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. Protecting the rainforests is critical to preventing mass extinction.

Protecting the Amazon is essential to preserving the future of life on Earth. Young people are organizing in defense of the Amazon. They recognize that their future on a livable planet is at risk if the Amazon rainforest experiences ecological collapse, and its people and cultures are destroyed.

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1. Support the permanent protection of the Amazon Rainforest as a system, through science-based sustainable forest and land management practices and accelerated ecosystem restoration efforts

- In order to permanently protect the Amazon Rainforest, its biodiversity, its peoples, and the integrity of the hydrological cycle that sustains the Amazon basin as a whole, aggressive action must be taken to stop all deforestation and destruction of the Amazon. Simultaneously there must be integration and acceleration of science based forests and land management practices, and traditional and contemporary models of reforestation, and regeneration. The Amazon is one of the most important land ecosystems for mitigating climate change. It must be managed as a collective system to safeguard the functionality of the forest’s biodiverse ecosystems, the hydrological cycle, and the Amazon basin’s watershed for the overall health of the planet.

- Immediately adopt and implement a 5-year moratorium on all large-scale industrial deforestation and 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. This depletes soil nutrients and reduces biodiversity.

- Stop extraction and expansion of fossil fuel development in the Amazon. 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. This leads to life-threatening toxic pollution that destroys the rainforest and affects millions of people and animals.

- Considering the significant increase in deforestation, fires, land invasion, illegal mining and violence, support must be given to civil society’s call to permanently protect the Amazon. Urgent action must be taken to halt all forest destruction, while implementing a just economic transition strategy that supports sustainable livelihoods and bio-economies that will permanently protect the Amazon as a system.
2. Support Supply Chains and Financial Portfolios Free of Deforestation and Fossil Fuels

- The Amazon rainforest ecosystem must be transitioned to adhere to rigorous standards of human rights and environmental protection. This requires divestment from companies and industries that perpetuate environmental destruction and Indigenous rights violations. This can also require commitments from state, local, and national governments to have procurement policies for supply chains and investments that are free of deforestation and fossil fuels.

- Amazon countries need financial and technical support in transitioning to post-extractive regenerative economies focused on improving the health, livelihoods and wellbeing of people and ecosystems. Economic transitions should be supported through debt relief to Amazon governments through multilateral, and bi-lateral agreements, and from private debt holders.

- Strategies and solutions 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.
3. 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.

4. Defend Environmental Defenders

- There must be 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.

5. Improve Community Livelihoods

- Development and implementation of innovative economic platforms can protect the Amazon as a system and increase sustainable economic productivity to improve the livelihood of rural populations.

- All deforestation caused by the expansion of logging, soybean production, cattle ranching, mining, hydropower, road infrastructure and other industries must be phased out. These practices threaten the Amazon rainforest and violate the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities. Improving best practices and production in already cleared areas, integrating high-value bio-industries and state of the art technologies will support community livelihoods and keep the Amazon thriving.