Lesson 3 » Regional Environmental Problems

Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world, after Brazil. This is because of the variety of different ecosystems like tropical forests, mountain habitats, grasslands, páramos, and deserts. Amphibians, birds and plants are just some of the species that make up a large part of Colombia's biodiversity. In fact, Colombia is known for having more bird species than any other country, with more than 1900 species.

Now for the sad news; Colombia is facing a major ecological problem because of illegal logging, the agricultural industry, the mining industry, cocaine production and the development of hydro-electricity energy resources. Deforestation costs the country 2,000 km of forest each year and this figure is rising. The areas with the highest deforestation rates include Caquetá in the Amazon region and Antioquia in the Andes mountains, while there have been major rises in deforestation in Putumayo and Norte de Santander in the past few years.

Deforestation has many negative effects on the environment, including habitat loss, a decrease in biodiversity, the extinction of animal and plant species, soil erosion, air pollution. There are many others, too. Today, almost one-third of Colombia's original forest has been destroyed by deforestation, so as you can imagine, this is a serious problem and urgent action is required. It is a problem that affects us all, so please, educate yourselves and take action now. Who knows, tomorrow might be too late!

1. Read the article and complete the table. Write full sentences.

1. Area (where?)	3. Causes (why?)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
2. Problem (what?)	**4. Impact of the problem (how?)**
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. You are worried about the deforestation in Colombia. Write a letter to the Colombian government to express your concern.

Dear Mr President,

I enjoy _____ in our forests, but I am
(an activity you do in forests)
_____ the deforestation here in Colombia.

I am writing to you because I _____ ask you to
stop the logging of our forests and start _____ .
(an action to stop the problem)
Deforestation is very bad for our environment because it causes
_____ _____ .

Urgent action is needed.

Yours sincerely,

_____
(your name)

LIVEWORKSHEETS