

AMAZON RAINFOREST DEFORESTATION AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE MOVEMENT IN PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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Latar Belakang: Hutan Amazon adalah salah satu daerah yang mengalami deforestasi terbesar di dunia dan ini menyebabkan penurunan kualitas lingkungan yang terjadi di wilayahnya, dan Brasil bertanggung jawab atas setengah dari deforestasi di Amazon karena deforestasi di wilayah Amazon Brasil memiliki persentase terbesar dibandingkan dengan wilayah lain.

Tujuan: Sejalan dengan rumusan masalah yang dijelaskan di atas, tujuan penulisan tulisan ini adalah untuk mengetahui mengapa terjadi penurunan kualitas lingkungan dan bagaimana peran dan upaya masyarakat adat Brasil untuk melindungi lingkungan di wilayah Hutan Amazon.

Metode: Para peneliti menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif di sini. Data diperoleh dari berbagai dokumen, termasuk jurnal dan berita dari berbagai platform. Peneliti menganalisis data dengan membaca setiap dokumen secara menyeluruh dan menyimpulkan hasilnya.

Hasil: Hasil dari konversi lahan hutan di Amazon adalah bahwa tanah lain lebih mudah dan lebih cepat untuk digusur juga jika dibandingkan dengan pertama kali kegiatan eksploitasi ini dilakukan pada tahun 1970-an hingga pertengahan 2000-an. Area hutan hujan yang luas di Amazon akhirnya dipenuhi dengan ternak, pertanian kedelai, penggalian bendungan dan mineral, serta pembukaan lahan untuk proyek proyeksi perkotaan dan kolonialisasi.

Kesimpulan: Dari tulisan ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa deforestasi yang terjadi di Hutan Amazon disebabkan oleh aktivitas manusia atau pihak yang tidak bertanggung jawab yang mengubah hutan menjadi lahan untuk keuntungan pribadi.

Kata kunci: deforestasi, masyarakat adat, eksploitasi

Abstract (English)

Background: The Amazon forest is one of the areas experiencing the largest deforestation in the world and this causes a decrease in environmental quality that occurs in its region, and Brazil is responsible for half of the deforestation in the Amazon because deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon region has the largest percentage compared to other regions.

Objective: In line with the formulation of the problem described above, the purpose of writing this paper is to find out why there is a decline in environmental quality and how the role and efforts of Brazilian indigenous people are to protect the environment in the Amazon Forest region.

Method: The researchers used qualitative approach here. The data were obtained from various documents, including journals and news from different platforms. The researcher analyzed the data by reading every document thoroughly and concluding the result.

Result: The result of the conversion of forest land in the Amazon is that other lands are easier and faster to evict as well when compared to the first time this exploitation activity was carried out in the 1970s to mid-2000s. Large areas of rainforest in the Amazon were eventually filled with livestock, soybean farming, excavation of dams and minerals, as well as clearing of land for urban projection and colonialization projects.

Conclusion: From this writing, it can be concluded that the deforestation that occurs in the Amazon Forest is caused by human activities or irresponsible parties who turn the forest into land for personal gain.

Keywords: deforestation, indigenous people, exploitation

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INTRODUCTION

Starting from the needs of living things themselves, be it humans, animals, and plants, they need good environmental conditions as a source of life, so it is no stranger that many environmental problems occur due to improper management of the environment itself. Latin America is an area where a lot of environmental management is carried out, especially in forest areas. However, forest management in Latin America is considered to be underappreciated because it is proven to have a fairly large problem and has become a worldwide concern, namely the problem of deforestation that occurs in the Amazon Forest.

Deforestation is the transfer of land used for a specific purpose. In general, this deforestation will reduce the number of trees below the minimum threshold of about 10% in the long term. And it can be said that this deforestation is deforestation or logging of forests so that forest land can be used for other things, but what happens is that deforestation in the Amazon is quite large and can cause environmental degradation. Meanwhile, the Amazon Forest itself is the largest rainforest and has a large river area in the world. This forest has more species than any other area.

The region is also considered to be home to 10% of the 1 in 10 world-famous plant species (Bradford, 2018). As the largest forest, the Amazon is also considered the lungs of the world because it plays a very important role in global environmental problems (Arifin, 2009). Several things make this region important for the world because the first is, the Amazon has a very important role in the world's carbon cycle that will shape the world's climate. Second, scientists say that in the future, this region can become a focal point that will lead to a warmer earth temperature. And thirdly, the Amazon accounts for a lot of rich biodiversity and stores about a quarter of all the species from Earth in it (*Word Wild Life*, n.d.).

The Amazon Forest is one of the areas experiencing the largest deforestation in the world and this causes a decrease in environmental quality that occurs in its region, and Brazil is responsible for half of the deforestation in the Amazon because deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon region has the largest percentage compared to other regions. According to data released by the Government of Brazil, confirming that the Amazon Forest area is slowly decreasing. Brazil's Nation Space Research Institute also updated data from its deforestation footprint system which showed a nearly five-fold increase in deforestation during 2013 compared to previous years, from an initial 99 square kilometers to 465 square kilometers. The areas with the greatest deforestation rates are those with more roads. The strong correlation between the location of a deforestation front and the presence of an existing road or a projected new road suggests that there will be a connected deforestation front along major infrastructure development routes. This shows that this deforestation occurs because of the actions of humans who turn the forest into something for their benefit. Other factors that can also exacerbate pressures in the Amazon region include the increase in activities of cattle and soybean plantations, mining areas, and others that are also related to human interests.

The environmental problems that occur in the Amazon region itself is not merely a problem related to nature that can be handled by one party. However, this also has an impact on indigenous peoples and is related to their indispensable role in overcoming and protecting environmental problems that occur in the Amazon region. The impact of environmental degradation due to deforestation will directly hurt the lives of the indigenous people of Brazil. The lives of these indigenous people will experience threats, especially threats to environmental security. As the world's largest tropical forest, the Amazon is indispensable for maintaining global climate stability. However, with the existence of various human activities that exploit forests for their interests, the various native ecosystems in the Amazon will be increasingly threatened by these activities (Lopez, n.d.).

This is also the basis for the formation of the Indigenous Peoples Movement, which is an indigenous movement that refers to any indigenous population who seeks legal, political, and cultural recognition in certain countries where the group feels under-represented, especially the indigenous people of Brazil. One of the reasons for the formation of the Indigenous Peoples Movement in Brazil is that they do not get a place to live (land rights) and they also want to try to protect the rights of residence and land that should be protected, not destroyed and cause various environmental degradation, which is a result of deforestation in the Amazon (Wade, 2010).

RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers used qualitative approach here. The data were obtained from various documents, including journals and news from different platforms. The researcher analyzed the data by reading every document thoroughly and concluding the result.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Explanation of cases of deforestation of the Amazon forest, in general, is very relevant when analyzed using Green Theory. In contrast to the positivist theory which mostly deals with power relations, the general explanation of a green theory which places great emphasis on ecological, natural, and environmental approaches is closely related to the environmental 'regression' that Brazil is experiencing, precisely in the Amazon at this time. The exploitation carried out by the Brazilian government on nature in the Amazon forest can be explained through the existence of human-non-human linkages and relationships in Green Theory (Barry, 2014). Green Theory assumes that humans and nature have a relationship with each other (Barry, 2014). Departing from the basic knowledge that humans need nature to live, and vice versa. However, over time, the demand for more human needs has become exploitative to nature. After World War II, the wheels of the global economy moved faster and experienced an economic boost. Sophisticated technology is also created. The existence of this rapid economic growth has given rise to an increase in demand/demand in the global market which is increasing from year to year. As a risk, nature is widely exploited in the 21st century. In 2005, it was estimated that 60% of the ecosystems that support life and nature on earth were declining and used irregularly (Eckersley, 2007).

Brazil as one of the countries that are also involved in the global economic system certainly needs resources to manage its market. However, Brazil's efforts hurt nature without considering the risks. Since 1978, more than 750,000 square kilometers (or the equivalent of 289,000 square miles) of the Amazon rainforest have been destroyed across Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Suriname, Guayana, and French Guiana. Historically, the main cause of deforestation in the Amazon was the felling of trees by farmers to produce crops to feed their families and also for local consumption. At the beginning of the causes of deforestation in the Amazon Forest, we can already see the 'standpoint' of green theory. There is the exploitation of nature by humans to meet consumption. The use of nature is no longer intended to meet needs but to fulfill desires. Humans exploit nature to achieve their interests without considering the surrounding environment.

Then, continued in the 20th century, the pattern of deforestation changed to become more massive due to the increasing number of industrial and agricultural activities on a large scale. In 2000, the clearing of forest in the Amazon that took up three-quarters of its territory was aimed at clearing livestock.

The result of the conversion of forest land in the Amazon is that other lands are easier and faster to evict as well when compared to the first time this exploitation activity was carried out in the 1970s to mid-2000s. Large areas of rainforest in the Amazon were eventually filled with livestock, soybean farming, excavation of dams and minerals, as well as clearing of land for urban projection and colonialization projects. At the same time, as the Amazon continues to be used as open land, it also allows for illegal logging and land speculation.

Several reasons contribute to industrial conversion in the Amazon Forest. The first is increasing government incentives in the form of debt and spending on state infrastructure, which includes the construction of roads and dams. The second is increasing private sector financing due to increased interest in "emerging markets" and rising domestic wealth. And

the third is the increasing demand for commodities such as meat, soybeans, sugar, and palm oil in the global market.

After seeing the phenomenon of changing patterns of deforestation that occurred in Brazil changing so very quickly, there are keywords that we can take in explaining how the deforestation process has become more massive; industry and government interests. An increase in industrial activity – which is certainly driven by high demand from the global market and the pace of capital economic activity – certainly requires a lot of natural resources. Green Theory also mentions where there is a misperception that humans have a more 'superior' nature than nature so that it can justify humans exercising full control over nature and can exploit in the name of fulfilling human interests only. If this continues, the Amazon as a source of 30% of the world's lungs and home to millions of diverse species could threaten the imbalance of nature.

This problem then becomes more complex because the problem is not only about deforestation caused by government exploitation to build industry. This problem also involves the indigenous peoples or 'natives' of Brazil who own and occupy territory in the Amazon. These natives are called the 'uncontacted tribes' who have occupied the Amazon forest for a long time. These natives have a very close natural proximity to the Amazon forest. So, if the government continues to exploit the resources in the Amazon excessively, the government will not only have a bad impact on the environment but also threaten the 'home' of the indigenous people. Natives here have an important role because they are one of the hopes to protect the nature of the Amazon forest as a form of their close belief in nature (Independent, 2018).

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The role of Indigenous People in Brazil in protecting the Amazon Rainforest

Seeing the condition of deforestation in the Amazon Forest which is getting worse day by day, there are various conflicts and efforts by indigenous people to prevent deforestation of the Amazon Forest caused by various human activities. Before explaining further their role in protecting the Amazon Forest, the author would like to first explain some of the histories of their existence.

The history of the indigenous people of Brazil was initially marked by several acts of brutality, slavery, violence, disease, and also genocide. When the first European colonies arrived in 1500, Brazil was inhabited by about 11 million Indians, living in about 2,000

tribes, in the first century, 90% of the population of that society was wiped out due to diseases brought by the colonists, such as flu, measles, and smallpox. In the centuries that followed, thousands more died, enslaved in rubber and sugar cane plantations. According to the population census in 2010, there are about 305 tribes living in Brazil with a total of about 900,000 people or 0.4% of the Brazilian population, the Brazilian government has recognized 690 territories for the indigenous population, which covers about 13% of the Brazilian landmass (IWGIA, n.d.).

The largest tribe today is the Guarani, their population to date is around 51,000 people. Over the last 100 years, almost all of their land has been stolen from them and turned into a vast and dry network of cattle ranches, soybean fields, and sugar cane plantations. Many of their communities live under tarpaulins by the side of the road as their land is being eroded by industrial activities. In addition to the Guarani people, there are the relatively isolated Yanomami, numbering around 19,000 people. The largest Amazonian tribe in Brazil is the Tikuna, who number 40,000. Many Amazonians have a population of fewer than 1,000 people, such as the Akutsu Tribe, which now consists of only four people, and the AHA only 450 people (Survival International, n.d.).

Brazil itself is a country that recognizes the rights of Indigenous people. The country supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016) and has signed ILO Convention 169. Brazil also has a 1988 constitution recognizing indigenous peoples as the first and natural owners of land and guaranteeing their rights to the land. Exploration and extraction of mineral wealth on customary lands must be carried out only with the permission of the National Congress after listening to the communities involved and their participation in the benefits of mining activities must be guaranteed. The eviction of indigenous peoples from their lands is illegal and prohibited.

However, the fact that occurs on the ground is that deforestation is becoming more and more common. This causes the Indigenous People there to lose their territory as a source of life. As a form of resistance to this problem, there are several examples of actions taken by Indigenous People. This action is then a form of implementation of the Indigenous People's Movement in which these indigenous people express their aspirations in various actions and defend their existence and territory. One example of this movement from the Indigenous People's Movement is the Guajajara Defenders, a group known for its courage to oppose deforestation.

They have been involved in clashes with gangs of armed loggers who are exploiting their forest areas. This group created special units known as the Guardians of the Amazon. They are an environmental defense group that is taking direct action to reduce illegal logging in the Araeibia Reserve in the state of Maranhão. This area is vulnerable to exploitation by illegal loggers and the lives of the indigenous people there are threatened by the activities of these illegal loggers (Flávia Milhorange, 2018). In 2018, the leader of this group, Jorginho Guajajara, was killed as a result of his involvement in protecting indigenous people there in conflict with illegal loggers targeting the population (Survival International, 2018).

As one of the characteristics of social movements, protests and demonstrations are common actions carried out by various marginalized groups. Various people from this group also protest against the government every year to protect their area from the rampant agricultural business. These protests are carried out in various ways such as through dancing in the streets wearing traditional feathered headdresses and body paint, singing and playing drums and maracas, and painting with red paint that symbolizes the blood trail of violence against indigenous people during the conflict with Brazil's agricultural industry.

In addition to protests and demonstrations, the hallmark of a social movement is also found in the network. Network development between marginalized communities can exceed the boundaries of a country. Protests in one country can lead to the emergence of sympathizers in other countries. This can be seen in the protest carried out in Paris by Sonia

Guajajara, who is one of the Indigenous People of the Guajajara Defenders. This protest was aimed at stopping the construction of dams in the Amazon by several French industries such as GDF Suez, EDF, and Alstom. He managed to lead the protest using human-waves action which was attended by thousands of protesters from various backgrounds and managed to enter the Industrial office in France to show that the environment in the Amazon is threatened and the existence of Indigenous People there is also threatened (Survival International, 2014). The role of Indigenous People is vital role in maintaining the existence of the environment in the Amazon. The forest is the lungs of the world that must be maintained for its sustainability. He gives life to those around him. The Amazon forest gives life to the Indigenous People there. They want to convey their rights to be protected by the government and convey their aspirations so that the forest as a provider of life for other humans can continue to grow and last.

CONCLUSION

From this writing, it can be concluded that the deforestation that occurs in the Amazon Forest is caused by human activities or irresponsible parties who turn the forest into land for personal gain. Deforestation will certainly cause a decrease in environmental quality and become a separate threat to the indigenous peoples or indigenous people of Brazil. And with the Indigenous Peoples Movement, will carry out a movement to seek safe and legal recognition for the protection of their land rights, as well as their culture, traditions, and beliefs with a strategy, namely by carrying out legal actions such as campaigns, to increase public awareness, and form various good collaborations with intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations, as well as with non-governmental organizations such as Green Peace. Because the reality that is now happening in this era of globalization is the increasing intensity of threats to the integrity of indigenous groups due to human activities, especially in terms of the economy, which increasingly encourages them to touch remote and protected areas, one of which is the Amazon rainforest. Therefore, the role of the indigenous people themselves is very important in this environmental problem, so that environmental problems caused by deforestation in the Amazon can be reduced because of the Indigenous Peoples Movement which will enforce land rights that should be preserved and not used as other lands. which can damage the environment itself.

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