



UNEP: Loss of Biodiversity

I. Background of Topic

Biodiversity is, by definition, the variation on living things in an ecosystem, biome, or a planet. Biodiversity has been threatened since the advent of human empires. Due to rapid human industrialization we are losing biodiversity at an ever growing rate. Therefore we are in theory the next mass extinction. As of right now one out of eight birds, one out of four mammals, one out of four conifers, one out of three amphibians, and six of seven marine turtles are threatened with extinction. Also around 75% of agricultural biodiversity has been lost due to genetic modification and global warming. Furthermore 75% of the world's fisheries are over exploited and one third of reef building coral are threatened with extinction. If the world's average temperature were to rise 3.5°C over 70% of the world's known species would be threatened with extinction. Every single person on this planet is involved just by existing alone. Although the most involved are big companies who don't care about the environment and focus on money. Huge industrial companies continually pollute nature with no serious repercussion. The loss of biodiversity is a huge problem because we are speeding up nature's natural cycle of extinction by being the extinction ourselves. Even if someone doesn't care about nature, they should be concerned that the loss of biodiversity is happening in the human gene pool which in fact lowers our chances of survival as a race against new threats.

II. UN Involvement

The UN gets involved by holding meetings with world leaders, lobbying to businesses, and informing people about how this chronic loss in biodiversity will continually affect the world. The primary committee through which the UN manages this problem is the UNEP or United Nations Environment Program; who works with private parties, subcommittees, and interest groups. Such as UNESCO, FAO, UNDP, and IPBES. The UNEP organizes campaigns to deal with specific issues such as the Billion Tree Campaign and the Climate Neutral Network. They also hold several world leader meetings a year to discuss the endangerment of the environment. The latest meeting was the 2011 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Nairobi, Kenya, October 3rd to October 7th. The next meeting is this 12th of December called the Eye of the Earth in Abu Dhabi, UAE. They discuss expanding all of this environmental data to the world.

III. Possible Solutions

Possible solutions include making a resolution that requires all countries who signed to pass laws limiting things that affect biodiversity negatively. Other options are having a worldwide day to inform the populous about the loss of biodiversity and how it will affect us or having countries pass laws limiting big industry.



IV. Bloc Positions

All Blocs support saving biodiversity. The Africa and Asia Pacific blocs focus on saving vulnerable ecosystems due to climate change. The Latin America and West Asia blocs face difficulties in developing their nations while preserving biodiversity. Lastly the European and North American blocs try to save what biodiversity they have left and expand on it.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How does biodiversity affect the economy?
2. Why is preserving biodiversity important?
3. What has your country done to help prevent the loss of biodiversity?