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It is no secret that the vast reduction in tropical rain forest habitats on our planet is happening at a rapid rate. One article stated that deforestation in Asia is averaging about 1.2% each year, which at first glance seems like a seemingly unimportant rate. At closer glance, as stated in the website article, nearly one half of the world's rainforests have been destroyed in just the past century alone. When seeking an answer to the question: Who should be responsible for rainforest conservation? It is crucial to consider two things, why they are important and who is affected. Tropical rain forests are not only vital to the ecosystem but as the article stated, they are estimated to be home to over fifty percent of the Earth's species. In turn, these species are vital to the support of local economies and to businesses all over the world. On a local level, the tropical rain forests are important as they serve as homes to many indigenous cultures and support their livelihoods. From a global standpoint, tropical rain forests are major regulators of CO₂ emissions that play a considerable role in climate change. This issue of deforestation is happening all over the planet, from Brazil to the Amazon to Asia. Deforestation is in fact the second major driver of climate change in the world today, even surpassing public transportation. Additionally, many products that we use on a daily basis contain products from rainforest regions. Many cash crops and ingredients in oil palms originate in these areas. Many individuals today, especially living in the United States and other areas without rainforests, are simply unaware of the drastic effects the degradation of these areas is having on the ecosystems in which we live and breathe. For these reasons, I feel that every individual alive on the planet today is responsible for rainforest conservation. Not only for ourselves and for the foods and products we love and enjoy in our lives, but also to provide for the generations to come. Rainforests are a vital part of the

ecosystem and without them, climate change will continue to escalate and the reversal of what has already been done will seem even farther out of our reach.