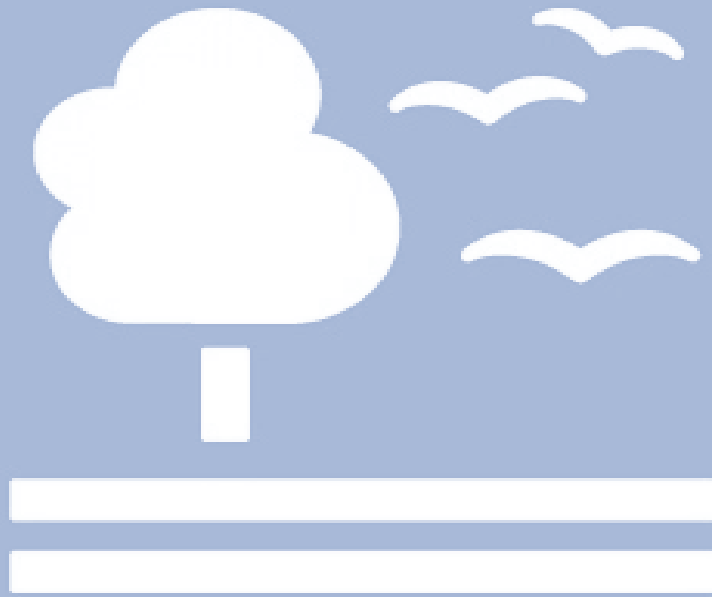


15 LIFE ON LAND



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FRESHMAN #15

TOPIC: DEFORESTATION



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Freshmen #15 Life on Land - Deforestation

Hello fellow delegates! My name is Kayleigh Winsor, and I will be your Head Chair for SOCMUN XXXIII. I am a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my 4th year as a part of the MUN program. Through my experiences in MUN, I have learned so much about world conflicts and have picked up long-lasting skills. Over the years, I have become more passionate about environmental and social issues that affect our world, and MUN is the perfect program for me to express this. The opportunities that MUN provided for me have led me to form strong friendships and step out of my comfort zone. Outside of school, I enjoy traveling, going to the beach with my friends, and hiking with my dog. I look forward to having a great time at the upcoming conference and guiding all of you on your MUN experience!

Hello! My name is Rachel Dorgan, and I am going to be your vice chair! I am currently a junior and have been in MUN for 3 years now, starting my freshman year. Outside of MUN, I play volleyball and beach volleyball and I am part of ASB. I cannot wait to chair you and wish you all the best of luck! See you at SOCOMUN!

Hello delegates! I'm Sheridan Hagmier, and I will be your rapporteur for this year's SOCOMUN! I am a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. I love MUN, and in my free time I love playing tennis, reading, and hanging out with my friends. I am excited to meet you all. Good luck delegates!

We are extremely excited to share SOCOMUN XXXIII with you all! We hope to make it a fun and memorable learning experience for everyone. For the weeks following up to committee, we highly encourage you to research the topic as well as your country's position. We will begin the committee with a roll call and review of our schedule, basic procedure, and motions. During the conference, you will have the opportunity to present speeches, ask questions, and engage in unmoderated caucuses, where you will discuss with other delegates and formulate resolution groups. During speeches, delegates should consider all solutions and focus on properly representing their assigned country. By the end of committee, each resolution group will present their final resolution papers, which will then be voted upon during voting bloc. We highly encourage all delegates to actively participate during the committee, as it is a perfect learning experience. This conference will provide you with preparation and skills that you can implement in future conferences. If you have any questions regarding the topic or procedure, please contact us at socomunfresh15@gmail.com. We cannot wait to guide you in committee and wish you all the best of luck!



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Background:

Over 3 trillion trees provide our atmosphere with oxygen, preserving the balance that exists between greenhouse gases and clean air. Nevertheless, when these trees begin to disappear, the overall effects extend beyond air quality. There are a number of reasons why the number of trees declines, but deforestation is the main one. The process of clearing forest land for construction, manufacturing, industrialization, animal grazing, or agricultural endeavors is known as deforestation. The Amazon rainforest is the best place to witness the detrimental effects that deforestation has on the planet. Because trees are so essential to the Amazon's ecosystem and communities, losing or destroying wildlife affects far more than just the trees themselves. It has an impact on the surrounding human population, wildlife, climate, land erosion, and the likelihood of natural disasters. City projects, increased agricultural production, and wood extraction are the main causes of deforestation. Deforestation is not the result of a single factor; rather, these three cooperate to erode our trees one after the other. Because agricultural expansion is destroying ecosystems and accelerating climate change, it raises ethical questions about whether such expansion is necessary or justified.

The daily requirements of crops and livestock, however, will always increase, so agricultural expansion will continue. As cities become more urbanized, city projects will also continue to pose a threat as industrialization advances. As such, the consequences of deforestation will only worsen. Research from earlier decades has demonstrated the severe consequences of deforestation on climate change. As you are aware, trees are essential for releasing oxygen into the atmosphere and lowering CO₂ levels. Nevertheless, when deforestation takes place, the destroyed trees release CO₂ back into the atmosphere, making it impossible for them to provide oxygen to counteract the already high CO₂ levels. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 420 million hectares of forest were lost between 1990 and 2020, demonstrating the alarming rate at which these forests and ecosystems are being destroyed for man-made projects and adjustments. Humans may also be directly impacted by deforestation because it destroys habitats, which increases the risk of infectious disease transmission—60% of potential viruses are fatal.

Considering the severity of the problem, numerous governments and organizations have made efforts to stop deforestation. Acts like the Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act, the Lacey Act, and the Roadless Rule, among others, aim to protect our forests using legal action. Additionally, initiatives such as the UN REDD+ program (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) aim to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and invest in sustainable forest management. UN involvement often includes providing technical assistance, funding, and policy guidance to countries to tackle deforestation and its associated environmental and socio-economic impacts. Aside from this, numerous NGOs work together to achieve the same objective, such as the Global Forest Coalition. All things considered, the gravity of the issue has not gone unnoticed, but further action is needed to keep deforestation from out of control.



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Possible Solutions:

It is imperative to address this topic from a variety of angles as it is a significant issue with numerous potential solutions. Delegates should focus on implementing both direct and indirect solutions, as well as short- and long-term ones. These solutions should accurately portray your country's perspective and outlook on the topic. Remember to adhere to your nation's policies because different regions will require different solutions. Don't forget to include details and procedures on how you plan to implement your well-articulated solutions. You are welcome to build upon or use previously approved UN solutions on this subject as references, but please do not duplicate them exactly. Attempt to reinforce and incorporate NGOs that are relevant to your particular solution. Lastly, please remember that money is not a reason for concern, and everything will be funded by various UN bodies including the 5th budgetary committee. Solutions should be unique, detailed, and effective, with a plan on how they will be incorporated efficiently.

To begin, a possible solution to look into is the concentration on afforestation, which is the reverse of deforestation. The process of planting trees in open spaces that are not covered by forests is known as reforestation, and it is undoubtedly a very powerful countermeasure against deforestation. With a broad solution like this, you should concentrate on the details and involve NGOs or other organizations in the implementation of your solution. Such a solution could also be divided into short- and long-term initiatives that work toward the same overall objective.

The incorporation of "green business" may also be a solution worth considering. Recycling and reuse are practices that are referred to as "green business." As a result, artificial goods will receive less attention, which will reduce demand for them generally. Because countries won't be as dependent on it, it can also aid in lowering imports of wood and raw materials from other regions of the world. This strategy can be expanded upon and is categorized as a short- or long-term solution. If you decide on this course of action, be sure to specify the precise steps you will take to put it into practice.

You might also consider taking legal action as a direct-action option. Laws and regulations that are introduced, supported, or put into effect by governments can stop illegal logging and the needless destruction of forests worldwide. Once more, be sure to expand on this solution if you choose to do so and include particulars about how you plan to apply it. Implementing legal action worldwide requires many specific efforts, which you must expand upon, ultimately creating a framework for how it will work towards reducing deforestation.

Extensive information and detail, including who, what, where, and how, will aid in the development of more believable and practical solutions. While conducting research and participating in debates, remember to adhere to national policies. A global perspective on the subject is significant and beneficial. If you plan on using previous solutions as references, just be sure to modify them to become your own unique, innovative solution, and do your best to ensure that they are in line with national policy.



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Questions to Consider:

Below are questions that will help guide your research as you develop solutions for the topic. These will help guide and supplement delegates' research but will not be specifically answered in committee.

1. Who are the key stakeholders involved in deforestation, including government agencies, local communities, and industries?
2. What financial mechanisms and resources are available to support reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable land use practices?
3. What are ways to tackle the ethical concerns that involve deforestation, such as the rights and interests of indigenous people and local communities?
4. How can education, awareness campaigns, and initiatives contribute to long-term solutions?
5. What existing national and international policies exist that directly address deforestation, and how effective have they been in the past few years?
6. Will the process of mitigating deforestation become more difficult over the upcoming years? If so, why, and how can this be prevented?
7. What restrictions exist that cast doubt on the viability of taking legal action to stop deforestation?
8. Do your nation's policies on deforestation align with those of the United Nations?
9. What are the possible repercussions of trying to stop deforestation forever?
10. How can international cooperation be incentivized and what role do multilateral agreements play in combating deforestation?



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UN SDG #15 Targets:

Goal 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.”

15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

15.8: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

15.A: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

15.B: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.



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15.C: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

MUN Impact:

Once again, we hope that this conference exceeds your expectations and serves as a fun, educational experience! If you are interested in staying involved with topics important to the MUN committee, the MUN Impact Program is a great way to do so. MUN Impact takes these hypothetical resolutions to the next level and works to turn these solutions into direct action. Learn more at <https://munimpact.org/>. If you want to see what MUN Impact is doing specifically with SDG #15, learn more here: <https://munimpact.org/sdg-15/>



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