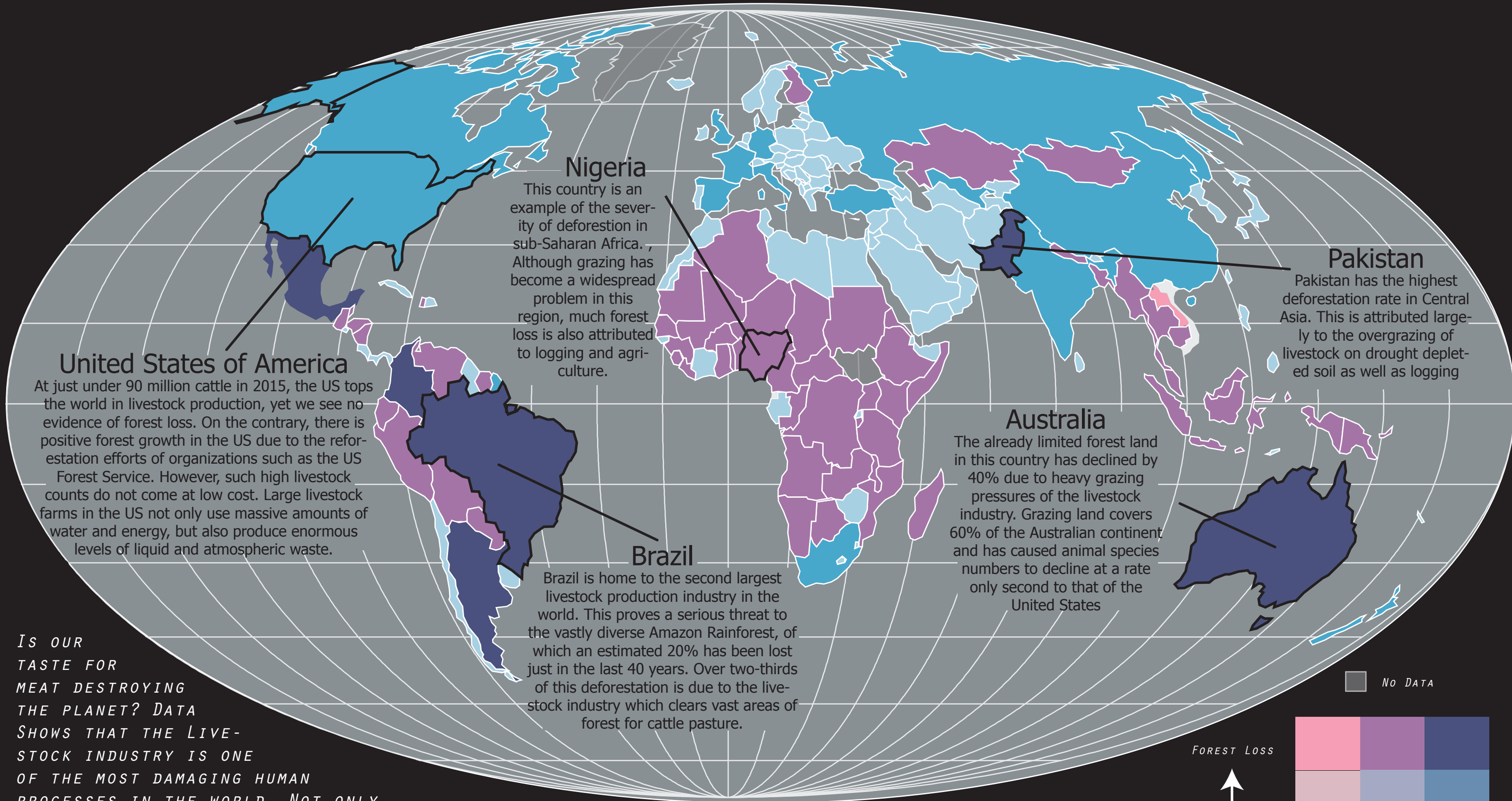


Environmental Consequences of Livestock Production



United States of America

At just under 90 million cattle in 2015, the US tops the world in livestock production, yet we see no evidence of forest loss. On the contrary, there is positive forest growth in the US due to the reforestation efforts of organizations such as the US Forest Service. However, such high livestock counts do not come at low cost. Large livestock farms in the US not only use massive amounts of water and energy, but also produce enormous levels of liquid and atmospheric waste.

Nigeria

This country is an example of the severity of deforestation in sub-Saharan Africa. Although grazing has become a widespread problem in this region, much forest loss is also attributed to logging and agriculture.

Pakistan

Pakistan has the highest deforestation rate in Central Asia. This is attributed largely to the overgrazing of livestock on drought depleted soil as well as logging

Australia

The already limited forest land in this country has declined by 40% due to heavy grazing pressures of the livestock industry. Grazing land covers 60% of the Australian continent and has caused animal species numbers to decline at a rate only second to that of the United States

Brazil

Brazil is home to the second largest livestock production industry in the world. This proves a serious threat to the vastly diverse Amazon Rainforest, of which an estimated 20% has been lost just in the last 40 years. Over two-thirds of this deforestation is due to the livestock industry which clears vast areas of forest for cattle pasture.

IS OUR TASTE FOR MEAT DESTROYING THE PLANET? DATA SHOWS THAT THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IS ONE OF THE MOST DAMAGING HUMAN PROCESSES IN THE WORLD. NOT ONLY DOES IT CREATE VAST AMOUNTS OF ANIMAL WASTE, IT ALSO DESTROYS THE FORESTS THAT KEEP OUR PLANET CLEAN AND ALIVE. IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE GLOBAL PROCESSES BEHIND THE IMPORTANT MEALS THAT WE CONSUME DAILY.

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Sources: FAOSTAT
USDA Foreign Agriculture Service
www.FAO.org
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