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# EC(H)O VOICE




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# Content

ECO MEDIA NEWS

# EC(H)O Newspapers- 2026

# ECO LIFE

## *IMPRESSIVE NATURAL WONDERS IN ROMANIA AND HOW TO PROTECT THEM!!*



Romania is home to stunning natural landscapes that need protection to remain pristine for future generations.

1.. **Protecting the Fagaras Mountains** The Fagaras Mountains are a key destination for hikers and nature lovers, but illegal logging and over-tourism are significant threats. To protect this area, stricter enforcement of forest protection laws should be implemented. Hiking and camping regulations should be more tightly controlled to prevent damage to sensitive ecosystems. Eco- tourism initiatives could also raise awareness about the importance of preserving these mountains and their biodiversity, encouraging visitors to follow sustainable practices.

2. **Protecting the Danube Delta** The Danube Delta is Europe's largest and most biodiverse wetland, but it faces threats from illegal Strict regulations on fishing and commercial activities should be enforced to prevent fishing, pollution, and habitat destruction. further harm. Additionally, promoting eco-friendly tourism and organic farming around the Delta would help protect its ecosystems. Educating tourists and locals about the importance of preserving the Delta's natural beauty and reducing pollution is essential for its long-term survival.

3. **Protecting the Muddy Volcanoes of Berca** The Muddy Volcanoes of Berca are a rare natural phenomenon, but increasing tourist traffic poses risks to the site. To protect the area, visitor numbers should be regulated, and educational campaigns should inform tourists about the importance of following designated paths to minimize damage. Local authorities should also prevent construction projects and pollution nearby, ensuring the preservation of this unique landscape for future generations.

**Conclusion** Romania's natural wonders, including the and Muddy Volcanoes, are vital to the country's ecological and cultural heritage. By enforcing conservation laws, promoting sustainable tourism, and educating the public, Romania can safeguard these treasures for years to come. Fagaras Mountains, Danube Delta,

Diana and Chrysanthi

2nd April, 2025

# The Tragic Loss of Extinct Animals



***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.***

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 dense species that once thrived in its 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.

# ECO FRIENDLY CHOISES

## Bicycle transportation in the Netherlands

TheNetherlandsisa global leader in bicycle transportation, thanks to its flat terrain, well-planned cities, and extensive cycling infrastructure. With over 35,000 kilometers of bike paths and strong government support, cycling is a safe, popular, and sustainable mode of transport. It plays a key role in daily life and reflects the country's commitment to sustainability and healthy living. The Netherlands is renowned for its advanced and highly efficient bicycle more bicycles than people, cycling is an integral part of Dutch culture and daily landscape, transportation system. With compact urban planning, and strong cycling infrastructure have made biking the preferred mode of transport for life. The country's flat many citizens. One of the most notable features of the Netherlands' cycling system is its extensive network of bike paths. These 35,000 kilometers and are well-maintained, clearly marked, and often separated from car traffic, ensuring safety for cyclists. Traffic laws also prioritize cyclists, and motorists are dedicated lanes span over trained to be aware of and yield to them. In urban centers like Amsterdam and Utrecht, cycling accounts for up to 40% of all trips.

The Dutch government actively supportsbicycle use through policy and investment. Initiatives include secure bike parking facilities, bike-sharing programs, and public awareness campaigns promoting cycling as a healthy and sustainable choice. Schools also play a role, with many children learning traffic rules and cycling skills at a young age. Bicycle transportation in the Netherlands is not just a practical solution to traffic congestion and environmental issues, it is a reflection of the country's commitment to sustainable living and urban harmony. As more countries look for ways to reduce carbon emissions and promote healthier lifestyles, the Netherlands stands as a global model for successful, bike-friendly transport planning.



# ECO FRIENDLY CHOISES

april 2nd 2025 ● Maya and Marianna

## The importance of ecological actions

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 conserve endangered species and restore damaged habitats safeguarding biodiversity. Efforts to 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.

Ecological actions are crucial for maintaining the planet's health and ensuring a sustainable future. They help address issues like climate change and biodiversity loss. Reducing carbon emissions, protecting natural habitats, and promoting sustainable practices are key to mitigating environmental degradation. By making conscious choices, such as reducing waste and supporting conservation, individuals and communities can make a significant impact. These actions foster a deeper connection to nature and promote a collective effort toward environmental sustainability, ensuring a healthier world for future generations.



# GREEN PATH

**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.

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.



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.



The Mediterranean Sea, a body of water rich in biodiversity, faces numerous challenges related to environmental degradation, verfishing, and climate change. Among the many species threatened y these issues, the Mediterranean swordfish (Xiphias gladius) stands out as a key indicator of the delicate balance of this marine ecosystem. Known for its long, flattened bill, the Mediterranean swordfish is a valuable species both ecologically and economically. owever, in recent years, it has been listed as endangered, prompting urgent efforts to protect and conserve this iconic fish.

The Mediterranean swordfish plays a vital role in the marine food eb. As an apex predator, it helps regulate the populations of smaller fish, thus maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. Swordfish are also crucial to the Mediterranean economy, with their meat being highly prized in the global seafood market. Historically, they have supported commercial fisheries, but in recent decades, the species has faced significant decline due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices.

One of the main reasons for the swordfish's endangered status is overfishing. Due to its high market value, the Mediterranean wordfish has been heavily targeted by commercial and illegal fishing operations. Fishing methods such as longlining and trawling, which often result in bycatch, have further compounded the problem, utting immense pressure on the swordfish population. Additionally, the use of non-selective fishing gears has led to the capture of juvenile swordfish, preventing them from reaching maturity and reproducing. This unsustainable harvesting has drastically reduced the population, leading to concerns about the species' long-term survival.

\

Baily

# ECOBLOOM

## Carbon Footprint: Measuring and Mitigating Romania's Emissions

Romania's carbon footprint extends beyond environmental concerns, deeply influencing its social and economic landscape. This high carbon footprint also exacerbates social inequalities, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities, such as the Romani people, who are forced to live in highly polluted areas with limited access to basic services.

In Romania, the concept of a carbon footprint goes far beyond numbers—it embodies decades of industrial practices that have shaped the social and environmental fabric of the country. Traditionally, Romania's reliance on coal has left an indelible mark on both the ecosystem and its communities. Regions like the Jiu Valley, once the backbone of coal mining, are not only hotspots for carbon emissions but also sites of severe social challenges. The environmental degradation caused by coal burning—characterized by poor air quality and soil contamination—has contributed to a high carbon footprint while simultaneously jeopardizing the health and livelihoods of local populations. This legacy of pollution has fueled chronic unemployment and economic decline as mines close, leaving communities struggling with poverty and a loss of traditional jobs.



# Baily



Moreover, the carbon footprint of Romania is intimately linked with issues of environmental injustice. Many marginalized groups, notably the Romani communities, are forced to live near industrial waste dumps and polluted areas. Their exposure to harmful emissions—directly tied to the nation's heavy use of fossil fuels—exemplifies how a high carbon footprint reinforces social inequities. These communities often face limited access to clean water, proper sanitation, and healthcare, underscoring that the environmental costs of carbon emissions are unevenly distributed.

Thetransition towardrenewable energy is seen as a pathway to not only reduce Romania's carbon footprint but also to address these persistent social issues. Initiatives aimed at phasing out coal and investing in green energy projects—backed by EU funds—are crucial. However, as reported by the Associated Press, many workers in coal-dependent regions remain hesitant or ill-equipped to switch careers, while social unrest, exemplified by protests against environmentally destructive projects like Roșia Montană, reflects a broader demand for policies that simultaneously lower carbon emissions and promote social well-being.

By linking efforts to reduce carbon emissions with support for affected communities—through retraining programs, job creation in renewable sectors, and targeted social policies—Romania can transform its high carbon footprint from a relic of an industrial past into an opportunity for sustainable, equitable growth.

Green Times

# *ECOLOGICAL INDUSTRY : A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE*



*Ecological industry is agrowing 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.

# RESCUING STRANDED WHALES



## A VITAL EFFORT FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

Whalestrandingsarea seriousissue 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



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# ECO FLOW

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## *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.

THE MAJESTIC DELPHINS

# NATURE'S ELEGANCE





## Protecting fauna in the Mediterranean

*TheMediterraneanregion is home to a diverse range ofwildlife, both onlandand inthe 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.

T.A 02.04.2025 A.E

# Saving Mediterranean Corals: AVitalBattleAgainst Climate Change and Human Impact

Preserving coral reefs is a major challenge, but concrete actions can be implemented to protect these unique ecosystems. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting marine pollution, regulating fishing, raising awareness among local communities and restoring damaged reefs are all solutions to ensure their survival.





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

The presence of these corals fosters a variety of interactions between species, supporting biodiversity at both the individual and community levels. Many marine organisms, including fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and other invertebrates, rely on coral reefs for shelter, food, and breeding grounds. In doing so, Mediterranean corals help to sustain intricate food webs, fostering resilience in the broader ecosystem. Furthermore, the ecosystems formed around coral structures contribute to the stabilization of coastal zones by reducing the impact of waves and erosion, providing a natural defense against the forces of the sea.



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 within this region serves as a powerful and compelling example of the immense ecological importance of coral species in marine ecosystems. Despite their relatively smaller numbers, Mediterranean corals contribute significantly to the overall health and functioning of marine life in the region. Their intricate structures provide critical habitats for a wide variety of marine species, supporting biodiversity at both the individual and community levels.



m.m & m.r

number 1 The Maria's team April 2 nd, 2025

# ECO TRENDS

## Ecological Industry : A Sustainable Future

*Ecological industryis a growing sectorfocused 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.*

# *Pollution – A Threat to the Planet*

*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.*



*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.*

number 1, April 2nd 2025, The Pythons

# NATURE`S VOICE









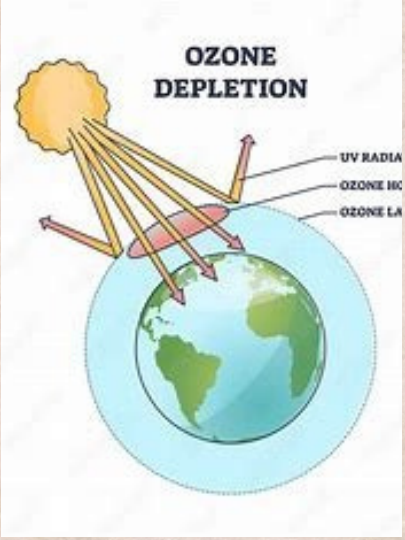
Cyprus is adopts strict environmental aligning with EU directives. Waste management, emission reduction, and biodiversity protection are key priorities for a sustainable future and the fight against climate change.

**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.

CYPRUS IS PROTECTING THE NATURE.

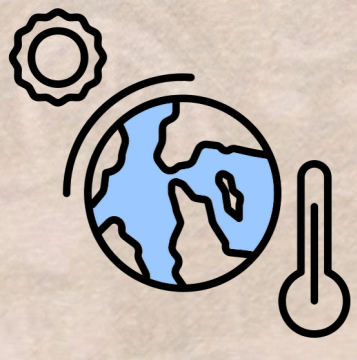


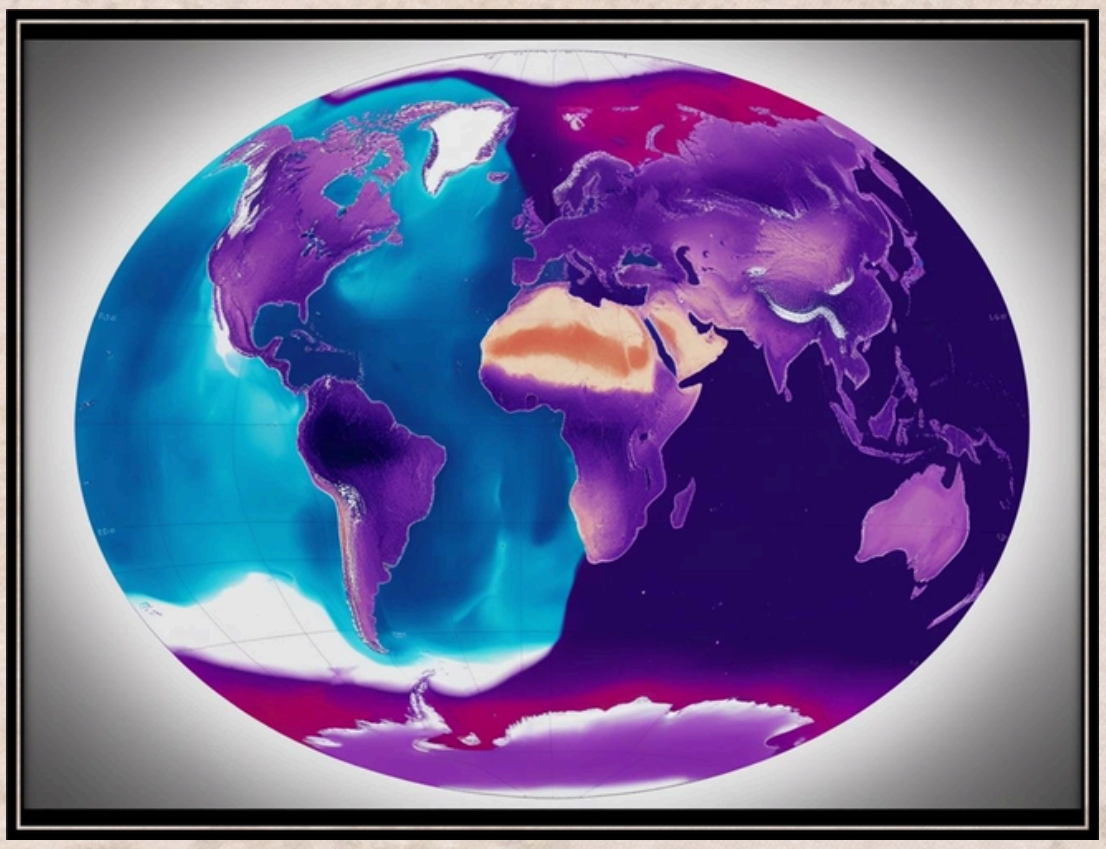





## OZONE DEPLETION







# 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.

# GREEN HORIZON

Number 1, April 2nd 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, 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 relationshipbetweenecology andthe oceans.

## The Ocean's Fragile Balance:

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.

# A Sustainable Path to Healthier Agriculture and a Greener Future



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.

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## Organic Farming:

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.

# GREEN STEPS

NUMBER 12. APRIL 2ND 2025. ELANDRI

## ~~European laws that protect the nature~~

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.

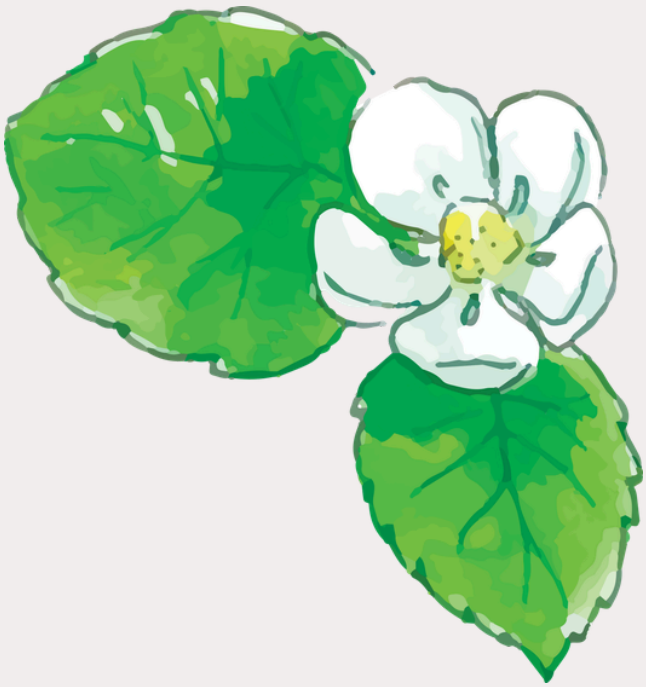




The European Union (EU) plays a vital role in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, with a complex and diversified legislative framework aimed at reducing the impact of economic activities on nature. In recent years, the EU has adopted a series of laws and regulations to protect natural 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.

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.

# SUSTAINABLE TIMES

April 2nd 2025 ● Rita-Catalina ● Erasmus+

## The Green School: A Path to a Sustainable Future

Green Schools promote sustainability by reducing their carbon footprint, implementing eco-friendly practices, and educating students on environmental responsibility. They integrate green technologies, waste reduction programs, and healthy lifestyles to create a positive impact on both people and the planet. By fostering environmental awareness and sustainable habits, Green Schools help shape a greener and healthier future.



In today's world, where environmental concerns are more pressing than ever, the concept of a Green School has emerged as an essential step toward a sustainable future. A Green School is not just an educational institution; it is a commitment to eco-friendly practices, environmental awareness, and responsible resource management. By integrating sustainability into education, Green Schools inspire students to adopt habits that benefit both society and the planet.

One of the primary goals of a Green School is to reduce its carbon footprint. This can be achieved through energy-efficient infrastructure, such as solar panels, LED lighting, and smart heating and cooling systems. Additionally, schools can implement waste reduction programs by promoting recycling, composting, and the use of biodegradable materials. By adopting these measures, Green Schools significantly lower their environmental impact while setting an example for students and the community.

# ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS IN ROMANIA

**Eco-friendly schools help clearthe pollution and reduce it by combining fun with useful. Students are actually encouraged to learn with this program!**




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 inter\national 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.

*Number 15* *Ema&Angeliki* *April 2nd 2025l*

# ECO TIMES

## The Carbon Footprint in Europe

***The carbon footprint in Europe is a critical topic when discussing environmental sustainability and the efforts being made to combat climate change. Here's an overview of carbon emissions and related topics in Europe:***

**1.Carbon EmissionsinEurope**

Europeis oneof thelargestemitters ofcarbondioxide (CO2) globally, though emissionshavedecreasedinrecent decadesdue to various environmentalpolicies, technologicaladvances,and economic shifts. The EuropeanUnion (EU)has been a leaderin adopting strategies to reduce carbon emissions.

• EU's Carbon Emissions (2023): According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), the EU's emissions havesignificantly decreased by about 24% between 1990 and 2020. In 2020, the EU's carbon emissions were approximately 3.3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent. • Primary Sources of Emissions: • Energy Production: The burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and natural gas) for electricity and heat is the largest source of emissions, accounting for roughly 75% of the EU's total emissions. • Transport: Road transport, aviation, and maritime shipping contribute significantly to emissions, with road transport being the largest contributor within this category. • Industry: Cement, steel, and chemical production are other significant sources of emissions. • Agriculture: Methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture also contribute to the overall carbon footprint.




**2. Carbon Reduction Goals and Initiatives**

• European Green Deal (2019): The EU's landmark initiative, aiming to make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. It outlines strategies to decarbonize key sectors such as energy, industry, transport, and agriculture.

• Fit for 55 Package (2021): A set of proposals designed to reduce the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This includes policies like expanding the carbon trading market, increasing renewable energy use, and improving energy efficiency.

• Emissions Trading System (ETS): The EU's flagship tool for reducing emissions, which places a price on carbon. The ETS covers more than 11,000 power stations, factories, and airlines.



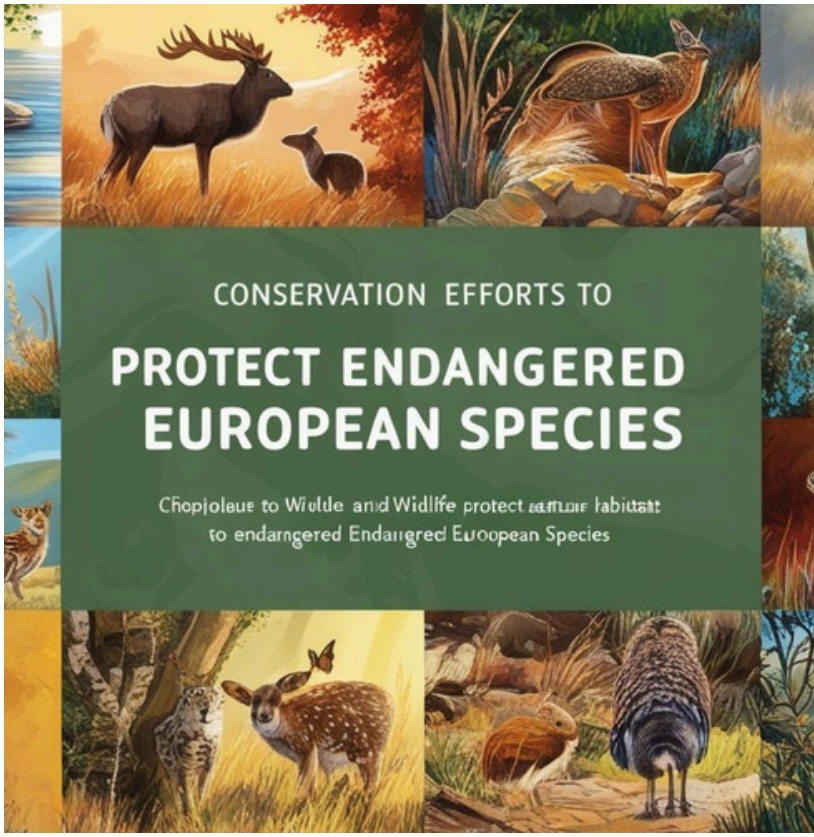
# Protecting Endangered Species in Europe

***The protection of endangered species is a crucial issue that requires global attention, and Europe is no exception. As human activities continue to impact the environment, many species face the threat of extinction. From deforestation and pollution to climate change and urbanization, these factors endanger the delicate balance of ecosystems.***

## The Causes of Species Endangerment

Oneof the primary causes of species endangerment in Europe is habitat destruction. As cities expand and agricultural activities intensify, natural habitats such as forests, wetlands, and meadows are being lost or fragmented. This loss of habitat makes it difficult for species to find food, reproduce, and survive. Additionally, pollution from industrial activities and agricultural runoff contaminates water sources and soils, further threatening wildlife. Climate change also poses a significant risk to species in Europe. Rising temperatures, shifting weather patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events disrupt natural habitats and migration patterns. Species adapted to specific climatic conditions, such as the Iberian lynx and the European bison, are particularly vulnerable. Illegal wildlife trade and overexploitation are additional factors contributing to species decline. Some species are hunted for their fur, bones, or other body parts, while others are captured for the exotic pet trade. This unsustainable exploitation depletes populations and can push species to the brink of extinction.






## Conservation Efforts in Europe

Toaddress thecrisis ofendangered species, European countries have implemented a range of conservation initiatives. The European Union (EU) plays a key role through legislation and policies aimed at protecting biodiversity. One of the most significant frameworks is the EU Habitats Directive, which establishes protected areas known as Natura 2000 sites. These areas cover approximately 18% of the EU's land area and provide critical habitats for endangered species. In addition, organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and BirdLife International work to protect endangered species through research, advocacy, and habitat restoration. Captive breeding programs have also been successful in increasing populations of critically endangered species. For example, the Iberian lynx, once on the verge of extinction, has seen a remarkable recovery due to such efforts. Public awareness and community involvement are essential components of conservation. Educational campaigns help people understand the importance of biodiversity and encourage sustainable practices. By supporting eco-friendly products and responsible tourism, individuals can contribute to protecting endangered species and their habitats.



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