



Dear Brazilian Government,

I am writing to you today to tell you about the state of the Amazon rainforest. The amazon rainforest is in Brazil near the equator mostly in the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This means that because it is located along the equator; it receives a significant amount of rainfall and sunshine.

This rainforest is being cut down at a very significant rate at more than three football pitches a minute. If we don't act now, rainforests will be gone in around century. Deforestation in the Amazon rose 25 percent in the first six months of 2020. There are many causes of deforestation and I will be looking at 3 causes which are cattle ranching, mining and palm oil plantations. As well as the economic (money) social (people) and environmental (nature) consequences of deforestation. There are actions that can be taken to look after the generations today as well as the future generations and I will be looking at one sustainable



that could be used in the future by you.

One cause of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest is Cattle Ranching. Cattle Ranching is the practice of raising herds of animals on large tracts of land. These large tracks of land are being made by cutting down thousands of trees. Cattle ranching decreases the land of nutrients because cattle often eat to the very dirt, destroying all biomass on a piece of land and making it very hard for the habitat to restore itself. Slash and burning is also often used to clear land for

Cattle. Cattle also produce large amounts of methane, which is contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.



A second cause of deforestation is Mining. Mining is the process of digging things out of the ground. Mining things from the ground is called extraction. It can include extraction of metals and minerals, like coal, diamond, gold, silver, platinum, copper, tin and iron. Mining is highly polluting, clearings are cut into forests, and mercury is used in extraction and is dumped into rivers, which poisons fish stocks and water supplies.



A third cause of deforestation currently is palm oil plantations. Palm oil production is said to have been responsible for about 8% of the world's deforestation between 1990 and 2008. This is because forests are burned to clear areas where people can grow oil palms, even if it's illegal. Burning forests like this destroys the places where plants and wildlife live, meaning the area has less species such as orangutans which are affected by this massively as they live in the trees that are being cut down.

The consequences of these activities are significant to the local region and to the world.



Firstly, there are many environmental problems caused by cutting the rainforest down such as palm oil plantations, which I have already explained, but lots of animals like orangutangs, elephants and birds lose their lives due to palm oil plantations. Deforestation affects flooding because heavy rain goes straight to the ground because the trees act as umbrellas.



There are also social issues that affect people when deforestation occurs e.g. indigenous tribes such as the Jacuna. There are 25,000 Jacuna Indians living in the Amazon rainforest in villages of about 25 families. They are tribes who practice shifting cultivation and are subsistence farmers. Subsistence farming means just growing enough food for their families. The Jacuna Indians use the forest sustainably – this means they are using the rainforest to look after themselves today but not ruining it for future generations. When we cut down trees, we are losing people like this who care about the environment and have been exposed to the outside world because of deforestation.

Thirdly, there are also economic issues to do with deforestation. Brazil needs the money to improve the poverty in the country, but when you cut the rainforest down and it doesn't always give you the money that you want, in 30 years' time, you will stop earning money from the rainforest because it will be gone due to you cutting it down and not even getting the money you want.



There are solutions to deforestation and ways in which the forest can be used sustainably. Sustainable development is when economic development is produced without taking away natural resources.

I think that you could use a charity which helps to replant the trees that you take away. It is sustainable as when you take away the trees you can pay back the rainforest and make up for the number of trees that you took away. One example of a charity doing this is Ecosia. Ecosia is a sustainable website which plants trees every search. It takes 1.3 seconds to plant a tree and right now over 118,500,000 trees have been planted by Ecosia users. Ecosia sells ad space in their search engine, they then turn around and use that to support what they call “local partners” or non-profit organisations that are doing tree planting projects mainly in the global south. For example, people might pay Ecosia to push their link up to the top of Ecosia’s search results. And a lot of the money that they make goes towards planting trees.

I hope that my letter has persuaded you to make changes in our country today.
Thank you.

Freya C.