

Committee: UNESCO

Issue: Are Natural World Heritage sites a universal common good?

Author: New Zealand

Humans started destroying the Earth 3000 years ago and today, we are coming to a point where the Earth is not able to recover from the damage that was made. Around 75% of the land-based environment and 66% of the marine environment have been altered by human actions. If this continues, life on earth will become harder for everyone. Overall, humans destroy nature for their own benefit. A good example is the Amazon, often called the lungs of earth. It is crucial for the health of the planet. However, every second, 1 football field is cut down to create space for farms and plantation.

Our country is trying its best to protect nature. It uses protected areas, marine reserves, and climate goals to sustain natural resources. New Zealand has 14 national parks, which make up 30000 square kilometres of protected land. This is roughly 11% of New Zealand's land area. It is also a big supporter of the 30 x 30 goal. New Zealand relies on its natural beauty as most of its revenue comes from tourism, people coming to visit New Zealand's natural and primary industries. These primary industries rely on healthy natural environments as well.

New Zealand understands the economic reasons hidden behind the cutting down of natural resources in countries with the Amazon on their territory, but it cannot continue like this. We must work together to find solutions that benefit everyone, most importantly, future generations.

New Zealand is trying and will be trying even harder to conserve most of its own nature. Deforestation may be a good economic solution on a short time span but will without any doubt lead to future problems, which will not have a solution anymore. Therefore, we are encouraging other countries to contribute to the restoration of our world and human life. Collaboration between all world citizens is now more important than ever.