

- **Farming** - large areas are cleared for pastoral farming. As the global demand for meat has increased many cattle farms have opened in the Amazon Basin for beef farming. **Arable farming** is also responsible for the loss of tropical rainforest as many farmers are clearing land to grow cash crops, such as soya beans.

- **Mining** - the Amazon Basin is rich in natural resources such as iron ore, copper, tin, aluminium, manganese and gold. This has led to the development of mines which results in the clearance of tropical rainforest. The Carajas mine in Brazil is the world's largest iron ore mine. A major problem in Peru is illegal gold mining.

- **Roads** - the construction of access roads for farmers, loggers and miners results in large parts of the tropical rainforest being destroyed. The Trans-Amazonian highway in Brazil and the Trans-Oceanic highway in Brazil and Peru are major causes of deforestation.

- **Logging** - tropical rainforests are cut down so that valuable trees like mahogany can be accessed and sold for timber to make furniture. Illegal and indiscriminate logging is a major cause of deforestation

CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION



- **Hydroelectric power (HEP)** The creation of HEP stations in the Amazon Basin has resulted in large areas of forest being flooded to create the reservoirs and dams. The flooding of the Balbina dam in Brazil resulted in the loss of 920 square miles of tropical rainforest.

- **Population** - population growth has resulted in the loss of tropical rainforest as land is cleared to build houses and infrastructure. At present Amazonia in both Brazil and Peru is very sparsely populated, development and deforestation will cause immigration and the multiplier effect.

