

Jane Hunt MP



House of Commons

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about deforestation, food and the *Environment Bill*.

The country has a strong history of supporting action to combat deforestation and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out work to protect the world's forests, support sustainable agriculture and move towards zero-deforestation supply chains. You can read the plan here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan)

To address the footprint of products linked to deforestation, the Government has established the Global Resource Initiative, led by senior representatives from the private sector and civil society, who will produce a set of recommendations to address the impact of the UK's commodity supply chains. These may relate to regulatory and policy measures, transparency, financial incentives, trade, sustainable procurement and/or the role of the consumer.

I share local residents' concerns about deforestation in the Amazon in particular and the impact this has on the climate and biodiversity. Since 2012, the UK has invested nearly £154 million in a number of International Climate Finance (ICF) programmes in Brazil aimed at tackling deforestation, preventing forest fires, and implementing the Forestry Code. Ministers have said that they will continue to monitor the situation in the Amazon closely and raise these critical issues in their ongoing dialogue with Brazil.

ICF is the UK's mechanism for delivering international climate action. It helps poor countries adapt to climate change, supports the creation of jobs and livelihoods to reduce poverty, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and promotes sustainable economic growth. £210 million of ICF will be spent between 2016 and 2021. I am pleased that at the UN General Assembly, the Prime Minister announced the doubling of ICF over the next five years.

The UK also fully endorses the New York Declaration on Forests, which aims to end natural forest loss by 2030, and is a member of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020. At the Paris UN Climate negotiations in 2015, the UK signed up to a collective pledge with Germany and Norway that will make up to \$5 billion available to support international efforts to tackle deforestation.

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I hope that this information is reassuring. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane".

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