mixed success. The protected areas were established with the goal of preserving biodiversity; however, enforcement has remained inconsistent, with many areas still susceptible to illegal logging and land encroachment. In addition, sustainable development projects through ecotourism and sustainable agriculture gave them alternative livelihoods but mostly turned out to be shortcomings since communities still depend on unsustainable livelihoods because of economic pressures. International agreements, like the Convention

on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement, have helped raise awareness and provide frameworks for action, but their effectiveness often depends on national implementation and political will. Involvement of indigenous communities in conservation has fared well, though full effectiveness is tied to larger systemic issues, such as land rights. Some legislative reforms have tried to balance development and conservation—for example, the 2012 revision in Brazil's Forest Code drew criticism for potentially opening up more areas to deforestation. Finally, despite many advances in satellite monitoring to improve oversight, the reality is that limited resources and corruption continue to undermine enforcement. In sum, an approach that integrates these systemic issues is what is really necessary toward effective long-term conservation of the Amazon Rainforest.

Possible Solutions

The potential solutions for the conservation of the Amazon Rainforest are enhancing the protected areas by improving management and enforcement, creating new reserves based on biodiversity hotspots that will reduce deforestation and protect critical habitats. It is about community-based conservation where indigenous and local communities are involved in efforts through recognition of land rights, integrating traditional knowledge into management practices that empower these groups to manage their environment in a sustainable way. It promotes alternative livelihoods via sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, and ecotourism, which will effectively provide income without further affecting the forest ecosystem. Improve legislation and policy reform by enhancing environmental laws and effectively enforcing them to deter illegality and encourage sustainable land use. International cooperation and finance: This is very vital in ascertaining resources for conservation projects, technology transfer, and capacity building. This would be further enhanced with improved enforcement through the use of technological innovations like satellite monitoring, drones, and AI in real-time tracking of deforestation. Education and awareness campaigns geared at raising the awareness of local populations and the world community about the importance of the Amazon and sustainable practices can be done to promote a culture of conservation. Finally, the reforestation and restoration of degraded areas can contribute to recovering the lost biodiversity and improving carbon sequestration. All these solutions implemented together may provide an integrated approach to Amazon Rainforest conservation, tackle root causes of deforestation, and encourage sustainable practices to protect this vital ecosystem for future generations.

Additional Resources

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/celebrating-20-years-of-protecting-the-brazilian-amazon>

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/priority-landscapes/priority-landscape-stories/protecting-amazon-rainforest-basin/>

<https://www.rainforesttrust.org/our-impact/rainforest-news/the-time-is-now-saving-the-brazilian-amazon/>

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"Protecting the Amazon Rainforest." *The Nature Conservancy*,

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