

# Deforestation in Brazil

Between the years 2017 and 2019, 4500 square kilometers of the Brazilian Amazon (an area nearly twice the size of Luxembourg) was deforested and then burned. This is according to a study published last November which also states 65% of the slashing and burning of the rainforest was done in 2019 alone. There is no surprise that the Amazon is the biggest deforestation front in the world with 20% of the biome already lost and, according to the World Wildlife Fund, the trend is only going to worsen. The WWF estimates that 27% of the Amazon biome will be without trees by 2030 if the current rate of deforestation continues.

Fortunately, the rates of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest area have declined over the years but are still nowhere near stopping and are continuing at an alarming rate. The main cause for deforestation is to clear land for cattle grazing and growing cash crops like soybeans. A big factor slowing deforestation is lack of infrastructure; all of the largest “sub-fronts” are located along main roads, a rare sight in the remote rainforest. This however is changing for the worst.

But there is still hope for the Amazon. There are multiple ways to go about bringing deforestation to a halt both on the larger political scale and in your own community. The WWF recommends that the local administration of Brazil’s Amazon region and the countries 900,000 indigenous people need to facilitate cross border dialogue with other countries bordering the Amazon. However, a much smaller way you can help is by cutting down on your consumption of materials produced by deforestation. This includes cutting down on paper and wood consumption, soy beans and Brazilian beef but also includes using pulp paper (a form of paper made from recycled paper instead of new wood) and checking the country of origin of a product before buying it.

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