

ECOLOGICAL SUICIDE OF MANKIND – FIGURES DESTROYING THE PLANET

Nowadays the human being is very powerful. People change the environment to suit their own needs creating farmlands, developing cities, mining or building roads.

Enough to say that every year 10 billion tons of minerals is taken from the bowels of the earth, 3–4 billion tons of plant mass is spent, 10 billion tons of industrial carbonic acid is thrown into the atmosphere, more than 5 billion tons of oil and oil products is spilled over the world ocean [1].

Our planet is home for millions of different kinds of plant and animal species which are linked in different ways.

«All things are connected like the blood which unites the family» – the words by Chief Seattle. We, humans, depend on the complex world of nature. «The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth» – added Chief Seattle [2]. Unfortunately, it may be too late for us to understand it.

What is ecology? Ecology is the science of how living things are related to their environment. The word «ecology» came from the Greek which means «home». «To take care of the planet is to take care of our own house» – the words by The Dalai Lama.

Pollution: air pollution, water pollution, land pollution, soil pollution and radioactive pollution:

1) By 2025 1/3 of the global population will not have access to adequate drinking water;

2) Oceans cover more than 70 % of the Earth's surface. Life began in the oceans. Today, coastal waters have become very polluted, and whales and dolphins are killed in great numbers;

3) Every person produces about 650 tons of garbage during his/her lifetime;

4) 1/3 of an average dump is made out of packing materials;

5) About 150 years ago the air was pure and clean. Today the air is so polluted that it's not always safe to breathe. Many cities around the world have air polluted with «smog». This is so strong in some places that the air which should be beautifully blue, looks disgustingly brown [6].

6) There are approximately 800 official dumps in Ukraine, which take 4 % of the whole territory of Ukraine.

Deforestation:

1) Forests cover 30 % of the Earth's land. They produce oxygen. Protecting all the forests is the key to our survival;

2) 17 trees can absorb a total of 250 pounds of Carbon Dioxide. Burning

those same 17 trees could produce 1500 pounds of Carbon Dioxide;

3) The world has over 9 million square km. of forests. Every year over 100, 000 sq. km. of forests are cleared for different uses, and a lot of forests are so badly damaged that they will hardly be able to recover.

The woodiness of the region makes 13.8 % out of normative 15 %. In comparison the standard of woodiness in Germany is 30 %. In 1814 it was 41 % of woodiness in the territory. We need 18–20 years to renew the forests [7].

The constant headache of the ecologists in Vinnytsia is the Ukrainian-Poland enterprise «Barlinek» where the multilayer parquet is being produced. There are complaints that oaks have been cut for this enterprise in the Vinnytsia region [8; 13].

Vanishing fauna and flora

1) A lot of species – fish, reptiles, insects, birds, mammals – are disappearing fast;

2) It's reported that by 2030 25 % of all animals, birds and insects may be extinct [9];

3) Scientists say that every day 1 species of plant, animal or insect becomes extinct. But in spite of that snowdrops and lillies-in-the-valley are presented to women and girls in Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Poltava and everywhere though they are forbidden not only to sell but to buy, as well.

Global warming:

1) The average world temperature is currently rising in 1 degree every year. This phenomenon is called global warming. As the planet warms up, the water in the oceans is taking up more space and water from glaciers and the polar ice caps is starting to melt. This could cause sea levels to rise and many habitats to disappear under water;

2) Global warming results in more typhoons, hurricanes and storms. The more it rains, the more floods happen. I can't help mentioning this year's winter in Vinnytsia and in Kyiv, when the lowest temperature didn't drop 10° below 0 in daytime and 15° below 0 at night, while the highest temperature rose up to 8–10° above 0 [13].

Climate change:

Three to four billion years ago the sun emitted only 70 % as much power as it does today. If the atmospheric composition had been the same as today, liquid water should not have existed on the Earth.

There is no denying that our environment is constantly changing. We could observe such anomalous phenomena as icing in autumn and early spring; thunderstorm with lightning in December and January; snow in April and even in the beginning of May.

Ecological problems lead to ecological disasters.

Current environmental problems make us vulnerable to tragedies. We are in a state of planetary emergency. Unless we address the various issues, we are surely doomed for disaster.

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