Threats to Rainforests

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| **Threat** | **Description of Threat** | **Countries Affected** |
| Timber |  | Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Burma, Indonesia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon |
| Subsistence Farming | Poor farmers who are often displaced by larger agriculture producers, clear areas of rainforest for farming. As they do not have the money or access for large machinery, they often slash and burn the forest (releasing large amounts of greenhouse gas). Without the trees and their continued supply of leaf litter, the soil erodes and quickly loses its ability to be farmed and so after only a few years has to be abandoned and new areas of forest are again cleared for farming. | Columbai, Bolivia, Surinam, French Guiana, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Indonesia, Papual, West Africa (several countries near the Congo basin) |
| Mining |  |  |
| Bio Fuels |  |  |
| Paper |  | Indonesia (Sumatra) |
| Soy | Soy production in Brazil is contributing to deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, both directly through forest clearing for new soy farms (usually giant in size) and by displacing small farmers who then move into forest areas for subsistence agriculture. Further pressure comes from the development of infrastructure (like roads and ports) to support soy expansion. This infrastructure attracts other developers (like loggers, ranchers, and colonists who have been displaced from elsewhere) who cut down the forest . | Brazil (Amazon Rainforest) |
| Palm Oil |  |  |
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| **Effects of Rainforest Destruction** | **Habitat Loss –**  Even the taking of selected trees in a rainforest can cause damage that takes hundreds of years to repair. And its removal causes damage to many of the remaining trees and the surrounding forest layers (understorey and forest floor).  If an area is cleared completely, not only is the forest lost (along with the habitat of numerous animals and plants), but the soil washes away, losing nutrients and causing silting up of rivers and streams. | **Soil Erosion –** |
| **Indigenous Peoples –** | **Species Endangerment and Extinction –** |
| **Other Environmental Impacts (eg. water pollution) –** | **Desertification –** |