Preserving the rainforest

1 While having few quarrels with President Lula’s pragmatic approach to managing Brazil’s drive towards first-world status, I was alarmed to see his defence of “development” of the Amazon region and his demand that others must pay for the protection of the country’s rainforest (Bridge to the unknown, 13 August). This myopic view, often repeated in the region, has within it the seeds of destruction for the UN-REDD (United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) programme. And it bodes ill for the future of the unique biodiversity of the invaluable Brazilian rainforest resource.

2 A system that extracts payments from polluters in developed countries to compensate for slower, greener development in developing countries does little to prevent continued increases in greenhouse gas emissions at a global level. Our planet is finite and is suffering because we are not doing enough to reduce global emissions.

3 Shifting the responsibility from one section to another does not alleviate our global stress levels. And it is sadly true that corruption and illegal logging will, in all probability, continue to squander our inheritance. Continuing natural resource depletion is likely to accelerate the demise of the human race; it will certainly add to poverty, hunger and disease as we reduce our capacity to produce food in the face of population growth that is still on track to take us to 9 billion by 2050.

4 The current destruction of our rainforests is having a negative impact on climate change, which is itself increasing the problems of meeting global food requirements. However, given that we live in a world whose future depends on the actions of imperfect humanity, the REDD approach is probably the best one to take. Even better is REDD Plus, which embraces conservation and re-planting. An evergreen agriculture, including conservation farming and agroforestry, alongside protected forests, is certainly a goal worth striving for. And we have the technology to achieve it.

Brian Sims
Bedford, UK

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3p 37 Geef van elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de inhoud van alinea 1 tot en met 3.
1 President Lula is dismayed by the conversion of part of Brazil’s rainforest into farmland.
2 Brian Sims characterises the UN-REDD programme as ineffective for global climate control.
3 Reassigning liability does not solve the global problem of climate change.
4 Incorrect implementation of the UN-REDD programme contributes to the greenhouse effect.
5 Brian Sims believes preservation and global famine are interrelated.
Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.

President Lula heeft een andere oplossing voor hoe het regenwoud beschermd moet worden dan het REDD Plus-programma.

2p 38 Wat willen beide partijen?
Vul de onderstaande zinnen aan (op je antwoordblad).

President Lula wil ........................................................................................................
Het REDD Plus-programma wil .............................................. en ........................