



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

March 2020

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the rainforests.

I am deeply concerned by the increase in fires in the Amazon rainforest, the effect of which will be felt around the world. I am proud that the UK continues to support projects in Brazil, with the Prime Minister announcing an immediate donation of £10 million to help protect and restore the Amazon rainforest.

It is tremendously important to protect the world's rainforests, so I am pleased action is being taken to stop deforestation. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out ambitions to support and protect the world's forests, supporting sustainable agriculture and zero-deforestation supply chains. In 2013 rules were brought in to stop illegal timber from being imported into the EU and sold which means anyone wishing to sell timber must be able to show that it has not been harvested illegally.

The Prime Minister recently announced a package of support to help developing countries to stop the destruction of their forests. This includes a £100 million investment in the new Biodiverse Landscapes Fund to slow, stop and reverse biodiversity loss in some of the world's most valuable habitats, which provide a vital defence against flooding and habitats for species on the verge of extinction.

The UK has already committed to spending £5.8 billion in international climate finance (ICF) between 2016 and 2021, which includes programmes that aim to reduce emissions from deforestation and land use change. Since ICF began in 2011, the UK has spent over £800 million on forest and land use programmes, including projects which aim to reduce deforestation in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia. £64.9 million has already been spent to protect over 200,000 hectares of forest in the Amazon, Atlantic Forest and Cerrado regions.



The UK is determined to support companies to implement zero-deforestation supply chains and the Government is working globally to put in place incentives, policies and actions which support sustainable production of palm oil alongside forest protection. While there are no proposals to bring forward a ban, further opportunities to improve the sustainability of palm oil production should be explored.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris".

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY