

There are many ways to control and reduce air pollution and it is not the lack of technology but the unwillingness of the humans to change their attitudes and life styles. Emissions of dust can and should be controlled by filters which remove solid particles before gases are discharged. Low sulphure fuels could be used in order to reduce the sulphure emission from coal-fired power stations. If humans would be less greedy for money and willing to ensure a safe and clean environment for the children of tomorrow, vast improvements could be made that would be beneficial for the whole world.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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*Environmental protection is the main problem facing humanity nowadays. The image of a sick planet has become firmly established in public mind lately. Ten years ago the word "ecology" hardly meant anything for the majority of people. The mankind too slowly approaches to understanding of scales of danger which creates the thoughtless attitude to an environment. Meanwhile the decision, such terrible global problems as ecological, demands urgent vigorous joint efforts of the international organizations, the states, regions, the public.*

With the industrial revolution negative influence on Nature began to increase. Big smoky cities with thousands of people, polluting plants and factories can be found nowadays all over the world. Unfortunately, the idea of thinking about planet and about the consequences of human activity appeared not so long time ago as it could be. Nowadays scientists from the different parts of the world try to solve ecological problems, but it isn't enough to do planet clean.

To solve this problem it is necessary for people to combine efforts, to raise safety standards at all industrial facilities, to adequately process by-products of industry, to set up an international space laboratory to monitor the state of environment and set up an

international center for emergency environmental assistance. All these measures will help in solving these important problems and prevent from dangerous illnesses and diseases.

Nowadays there are many different pressure and groups in many countries, which try to find solutions to the problems of pollution at the national and international level. They are groups of people with a common interest in trying to draw the public attention to environment problems, to influence the government decisions.

## **THE EXTINCTION OF SPECIES**

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Massive extinctions have occurred five times during the earth's history, the last one was the extinction of the dinosaurs, 65 million years ago. Scientists are calling what is occurring now, the sixth mass extinction. A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The main factors that cause species to become endangered are habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution, and overexploitation.

Although they are uncertain of the numbers, most scientists believe the rate of loss is greater now than at any time in the history of the Earth. Within the next 30 years as many as half of the species on the earth could die in one of the fastest mass extinctions in the planet's 4.5 billion years history.

A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened species" is a related term, referring to a species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

Habitat destruction is the single greatest threat to species around the globe. Natural habitat includes the breeding sites, nutrients, physical features, and processes such as periodic flooding or periodic fires that species need to survive. Humans have altered, degraded, and destroyed habitat in many different ways. Logging around the world has destroyed forests that are habitat to many species. This has a great impact in tropical areas, where species diversity is highest.