

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Rainforest Conservation

Introduction: Rainforest Conservation is one of the foremost topics of importance for UNEP in 2024. Rainforests are vital to managing Carbon Dioxide emissions, with the Amazon Rainforest alone taking in 2 billion tons of CO₂ annually. Rainforests are also home to many unique flora and fauna that contribute to delicate ecosystems, many of which are endangered. These species deserve protection, from the intelligent orangutan, the majestic jaguar, and even the lackadaisical sloth. Many have argued that some level of deforestation is necessary for the economy, but deforestation can devastate local economies. Aside from the obvious gain of eco-tourism, deforestation can damage the water supply, reduce access to food and medicines, and harm the way of life for indigenous people.

There are few topics more pertinent to the mission of the UN than rainforest conservation, and we are excited to welcome all delegates to this session of UNEP to come forward with solutions. Whether or not you have rainforests in your country, recognize we are all responsible for saving the rainforest!

Key themes to consider as you prepare for debate include:

- Role of UNEP
 - <https://www.unep.org/>
 - [UNEP: 50 years of Environmental Milestones](#)
- Eco-tourism
 - [Eco-tourism and protected areas](#)
 - [Ecotourism: principles, practices and policies for sustainability](#)
 - [Pros and Cons of Ecotourism](#)
- Indigenous rights in the rainforest
 - [Indigenous Rights in the Amazon](#)
 - <https://amazonfrontlines.org/>
- Sustainable development
 - <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/sustainable-development>
 - <https://www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs>
 - <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/sustainable-development-goals/>
- Protection of flora / fauna
 - <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/insights/protecting-wildlife-by-conserving-habitat/>
 - <https://www.amazonconservation.org/what-we-do/protect-wild-places/birds-wildlife/>

Tips for Delegates:

- Your goal is to represent your country, not your own views.
 - Many countries hold views / treat people in ways that would be deemed problematic in the US. Under no circumstances will disrespect of other delegates be tolerated.
- Be constructive and collaborate – delegates will be rewarded based on their ability to work well with others
- Research well and prepare fact-based arguments with studies / evidence you can cite
- Be creative!