

## **Ecological problems**

The Earth is the only planet in the solar system where there is life. Earth contains blue seas and oceans, rivers and lakes, high snow-capped mountains, green forests and fields. For centuries human race lived in harmony with nature until industrialization brought human society into conflict with the natural environment.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, the „major threats to the planet such as climate change, the rate of extinction of species, and the challenge of feeding a growing population are among the many that remain unresolved, and all of them put humanity at risk.“

Among the most urgent problems are the ozone layer, acid rains, global warming which has a major impact on the climate change, toxic pollution of atmosphere, disappearance of forests, contamination of underground waters by chemical elements, destruction of soil in some areas, threat to some flora and fauna representatives, etc.

The most important problem is air pollution. Cars and factories pollute the air we use. Their fume also destroys the ozone layer which protects the Earth from the dangerous light of the Sun. Aerosols create large “holes” in the ozone layer round the Earth. Burning coal and oil leads to global warming which may bring about a change in the world's climate.

The other problem is that our forests are dying from acid rains. Deforestation, especially destruction of tropical forests, affects the balance of nature in many ways. It kills animals, changes the climate and ecosystem in the world.

Ecological problems have no borders. Environmental disasters can be avoided if people broaden ecological education and every person understands that the beauty of nature is extremely fragile.

Finally, governments must be prepared to take action against pollution. Air pollution could be reduced if plants and factories were made to fit effective filters on chimneys and car exhausts. Green zones around big cities must be protected and extended. We should switch to the more sustainable use of natural resources because their stock is not limited.