



Research Report

General Assembly 3

The question of managing pollution to
reduce the loss of biodiversity

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Introduction

Loss of biodiversity has been an ongoing topic for the last century, creating debates that really raise the question of how to tackle the issue on an international scale. The main reason why biodiversity is so important to us is because it gives us resources and also keeps our environment intact. However, in recent decades, scientists have been speaking of the risk the planet faces of a sixth mass extinction. The rate at which plants and animals are dying out far exceeds any level previously measured. All countries, except the United States, attended the convention on biological diversity in 1992 held to discuss the situation the world is in regarding the ecosystem. Since then, all endangered species have been monitored but whether that is enough is questionable.

The Committee

This committee will focus on a number of different issues concerning current environmental, humanitarian and health issues that affect people all over the world. Because of the pressing issue of the environment, MUNA has added issues relating to the environment to its "Third Committee", and has given it a slightly different name than the name used at the real UN for its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). This committee is not an ad-hoc committee and thus the conducting of proper research beforehand is still necessary. It is also obligatory to create your own resolutions to submit and find co-submitters for. Furthermore, this committee will attend the plenary session on the Friday afternoon. For more information regarding the rules of procedure, read through the MUNA instruction booklet found on www.munalfrink.nl under downloads.

Keywords

Biodiversity

=the number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world in general, or the problem of protecting this:

Ecosystem

=All the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment.

Environment

=The totality of all the external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.

Habitat

= Habitat means the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Habitat conversion

=The elimination or severe diminution of the integrity of a natural habitat caused by a major, long-term change in land or water use.

Habitat fragmentation

= The 'breaking apart' of continuous habitat into distinct pieces.

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Native/indigenous species

=Species that live in an area where they have lived for a long period of time without any help.

Threatened species

=Umbrella term for any species categorized as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Critically Endangered

= A category on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species which indicates a taxon is considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Endangered

= A category on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species which indicates a taxon is considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Vulnerable

= A taxon is Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E (for criteria, click [here](#)) for Vulnerable and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

Most polluting countries in the world:

1. China (30%) The world's most populated country has an enormous export market, which has seen its industry grow to become a serious danger to the planet. In just five provinces, which that host most of these industries, more dioxide is emitted than in any other country in the world. As a consequence, Beijing has experienced, in recent years, constant red alerts for environmental pollution.

2. United States (15%) The world's biggest industrial and commercial power. Although in recent times it has led the most important initiatives to combat climate change, in practice the great majority have been shown to be insufficient. Neither are its pollution levels limited to big cities; many rural areas are also beginning to notice the consequences.

3. India (7%) Fourteen out of the world's 15 most contaminated cities are in India, says the World Health Organization. The country has had a law protecting air quality since 1981, but the burning of fossil fuels has grown significantly and as a consequence India occupies third place in the ranking of the most polluting countries in the world.

4. Russia (5%) The biggest country in the world geographically appears in this ranking for its high dependence on products such as oil, coal, gas and fossil fuels. Also, in the past few decades, it has experienced several environmental emergencies and has high levels of deforestation and animal hunting.

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5. Japan (4%) Finally, the other great Asian power after China completes the list. Japan is the biggest consumer of fossil fuels in the world and the fifth largest emitter of greenhouse gases. This situation is due to its high level of urban development and industry that seems to care little for nature.

Further information

All countries or areas are faced with different kinds of pollution as different substances in the atmosphere cause different types of effects. Some of these factors are caused by environmental differences or social or ethical variations across different people groups. Some of these types of pollution include: Air pollution, water pollution, nutrient/soil pollution, radioactive pollution, and Light pollution. (for more detailed information on these pollution types click [here](#))

Throughout the 20th and especially the 21st century there have been a lot of conventions on saving the biodiversity of this planet. They are a good source to see what has already been discussed and can be used as a good information source but also with regard to arguments for and against. Some of these include:

- [Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the North-East Pacific \(Antigua Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region \(Abidjan Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region \(Cartagena Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region \(Nairobi Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region \(Noumea Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of the South-East Pacific \(Lima Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean \(Barcelona Convention\)](#)
- [Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic \(OSPAR Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)
- [Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific \(Apia Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#)
- [Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources \(CAMLR Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Seals \(CCAS\)](#)
- [Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats \(Bern Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS\)](#)
- [Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Waste and Other Matter \(London Convention\)](#)

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- [Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution \(Bucharest Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area \(Helsinki Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat \(Ramsar Convention\)](#)
- [Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region \(Waigani Convention\)](#)

Use these conventions to look up what has already been discussed. Do not learn them by heart and only look at the ones relevant to your country.

Resolution

The delegate's resolution should mainly focus on their own interests regarding the reduction of pollution. For example, The Peoples Republic of China will mainly focus on air pollution as China is a main contributor in the loss of biodiversity. Countries like The Netherlands will focus on nutrient pollution. However, delegates should, of course, also look at the economic factors of reducing pollution as any reduction in agriculture would affect, for example, the economy of The Netherlands severely. It is therefore necessary to find solutions that provide your country with the best possible outcome. During the amending phase of the debate it is always possible to alter anything a co-submitter might not like about the starting resolution. For information on writing a resolution, go to the MUNA website.

Useful links and sources (these sources contain mostly factual information. Also do your own research with regards to your own opinion)

- <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/pollution>
- <https://www.birdlife.org/projects/8-using-adaptive-management-reduce-impact-climate-change-biodiversity>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCkDxD0DV0Q>
- <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/themes/terms>
- <https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/process>
- <https://www.greenfacts.org/en/biodiversity/1-3/4-causes-desertification.htm#4p4>
- <https://eacnur.org/blog/cuales-los-paises-mas-contaminantes/>
- <https://es.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/los-paises-mas-contaminantes-del-mundo>
- <https://www.toppr.com/bytes/environmental-pollution/>
- <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/pollution>
- www.munalfrink.nl