

SILENT CRIME

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When it comes to conflicts between ecology and politics there is usually only one winner, namely the politics. But what this has to do with poor people? Everytime ecology loses against politics we see a rise in certain ecological problem, and the ones that suffer the most are poor people. Take a look at Africa for instance. Africa will be worst hit by climate change problem, with droughts and higher temperatures likely to cause even more problem to already poor and starving population in Africa.

The poorest have to suffer the most because of mistakes done by rich countries. Industrialized nations are the ones mostly responsible for pollution, global warming, and many other ecological problems. But they can at least search for solutions in science, technology, sustainable management. This is luxury that poor countries do not have because they don't have money. And without money nothing can't be done in "civilized world".

Poor countries are basically depending upon mercy and good will of rich countries. They need money, technology, and knowledge from rich countries to work on solutions for their ecological problems. But since ecological problems no longer have regional character, and have really expanded to global level, it is not enough for rich countries to only help themselves, rich should also help poor because of interconnection between ecological problems on global level. With not enough food and no money in their pockets people really don't care much for nature and environment. You really can't explain to poor people why they shouldn't destroy their forests and rainforests or why they shouldn't hunt endangered animals because they care only for their survival. And although rich countries have become aware that they need to ensure more funds to poor countries funding is still a big problem, especially in times of recession when rich countries have only one priority - revive their economies.

As long as poverty remains in so many countries around the globe, global ecological conscience will not be strong enough to prevent the world from buying one way ticket to environmental disaster. Global environmental condition of our planet is alarming. We have created one terrible environmental mess. It could soon turn into one big threat to all life on our planet.... Pollution and deforestation. It's total lack of ecological conscience that could lead us to real environmental disaster.

Why do we care so little for our planet that is still our only home? Perhaps this lack of ecological conscience has to do with the materialism and hedonism of our civilization. In the world where everything is measured by money it's hard to have any conscience left, especially ecological conscience because ecology means so little to so many people.

The best example of how little we care for our planet is climate change. Every day we hear dozens of bad news about what's going to happen if we do not change our way of life. Events like hurricanes, droughts, flooding, sea levels rise, extinction of many animals isn't still enough for world to make the right move and save our planet. Financial crisis was far more important than environmental crisis though environmental crisis is much bigger problem. In real life green is not the color of the nature it is really the color of the money. Environmental crimes are still showing signs of growing despite the number of new laws designed to put an end to shameful but profitable activities like rainforest logging, the trade in endangered animal skins and ivory. According to latest report issued by Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) this is extremely profitable business that earns more than \$10bn a year, and operates on international level.

Many well organized international gangs are driven by high profits up to 700%, and the EIA believes that a network of environmental crime rings is thriving in the developing world. The ivory trade hasn't been stopped despite the almost 20 years old international ban (1989). As a proof there was this signed confession obtained by the Zambia Wildlife Authority, where Benson Nkunika admits poaching 38 elephants for their ivory using guns like AK-47 on the orders of an area warden in South Luangwa, the country's most famous national park. Environmental crime is sort of a "silent crime". These crimes very often get unnoticed by many people. Even when they get noticed people tend to give these crimes very little attention as these crimes do not look big enough in their eyes. This situation suits environment criminals very well, and they are pulling great profit from destroying nature, while majority remains ignorant. And in the meantime environment crimes keeps on growing in many different ways, involving gangs that operate on global level. After all there is this huge profit that is more than enough to environment criminals to continue with their crimes. Politics cares about public opinion, and therefore when press starts writing about negative environmental condition of our planet politicians are not afraid to make promises about how they're doing anything in their power to protect our planet, and how we'll soon see change that would make the difference. Sadly these kind of promises are all what it takes for politics to achieve its goal in protecting the industry because our lack of ecological conscience. Politics uses our lack of care for our planet because our greedy minds are mostly occupied with money, and few false promises are more than enough to do the trick.