

*Convention of Migratory Species*

*Endangered Species  
due to Unnatural  
Destruction of Habitats*

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## *INTRODUCTION*

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species across their range. Every animal specie depending on their habitat and way of living, face different dangers that may cause their complete extinction. If humans do not stop or low the overuse of the animal's habitats as principal bases for products creation, then the habitats and animals will be in greater danger of extinction. Climate change has started to be one of the most important extincutors for species and it is due to human contamination mainly, that causes that food chains change and this may have an impact in habitats. There is no way to conserve species if the human race keep on changing and destroying habitats and in order changing what animals are used to (for example their food and nutrition).

Population around the world is growing and even if big companies want to reduce their dangerous impact in animal's habitats, it is almost impossible because this companies get to produce their products thanks to resources that this habitats give (examples can be water, trees, cotton plants, coffee, etc.) and every time the population grows, they need to take each time a bigger quantity of this resources and this affects each time more animals and their habitats. The problem here is that if this continues going at this velocity, then even this enormous companies will not have enough resources to create their products, and here is when problems start to come out.

“Every living thing needs somewhere to live, find food and reproduce. This is known as its habitat. In order for a specie to be viable its habitat must have sufficient territory, necessary food and water and a range of necessary physical features. These features can include tree cover, rocky hills or deep pools, as well as the organisms and ecosystems that are needed to complete the life cycle”. (Earth times, 2011) For a certain animal specie to have a quality life, they have special needs that have to be covered so they can keep on reproducing, eating and living. Each specie has different needs that nature has always provided to them, but the human race has been in charge of destroying them and getting to the complete or partial loss of species and habitats.

Habitat loss is when land or water habitats are changed, usually as a result of changing use by humans. Whenever we, humans, take over natural areas for our own

use, we are trespassing on the habitat of another creature and more and more we are doing this at an alarming rate. (Earth times, 2011) Companies just worry about creating products and selling them to receive money back so they can grow, and this is why they ignore habitat destruction, it is not important for them to keep on destroying habitats if they keep on getting money. These companies are hurting habitats where species live and so they are damaging permanently these same species and their food chains.

The CMS works by listing migratory species in danger of extinction and then searching for help in order to protect and take care of these species. They conserve and restore their habitats and try to control aspects that endanger them. However, countries should be open to offering help to the CMS, This could be by giving land space to them or offering economical help to help create these new spaces that could be occupied by animals in need.

The CMS also asks for international cooperation to conclude with regional and global agreements for animal protection. Countries that are in favor of taking care of the environment should think about accepting these agreements that would have different effects on the country's economy. However, these global agreements would change depending on the needs and wants of each country's population.

### *HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM*

The destruction of natural habitats has been a constant problem throughout history. Habitats have existed long before human race appeared on the planet, yet it was easy for humans to take advantage of these habitats without taking into consideration the impact on those who lived in these habitats.(Habitat Destruction, n.d.) As the years went by, humans started to find out ways of living with more facilities and how to work less; but obviously these facilities required more resources than the ones that were used before, so humans started to use them more and more. They could not preview how next generations would not have said resources. (Humans driving extinction, 2010).

Laws have been enforced since the late 1940s on protecting wildlife. Movements began with *The Water Pollution Act* in 1948 that became the *Clean Water Act* in 1972. Although these laws were created to protect wildlife, they have gone unnoticed because

of the difficulty to enforce them and many industries are continuously taking part in these destructive acts. (Facts About the , 2016).

Throughout time, many people and organizations have tried to find a way to protect animals from extinction. An example may be the *Endangered Species Act of 1973* which was created in order to protect animals and plants that were in danger of becoming extinct. It increased protection for all plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered, as well as their critical habitats. (Facts About the , 2016).

Much of the habitat loss from agriculture was done long ago when settlers converted forests and plain lands into farmland. The conversion of lands that once provided wildlife habitat now are used for human development. Years before, the use of pollutants such as untreated sewage, mining waste, acid rain, fertilizers and pesticides was not as common as it is now, therefore nor human food or animal habitats were contaminated or destroyed. (Habitat loss, 2000).

Development can endanger species and their habitats directly and indirectly. The clearance (to remove all trees and vegetation from a piece of land) in different type of habitats causes species to be endangered. These species can be the “presas” or predator of another type of species causing it to also be endangered and so with other species affecting the whole food chain. (Endangered Species, n.d.).

The planet was a better and safer place for animals and species to live and reproduce, there were no dangers such as pollutants or human developing, and there were no harmful activities done by humankind. (Habitat Destruction, n.d.) .

Humans destroying natural habitats and living on them causes the interaction between animals and humans to be larger than it is supposed to be, meaning that humans keep invading their habitats. For example, wild animals have no place to go, due to humans taking their habitats, so they go where their habitat used to be that now is a developed city. These animals are simply trying to survive but interaction with humans can be deadly for them. (Humans driving extinction, 2010)

### *CURRENT SITUATION*

Scientists came to the conclusion that the extinction of animals is inevitable throughout the years. The problem is that humans are causing the extinctions and that they are happening faster than they should. Before the extinction of species, warnings

come before measuring the seriousness of it, threatened, and endangered, in that order. (Endangered Species, n.d.)

The number of endangered species increases as the time passes by. According to the World Wildlife Fund there are more than 40 endangered species. This list includes well known species, such as the orangutan and the blue whale, as not common ones, for example the saola and the hawksbill turtle. (Species List, n.d)

Organizations around the world have the main goal to help preserve species and habitats mainly in danger from around the world or in specific areas. WWF is a global organization that not only works in damaged zones from different countries, but with the people living on them. One of their main goals is to “educate and influence people into making sustainable choices and decisions”, including those who work directly with natural resources and also the ones who work on the politics and government that impacts nature. (World Wildlife Fund, n.d.)

According to an analysis of data from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, “habitat loss is the number-one threat to biodiversity worldwide”.(IUCN, n.d.) Most habitat is lost through land clearing for agriculture and urban development. Therefore if we turn to political arguments, it may be hard to legislate because space is currently used for development of the countries and their needs. There are plenty of unnatural causes and reasons why destruction of habitats happen, these are:

**Man-made causes** of habitat destruction include construction of both previously undeveloped areas as well as new construction of developed areas. Deforestation for construction can have a huge impact on many different animal species. A wetland area may be filled in to build a structure or road. A field may be removed to make the area more comfortable for human use, or to purposely discourage the presence of wildlife from a developed area.

**Agriculture** is another man-made cause of habitat destruction. Again, land cut clear of trees or natural grassland removed to provide farmland can destroy the habitat of mammals, insects, and birds. Efforts to flood farmland and provide water for farm animals can impact their habitat, either by taking water from an area, or adding water to an area that was previously dry.

**Global warming** is a process that human activity has contributed to. Burning fossil fuels and deforestation have both contributed to increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The increased carbon dioxide keeps solar heat in the atmosphere. Global warming is an important cause of habitat destruction. For example, it is destroying polar bears as the sea ice on the Arctic Ocean is melting. The sea ice platforms are disappearing, making it more difficult for the polar bears to swim from shore to ice. This interferes with their ability to successfully hunt seals. Polar bears are likely just the tip of the iceberg in regard to the species that will be affected by global warming.

**Fire** can fall under man-made or natural causes of habitat destruction. Human error can result in forest fires. Lightning strikes can also result in serious fires. Either way, the end result can be devastating to species that live in grasslands or forests that are damaged by fire.

### *UN ACTIONS*

According to the UN “the destruction of natural habitats is diminishing the natural economy” of countries around the world. Since thousands of years ago, the Earth was the main source of resources to produce better economy, but now that the destruction of habitats is growing, we are putting in danger millions of species that are part of the habitats that give us these resources. (Biodiversity loss is, 2010).

In August 2010, “the secretariat of a United Nations-backed conservation convention announced the launch of a new web-based interactive tool that enables users to view trade data about wildlife and plants that was submitted by the 175 State parties to the international agreement.” This new interactive web will help to stop destruction of habitats because it will stop trade in wildlife and plants which is an important part of the destruction of habitats. “It is essential that we do everything in our power to protect the tiny numbers of this new species.” said Erik Solheim, the head of Un Environment. (Economic development threatens, 2017).

GRASP (Great Apes Survival Partnership) is a United Nations initiative committed to ensuring the long-term survival of chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, and orangutans and their habitats in Africa and Asia. This initiative engages governments, communities, national and private landowners, and important decision makers to promote responsible land-use management that protects and expands great ape

habitat. “It seeks to strengthen protected areas, encourage the development of corridors and connectivity, and raise the capacity of indigenous and local communities in natural resource management.” (Economic development threatens, 2017).

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly made the first resolution regarding wildlife trafficking. This first-ever resolution requests countries to fight illegal trade of wildlife products “through the action on both supply and demand sides”. This prevention includes criminal justice responses (The United Nations, 2017). Initiated in 2006, World Migratory Bird Day is an annual awareness raising day highlighting the need for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The United Nations Decade for Biodiversity seeks to contribute to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, which includes safeguarding endangered species.(The United Nations, 2017).

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) calls upon different states essential for migratory animals “and provides legal framework for internationally coordinated conservation measures, including protection of habitat and regulating trade.” (Convention on the Conservation, 2018).

CITES (United Nation Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement among governments to ensure that the international commercial trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. (Protecting animals with, 2018).

The United Nations has tried to implement safety measures with animals and with their commercial trade in a way that they are not affected because one thing leads to another and if animals start dying, men start destroying more their habitats so they can find more animals, and little by little these habitats will end up all destroyed and they will affect even more human beings around the world. (The United Nations, 2017).

### *POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS*

In order for the unnatural destruction of habitats to stop happening, there should exist solutions that involve countries from all around the world.

For example, to:

#### **1-Raise awareness through campaigns, specially applied in schools**

Make teachers from schools around the world enter a special course that makes them acquire knowledge about unnatural destruction of habitats and the effects of this all

around the world. After this course, make them apply the previous acquired knowledge in their respective schools with the goal of creating an interest of this topic in the students. The courses would be paid by the government of each country. If a country fails to achieve the requirements for the courses then economical consequences will be applied.

## **2-Create a non-governmental organization to preserve habitats**

Make a NGO where the countries polluting or destroying a certain amount of habitat pay a corresponding fine which is then going to be used to repair the damage caused in the habitat and the animals affected by the destruction of it.

## **3-Reproduction of animals**

Each country should build a minimum of one animal reproduction and veterinary center, depending on which animals are the most common in that country, help them reproduce and provide aid to adapt newborn animals to grow and when they are strong enough, leave them free in a safe place.

## **4-Limit natural spaces for big companies and businesses**

Big companies and businesses will have a limited space of land for their development and from where they can take resources. They will not be able to exceed the limits and if they do, they will have to pay an expensive fine or even their companies can be closed.

## **5-Create advertisement**

Create advertisement worldwide showing how certain companies are dangerous for habitats and the animals that live in them and convince people to buy products that are eco-friendly so they stop damaging ecosystems, habitats and animals.

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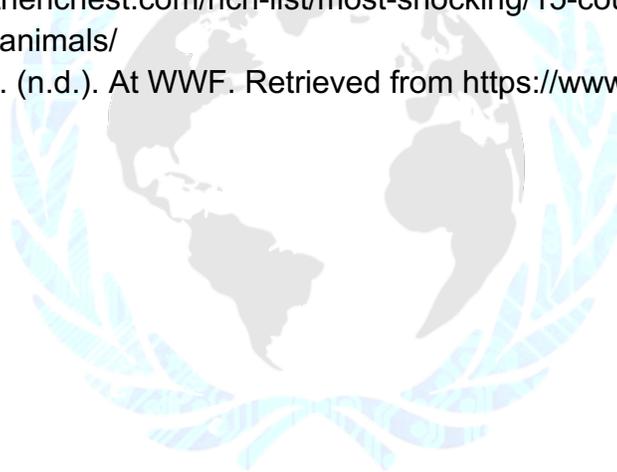
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