

Battle for the Biosphere Case Studies

Topic	Case Study
Degradation of the Rainforest	<p><u>Amazon Rainforest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 1970, 20% of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed • Most of the forest is cleared for farming, especially beef (cattle) and soy bean farming • Logging for tropical hard woods such as teak and mahogany • Mining for copper, iron ore and other minerals is another cause for the destruction of the rainforest • For all of the above activities, roads will need to be built, e.g. Trans-Amaozonia Highway • Causes of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cattle ranching – 60% ○ Small subsistence farms – 20% ○ Large arable farms – 10% ○ Logging – 5% ○ Other (roads, HEP, mining) - 5%
Global Scale Conservation	<p><u>CITES - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International treaty signed in 1973 signed by 180 countries (or parties) including UK and USA • Protects 34,000 endangered species of plants and animals by banning trade in them • Harsh penalties exist for poachers shooting endangered species, such as the rhino and tiger • CITES hopes illegal hunting, poaching and plant collection will be reduced
National Scale Conservation	<p><u>National Parks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They cover 13% of the land surface of the Earth preserving and protecting landscapes • They have strict planning laws to preserve valuable landscapes and biospheres while also allowing people to enjoy them • The first UK national park was the Lake District. There are now 15 in total • The land is privately owned in the UK, but in the USA it is owned and managed by the government • Globally overseen by agencies including the United Nations
Local Scale Conservation	<p><u>UNESCO Biosphere Reserves</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to manage conservation areas at a local scale • Contain three zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A core protected zone ○ A buffer zone ○ An intermediate zone • The intermediate zone is where people work and live, as well as economic development, education and training taking place in this zone • It provides locals with the means to earn a living as well as a way to learn how to protect and improve their core zone