



Why are rainforests important?

Rainforest destruction is a massive contributor to climate change and yet every minute 100 acres of rainforest is cleared. If this continues it will not only have a devastating affect on our climate and water supplies but will threaten millions of species of plants and animals.

Rainforest facts;

- Rainforest destruction accounts for as many CO₂ emissions as the USA
 - six billion tonnes each year.
- 1.6 billion people depend on rainforests for their welfare and livelihoods, with 350 million of them living in rainforest communities.
- Rainforests are made of carbon. When the forest is destroyed, this carbon is released.
- Rainforests are critical to global weather systems acting as the world's thermostat.
- The Amazon rainforest provides 20% of the world's fresh water, a fifth of the world's oxygen.
- Rainforests are home to two-thirds of living animal and plant species on the planet, with hundreds of millions of species still undiscovered.
- The forests are the "world's pharmacy" because of their wealth of natural medicines and destroying them can destroy the chances of new breakthroughs in treatment.

