

Committee: General Assembly

Topic: Ensuring the help of ocean cleaning.

Chair: Maria Jose Ramos Herrera

Moderator: Gabriela García Ordoñez



I. Committee

The General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations (UN) where different countries discuss and work together for solving international issues covered by the UN Charter. It is also one of the six main organs of the United Nations, and the only committee in which all Member States have equal representation: “one nation, one vote”.

The General Assembly was established in 1945 by the United Nations. It is composed of 193 members, whose duty is to provide a formal discussion for international issues. Each member of the General Assembly has one vote, which is used to approve and establish different types of solutions. The member of GA makes decisions on important questions in topics related to peace and security. Admission of new members and budgetary matters requires two-thirds of the members being in favor of the solution so it can pass. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.

GA discusses international issues covered by the UN Charter, such as the development of third world countries, peace among nations, creating international laws and security for all the citizens of the world, among other issues. The GA has also initiated political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal actions. The United Nations also implements human rights and fundamental freedoms.

II. Statement of the problem

Many zones around the world are being exploited for human needs. Forests are being destroyed in order to use wood for construction, convert them into fields to sow, and many other necessities. Zones that are threatened of losing natural systems, are now being bought in order to protect them so that no one can manipulate them. For years, organizations have made protection efforts to ensure preservation. Right now the conservation of the patrimonial or protected zones is a primary topic.

III. The Problem

Today, more than 12% of the earth's surface is protected. Protected zones provide us with environmental, social and economic benefits. These zones consist of large areas of territory that contain natural resources, animal species, and flora. Protected zones are a proven instrument to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and landscapes to climate change.

Protected areas are the main means of survival for countless species. The Amazonia, the Great Barrier Reef, oceans, and others, benefit from protection, but they have been severely endangered recently. The most important hazards include pollution, exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and wildfires. There are still areas that are not well protected, meaning that even though they are under the government's care when a problem arises there are no protocols or sufficient action in place, and that's something we need to change.

The world's biodiversity is estimated to be experiencing rates of extinction at least 1000 times higher than at any previous time in Earth's history. In the last couple of months, we have seen how many of these areas have been suffering damage; hectares have been lost in the Amazonas, the Barrier Reef is losing its biodiversity, and many forests have lost vegetation in large quantities. Protected zones cover 44% of the Brazilian Amazonia. During these past years, studies have proven that the Amazonia has been suffering from low management from the government. During the recent wildfires, the Brazilian government rejected help from European countries.

Many organizations are now working day by day to come up with solutions in order to minimize the loss of these areas. Governments are now taking action by forbidding the use of plastic and are promoting the use of biodegradable materials. People all around the world are contributing to these actions, in order to help to reduce pollution and exploitation, which are the main causes of the damage of the protected zones.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an organization that works in the field of nature preservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. It has created guidelines that reflect new developments for the conservation of protected areas. These developments are mainly focused on protecting biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem's functioning. These guidelines contain legal frameworks that have a range of objectives, not only to preserve natural areas, but also to indigenous people's lands, and local communities.

IV. Conclusion

Protected zones cover most of the Earth's territory. They have been the primary resource

for us for many years and they have provided us with many products that satisfy our daily needs. These zones are also the home of many animal species, plants, and different communities. For many years humans have been abusing these areas, and that has caused a lot of problems that have had an impact on everyone. Without these zones, we wouldn't have the life we have right now since we depend on them. Also, these zones help a lot of countries in an economic way, because of all the products they provide us with.

People are now aware of the damage that has been caused by humans, and there have been a lot of organizations created in order to reduce the damage, protect and conserve the best way possible in all of these areas. These organizations fight for the rights of these zones and come with new solutions to implement. The sooner we act, the better it will be for future generations. Creating awareness all around the world can make a difference in each one of us because this is our home.

V. Viable Solutions

We must create solutions and establish them in as permanent laws. We can create organizations with people that would like to volunteer to create laws to protect and conserve all the protected zones around the world. Governments can take into consideration all of these organizations, and from them, create new legislations that provide the security of all the zones. These legislations will all the plans created by the people, and consequences for those that don't

respect these laws, and each consequence will be different depending on the range of the damage that any person can create. Also, these organizations can improve guidelines that have been already created, in order to have a better result at the end. If countries follow the guidelines, there can be a notable change. Also, we can create campaigns to spread the word and create awareness, educate people on global issues, and show them the importance of protected zones.

VI. Useful Website Sources

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_area
- <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/eplp-081.pdf>
- https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/oceans/solutions/protection/protected_areas/
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/protected_zones_en
- <https://nawpacommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NAWPA-CCWG-Brochure.pdf>
- <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/resources/best-practice-guidelines>

VII. References

United Nations (n.d.). *General Assembly of the United Nations* - un.org. Retrieved September 8, 2019, from <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/>

Rakesh Shukla. (2018, August 28). *The Importance of Protected areas*. Retrieved September 11, 2019, from <https://frontline.thehindu.com/environment/the-importance-of-protected->

areas/article8113950.ece

Rhett Butler. (2011, April 21). *Protected areas cover 44% of the Brazilian Amazon*. Retrieved September 12, 2019, from

<https://news.mongabay.com/2011/04/protected-areas-cover-44-of-the-brazilian-amazon/>

Sinéad Baker. (2019, August 27). *Brazil has angrily attacked offers to help it put out the huge fires in the Amazon — here's why it is pushing back against global outrage*. Retrieved August 14, 2019, from

<https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-rainforest-fires-why-brazil-pushing-back-outrage-2019-8>

Barbara Lausche. (n.d). *Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation*. Retrieved August 14, 2019, from

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/eplp-081.pdf>

Stephen Leahy. (2019, April 19) *Half of all land must be kept in a natural state to protect Earth*. Retrieved August 14, 2019, from

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/science-study-outlines-30-percent-conservation-2030/>

