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# EC(H)O VOICE

Revistă de dialog cultural  
a elevilor, realizată în  
cadrul Acordării Erasmus  
+ Domeniul educație  
școlară



Colegiul Național  
"Garabet Ibrăileanu"

*Jasi, România*

Anul II, nr. 1  
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## **Echipa de redacție-elevi**

**Elevi mobilități de grup an Acreditare 2  
și elevi din clasele IX A, IX D, X A**





# Content



# C.N.G.I. ERASMUS+ NEWSLETTER

NOU

Disce visum, disce volatum!

EDIȚIA 1

NUMĂRUL 1

În acest număr:

ACREDITAREA  
ERASMUS +  
DOMENIUL EDUCAȚIE  
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## DESPRE...

Colegiul Național "Garabet Ibrăileanu" Iași a obținut Acreditarea Erasmus în urma selecției de proiecte depuse la termenul 19.10.2022, acesta fiind rezultatul eforturilor unei echipe puternice.

\*Acreditarea Erasmus reprezintă instrumentul prin care organizațiile și instituțiile pot participa într-un mod continuu în cadrul programului Erasmus+ 2021-2027, oferindu-le anual acces simplificat la finanțare în cadrul Acțiunii-cheie 1, proiecte de mobilitate.

## OBIECTIVE

1. Dezvoltarea competențelor digitale, de literație textuală, științifică și media a 60 de elevi de ciclu liceal, clasele 9-12, prin mobilități de-a lungul a doi ani.

2. Dezvoltarea capacității profesionale a 20 de cadre didactice prin cursuri pentru a aborda principiile SDG în procesul de predare-învățare-evaluare





# Dezvoltarea competențelor digitale și a literației în cadrul programului Erasmus+

Profesor, Vasile-Cezar Hărățu, prof Constantiniu Iuliana, Colegiul Național „G. Ibrăileanu” – Iași

În era digitală, educația se transformă rapid, iar Uniunea Europeană joacă un rol cheie în acest proces prin proiecte finanțate care promovează tehnologia în învățare. Programe precum *Erasmus+* sau *Digital Education Action Plan* facilitează accesul la resurse educaționale moderne, reducând decalajele dintre țări. Prin investiții în platforme online, formarea cadrelor didactice și infrastructură digitală, UE contribuie la crearea unui sistem educațional mai incluziv și adaptat viitorului.

## Proiecte europene pentru infrastructură digitală

Unul dintre principalele obiective ale UE este conectarea școlilor la internet de mare viteză și echiparea lor cu tehnologie modernă. Proiectul *SELFIE* (*Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering Innovation through Educational technology*) ajută instituțiile să evalueze nivelul de digitalizare și să își îmbunătățească strategiile. Finanțarea oferită prin *Politica de Coeziune* permite țărilor membre să achiziționeze tablete, calculatoare și table interactive, asigurând egalitate de șanse pentru toți elevii.

## Formarea profesorilor în domeniul digital

Digitalizarea educației nu înseamnă doar hardware, ci și pregătirea cadrelor didactice. Prin *Erasmus+*, mii de profesori participă la cursuri de e-learning și workshopuri despre metode interactive (realitate virtuală, AI în educație). De exemplu, proiectele *eTwinning* conectează profesori din diferite țări, permițând schimbul de resurse și metode de predare digitale.

## Resurse educaționale deschise (OER) și platforme UE

UE încurajează utilizarea resurselor educaționale gratuite prin platforme precum *School Education Gateway* sau *European Schoolnet*. Acestea oferă lecții interactive, cursuri online și instrumente de evaluare digitală. Proiectul *Europass* modernizează CV-urile și certificatele, integrând competențe digitale recunoscute în toată Europa.

În era dominată de informații digitale și fake news, literația media și textuală a devenit o competență esențială pentru cetățeni, elevii și profesioniștii viitorului. Uniunea Europeană recunoaște această nevoie și finanțează proiecte care dezvoltă abilități critice de analiză a textelor și a surselor media. Prin programe precum *Erasmus+*, *Digital Education Action Plan* și *Creative Europe*, UE susține inițiative care îmbunătățesc înțelegerea mesajelor media, combat dezinformarea și promovează comunicarea eficientă.

## Combaterea dezinformării și promovarea gândirii critice

Una dintre prioritățile UE este lupta împotriva fake news-ului, care poate afecta procesele democratice și încrederea în instituții. Proiectul *SOMA* (*Social Observatory for Disinformation and Social Media Analysis*) oferă instrumente pentru verificarea știrilor și educarea publicului.

*Digital Resistance* (parte din programul CERV – *Cetățeni, Egalitate, Drepturi și Valori*) învață tinerii să identifice manipularea online. Proiectul *eTwinning* include module despre media literacy, unde elevii analizează articole și postări pe rețelele sociale.

### *Integrarea literației textuale în educație*

Proiectele europene pun accent pe dezvoltarea abilităților de lectură și scriere, esențiale pentru participarea civică și ocuparea forței de muncă. PIAAC (*Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies*)\* măsoară nivelul de alfabetizare al adulților și identifică nevoile de formare. *Erasmus+ Key Action 2* finanțează parteneriate între școli pentru crearea de materiale didactice interactive care îmbunătățesc înțelegerea textelor, iar Europass a introdus secțiuni dedicate competențelor de comunicare, evidențiind importanța clarității în scris.

### *Susținerea creației și a jurnalismului de calitate*

UE investește în conținuturi media credibile și în educarea producătorilor de informații: *Creative Europe* sprijină proiecte de jurnalism investigativ și formarea reporterilor. *NewsGuard* (partener UE) evaluează sursele de știri după criterii de transparență și acuratețe. *Media Literacy for All* (inițiativă a Comisiei Europene) oferă resurse gratuite pentru profesori și părinți.



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Colegiul Național "Garabet Ibrăileanu" Iași a obținut Accreditarea Erasmus în urma selecției de proiecte depuse la termenul 19.10.2022. Accreditarea Erasmus reprezintă instrumentul prin care organizațiile și instituțiile pot participa într-un mod continuu în cadrul programului Erasmus+ 2021-2027, oferindu-le anual acces simplificat la finanțare în cadrul

Acțiunii-cheie 1, proiecte de mobilitate. Obiectivele Acreditării sunt dezvoltarea competențelor digitale, de literație textuală, științifică și media a 60 de elevi de ciclu liceal, clasele 9-12, prin mobilități de-a lungul a doi ani și dezvoltarea capacității profesionale a 20 de cadre didactice prin cursuri pentru a aborda principiile SDG în procesul de predare-învățare-evaluare.

În primul an, mobilitățile pentru elevi s-au desfășurat la Liceul Privat Platon din localitatea Paralia Katerini, Grecia în perioada 21 - 26 aprilie 2024, ambele fluxuri: flux 1-competențe digitale, flux 2-literație media și științifică. Locația a fost modificată în funcție de disponibilitatea școlii gazdă. Mobilitățile pentru profesori au fost programate în funcție de disponibilitatea furnizorilor de formare, respectând criteriile de calitate impuse de Programul Erasmus+. Cursurile au fost alese împreună cu participanții la fluxul respectiv, de pe platforma dedicată, după principiul relevanței în raport cu obiectivele Acreditării.



Aceleași obiective au fost atinse în anul al doilea al Acreditării, prin două fluxuri cu elevi ( 19 elevi Cipru și Turcia și un curs pentru cadre didactice în Spania. )De asemenea, Colegiul Național "G. Ibrăileanu" a fost gazda unei mobilități de grup a elevilor din școala parteneră din Cipru, oferind elevilor activități la tema proiectului.



Liceul Arhiepiscop Makarios III, Nicosia, Cipru a fost invitat oficial să participe în cadrul programului Erasmus+, proiectul 024-1-RO01-KA121-SCH-000207068, la un schimb de elevi în Iași, în perioada 1-6 aprilie 2025. Grupul a

fost format din 15 elevi, însoțiți de 3 profesori de la liceul menționat. În timpul șederii lor, elevii s-au angajat în diverse activități (detaliate într-un learning agreement). Dintre activități, reținem un workshop -"How to make a media product" și un concurs de produse media- foi volante. Grupul de lucru a implicat și 15 elevi de clasa a noua de la colegiul gazdă.



Proiectele europene ale școlii noastre aduc educația în secolul

## GREEN HORIZON

Number 1, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

● cheese ●

### Protecting Marine Ecosystems in the Face of Human Impact

*Millions of Lives at Risk*

The ocean is often called the lifeblood of our planet, covering over 70% of Earth's surface. Its vastness and depth make it one of the most crucial components of the global ecosystem.



investițiile în educație digitală vor fi cruciale pentru pregătirea unei generații capabile să navigheze într-o lume tot mai tehnologizată.

XXI, asigurând conectivitate, resurse inovatoare și formare pentru profesori. Prin programe precum Erasmus+ și Digital Education Action Plan, UE nu doar sprijină digitalizarea, ci și reduce inegalitățile între statele membre. În viitor,



# CAR POLLUTION

Car pollution has become a significant environmental and public health issue, affecting both air quality and human well-being. The increasing number of vehicles on the road, along with congested traffic, has led to harmful emissions of gases and particulate matter. These emissions, including nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, and particulate matter, not only degrade air quality but also pose serious health risks such as respiratory and heart problems, as well as increasing the likelihood of developing diseases like cancer. Moreover, car pollution is particularly detrimental to those living near busy roads, who are exposed to higher levels of air contamination.

The rise in car pollution has been driven by rapid urbanization, population growth, and the expansion of road networks, all of which contribute to higher traffic volumes. As a result, cities and urban areas are experiencing increasingly poor air quality, climate change, and noise pollution, making it a pressing public health concern. The use of motor vehicles in daily life, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, releases greenhouse gases that accumulate in the Earth's atmosphere, leading to global warming, extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and habitat destruction.



**Car pollution, driven by increasing traffic, degrades air quality and harms health, causing respiratory, heart issues, and cancer. Emissions contribute to climate change, global warming, and environmental damage. Reducing car pollution is essential for public health and environmental preservation.**

In addition to its health effects, car pollution has a broader impact on the environment, with pollutants like nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide contributing to acid rain, soil degradation, and water contamination. Furthermore, the particulate matter released by vehicles can be inhaled by humans and animals, causing both short-term and long-term health issues. With the growing prevalence of vehicle use, reducing car pollution is crucial for improving the quality of life and ensuring a healthier future for both people and the planet.







## UNVEILING THE BEAUTY OF DOLPHINS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

### The Graceful Guardians of the Sea

Dolphins are among the most intelligent and social marine mammals, playing a crucial role in the Mediterranean ecosystem. These amazing creatures captivate us with their playful nature and impressive communication skills.

#### Species Found in the Mediterranean:

- Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) – The most well-known species, often seen near the coast.
- Striped Dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) – Recognized by its distinctive stripes, commonly found in deeper waters.
- Short-Beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) – Once abundant, now facing population decline.
- Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) – Easily identified by its scarred body, often seen in deeper waters.

#### Dolphin Behavior and Communication:

- Dolphins use echolocation to navigate and hunt for food.
- They communicate through whistles, clicks, and body movements.
- These marine mammals are highly social, often living in pods of 10 to 50 individuals.

#### Threats to Mediterranean Dolphins:

- Pollution – Plastic waste and chemical contaminants harm their habitat.
- Overfishing – Reduces their primary food sources, such as fish and squid.
- Climate Change – Alters water temperatures and disrupts marine life balance.
- Boat Traffic & Noise Pollution – Interferes with their communication and navigation.

#### How Can We Help?

- Reduce plastic use and properly dispose of waste.
- Support marine conservation efforts and sustainable fishing practices.
- Respect marine life while boating and avoid disturbing dolphin habitats.

Let's protect these magnificent creatures for future generations



# ECOLOGICAL INDUSTRY – A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Ecological industry is a growing sector focused on sustainability, aiming to reduce the environmental impact of traditional industrial practices. As concerns about climate change, pollution, and resource depletion intensify, ecological industries offer solutions that balance economic growth with environmental preservation. These industries prioritize renewable resources, waste reduction, and energy efficiency, creating a more sustainable future.

The importance of ecological industries lies in their ability to address urgent environmental challenges. Traditional industries have caused significant environmental harm, but ecological industries aim to reverse this by adopting green technologies and practices. By using renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, ecological industries reduce dependence on fossil fuels, mitigating climate change. Moreover, these industries often lower operational costs through energy efficiency, creating economic resilience and new job opportunities.

Key sectors of ecological industry include:

**Renewable Energy:** Solar, wind, and hydropower provide clean energy alternatives, reducing carbon emissions and fostering long-term sustainability.

**Sustainable Agriculture:** This sector promotes organic farming and agroforestry, reducing chemical use and soil degradation, while maintaining biodiversity.

**Green Construction:** Eco-friendly building methods reduce energy consumption and minimize waste, creating sustainable urban environments.

In conclusion, ecological industries are essential for mitigating environmental damage and ensuring long-term sustainability. By embracing renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green technologies, these industries are reshaping the future of both the economy and the planet.





ABOUT

# ECOLOGY AND OCEANS

The ocean is often called the lifeblood of our planet, covering over 70% of Earth's surface. Its vastness and depth make it one of the most crucial components of the global ecosystem, providing food, regulating climate, and maintaining biodiversity. However, the delicate balance of marine ecosystems is increasingly threatened by human activity, making it essential to understand the complex relationship between ecology and the oceans.

Marine ecosystems are incredibly diverse, ranging from the shallow coastal regions to the deep ocean floors. Coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds support a wide range of life, including fish, crustaceans, marine mammals, and countless microorganisms. These ecosystems provide vital services such as carbon sequestration, which helps mitigate climate change, and they are also a source of livelihoods for millions of people worldwide. For instance, fishing industries depend on healthy oceans, while coastal areas rely on the protective nature of mangroves and coral reefs to prevent erosion and flooding.

However, these ecosystems face unprecedented challenges. One of the most pressing concerns is pollution, particularly plastic waste. An estimated eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year, with disastrous effects on marine life. Sea turtles, whales, and seabirds mistake plastic for food, leading to injury or death. Additionally, microplastics, which are tiny fragments of plastic, accumulate in the food chain, affecting organisms ranging from plankton to larger marine species and even humans who consume seafood.





ABOUT

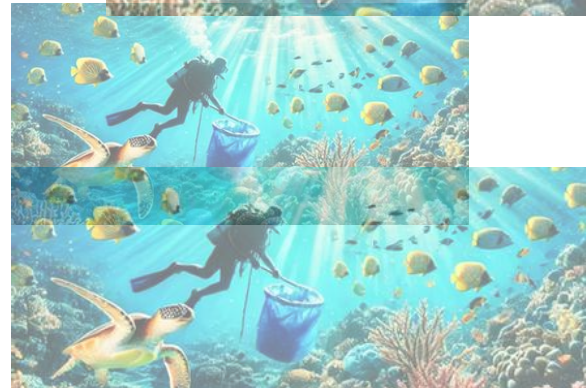
# ECOLOGY AND OCEANS

Another significant issue is the rise in ocean temperatures, driven by global warming. As the atmosphere warms, so do the oceans, resulting in coral bleaching and the disruption of marine species' habitats. The Great Barrier Reef, for example, has experienced severe coral bleaching events in recent decades, with significant portions of the reef dying off. As the temperature of the ocean increases, many species are forced to migrate or face extinction, disrupting the delicate balance of marine ecosystems.

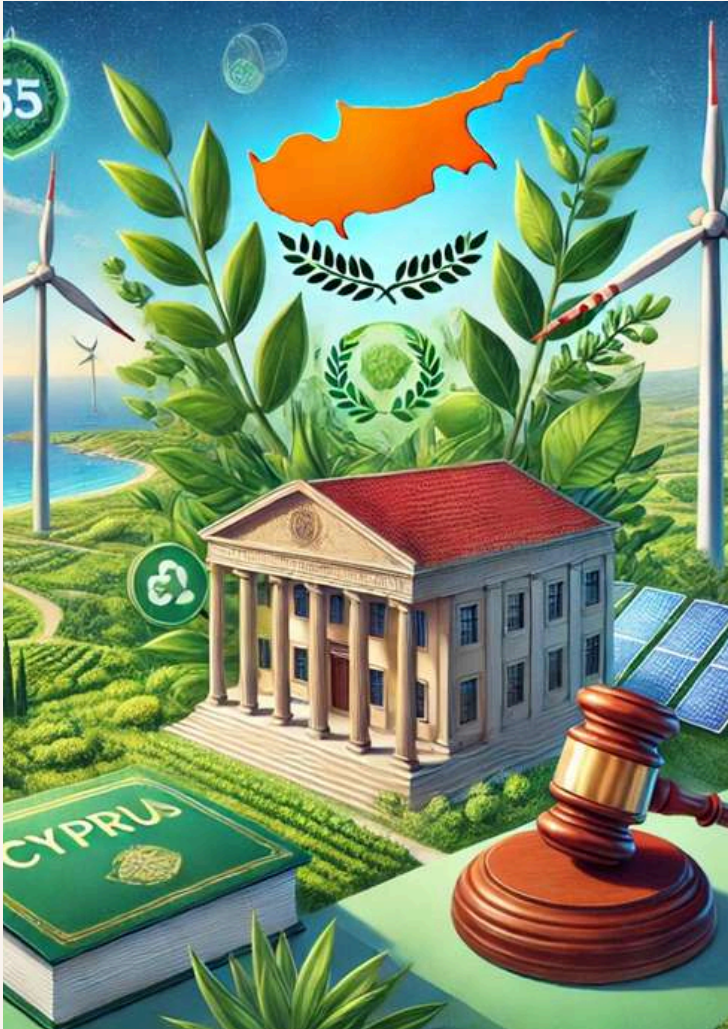
Overfishing also contributes to the depletion of marine species and threatens the sustainability of fisheries. The practice of fishing beyond sustainable limits leads to the decline of fish populations, reducing biodiversity and impairing the ability of ecosystems to recover. Furthermore, destructive fishing techniques such as trawling damage the ocean floor, disrupting habitats and affecting the entire food web.

Despite these threats, there is hope. Numerous conservation efforts aim to protect and restore marine ecosystems. Marine protected areas (MPAs), for instance, are designated regions where human activity is limited to preserve biodiversity. The establishment of MPAs has been shown to enhance fish populations and improve the resilience of coral reefs. Additionally, global agreements such as the Paris Agreement and various national policies are pushing for reductions in carbon emissions, which may slow the rate of ocean warming.

In conclusion, the ocean plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining the balance of the Earth's ecosystems. It provides essential resources, regulates the climate, and supports an array of life forms. However, the increasing threats of pollution, climate change, and overfishing demand urgent action to safeguard the future of marine ecosystems. It is crucial that we prioritize sustainability, reduce our ecological footprint, and support conservation efforts to protect the health of our oceans for future generations.



# Ecological laws in Cyprus



**Cyprus adopts strict environmental measures, aligning with EU directives. Waste management, emission reduction, and biodiversity protection are key priorities for a sustainable future and the fight against climate change.**

## Biodiversity Conservation

The Cypriot government has implemented legislation to protect natural habitats, species, and ecosystems. Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental evaluations play a crucial role in ensuring that development projects do not negatively affect biodiversity.

## Forestry Policy

Cyprus has a well-defined forestry policy focused on sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. This includes measures for forest rehabilitation, reforestation, and the protection of endemic and endangered tree species. The goal is to balance economic, social, and environmental aspects of forestry practices.





# EUROPEAN LAWS THAT PROTECT THE NATURE

#MYVOICE

The European Union (EU) plays a vital role in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, with a complex and diversified legislative framework aimed at reducing the impact of economic activities on nature. In recent years, the EU has adopted a series of laws and regulations to protect natural resources, conserve ecosystems, and promote ecological behavior among citizens and companies. These measures are crucial for combating climate change and maintaining a balance between economic development and environmental protection.

One of the most important legislative acts in this regard is the Natura 2000 legislative package, which includes the "Habitats" Directive and the "Birds" Directive. These directives aim to protect Europe's most valuable natural habitats and species of wildlife. Natura 2000 is the European network of ecological protection areas, covering approximately 18% of the European Union's land area and 6% of its waters.

In addition to these directives, EU regulations on greenhouse gas emissions represent another key pillar of European environmental legislation. The European Union, under the Paris Agreement, has committed to limiting global temperature rise and significantly reducing carbon emissions. Through the Emissions Trading System (ETS), the EU sets a maximum emissions cap for key economic sectors such as industry, energy, and transport, with companies exceeding the cap required to purchase emission permits. This measure encourages companies to invest in more eco-friendly technologies, reducing environmental impact.

Additionally, the Water Framework Directive has a significant impact on protecting Europe's water resources. It provides for the protection of all surface and groundwater, promoting sustainable water management with the goal of preventing pollution and ensuring equitable access to clean water for all citizens. The directive also encourages investments in wastewater treatment infrastructure and the protection of wetlands, which are essential for maintaining biodiversity.

Another essential element of European environmental legislation is the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which aims to halt biodiversity loss and restore degraded ecosystems. The strategy proposes concrete actions for protecting natural habitats, reducing pesticide use, and promoting sustainable agricultural and forestry practices. In this context, the EU intends to protect at least 30% of its territory and restore 25% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

These regulations and strategies reflect the EU's commitment to nature protection and a sustainable future. Therefore, continuing the implementation and strengthening of these laws will have a significant positive impact on the environment and contribute to protecting nature for future generations.



*The European Union adopts essential legislative measures for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, including the Natura 2000 package and the Water Framework Directive. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 aims to halt biodiversity loss and restore degraded ecosystems.*



# The Green Flag

The green flag symbolizes hope, progress, and sustainability. It reminds us of our responsibility to protect the environment and strive for positive change. More than a sign of achievement, it is a call to keep moving forward toward a better future.

## A Symbol of Hope and Progress

The term "Green Flag" often evokes a sense of positivity, hope, and forward movement. In various contexts, from environmental activism to personal achievements, the "green flag" has become a symbol of success, sustainability, and progress.

## The Green Flag and Environmental Awareness

Perhaps the most prominent association with the green flag today is its connection to environmentalism. In this context, the green flag represents a commitment to sustainability, the protection of nature, and a collective effort to address climate change.

## A Call for Global Action

The green flag also carries a broader, more universal message: a call for global action in the face of pressing issues like climate change, inequality, and environmental degradation. When countries, organizations, and individuals come together to address these challenges.

In this sense, the green flag is not just a symbol of what has been accomplished but also of what is still to come. It reminds us that while we may face setbacks and obstacles, the path to progress is always open.



The Green Flag  
The Green Flag  
The Green Flag  
The Green Flag  
The Green Flag  
The Green Flag



# Green Homes

THE NEW TREND

Sustainable Living

for the Future



Green homes, also known as eco-friendly homes, are designed to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability through energy efficiency, resource conservation, and healthier living spaces. They incorporate environmentally responsible materials and technologies aimed at minimizing energy consumption, conserving water, and reducing waste.

One of the primary features of green homes is energy efficiency. These homes are built to consume less energy by incorporating insulation, energy-efficient windows, and advanced heating and cooling systems. They may also include renewable energy sources such as solar panels or wind turbines, which reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Additionally, passive solar design is often used to maximize natural light and reduce the need for artificial lighting and heating.

**Green homes focus on energy efficiency, sustainable materials, and water conservation to reduce environmental impact. They use renewable energy sources and eco-friendly building materials, offering long-term savings and healthier living conditions. Despite higher upfront costs, green homes are becoming essential for sustainable living as demand grows.**

Sustainable materials are another key element of green homes. Builders prioritize using locally sourced, renewable, or recycled materials, which help reduce the environmental impact associated with traditional construction. Materials like bamboo, reclaimed wood, and recycled steel are common in green home construction. Low-VOC paints and finishes are also used to improve indoor air quality, making these homes healthier for their occupants.

GREEN LIFE

BY AN ECO FRIENDLY STUDENT



LIFESTYLE

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# Green Homes

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Water conservation is a vital aspect of green home design. Many green homes feature water-saving fixtures such as low-flow faucets and dual-flush toilets. Rainwater harvesting systems are also common, helping homeowners collect and use rainwater for irrigation or other non-potable needs. Additionally, landscaping is often designed with drought-resistant plants, reducing the need for frequent watering.

Green homes are also built with waste reduction in mind. Construction debris is often recycled, and durable materials are chosen to minimize the need for future replacements. Homeowners are encouraged to use composting or recycling systems to reduce household waste, further contributing to a more sustainable lifestyle.

Although green homes may have higher upfront costs due to the use of specialized materials and technologies, the long-term benefits often outweigh these costs. Homeowners typically save on energy and water bills, and some regions offer incentives or tax credits for building green homes. Furthermore, green homes offer healthier living environments, with improved indoor air quality and reduced exposure to harmful chemicals.

In conclusion, green homes are an essential part of sustainable living. By focusing on energy efficiency, sustainable materials, water conservation, and waste reduction, green homes not only help protect the environment but also provide healthier, more cost-effective living spaces for homeowners. As demand for eco-friendly housing increases, green homes are likely to become more widespread, contributing to a more sustainable future.



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G R E E N   L I F E

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BY AN ECO FRIENDLY STUDENT



LIFESTYLE



# NEWSLETTER

## EDUCATION



### SUCCESSFUL AND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

BE GREEN !



## ECO- FRIENDLY SCHOOLS IN ROMANIA

With environment-helpful high schools and schools, both teachers and students learn about the benefits of taking care of nature. This way, we no longer need to study pollution and international ecology problems separately. In Romania, the concept of “eco-friendly schools” designates educational institutions that promote ecological education, sustainability and environmental responsibility.

These schools integrate sustainable development principles into the curriculum and extracurricular activities, encouraging students to adopt ecological behaviors and actively participate in protecting the environment. Students engage in practical activities such as recycling, saving resources and taking care of green spaces (gardens, school parks). They participate in tree planting projects, community clean-ups and awareness campaigns, which helps them understand the importance of protecting the environment and contribute to reducing pollution and promoting a sustainable lifestyle.



A concrete example of a green school is the Secondary School No. 6 in Botoșani, which, since 2008, has been carrying out ecological projects and actions, such as promoting healthy eating, recycling, greening and saving resources. Students are actively involved in creating and caring for the green spaces within the school, thus developing a direct relationship with nature and a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Other examples of schools are Public School No. 11, Buzău, School of Bucharest and many others!

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# Green Schools: Fostering Sustainability in Cyprus

## Capturing the Essence of ECO-Style

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Green Schools are educational institutions committed to integrating environmental principles into their curricula and operations. Their purpose is to cultivate a sense of responsibility for the environment among students, encouraging sustainable practices. As a global trend, the incorporation of eco-friendly initiatives is increasingly relevant, including in Cyprus. This movement supports not only educational excellence but also aligns with broader sustainability goals, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship within communities.



Green Schools offer numerous advantages that extend beyond traditional education. Key benefits include:

- Improved Student Health: Access to natural light and better air quality positively impacts student well-being.
  - Increased Academic Performance: Studies show that students in Green Schools often perform better academically, with higher test scores.
  - Eco-Conscious Mindset: Engaging in sustainability practices fosters a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship.
- For instance, a study revealed that 83% of students in Green Schools reported feeling more motivated to learn about environmental issues.

Several initiatives in Cyprus promote the development of Green Schools, engaging various stakeholders. Notable projects include:

- Eco-Schools Program: A collaborative effort involving schools, government, and NGOs that encourages environmental learning and sustainable practices.

These collaborations highlight a commitment to fostering a greener future while enriching students' understanding of sustainability.



# THE MELTING OF THE ICE SHEETS



The melting of the Antarctic ice sheets is often seen as a symbol of climate change, illustrated by evocative images of polar bears isolated on shrinking pieces of ice.

➤ While impacts such as rising sea levels and changes in salinity are frequently reported, a lesser-known effect is the influence on volcanoes. As the Antarctic ice sheets continue to melt, the weight of the land is decreasing, causing the Earth's crust to rise. This uplift changes the pressure in magma chambers beneath the Earth's surface, increasing the risk of volcanic eruptions.

➤ Allie Coonin, a graduate student at Brown University (USA), and her colleagues analyzed the interaction between glaciation and volcanism during the last two glacial cycles (about 150,000 years). The researchers used a thermomechanical model of the magma chamber and simulated the shrinkage of the West Antarctic ice sheet by applying specific pressure drops to the underlying rocks and magma.

➤ The researchers point out that even if anthropogenic global warming were to cease immediately, the effects of West Antarctic ice sheet loss would continue to influence volcanic activity for thousands of years. Understanding these complex interactions is essential for predicting future consequences for Earth's interconnected geological systems

➤ The phenomenon is exacerbated by albedo feedback: as glaciers melt, the white reflective surface is replaced by dark surfaces that absorb more solar radiation, amplifying the warming and melting of the ice.

➤ If the ice sheet were to melt completely, global average sea levels would rise by more than a meter.

➤ The researchers ran simulations on the UK's national supercomputer to assess the rise in ocean temperatures under different warming scenarios, based on a single model





## ORGANIC FARMING: A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO AGRICULTURE

**Organic farming represents a sustainable and health-focused approach to agriculture that prioritizes ecological balance, biodiversity, and the well-being of consumers. While it faces challenges such as higher costs and labor requirements, the long-term benefits for the environment and human health make it a promising alternative to conventional farming methods. As awareness of its advantages grows, organic farming is likely to play a more significant role in shaping the future of agriculture.**

Organic farming refers to an agricultural system that promotes the use of natural methods to cultivate crops and raise livestock. It emphasizes sustainability, biodiversity, and the health of both the environment and consumers. Unlike conventional farming, which often relies on synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), organic farming prioritizes ecological balance and the careful use of resources. This method is gaining popularity worldwide as a response to the environmental and health concerns associated with industrialized agriculture.

One of the primary goals of organic farming is to improve soil health. Organic farmers avoid using chemical fertilizers, opting instead for compost, green manure, and crop rotation. These practices enrich the soil with organic matter and nutrients, which helps maintain its fertility over time. By focusing on the health of the soil, organic farming also reduces the risk of soil erosion and enhances water retention, making it a more resilient approach to agriculture.



## ORGANIC FARMING: A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO AGRICULTURE

In addition to soil health, organic farming seeks to preserve biodiversity. It encourages the use of diverse crop species and avoids monoculture, which is the practice of growing a single crop over a large area. Monoculture can lead to soil depletion and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases. Organic farmers also rely on natural pest control methods, such as introducing beneficial insects or using organic pesticides made from plant extracts. This reduces the need for harmful chemical interventions that can damage ecosystems and contaminate food supplies.

Another significant advantage of organic farming is its positive impact on human health. Since organic produce is grown without synthetic chemicals, consumers are exposed to fewer pesticides and fertilizers. This can lead to a reduction in the risk of certain health problems, such as cancer or hormonal imbalances, which have been linked to chemical exposure in food. Additionally, organic farming practices are often more humane towards animals, as they provide animals with access to pasture and require the use of natural feed, ensuring better welfare conditions.

However, organic farming does face some challenges. It typically requires more labor and can result in lower yields compared to conventional farming. This makes organic products more expensive, which can limit their accessibility for some consumers. Additionally, the certification process for organic farms can be complex and costly, making it difficult for small-scale farmers to enter the market.

Despite these challenges, organic farming offers a promising solution for sustainable agriculture. By prioritizing environmental health, biodiversity, and consumer well-being, organic farming represents a more holistic approach to food production. As awareness grows about the negative impacts of industrial farming, organic methods are likely to play an increasingly important role in the future of agriculture.

In conclusion, organic farming is more than just an agricultural method; it is a movement toward a more sustainable and healthy way of producing food. Although it faces some obstacles, its long-term benefits for the environment, health, and society make it a viable alternative to conventional farming practices.

# OZONE DEPLETION

**Experts warn of increased UV radiation and environmental risks as ozone layer continues to deteriorate.**

👑 What is the ozone depletion and how does it affect us?

Ozone depletion is the gradual thinning of Earth's ozone layer in the stratosphere, primarily caused by human-made chemicals containing chlorine and bromine, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons. These substances are released into the atmosphere through industrial activities and products like refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and solvents. Once in the stratosphere, these chemicals are broken down by ultraviolet (UV) radiation, releasing chlorine and bromine atoms that catalytically destroy ozone molecules. This process is most pronounced in the polar regions, particularly over Antarctica, where significant ozone "holes" have been observed since the late 20th century.

The depletion of the ozone layer is a major environmental concern because it increases the amount of harmful UV radiation reaching Earth's surface. This heightened UV exposure can lead to increased rates of skin cancer, cataracts, and other health issues, as well as adverse effects on ecosystems and wildlife.

👑 How does the ozone layer protect life on Earth?

The ozone layer is a crucial component of Earth's atmosphere, primarily located in the stratosphere, about 9 to 25 miles above the Earth's surface. It is composed of ozone ( $O_3$ ) molecules, which are formed when ultraviolet (UV) light from the Sun splits oxygen molecules ( $O_2$ ) into individual oxygen atoms. These atoms then combine with other oxygen molecules to form ozone. This layer plays a vital role in protecting life on Earth by absorbing the majority of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation, particularly UVB and UVC rays, which can be detrimental to living organisms.





# ABOUT

## *Protecting corals in the Mediterranean Sea*

*Corals in the Mediterranean Sea are essential for biodiversity, but are threatened by climate change and human activities. Protecting them is crucial for maintaining the balance of the region's marine ecosystem*



Although the number of coral species found in the Mediterranean represents less than 5% of those extant throughout the world today, the diversity of the types and forms of life serve as an example to us, demonstrating the full importance of these animals in relation to the global marine ecosystem



As we have already seen, climate change has been behind the mass die-offs of anthozoans that have occurred in recent years in the Mediterranean Sea. But aside from diseases and bleaching, higher water temperatures have other pernicious effects on anthozoans.



# ABOUT

## *Pollution - A Threat to the Planet*



*Solutions to reduce pollution include recycling, using renewable energy sources, and reducing fossil fuel consumption. Additionally, every individual can help by taking simple actions, such as using public transportation, avoiding single-use plastic, and planting trees.*

In conclusion, pollution is a global issue that requires immediate action. Only through responsibility and involvement can we protect the planet for future generations.

Pollution is one of the most serious problems of the modern world, affecting both the environment and human health. It can take various forms, such as air, water, soil, and noise pollution, each having devastating consequences.

The main causes of pollution include industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust gases, household waste, and excessive plastic use. These contribute to climate change, ecosystem destruction, and severe diseases like respiratory disorders.





# PROTECTING FAUNA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

**By protecting the fauna, we help maintain the balance of these ecosystems, which in turn supports local economies (through fishing, tourism, and sustainable practices) and preserves biodiversity.**

The Mediterranean region is home to a diverse range of wildlife, both on land and in the sea. From the majestic Iberian lynx and golden eagles to the endangered Mediterranean monk seals and loggerhead sea turtles, this ecosystem supports a vast array of species. However, human activity has placed immense pressure on these fragile habitats, threatening the survival of many species. Protecting Mediterranean fauna is essential to preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance.

Several factors contribute to the decline of Mediterranean fauna, including habitat destruction, pollution, overfishing, climate change, and illegal hunting. Coastal development and deforestation reduce natural habitats, forcing many species into smaller, fragmented areas. Plastic waste and oil spills pollute the Mediterranean Sea, affecting marine creatures that ingest or become entangled in debris. Overfishing disrupts food chains and depletes essential fish populations, further endangering marine species. Additionally, rising sea temperatures and changing weather patterns due to climate change impact both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

To combat these threats, conservation efforts must be strengthened through a combination of government policies, community initiatives, and international cooperation. Protected marine and terrestrial areas should be expanded to provide safe habitats for wildlife. Stricter regulations on fishing practices, pollution control, and habitat preservation are necessary to ensure sustainable coexistence between humans and nature. Educational campaigns can raise awareness about the importance of protecting Mediterranean fauna and encourage responsible environmental practices among local communities and tourists.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in conservation by conducting research, implementing protection programs, and advocating for stronger environmental policies. Rescue and rehabilitation centers for injured or endangered animals also contribute to preserving species at risk. Additionally, promoting eco-tourism can generate economic benefits while ensuring minimal disruption to wildlife.

Every individual can contribute to protecting Mediterranean fauna by adopting eco-friendly habits. Reducing plastic use, supporting sustainable seafood choices, and participating in beach cleanups can help mitigate pollution. Respecting wildlife habitats and reporting illegal activities, such as poaching or habitat destruction, can also make a significant impact. Protecting Mediterranean fauna is a shared responsibility that requires collective action from governments, organizations, and individuals. By addressing the threats to wildlife and implementing sustainable conservation strategies, we can ensure the survival of this unique and diverse ecosystem for future generations.







# RESCUING STRANDED WHALES- A VITAL EFFORT FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

Whale strandings are a serious issue for marine ecosystems, and rescuing stranded whales is crucial for their survival and the health of the ocean. Causes of strandings include navigational confusion, illness, injuries, and environmental changes.

Whale strandings are a significant concern for marine ecosystems, requiring swift and coordinated rescue efforts. Stranded whales often face life-threatening conditions, and their rescue can be crucial for maintaining the balance of the marine environment. Common causes of stranding include navigational confusion due to noise pollution, illness, injuries from ships, and environmental changes.

Rescuing stranded whales involves assessing their condition, protecting them from extreme temperatures, and, if feasible, guiding them back into the ocean. These operations are complex and resource-intensive, often involving specialized teams and equipment. While not all rescue attempts are successful, they offer a chance to save the animals and increase public awareness about marine conservation.

In conclusion, rescuing stranded whales is not only about saving individual animals but also about protecting marine biodiversity. Through concerted efforts, we can help safeguard these majestic creatures and their habitats for future generations.



# SELECTIVE WASTE COLLECTION



**Selective waste collection is vital for environmental preservation, requiring collaboration between businesses, citizens, and authorities. It reduces pollution, conserves resources, and lowers waste management costs. Recycling prevents contamination, cuts landfill impact, and ensures compliance with environmental laws.**

Selective waste collection (for liquid waste, solid waste, plastic, etc.) is a critical practice in a civilized society, and in Romania, it is a problem that requires the collaboration of businesses, citizens, and authorities. The issue concerns both businesses, which must comply with specific laws and procedures for waste management, and individuals, who need to limit their environmental impact by responsibly generating waste. The key principle to understand in waste education is that recyclable waste should not be seen as garbage, but as a valuable resource.

Selective waste collection is essential for preserving a clean environment and conserving resources. It helps prevent contamination of recyclable materials, reducing the negative effects of landfills, which contribute to soil and water pollution and produce harmful methane gas. Recycling also helps lower waste management costs and reduces the consumption of finite natural resources, like those used in packaging and electronics. Furthermore, strict environmental laws require proper waste management to avoid significant fines. Ultimately, selective waste collection

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECOLOGICAL ACTIONS

Efforts to conserve endangered species and restore damaged habitats contribute not only to the health of individual species but also to the resilience of

Ecological actions are vital for preserving the health of our planet and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. In an age where environmental degradation is accelerating, the importance of making conscious ecological choices has never been more urgent. These actions, whether individual or collective, play a critical role in reducing the harmful impacts of human activity on ecosystems and biodiversity.

One of the most pressing ecological challenges we face today is climate change. Human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial practices, have led to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise. Ecological actions, such as reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable transportation, can help mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Furthermore, protecting and restoring forests, wetlands, and other natural habitats can act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and playing a crucial role in climate regulation.

Biodiversity loss is another critical concern that underscores the importance of ecological actions. Human-induced habitat destruction, pollution, and overexploitation of resources have led to the decline of countless species worldwide. Protecting ecosystems and adopting sustainable practices in agriculture, fishing, and land use are essential to safeguarding biodiversity.

Efforts to conserve endangered species and restore damaged habitats contribute not only to the health of individual species but also to the resilience of ecosystems as a whole.

Ecological actions also promote a deeper connection to nature, fostering a sense of responsibility for the world around us. Simple actions, such as reducing waste, recycling, using less plastic, and supporting local and organic agriculture, can have a significant impact when practiced collectively. Moreover, these efforts can encourage broader societal change, influencing policies and practices that prioritize environmental sustainability.

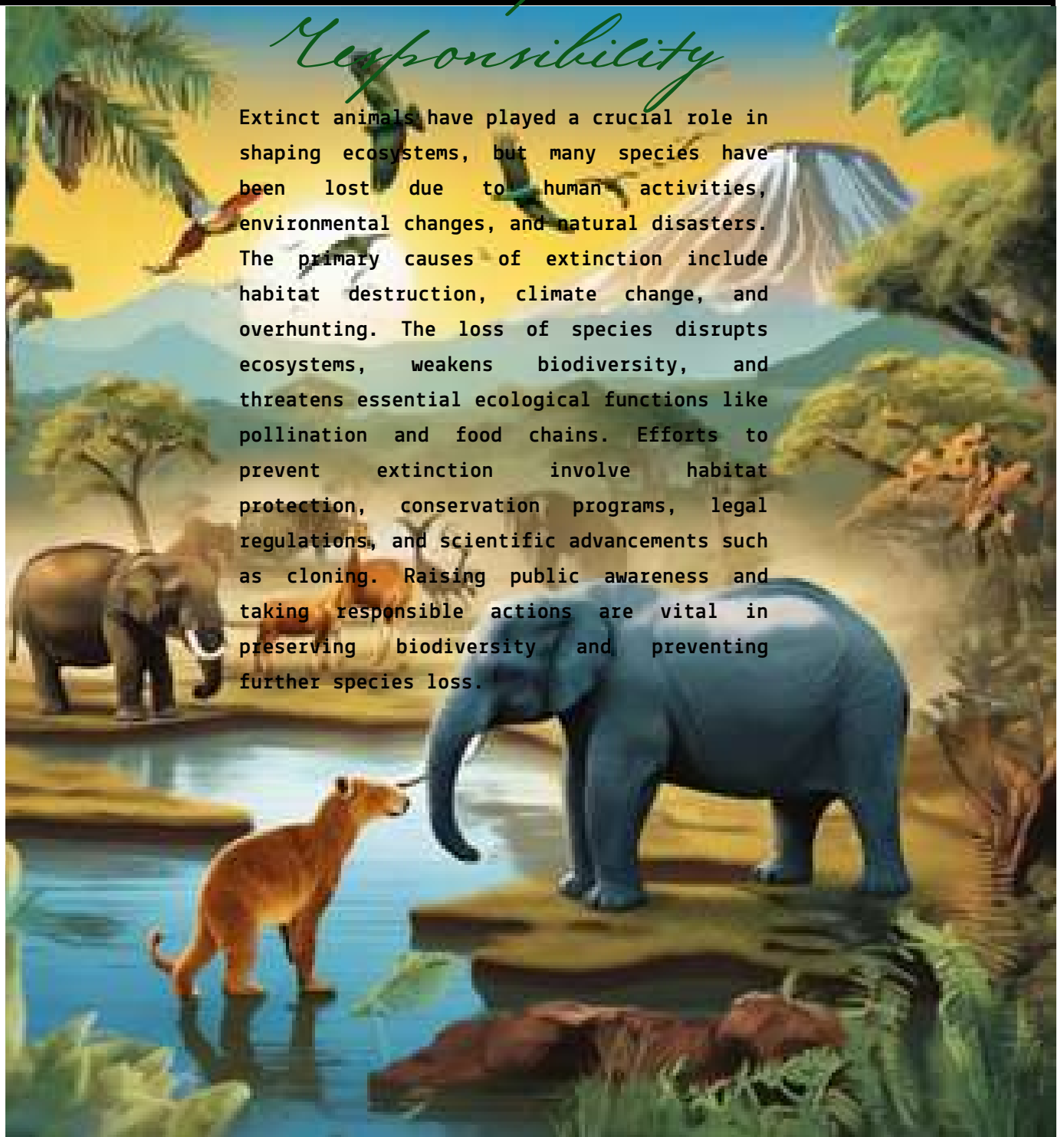
In conclusion, ecological actions are indispensable for the health of the planet and the well-being of its inhabitants. By adopting sustainable lifestyles, supporting conservation efforts, and advocating for policies that protect the environment, we can ensure a more balanced and harmonious relationship with nature. The importance of these actions cannot be overstated—our future depends on the choices we make today.





# *The Tragic Loss of Extinct Animals: A Reflection on Human Impact and Responsibility*

Extinct animals have played a crucial role in shaping ecosystems, but many species have been lost due to human activities, environmental changes, and natural disasters. The primary causes of extinction include habitat destruction, climate change, and overhunting. The loss of species disrupts ecosystems, weakens biodiversity, and threatens essential ecological functions like pollination and food chains. Efforts to prevent extinction involve habitat protection, conservation programs, legal regulations, and scientific advancements such as cloning. Raising public awareness and taking responsible actions are vital in preserving biodiversity and preventing further species loss.



## *The Tragic Loss of Extinct Animals: A Reflection on Human Impact and Responsibility*

Throughout history, countless species have roamed the Earth, shaping ecosystems and contributing to the delicate balance of nature. However, human activities, environmental changes, and natural disasters have led to the extinction of many species. The loss of these animals is not just a scientific tragedy but a moral and ecological one. Understanding the causes and consequences of extinction is crucial to preventing further losses and preserving biodiversity for future generations.

One of the primary reasons for extinction is habitat destruction. As human populations expand, forests are cleared for agriculture, urban development, and industrialization. This loss of habitat forces animals into smaller, fragmented areas where they struggle to find food, reproduce, and survive. The destruction of the Amazon rainforest, for example, has led to the decline of many species that once thrived in its dense vegetation.

Another significant cause of extinction is climate change. Rising global temperatures, melting ice caps, and changing weather patterns disrupt ecosystems. Species that rely on specific climates for survival, such as the polar bear, face dwindling food sources and loss of their natural habitats. The changing environment has also led to coral bleaching, endangering marine life dependent on coral reefs.

Hunting and poaching have also contributed to the extinction of numerous species. The dodo, a flightless bird native to Mauritius, was driven to extinction by overhunting and the introduction of non-native predators such as rats and monkeys. Similarly, the excessive hunting of the passenger pigeon in North America led to its disappearance in the early 20th century. In modern times, illegal poaching for ivory and animal parts continues to threaten species like elephants and rhinos.



The extinction of a species creates a ripple effect throughout the ecosystem. When a species disappears, its absence affects food chains and disrupts natural processes. For example, the extinction of large predators like the Tasmanian tiger led to an overpopulation of certain prey species, causing imbalances in the ecosystem.

Furthermore, biodiversity loss weakens ecosystems, making them more vulnerable to diseases, invasive species, and environmental changes. A healthy, diverse ecosystem provides essential services such as pollination, clean air, and water filtration. The decline of bees, crucial pollinators for many crops, poses a direct threat to food production and global agriculture.

Conservation efforts are essential to preventing further extinctions. Governments, scientists, and environmental organizations are working together to protect endangered species through habitat restoration, breeding programs, and legal protections. National parks, wildlife reserves, and marine protected areas provide safe spaces for animals to thrive without human interference.

Advancements in science have also contributed to conservation efforts. Genetic research and cloning technologies offer possibilities for reviving extinct species, such as the woolly mammoth. While this remains a controversial and complex issue, it highlights the potential of science to correct past mistakes.

Public awareness and education play a vital role in conservation. Understanding the importance of biodiversity and the impact of human activities encourages individuals to take action, whether by supporting conservation programs, reducing their carbon footprint, or advocating for stronger environmental policies.

The extinction of animals is a sobering reminder of the consequences of human actions on the natural world. While some extinctions are a natural part of evolution, many have been accelerated by deforestation, climate change, hunting, and pollution. By taking responsibility and actively working to protect endangered species, humanity can help preserve the planet's rich biodiversity. The future of countless species depends on the choices we make today, and it is our duty to ensure that the mistakes of the past do not dictate the fate of the natural world.



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