Illegal cattle ranching causes the deforestation of Mesoamerica’s great forests resulting in:

- **Environmental Destruction**
  - Biodiversity
  - Climate Stability

**Threatening Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

- Food Security
- Water Sources
- Cultural Diversity
- Physical Security

In 2021, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico topped the rates of environmental defenders murdered per capita, especially in areas where cattle ranching is linked to organized crime and illegal markets.