

## MAJOR CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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**Annotation:** *This scientific article illustrates environmental issues which are the harmful effects of human activities on the environment. These include pollution, overpopulation, waste disposal, climate change, global warming, the greenhouse effect and others. Various environment protection programs are being practised at the individual, organizational and government levels with the aim of establishing a balance between man and the environment. It has been given some problems that require attention below.*

**Key words:** *civilization, energy, climate change, diseases, human activities, diversity and biodiversity, description of the Earth, greenhouse.*

**Introduction.**

Civilization is now so advanced that it is possible to study in considerable detail the Earth and the Universe, an exciting and stimulating endeavor. Scientists can examine the Earth at all scales, from the subatomic using high-energy particle physics to cosmic scales using the most sophisticated telescopes and spacecraft. Images of Earth from Space are now familiar to all. Sophisticated global climate modelling and predictions about future climate change are becoming commonplace. With such technological advances and the wealth of opportunities for monitoring the natural world there is little excuse for any profligate use of raw materials and environmental degradation.

**Main part**

Humans, unlike other animals, have the ability, which may not be matched by the foresight, to appreciate the responsibility for the wise and prudent management of the Earth. Humans have the capacity to control and monitor the anthropogenic impact on the environment. Humans can observe the Earth from Space, communicate rapidly around the world and even from Space to Earth, prevent and remedy many diseases, manufacture many items that make life more comfortable and enjoyable, and construct complex urban settlements. Humans can inhabit nearly every environment on Earth. Environmental issues concern the interaction of the natural world with human activities, the scales and rates of change in the ecosphere caused by natural variability and those precipitated by human activities. Environmental issues are about what has happened, the changes that have been brought about, and future predictions or prophecy about any changes in the environment that may occur as a consequence of human activities. Broadly, there are four main components of the ecosphere that may be significantly affected on a long term basis by human activities. First is the climate system, where human activities are causing the

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destruction of the ozone layer over large parts of the world, the production of acidic deposition and the emission of greenhouse gases and other harmful trace gases and aerosols into the atmosphere such as hydrocarbons and exhaust particulates. Second, there is the interaction between the organic and inorganic components of the ecosphere, that is the global circulation of nutrients - the nutrient cycles. These nutrient cycles include the mobilization and redistribution of chemical elements, amongst the most important being those for carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus, resulting in some parts of the cycle becoming enriched while other parts are depleted. Third, humans have a profound effect on the hydro logical cycle, for example by the withdrawal and pollution of water, induced droughts and floods, and activities which contribute to processes of erosion and deposition of sediment to silt up rivers and estuaries. Fourth, there is the direct or indirect human influence on the natural environment, which can lead to the extinction of endangered species, and the commensurate reduction of bio logical diversity, biodiversity and the changes in the character of various regions of the world. The survival and evolution of life on Earth is, in essence, about being adaptable to changing circumstances. The alternative is extinction. This appears to be a truism both for species and individuals.

Introducing Earth. Geographically restricted populations, but which permit recovery of a species. While these arguments are true for the natural way in which life has evolved on Earth, most rational people are unlikely to countenance a nuclear holocaust. At least, as civilized, compassionate and caring people, the life of other fellow humans demands that others are treated much as we might wish to be considered. Scientists could take a dispassionate, seemingly objective and long-term perspective, say on a geological time scale, and say that the human species is bound to become extinct sooner or later like so many species before. It is inevitable, so why worry. The Earth will survive, the human species will not. The same philosophy could be applied equally to all the Earth's fauna and flora. With or without human intervention, various species have reached near-extinction levels. You might think that nobody could be quite so laissez faire about the environ mental impact of human activities. But this is exactly how many human activities and attitudes could be construed. The scant regard often shown for the environment is symptomatic of the prevalent attitude that somebody else can clean up after us. Certainly the selfish side to human nature is part of our genetic make-up but humans have the ability, and many wasted opportunities, to suppress this basic instinct in favor of a more thoughtful attitude to the environment. Actually, such an approach could be rationalized as an ultimately selfish regard for the survival of the species rather than the short-term benefit of the individual at the expense of further environmental degradation. In 1950, the world produced more than 2 million tons of plastic per year. By 2015, this annual production swelled to 419 million tons and exacerbating plastic waste in the environment. The world generates 300 million ton of plastic waste on average each year. A report by science journal, Nature, determined that currently, roughly 14 million tons of plastic make their way into the oceans every year, harming wildlife habitats and the animals that live in them. The research found that if no action is taken, the plastic crisis will grow to

29 million metric tons per year by 2040. If we include microplastics into this, the cumulative amount of plastic in the ocean could reach 600 million tons by 2040. Shockingly, National Geographic found that 91% of all plastic that has ever been made is not recycled, representing not only one of the biggest environmental problems of our lifetime, but another massive market failure.

### **Conclusion.**

To sum up, environmental problems should be handled by local and international authorities as well as individuals. Every single person should take care of the environment, moreover we have to bring up our children to be conscious citizens of a clean and preserved planet.

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