

ES-Q4-2023

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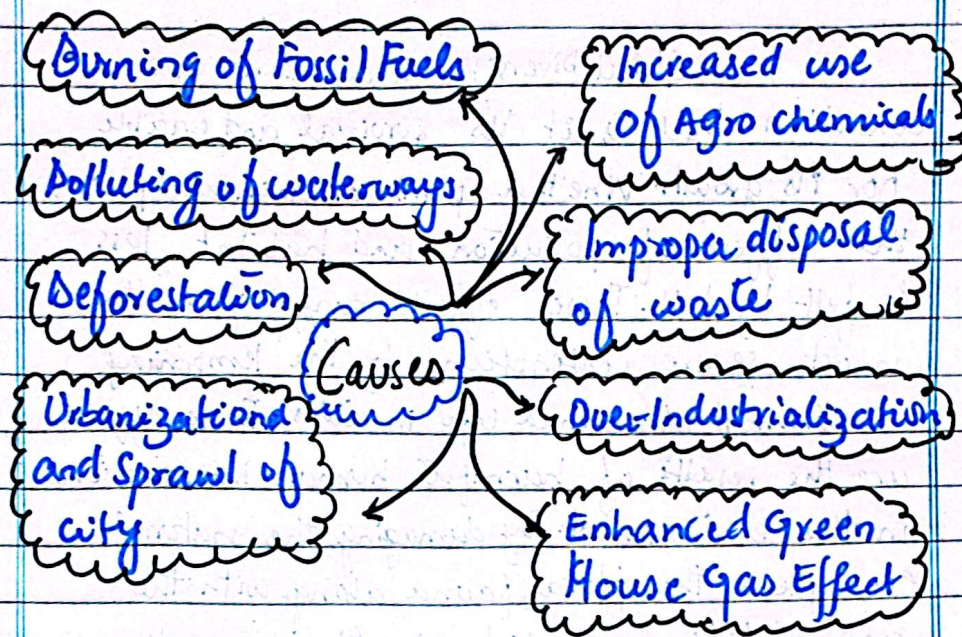
What are the effects of Environmental Pollution and Habitat Loss on Global diversity? Explain in detail

INTRODUCTION

Global Diversity is dependent upon condition that suit its survival and enable for its growth. Whether plant or animal species, the effect of pollution and habitat loss is felt by both. These effects range from the most severe, extinction, to the temporary resettlement of animal life in cities. These effects are the result of harmful human interventions in the environment. By damaging the natural eco-system, the flora, fauna along with the animal life suffer. Urbanization has eaten up the majority of the habitats and resulted in an increase in diversity loss. Combatting this requires reversing our current trends of consumption, development and improving global participation on already established protocols, such as the global convention on Biodiversity or the CBD. These documents show the path forward in order to right the wrongs we (the human race) have

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BRIEF CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND HABITAT LOSS



EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND HABITAT LOSS

Increase in Extinction Rate

The increased intervention in the environment by humans have led to the degradation of

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plant and animal habitats. These habitats were once home to the wild species that considered them as such. The current rate of extinction has been increased to the accelerated loss of habitat.

"The IUCN estimates around 25% of species are under the direct threat of extinction."

(International Union for Conservation of Nature)

This increase in %age is because of rapid human intervention in the natural environment leading to the habitat loss.

Altering of Food Chain and dietary habits of wildlife

Due to the loss of habitat, the food chain has also been disrupted. Prey and predator have both left the natural ecosystem leaving the food chain at the mercy of the elements. Due to increase in temperatures and variation in rainfall patterns, prey have often travelled far leaving their traditional grazing grounds. These grazing grounds were the lifeline of over animals who were dependent

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on the animals. This alteration has forced the predators of some regions to incorporate different animals/species to supplement their diet. Moreover, the loss of forests and waterways to pollution has forced the animals to now trek other pastures in search for shelter and ^{due to pollution} pastures.

Drastic Shift in Global Migratory Patterns

Migratory animals, like birds and wildebeasts and others, have changed their patterns of migrations. Wildebeasts migrating in the Serengeti have had to trek further from their traditional waterholes due to paucity of water in those waterholes. Similarly, migratory birds who make the arduous journey from the North (Hemisphere) i.e. Arctic birds to the Plains of Africa have had to change their plans due to the destruction of their traditional resting sites. Moreover, the temperature cycles have changed the time and duration of those migration cycles. Climate change driven by environmental pollution has led to an increase in temperatures, shortage in rainfall and overall an alteration of animal and plant life cycles.

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Increase in the Spread of Diseases

Diseases, what were once unknown to the animal and plant kingdom, are spreading like wild fire. When humans intervened in the natural cycle of the animal and plant world, not only they carry diseases with themselves but the whole eco-system becomes disease-ridden.

"In the US, the low avian diversity is linked to the spread of west Nile Encephalitis which is aggravated by the increase in biodiversity loss."

(Science Direct - Priti Meena)

Moreover, humans are susceptible to diseases being carried over ^{from} the animal world. The Bubonic plague is still prevalent in parts of China; where they consume wombat meat.

Decrease in Habitable Land for Animal

One of the most obvious downsides of habitat loss coupled with environmental pollution is the paucity of land which animals can call home. The forests that used to surround cities have now all been cleared to make way for the urban sprawl

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The Amazon rainforest loses 1.4 Billion Trees
Each year.

(BBC).

These trees house various plant and animal life,
These acts cause the migration of animals and
death of plants, thus reducing ^{the} already available
space for a home. This often leads to conflicts
over space and resources by animals and humans.

Destruction of water ways and Resources

The intervention of humans in the water ways has
caused irreparable damage to the aquatic life.
Moreover, the structures that humans construct for
harnessing the energy of water, leaves entire eco
systems damaged in its wake; especially when
they fail.

"In 2015, the Mariana Dam Disaster led to inflow
43.7 million cubic meters of mine waste into
the waterways of the Doce River. This led to
the immediate deaths of the aquatic life
downstream and contamination of the
water sources due to the presence of heavy
materials i.e. mining residue."

(United Nations Report
on Mariana Dam Failure)

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Conflict over Scarce Resources by ^{between} Animals and Humans

The growing scarcity of land ^{and} resources has often brought both humans and animals to come into conflict with each other. Human settlers have often encroached onto the hunting and grazing grounds of traditional predators. Predators also make most of their, by attacking the livestock of the settlers, leading to often the killing of these predators.

"In Northern Pakistan, Snow Leopards often attack the settlers live stock due to their encroachment on the Snow Leopards Land. The WWF along with others has started a scheme in order to ~~not~~ compensate livestock owners and not ^{discourage} ~~kill~~ the killing of the endangered animals."

(WWF-Pakistan)

Rise in Environmental Phenomenas

By environmental phenomenas, it is meant as smog, droughts, increase in temperatures and unpredictability in rainfall patterns. These phenomenas are caused by pollution and habitat loss. The felling of trees is a major cause of the rise of smog, temperatures and unpredictable nature of rainfall.

Droughts have increased due to the increase in temperatures. Moreover, the burning of fossil fuels and transportation has led to a thick smog occurring over our cities. All of these are a result of environmental degradation caused by pollution.

CONCLUSION

Environmental pollution and habitat loss has caused a huge blow to global diversity with animal and plant life now at the brink of extinction. As man is encroaching on nature's land, animals are constantly in conflict with the humans. Constantly man and animals are fighting over the resources with the latter often being defeated. All is not lost, as there is still hope, global conventions pave the way for new initiatives. Implementation shall lead to renewed conservation hopes.

Good

You have got potential

Good luck!

Add flowcharts and reports