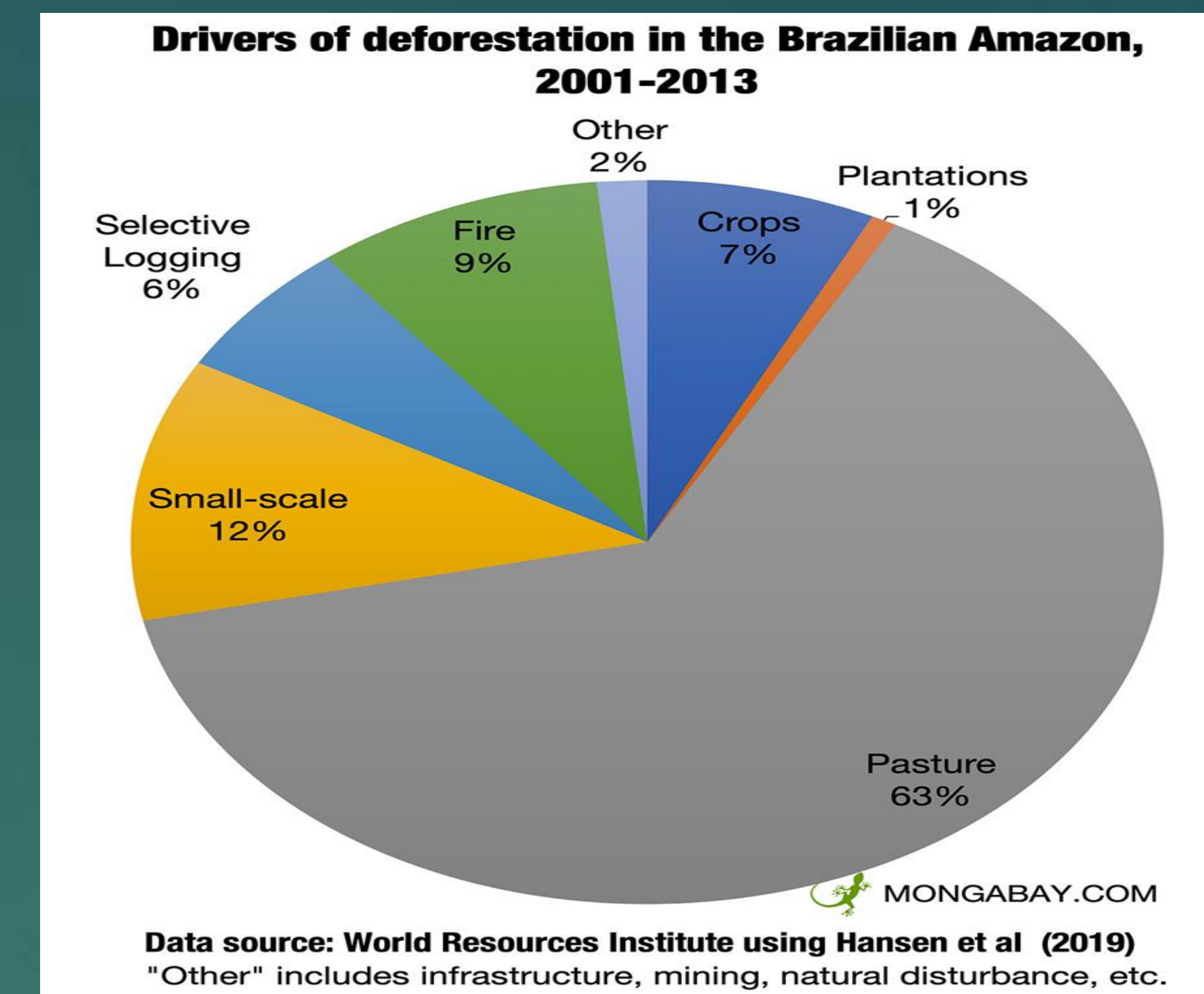


# Industries Operating Within the Amazon

## Abstract

The Amazon, a large-scale tropical rainforest that spans through eight different South American countries—Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname—is home to thousands of species of plants and animals and additionally helps to generate about 6% of the Earth's oxygen. While the Amazon is such a great host for its inhabiting wildlife, it has recently become home to several rising, commercial industries. Some of these industries include mining, cattle breeding, farming, and lumber. Although these industries are lucrative and profitable, they inflict significant harm to the surrounding environment ranging from deforestation to mercury poisoning, etc.

It is very important that the governments of countries that contain the Amazon take the necessary preventive and precautionary measures needed in order to protect the rainforest while still maintaining their local economy. Finding a compromise that benefits the Amazon, the plants/animals inhabiting it, the indigenous peoples, businesses, and government would be the best way to move forward in resolving the detrimental effects that these businesses have on the Amazon.



## Stakeholders

Who are the stakeholders in this issue?

- Lumber companies
- Mining Operations
- Cattle ranches/farmers
- Amazonian Natives
- Governments
- Environmentalists

## Some examples of deforestation in the Amazon

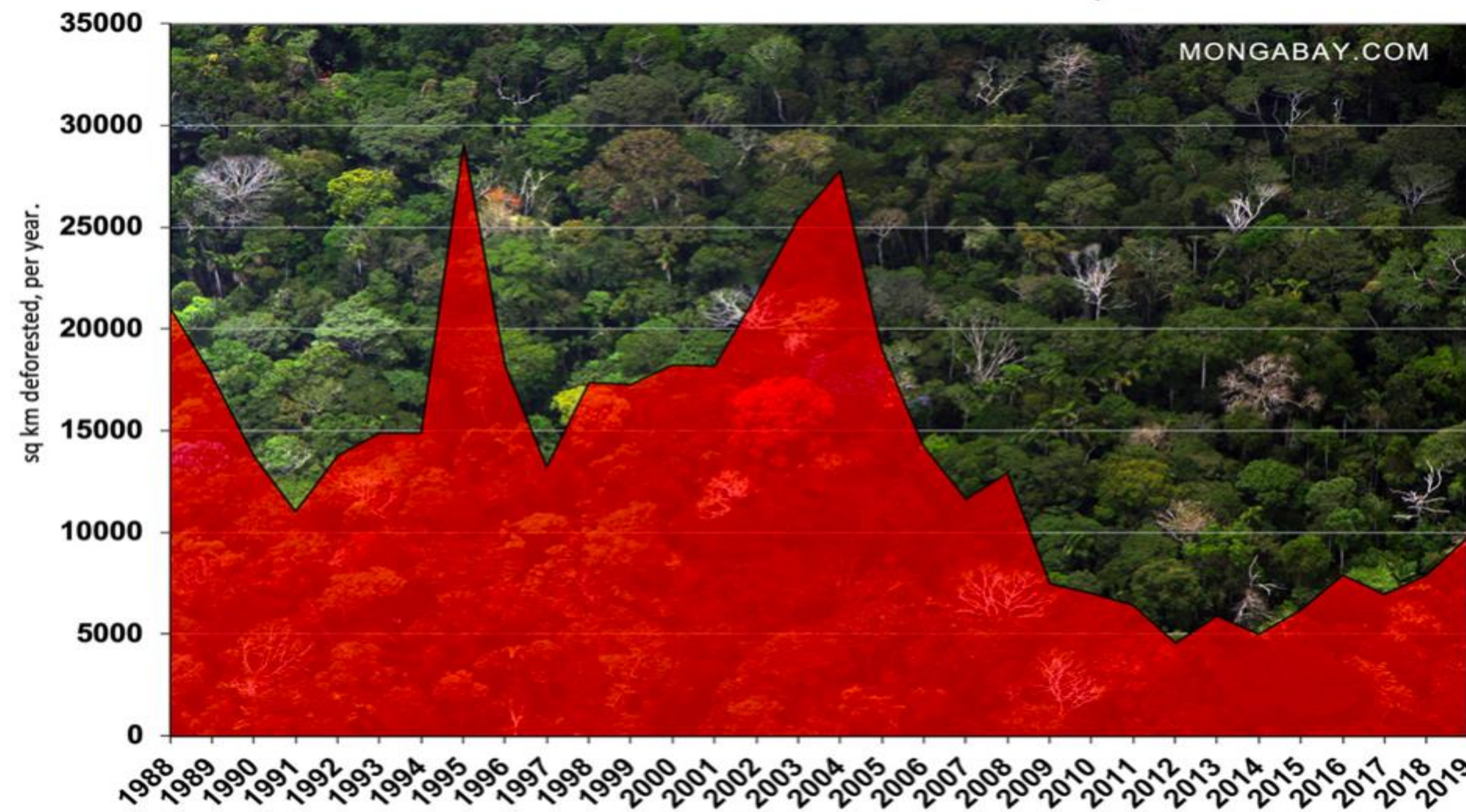


To the left is an image of slash and burn farming—a common technique found in farmers who are deforesting the Amazon



To the left is an image of the remnants of a mine in the Amazon.

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, 1988-2019



Above is a graph that depicts the deforestation levels in Amazon over the past 20 or so years. We see that in the early 2000's and 2010's, deforestation seemed to be declining from its peak. However, in 2012 we see the trend of deforestation returning—at the same the industries of cattle, farming, lumber, and mining begin to rise.

## Conclusion

There needs to be a way to prevent the destruction of/protect the Amazon while still allowing these businesses to prosper and the economy to remain stable. We need to value the preservation of the species and people living within the Amazon while still allowing economies to prosper. It is important to satisfy all stakeholders in this situation to an extent because it may encourage them to follow the rules in place more.

## Primary & Secondary Learning Objectives

- Primary- By the end of this case study the expectation is that students have a firm understanding of the ongoing deforestation crisis in the Amazon. Based off discussions in their group, they should be able to devise a solution to help solve the crisis.
- Secondary- Students should be able to communicate within their small/large groups. They should also feel comfortable presenting their solutions in front of the class.