

## **SILENT CRIMES**

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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? Every time 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 be done in "civilized world".

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.

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 Nkunya 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.

Slime disaster in Hungary (4.10.2010)

The biggest chemical accident in Hungary's history has killed four people and swept through entire villages. The red poison covered streets, fields and meadows. Bridges and houses had been swept away or badly damaged. The caustic sludge had spread across several areas in western Hungary after leaking from a reservoir in an alumina refining plant. At least 1 million cubic meters of the red sludge, a mixture of lead and other heavy metals, had contaminated an area covering 40 square kilometers.

The accident has occurred at 12:10 p.m. on Monday in the alumina plant in Ajkai, around 165 kilometers west of Budapest. A reservoir burst, and the thick red sludge has spilled out, mixed with the floodwater that had afflicted the region for days and flowed through several villages – in places the toxic sludge has been one and half meters deep.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

It is an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico which flowed for three months in 2010. It is the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry. The spill stemmed from a sea-floor oil gusher that resulted from the April 20, 2010 explosion of Deepwater Horizon, which drilled on the BP-operated Macondo Prospect. The explosion killed 11 men working on the platform and injured 17 others. On July 15, the leak was stopped by capping the gushing wellhead, after it had released about 4.9 million barrels (780×103 m<sup>3</sup>), or 205.8 million gallons of crude oil. On September 19, the relief well process was successfully completed and the federal government declared the well "effectively dead". The spill causes extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats as well as the Gulf's fishing and tourism industries. In late November 2010, 4,200 square miles (11,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Gulf were re-closed to shrimping after tar balls were found in shrimpers' nets. In January 2011, an oil spill commissioner reported that tar balls continue to wash up, oil sheen trails are seen in the wake of fishing boats, wetlands marsh grass remains fouled and dying, and that crude oil lies offshore in deep water and in fine silts and sands onshore.

The arsenic hazard in Bangladesh.

The future of the Bangladesh villages are jeopardized. Arsenic contaminated underground water is one such severe problem which the government has failed to manage properly. Five years after the approval of National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation and Implementation Plan, two lakh people still face the threat of cancer annually due to drinking of arsenic contaminated water in Bangladesh, says a report of World Health Organisation.

Now it is confronting the accidental poisoning of as many as 85 million of its 125 million people with arsenic-contaminated drinking water. The epidemic of arsenic related cancer has just begun. So far, no programme aid has reached the people.