



Deforestation

LO: understand the environmental and economic impacts.

Case study of deforestation in the Amazon.

Read — www.kerboodle.com/system/images/W1siZiIsIjIwMTQyMDcvMjQyMTEvMTUvMjUvMzAzLodGNDkiLnBkZijdXQ/GF495.pdf

Main threats to the forest ecosystem

- Population pressure
- Mineral extraction
- Energy demand
- Commercial logging
- Commercial farming
- Subsistence farming



What is
subsistence
farming?

Environmental impacts

- **Soil erosion** – no vegetation to hold soil together – gets washed away. Leads to landslides and flooding.
- With no **interception** and absorption by plants more water reaches the soil – this reduces **soil fertility** as nutrients are washed away.
- Trees remove **CO₂** from the atmosphere. Equally burning the vegetation to clear the forest produces CO₂. So, deforestation produces more CO₂ which adds to the **greenhouse effect**.



Economic impacts

- Logging, farming and mining **create jobs**
- **Money** is made from selling timber, mining and commercial farming.
- Long term **deforestation** can **destroy the resources** that countries depend on e.g. timber and due to this tourist stop going to the area.
- **Livelihoods** of some local people are **destroyed**



Case study – Deforestation in the Amazon

- Largest rainforest
- Countries include – Brazil, Peru, Columbia Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- 8 million km (squared)



Deforestation in the Amazon has many impacts

Environmental

- The Amazon stores 100 million tonnes of carbon – deforestation will release this – cause of global warming.
- Brazil is losing 55 million tonnes of top soil every year to soil erosion caused by farming.

Economic

- Economic development – brought wealth to the country
- Farming makes a lot of money for countries in the rainforest e.g. Brazil made \$6.9 billion from trading cattle.
- Mining industry creates jobs e.g. in Peru it hires 3100 people.
- Logging brings in huge amounts to Brazil
- Traditional rubber farmers have lost their livelihoods because trees have been cut down.

What now?

Brazil is the world's fifth largest country, one whose economy has grown and developed rapidly only recently. The Brazilian government sees its rainforest as a vital resource as it continues to industrialise. If the forest is to survive it needs to be protected and conserved, but this has to be balanced with Brazil's own needs to use the many resources

Further reading – pages 78-81 - Strategies for managing the tropical rainforest – * What can be done at the international level? * Why does it need to be managed sustainably (HICs & NGOs)? * National governments * What can be done at the local level?

