



Dr. Blossa Science

Sponsored by
The Science Foundation College
Uganda East Africa
Senior one to senior six
+256 778 633 682, 753 802709
Based On, best for science

digitalteachers.co.ug



UACE Geography paper 3: S101 General Paper section A discussion topics: Environmental degradation in Uganda

Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife or the decline in the production value of the available renewable and non renewable resources.

The importance of addressing environmental degradation lies in safe guarding biodiversity, mitigating climate change and ensuring clean air and water for the future generation. For secure and sustainable future, it is essential to understand the causes and effect of environmental degradation and work on it collectively to stop it.

Causes of environmental degradation

Population growth is one of the major causes of environmental degradation. Population growth is the increase in the number of people living in a particular region or world as whole. The population of the world in september 2021 was about 8 billion people. The annual growth rate about 1.05% or 83 million people annually. This high population directly affects environmental degradation because it puts high demand on environmental resources such as water, food and energy leading to overexploitation and depletion of nature resources. Secondly, larger population growth contributes to expansion of cities and natural areas are converted into residential and industrial areas. Lastly Large population generally generate more wastes and pollutants leading to land, air and water pollution.

Urbanization is another cause of environmental degradation. Urbanization is a process of increasing proportion of the population that live in towns and cities. Typically urban areas have high population densities. Urbanization has significant impact on the environment such as habitat destruction including forests, wetlands and green spaces resulting in the loss of biodiversity and destruction of ecosystems. Urbanization also lead to land use changes converting agricultural land and open spaces into built up areas. This can lead to soil degradation and decreased agricultural productivity. Urbanization also lead to pollution due to increased industrialization and regular motor vehicle activities

Waste generation is another cause of environmental degradation. High population in urban areas result in increased waste generation straining waste management systems leading land pollution, water and air pollution.

Industrialization is another cause of environmental degradation. Industrialization is development and growth of manufacturing industries characterised by adoption and advancement of industrial processes and increased production capacities. Industrialization contribute to environmental degradation through release of poisonous industrial wastes that end up and pollute land, water and air. It also leads to over exploitation and depletion of natural resources such fossil fuel and other minerals. This often lead to destruction of ecosystem, deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

Improved health care has lead to population growth and cosequently overexploitation and depletion of natural resources of natural resource such natural forests leading to environmental degradation.

Corruption of government officials that fail to implement laws that protect the environment. This has led to deforestation, overfishing and use of harmful fishing method that deplete the lake of fish. Also Poaching has led to extinction of valuable wildlife species such as Rhinos in Murchison National Park.

Natural hazards such as natural fires, flooding, overgrazing by wildlife, pests and dieases and volcanic eraption have led to environmental degradation by destroying plants and animals.

Mining and quarrying are factors that lead to environmental degradation. These not only deplete the nonrenewable natural resources but also h leave deep hollows that may harbor disease causing vectors e.g. Kilembe mine.

Political instability such as in Kasese and other parts of the worl lead environmental due to destruction of vegetation and natural habitats by explosives

Effects of environmental degradation in Uganda

Ozone depression is one of the effects of invironmental degradation. The ozone layer protects the Earth against most ultraviolet (UV) radiations coming from the sun. Too much exposure to UV rays causes sunburn, skin cancer, and glaucoma.

Green house gas emission such as carbon dioxide lead to global warming or gradual increase in the earth's temperature. This leads to melting of ice from the mountains where water is stored causing flooding of rivers and lakes which leads to death and displacement of people and wildlife.

Environmental degradation has an economic impact because decreased soil productivity in agriculture and depletion of non renewable nature resources leads to increased costs of production and consequently inflation

Environmental degradation leads to loss of biodiversity through destruction of natural habitats such as forests and water and air pollution.

Environmental degradation leads to losses for tourist industry through destruction of natural tourist attractions such as forests, glaciers, snow on the top mountains like Mountain Rwenzori. It also leads to extinction of valuable animals such as rhinos.

Environmental degradation impact on human health because pollution leads to high prevalence of diseases like asthma and infections such as cholera. There is also disappearance of forests that natural sources of herbs that would treat diseases like malaria

Environmental degradation has led to shortage of fuel such wood and fossil fuel and potable water.

Environmental degradation leads to Loss of water catchment areas leading to the disappearance of stream, shallow wells and swamps in places in Arua, Nakasogola and so on.

Solution to environmental degradation in Uganda

Whole ecosystems might be wiped out in long run if the causes of environmental degradation are not addressed effectively.

Use alternative forms of energy such as solar energy and hydroelectricity to reduce pressures on forests and fossil fuel.

Plant trees more trees to reverse deforestation the effects of green house emission

Use of massive modes of transport such as electric trains and buses to reduce on the number of vehicle on the road and hence carbon dioxide emission.

Energy conservation strategies.

Dispose of our wastes appropriately

Use of fuel efficient vehicles to reduce fuel consumption.

Education of the masses and children in school to understand the fundamental principle.

Reduce use and recycle wastes

Fine and punishment for illegal dumping.

In conclusion it is every one obligation to conserve the environment for the future generation.

Thank you
Dr. Bbosa Science

