

Environmental issues

35 billion tons of carbon/year are emitted

Global Warming

- Data from the **IDMC** (Internally Displacement Monitoring Centre) **83.5 million** climate refugees identified between 2011 and 2014.
- Disappearance of glaciers: rise in sea levels, and worsening of global warming, since they will no longer reflect sunlight to send it back into space (**albedo effect**)
- Public health : extension of the transmission season for **mosquito-borne diseases**. Global warming of **2 to 3°C** would increase the number of people exposed to **malaria** by 5% (+ **150 million people**)
- The **IPCC** (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) was created to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options.

Solutions :

COP26 : aim = reach carbon neutrality (China by 2060, India by 2070) transition to green energies

Criticism : Greta Thunberg -> « *greenwashing* », « *business as usual* », we need to address the root-cause of the problem

Waste disposal

- **Innovations** to tackle climate crisis : **fishing nets** to clean the ocean (company *Ocean Cleanup*), plastic-free cleaning products
- Researchers at Brandon University, Canada, found that **waxworms** are able to "ingest and metabolize polyethylene at unprecedented rates"
- Most countries **export their waste to poorer countries**. (EU exported about **50% of its plastic waste to China**. It was buried, **piled in landfills** or incinerated in the open air.)

Deforestation

- Forests represent 31% of the Earth's surface, **2nd greatest carbon sink** (8 billion tons CO₂ absorbed per year)
- **World Resources Institute** (WRI) : in 2018 **12 million hectares** of deforestation (Brazil 1.4 million in 2018)
- Deforestation in **profit** of agriculture (45% deforestation in **South-East Asia** for **palm oil** -> plastic-free packaging or Nutella), real estate, furniture wood, fire wood, **mining** (Carajas mine, Brazil, destroyed 150.000km² of forest)

- President Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil) giving **free pass to illegal deforestation** (739sq km lost during May 2019)
- Increased with **seasonal fires** (*Rim Fire*, 2013, near **Yosemite National Park** destroyed 1.050km² of forest)

Conflicts :

Chico Mendes, defender of the Amazon rainforest and its inhabitants, murdered in 1998 on the order of a wealthy landowner.

Deforestation finances **civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo**, cutting down trees and selling the wood to buy weapons.

Endangered species

- **100 animal/plant species disappear every DAY** (WRI) due to deforestation, poaching (*braconnage*) or the destruction of their habitat
- The **IUCN Red List** of endangered species : more than **40,000 species** are threatened with extinction
- **Coral species** threatened by the warming and acidification of oceans (dissolves exoskeletons)
- Associations, NGOs to protect wildlife **WWF**, **Sea Shepherd**

Solutions :

EU shark finning laws in 2012 (fins will have to stay attached to sharks bodies)

BUT : 63-273 million sharks killed every year still

Is technology a solution to tackle the climate crisis ?

Will sustainable development be sufficient to tackle global warming ?

Are governmental actions just greenwashing ?

A green tax = une taxe verte

Ampoules de basse consommation = low-energy lightbulbs

Greenhouse effect = l'effet de serre

Sorting = le tri (sélectif)

A landfill = un site d'enfouissement des ordures

A heat wave = une canicule

Overfishing = la surpêche

The depletion of resources = l'épuisement des ressources

To harm the environment = nuire à l'environnement

A green activist = un militant écologique

A tree-hugger = un écolo

To cut down a tree = abattre un arbre

Poaching = braconnage

An endangered species = une espèce en voie d'extinction

To become extinct = disparaître