

Marine Disasters

Oceans

The oceans are vast, and it once seemed that nothing we did could affect them. People thought that the oceans could absorb anything we dumped in them, from raw sewage to nuclear waste, and that any damage caused by our activities would be quickly healed by the richness of oceanic life. But a combination of overfishing, pollution, and coastal development is destroying many oceanic habitats and killing their wildlife. In some parts of the oceans, the damage is so severe that it may be irreversible, because the wildlife that once flourished there has been wiped out.

Deadly Garbage



Vast amounts of waste plastic find their way into the oceans, and stay there since plastic does not decay like other forms of garbage. Giant leatherback turtles have been found with their stomachs full of plastic bags, which they swallow because they look like their main prey, jellyfish. Other animals are killed by discarded fishing nets, which keep trapping marine life for years after they have been thrown overboard.

Coastal Destruction

Tourist developments have caused massive destruction of coastal habitats, especially in the tropics. Coastal mangroves have been swept away, exposing coasts to tropical storms. Soil carried off deforested shores by heavy rain also pollutes the sea, smothering nearby coral reefs and seagrass beds.

Pollution Control A lot of the sewage pumped out to sea is untreated. In some regions, the waste from cities and tourist resorts has destroyed much of the marine wildlife. Effective sewage treatment is a vital part of marine conservation, and so is controlling the pollution of river water. Even clearing the rubbish off beaches helps reduce the threat to sea life.

World in danger

There are many things that we do to our world which put animals, plants and people in danger.

Pollution

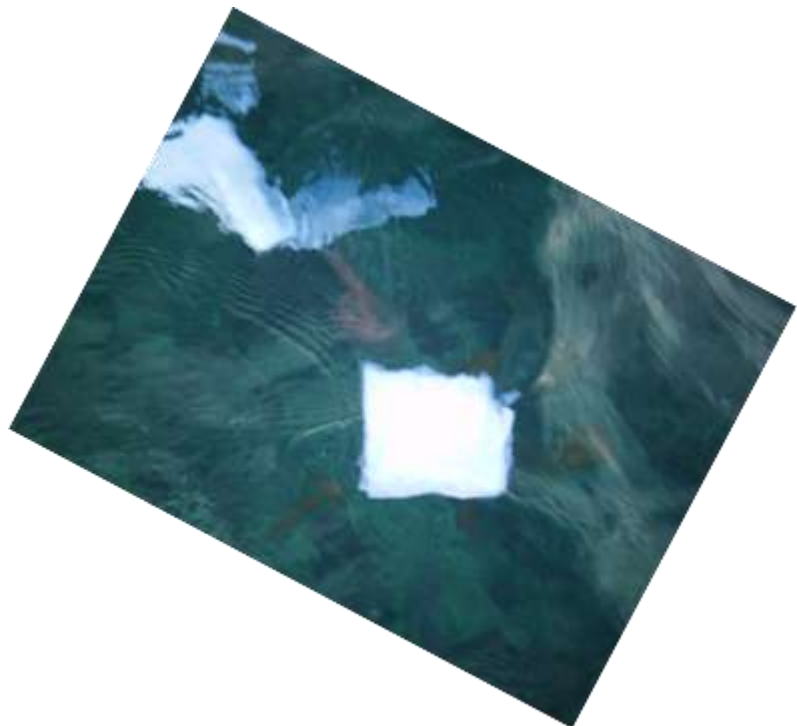
Litter, smoke from factories and cars, and oil that spills from ships at sea are all kinds of pollution. Pollution harms animals and people and the places where they live.

Sea Pollution

Sea pollution is any rubbish that ends up in the water that affects anything that lives there.

The pollution found in the sea around our islands is being caused by many factors, such as transportation by sea, but it seems that people also contribute to increase this problem.

We think that our seas are being polluted because some of our actions are selfish or perhaps there is lack of information in this regard. Some people go on the beaches for barbecues and they don't clean up after themselves. Some people throw a lot of rubbish in the sea, and these little problems which can be fixed will make our sea better and cleaner for us to swim in, and enjoy.



We want to swim in our sea but it's not always so clean and safe. Would we want to swim in polluted water? Wouldn't you hate it if you had to go for a swim and then end up surrounded by rubbish? Why should we dirty the sea and pollute it when we ourselves are going to be swimming in it?

What about the foreigners who come to Malta especially in the summer? They usually come to swim and enjoy the sea. What impression would they get about

us Maltese? Would it be fair to put everyone in the same boat? After all, not everyone is polluting the sea.

We all agree that having Green Wardens would significantly help to address this problem.

→ What would these "Green Wardens" do?

→ What would their job be?

→ Would they work undercover?

Green Wardens are wardens who patrol beaches wearing normal clothes, no uniforms. When, let's say people throw bottles in the sea, these Green Wardens would intervene. They would explain to them what they are doing wrong and why such a deed is wrong.

Besides creating an eyesore, pollution harms the fish which live in the sea.

Think of it like this: Aren't we polluting their homes?

Wouldn't you feel upset if someone had to come in your house and then leave rubbish everywhere?

If you pass on this information to as many people as possible and in turn they would do the same, then we will be spreading information and knowledge and hopefully create a change in attitude.

Some Problems:

People are leaving plastic bags in the sea which can easily kill sea creatures.

We can't really control everything but what about the oil spills of some sea vessels, aren't they harmful too?

Shouldn't there be a stop to this?

Why can't someone stop this oil from leaking?

If we all want our seas to be healthier and cleaner to swim in and enjoy we all have to help each other, work together, and finally we may have better seas.

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