



THE

# AMAZON RAINFOREST

## CLIMATE PLATFORM

### WHY IT MATTERS

The Amazon rainforest stabilizes regional and global weather patterns, drives rainfall and helps curtail climate change, but it is reaching an irreversible tipping point which threatens our climate and collective future, requiring urgent action.

Indigenous peoples have effectively conserved their rainforest territories for millenia and yet their rights, lives and territories are facing increasing threats. Defending the defenders of the Amazon is an environmental, human rights and racial justice priority.

The Amazon is also home to the largest and most biodiverse collection of flora and fauna. Defending rainforests goes hand-in-hand with the global need to prevent mass extinction.

Preserving the Amazon is essential to preserving the future of our planet. Young people recognize that their future on a livable planet is at risk if the Amazon rainforest collapses, its people and cultures are destroyed.



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## **A. Support Supply Chains and Financial Portfolios Free of Deforestation and Fossil Fuels**

- The economy of the Amazon rainforest must be transitioned to adhere to rigorous standards of human rights and environmental protection. This necessitates divestment from companies and industries that perpetuate environmental destruction and Indigenous rights violations in the Amazon and a commitment to supply chains and investments free of deforestation and fossil fuels. This could also include deforestation- and fossil fuel-free procurement policies by state, local and national governments.
- Amazon countries need financial and technical support to transition to post-extractive regenerative economies focused on maintaining the health and wellbeing of people and ecosystems (for example: debt relief to Amazon governments from multilateral, bi-lateral and private debt holders).

## **B. Immediately Halt Deforestation and the Destruction of the Amazon Biome**

- Deforestation in the Amazon is driven by large-scale agroindustrial and extractive industries. Fires are intentionally set on recently deforested areas, near standing primary rainforest in order to log timber and clear land for cattle ranching and monocrop cultivation, which deplete soil nutrients and reduce biodiversity.
- Across the Amazon, fossil fuel and mineral extraction endangers the health and well-being of communities. Oil spills and chemical runoff contaminate fresh water sources and seep into the soil leading to life-threatening toxic pollution that destroys the rainforest and affects millions of people and animals.



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- Considering the significant increase in deforestation, fires, land invasion, illegal mining and violence, support civil society's call for a 5-year moratorium on forest destruction and deforestation while implementing a just economic transition strategy.

## **C. Uphold the Collective and Territorial Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

- Indigenous land rights, including the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), are intrinsically linked to the protection of the Amazon rainforest. One-third of the Amazon Basin consists of federally-recognized Indigenous territories, which are the best protected forests.

## **D. Defend Environmental Defenders**

- Rigorous implementation of human rights mechanisms to defend the lives and territories of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and campesino leaders who risk their lives to protect the Amazon.

## **E. Support Land Restoration Efforts**

- Support ecosystem restoration efforts that use traditional and contemporary models to reforest, regenerate, and conserve bio-diverse landscapes.

## **F. Coalition-Based Governance of the Amazon Rainforest**

- Strategies from both Indigenous peoples and scientists must inform the policies implemented by governments towards protecting the Amazon rainforest.
- More ambitious global commitments in line with science based targets from governments, academia, and the private sector are needed to guarantee the ecological integrity of the Amazon biome and our climate.