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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND GUIDE



UNEP

Foundations of UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme was created in response to growing global concern over environmental degradation during the late twentieth century. Following the landmark 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, UNEP was established to ensure that environmental protection became a permanent priority within the United Nations framework. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP stands as the UN's central platform for environmental action, bridging science, policy, and international cooperation.

Global Mission

UNEP functions as the United Nations' leading environmental authority, guiding nations toward sustainable development. Its mission centers on strengthening environmental governance, advancing scientific knowledge, and promoting practical solutions to worldwide challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and ecosystem degradation. Through its work, UNEP seeks to harmonize economic growth with environmental responsibility.

Key Areas of Work

UNEP's activities are organized around several strategic priorities:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems
- Reduction of pollution and waste
- Promotion of sustainable and circular economies
- Support for environmental policy and international law

These areas reflect UNEP's comprehensive approach to safeguarding the planet.

International Leadership and Cooperation

By facilitating multilateral environmental agreements and producing influential scientific assessments, UNEP plays a vital role in shaping global environmental policy. The organization works closely with governments, research institutions, and civil society to help countries meet environmental targets and implement sustainable practices. UNEP's efforts emphasize that effective environmental action requires coordinated international commitment.



Issue 1: Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade while Ensuring their Welfare and Environmental Security

Illegal wildlife trade threatens biodiversity, pushes species toward extinction, and harms animals through inhumane conditions. It also weakens ecosystems and fuels crime. UNEP works with governments to strengthen laws, improve enforcement, and raise awareness. Global cooperation is key to protecting species, ensuring animal welfare, and safeguarding the environment.

Issue 2: Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth in Developing Countries

Developing countries often face the challenge of growing their economies while protecting the environment. Unsustainable practices, such as deforestation, overfishing, and pollution, can harm ecosystems and reduce long-term economic opportunities.

UNEP supports these countries by promoting green technologies, sustainable resource management, and policies that balance economic development with environmental protection. International cooperation is essential to achieve growth that benefits both people and the planet.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can countries work together to stop illegal wildlife trade across borders?
- What role should technology and data monitoring play in tracking and preventing wildlife trafficking?
- How can public awareness campaigns help reduce demand for illegal wildlife products?
- How can developing countries encourage economic growth while protecting natural resources?
- What incentives or support can the international community provide to promote green technologies?



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MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

- Should international trade bans on endangered species be stricter?
- How can developing countries attract investment without harming the environment?
- How can governments ensure animal welfare while enforcing anti-poaching laws?

UNMODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

- Design projects that promote renewable energy and sustainable jobs.
- How can local communities be empowered to protect endangered species while earning sustainable livelihoods?

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Good luck delegates !!!

