# The Impact of Deforestation on the Biodiversity Index of Vulnerable Ecosystems

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## INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity loss remains the driving factor in the ecological shift we see today as a result of climate injustice globally.

The efforts to counter these dangerous threats rely on enacting policy that will prioritize the planet over profit.

There is an urgent problem with deforestation in vulnerable ecosystems.

Despite a desperate need for rapid conservation efforts to save Earth's climate from irreparable damage, deforestation is occurring at a faster rate than ever before.

Probable causes of this problem are economic incentives for large corporations and a lack of regulation.

Perhaps a study which investigates deforestation in vulnerable ecosystems by data collection could help to diagnose the scope of the situation.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

### ➢Data Collection

- **Observations:** This involves noting the frequency of a particular phenomenon and how often it occurs.
- **Secondary Data:** This involves utilizing the data that has already been collected through primary sources and made readily available for researchers to use for their own research. I made use of reports and studies from scientists in relevant regions.

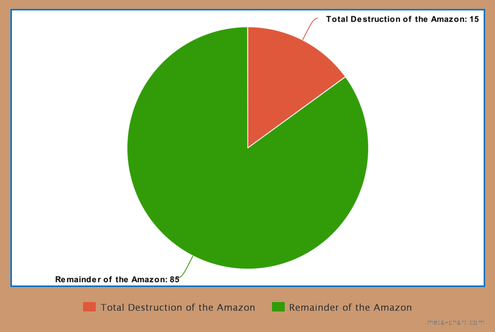
### ➢Data Analysis

- **Quantitative Data:** I employed statistics in numbers that demonstrate the significant patterns in forest loss.

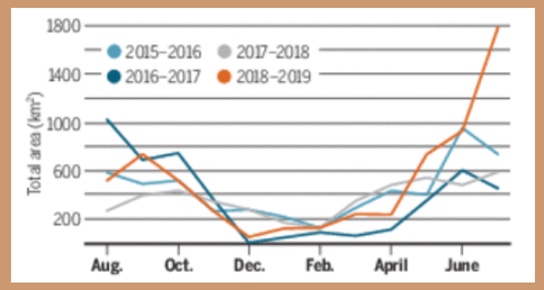
### ➢Drawing Conclusions

- **Content Analysis:** This was used to make replicable and valid inferences by interpreting and coding textual material
- **Correlation Research:** This involves collecting data in order to determine the degree to which a relationship exists between two or more variables

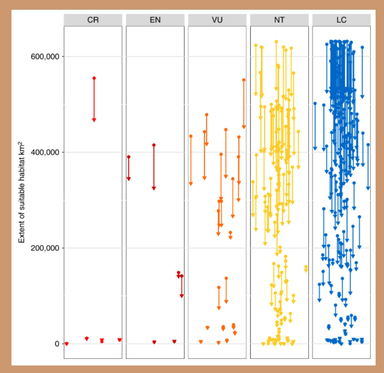
## DATA AND FINDINGS




Status of the impact of deforestation is shown to have destroyed 15% of the Amazon




Deforestation in the Amazon has been on the rise; Data suggests 4200 square kilometers of forest were destroyed in Aug. through June 2018-19, marking a 50% uptick from the previous year's period




This demonstrates the change in suitable habitat for each species between 2000 and 2015. The categories are dependent on current status: critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened, and least concern. The circles represent the extent of suitable habitat originally and the triangles the end result.

## CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

- Negative impacts of deforestation most directly results the destruction of biodiversity in tropical forests
- Demand for goods and services dependent on leveling forests and an economic reliance on deforestation is only rising
- This creates an unfortunate trend as there is a strong overlap between areas suitable for these developments and those of most importance for biodiversity

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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## IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

### 1. Implications

- Negative impacts of deforestation includes habitat fragmentation pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions, and much more.
- With rising demand for goods stemming from agriculture, oil production, and logging industries, and strong overlap between areas suitable for these developments and those of most importance for biodiversity, substantial biodiversity losses will only be averted if future expansion manages to avoid deforestation.

### 2. Next Steps

- Given that it is understood that we must avoid the negative implications of deforestation as they apply to biodiversity due to the greater devastation this would cause, a shift in industry must begin
- Let the overwhelming evidence of the current mass extinction events be the catalyst for the revamping of the economy that surrounds and benefits off tropical forests