

Chapter 1 : Habitat Destruction – Lyric Power Publishing

Habitat destruction is the process by which natural habitat is rendered incapable of supporting its native species. In this process, the organisms that previously used the site are displaced or destroyed, reducing biodiversity.

Originally dry tropical forest, the land is being cleared for soybean cultivation. These hotspots are suffering from habitat loss and destruction. Most of the natural habitat on islands and in areas of high human population density has already been destroyed WRI, Islands suffering extreme habitat destruction include New Zealand , Madagascar , the Philippines , and Japan. South and East Asia – especially China , India , Malaysia , Indonesia , and Japan – and many areas in West Africa have extremely dense human populations that allow little room for natural habitat. Marine areas close to highly populated coastal cities also face degradation of their coral reefs or other marine habitat. These areas include the eastern coasts of Asia and Africa, northern coasts of South America , and the Caribbean Sea and its associated islands. Regions of unsustainable agriculture or unstable governments, which may go hand-in-hand, typically experience high rates of habitat destruction. Areas of high agricultural output tend to have the highest extent of habitat destruction. Ecosystems Jungle burned for agriculture in southern Mexico Tropical rainforests have received most of the attention concerning the destruction of habitat. From the approximately 16 million square kilometers of tropical rainforest habitat that originally existed worldwide, less than 9 million square kilometers remain today. Other forest ecosystems have suffered as much or more destruction as tropical rainforests. Tropical deciduous dry forests are easier to clear and burn and are more suitable for agriculture and cattle ranching than tropical rainforests; consequently, less than 0. Plains and desert areas have been degraded to a lesser extent. Wetlands and marine areas have endured high levels of habitat destruction. In the United Kingdom, there has been an increase in demand for coastal housing and tourism which has caused a decline in marine habitats over the last 60 years. The rising sea levels and temperatures has caused soil erosion , coastal flooding, and loss of quality in the UK marine ecosystem. Causes Deforestation and roads in Amazonia, the Amazon Rainforest. Natural causes Habitat destruction through natural processes such as volcanism, fire , and climate change is well documented in the fossil record. One study shows that habitat fragmentation of tropical rainforests in Euramerica million years ago led to a great loss of amphibian diversity, but simultaneously the drier climate spurred on a burst of diversity among reptiles. Human causes Habitat destruction caused by humans includes land conversion from forests, etc. Habitat degradation, fragmentation, and pollution are aspects of habitat destruction caused by humans that do not necessarily involve over destruction of habitat, yet result in habitat collapse. Desertification , deforestation , and coral reef degradation are specific types of habitat destruction for those areas deserts , forests , coral reefs. Global warming Rising global temperatures, caused by the greenhouse effect , contribute to habitat destruction, endangering various species, such as the polar bear. Melting ice caps promote rising sea levels and floods which threaten natural habitats and species globally. Images Nanjing Road in Shanghai The draining and development of coastal wetlands that previously protected the Gulf Coast contributed to severe flooding in New Orleans, Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. All content from Kiddle encyclopedia articles including the article images and facts can be freely used under Attribution-ShareAlike license, unless stated otherwise.

Chapter 2 : Habitat Destruction : Ocean Health Index

Habitat destruction, which is also known as habitat loss by scientists is a natural or non-natural phenomenon where animals or plants lose their home- natural habitat- or the functionality of habitat comes to an end in such a way that it can no longer support the organisms depended on it.

Share Donate Habitat lossâ€”due to destruction, fragmentation, or degradation of habitatâ€”is the primary threat to the survival of wildlife in the United States. When an ecosystem has been dramatically changed by human activitiesâ€”such as agriculture, oil and gas exploration, commercial development, or water diversionâ€”it may no longer be able to provide the food, water, cover, and places to raise young that wildlife need to survive. Every day there are fewer places left that wildlife can call home. Major Kinds of Habitat Loss

Habitat destruction: A bulldozer pushing down trees is the iconic image of habitat destruction. Other ways people directly destroy habitat include filling in wetlands, dredging rivers, mowing fields, and cutting down trees. Much of the remaining terrestrial wildlife habitat in the U. These fragments of habitat may not be large or connected enough to support species that need a large territory where they can find mates and food. The loss and fragmentation of habitats makes it difficult for migratory species to find places to rest and feed along their migration routes. Pollution , invasive species , and disruption of ecosystem processes such as changing the intensity of fires in an ecosystem are some of the ways habitats can become so degraded, they no longer support native wildlife.

Main Causes of Habitat Loss

Agriculture: Much of the habitat loss from agriculture was done long ago when settlers converted forests and prairies to cropland. Today, there is increasing pressure to redevelop conservation lands for high-priced food and biofuel crops.

Land conversion for development: The conversion of lands that once provided wildlife habitat to housing developments, roads, office parks, strip malls, parking lots and industrial sites continues, even during the current economic crisis.

Dams and other water diversions siphon off and disconnect waters, changing hydrology and water chemistry when nutrients are not able to flow downstream. During the dry season, the Colorado River has little to no water in it by the time it reaches the Sea of Cortez.

Freshwater wildlife are most impacted by pollution. Pollutants such as untreated sewage, mining waste, acid rain, fertilizers and pesticides concentrate in rivers, lakes and wetlands and eventually end up in estuaries and the food web. The emerging driver of habitat loss is climate change.

Wildlife that need the cool temperatures of high elevations, such as the American pika , may soon run out of habitat. Coastal wildlife may find their habitat underwater as sea levels rise.

Plant native plants and put out a water source so that you can provide the food, water, cover, and places to raise young that wildlife need to survive.

Sources In Search of Wildlife-friendly Biofuels: Are Native Prairie Plants the Answer? The Status of Biodiversity in the United States. Oxford University Press, New York:

Chapter 3 : Impact of habitat loss on species | WWF

What is Habitat Destruction? A habitat is the natural place where plants, animals, or other organisms live; it is where they call home. This is the living area necessary for an ecosystem to remain.

Every living thing needs somewhere to live, find food and reproduce. This is known as its habitat. In order for a species to be viable its habitat must have sufficient territory, necessary food and water and a range of necessary physical features. These features can include tree cover, rocky hills or deep pools, as well as the organisms and ecosystems that are needed to complete the life cycle. Habitat loss is when land cover, or its aquatic equivalent, is changed, usually as a result of changing use by humans. Whenever we humans take over natural areas for our own use, we are encroaching on the habitat of another creature and progressively we are doing this at an alarming rate. Human activity is responsible for the loss of around half of the forests that once covered the Earth. Although these can recover and can even be sustainably harvested, their rate of loss is about ten times higher than the rate of regrowth. Taking just one example: Habitat loss is generally more serious for the larger animals because they need a greater area in which to have a healthy breeding population. Tigers, mountain gorillas, pandas and Indian lions are good examples, but habitat loss does not just affect animals. A recent study has indicated that more than 40 species of fish currently found in the Mediterranean could disappear in the next few years. Tropical orchids that thrive in the rain forests are at serious risk as are numerous species of birds from a wide variety of habitats. In fact the only species that are not truly affected by habitat loss are creatures that benefit from human activity such as cockroaches and rats. Habitat loss is also a huge problem in the marine environment. Destructive fishing, using deep trawlers and dynamiting coral reefs destroy entire ecosystems. Coastal habitats are destroyed when land is drained for development. Excess nutrients from fertilisers or domestic sewage flow into the sea, causing harmful algae to form, blocking out the sunlight and depleting the water of oxygen. Pollution from toxic substances such as industrial chemicals, pesticides and motor oil are also a real problem. Dredging ship channels will stir up accumulated sediments and pollutants and the removed material is often dumped on salt marshes, destroying the habitats of the creatures that live there. Accidents at sea have also had a profound effect on habitat destruction. Several large oil tankers have been involved in major spills, and of course there was the Deepwater Horizon oilrig disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. In each case, enormous quantities of oil have been released into the ocean, devastating the entire ecosystems of the area. Diversity loss is yet another feature of habitat degradation. A particular ecosystem is home to a number of species and as these begin to go into a rapid decline following the loss of their habitat, a more aggressive species might take the opportunity and move in. As the original species struggle to survive in an increasingly hostile environment, the aggressive invader causes further decline until it eventually reigns supreme. The proliferation of invasive species poses a strong threat to native species as they struggle to cope with highly fluctuating environments. In order to mitigate diversity loss, it is important for conservation efforts to focus on reducing the numbers of invasive species. The world is getting warmer and climate change has already had, or is expected to have, a serious influence on habitat loss. Many former habitats have already become inhospitable. Plants that thrive in damp, cool conditions now simply wither and die during prolonged dry periods. This is around a million species. In the UK, as sea levels rise, marshland close to river estuaries would disappear. The loss of inland wet grassland and coastal sea marsh would lead to the loss of breeding habitats of birds such as the redshank. A continued rise in level would mean the loss of feeding areas needed by waders and other shore birds. Still in the UK, trees such as the oak and the ash would find it difficult to survive frequent prolonged droughts. Wetland areas that are home to rare moths and other creatures would simply dry out. Warm hot summers also encourage algae to flourish on rivers and lakes, at the expense of fish and bird life. Milder winters will allow the survival of pests and bacteria that cold weather would formerly have eradicated. This will have a serious effect on crops and wildlife. Thin soils will dry out and erode in summer and flash floods will cause more soil to be washed away. Rapidly changing weather patterns will also disrupt growing patterns. In parts of the world where rainfall is already scarce, as in parts of Africa and China, crop failure and subsequent famine will become a real danger. Extreme weather events are

increasingly occurring as a result of climate change. These events can be enormously destructive and have a disastrous effect on habitat , since they are often associated with high winds or floods. We are fortunate to be part of a world that is characterised by the diversity of its many species of plant and animal life. Countless numbers of these species are under threat of extinction, mainly through loss of habitat. The chief reasons for this loss are human intervention and climate change. The world is already warming and although there is little that can be done about it, we can slow the process down by reducing the amounts of greenhouse gas currently being released into the atmosphere and concentrating more on energy saving measures and renewable energy systems We are all jointly responsible for the world around us. If mankind can be persuaded to be more environmentally aware of the responsibility to safeguard the habitats of these endangered creatures, there is yet some hope for their survival.

Chapter 4 : The Effects of Habitat Destruction of the Environment | Sciencing

Habitat loss "due to destruction, fragmentation, or degradation of habitat" is the primary threat to the survival of wildlife in the United States.

Urban Sprawl The three main types of habitat loss are habitat destruction, habitat degradation and habitat fragmentation. As Wildlife Habitat Canada states, "Without habitat, there is no wildlife. Habitat Destruction Jungle burned for agriculture in southern Mexico. Jami Dwyer Click for source Habitat destruction occurs when natural habitats are no longer able to support the species present, resulting in the displacement or destruction of its biodiversity. Examples include harvesting fossil fuels, deforestation, dredging rivers, bottom trawling, urbanization, filling in wetlands and mowing fields. The main causes of habitat degradation is pollution, invasive species, agricultural development, diminished resources, such as water and food, urban sprawl, logging, mining, destructive fishing practices and the disruption of ecosystem processes, such as altering the intensity and frequency of fires in an ecosystem. These are some of the ways habitats can become so degraded that they no longer support native wildlife. Acid rain, also called acid deposition, can cause habitat degradation. Acid rain is formed primarily by air pollution from nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, are burned, which degrades habitats by causing precipitation to contain harmful amounts of nitric and sulfuric acids. These acids fall to the Earth either as wet precipitation, such as rain, snow, or fog, or as dry precipitation, such as gas and particulates. Some are carried by the wind, sometimes hundreds of miles. In the environment, acid rain causes the acidification of sensitive forest soils, streams, lakes and rivers, making the water unsuitable for some fish and other wildlife, contributes to the damage of trees by robbing them of nutrients, stifling new growth, killing many of the seedlings, making them more susceptible to other environmental threats and causing damage to the roots potentially leading to the trees death. Great Apes - the Road Ahead. According to NWF , "These fragments of habitat may not be large or connected enough to support species that need a large territory in which to find mates and food. The loss and fragmentation of habitat make it difficult for migratory species to find places to rest and feed along their migration routes," or to even make it across these ancient and essential migratory paths to begin with. Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences of the U. Around the globe, there is no greater threat to their survival. We can slow this trend and give animals the space they need. Animals are killed outright when the bulldozers move in. Those who can flee the destruction, face uncertain futures

"if they can find a new place to live, it will probably already be occupied by others of their species.

Chapter 5 : Talk:Habitat destruction - Wikipedia

Habitat destruction is damage to an area that certain species live in, to the extent that the species can no longer survive in that area. The causes of habitat destruction can be either man-made or natural in origin.

Back to the Environmental Issues Homepage Habitat Destruction Habitat destruction, which is also known as habitat loss by scientists is a natural or non-natural phenomenon where animals or plants lose their home-natural habitat- or the functionality of habitat comes to an end in such a way that it can no longer support the organisms depended on it. Scientists consider this to be a very serious issue which needs immediate attention: Earth may not be the largest planet in the universe but it surely is one of the most diverse planets and humans are lucky to be the inhabitants of this planet. The most significant result of habitat destruction is the elimination of many plants and animals, which have lower adaptation skills to the changing circumstances. However, some animals and plants may survive habitat destruction by changing their basic genetic structures, which is known as "the survival of the fittest" explained by Charles Darwin. Human interference and habitat destruction started in the Western world during the early 18th century when urban areas were heavily altered to meet the requirements of ever increasing urban population. The immediate result was the sudden vanishing of greenery, which was not a major concern earlier since the population was significantly low and the greenery which was still prevalent on the suburbs controlled the temperature and supplied sufficient fresh air to urban developments. By 20th century, most countries in the Western World were economically developed and the high illiteracy rates made people aware about the importance of protecting the environment. But the fate of earth was not changing as it should be because many developing countries started exploiting the nature to the core. The entire African Continent and countries like Brazil, China and India elements several Asian countries explored the forbidden parts of the nature, eventually leading to mass habitat destruction. The issue fueled up by the ever rising population in the Developing World. Several million acres of tropical forests have been destroyed all over the world, leaving many countries without sufficient amount of forest to support the nations requires annual rainfall. Even today, several thousands of acres of forest land are being destroyed in Latin American countries to create land for agriculture. Erosion is another major concern among scientists. Printing paper was manufactured from wood pulp, which was a major source of plant destruction. There are several other industries which need plants and animal fats or other body parts of animals. Leather, fur, perfumes and pills are some examples but there are multiple industrial needs for plants and animals, which is also a reason for their extinction. Blue Whale population has reached to a threatened level, which urged the United Nations to pass a ban on blue whale hunting all over the world but individual cases are reported about Japanese fishermen being involved in blue whale hunting. Similarly, elephants were hunted extensively for their tusk; tigers and leopards for their skin; turtles and fishes for aquariums and many owl species and other bird species were hunted for black magic in India and Africa. Grazing is a situation where wild animals start hunting livestock because their natural habitat is heavily damaged or altered, and eventually became incompetent in providing them food. However, animals that hunt the livestock is always on higher risk because farmers will kill these animals to protect their livestock. Mining primarily affects aquatic species because the high metal content or chemical content in the mining waste will contaminate their habitat. Mining is considered as a serious threat because thousands of animals have been vanished from the face of earth because of mining. Oil spills are the most disastrous habitat damage created in the modern world by oil vessels, refineries and many other sources. Since oil spills are caused by some of the largest ships in the world, it can literally spread millions of gallons of crude oil in the ocean, killing several thousands of birds, fishes, snakes and plant life. This is why many countries have strict rules against oil spilling. It is considered as a serious crime in most countries where the convicted can get even life sentence. Acid rains, polluted lakes and scarcity of drinking water are some of the major concerns associated with pollution. However, there are many other harmful effects for pollution with distant effects but can leave us with a lot of trouble. Urbanization can completely change the natural landscape of places, which are mandatory for the ecosystem balancing and the survival of thousands of animals. Many freeways, railroads and artificial canals completely changed the landscape of a

huge area, forcing the organisms in that area to accept the new changes. However, a good number of organisms will not be able to survive this changed condition, which will result in the destruction. Are There Any Remedies? Responsible citizens have a major role in protecting the natural habitat of plants and animals. Make sure to use recycled products and stop the littering of plastic waste. You also can use alternate energy such as solar panels and electric cars to bring down the usage of fossil fuels. Individual efforts are very important in protecting the landscape because this is the only way to bring down the damage that we are doing to our mother nature. Spread the word around:

Chapter 6 : Habitat destruction Facts for Kids

Habitat destruction is the process by which natural habitat is damaged or destroyed to such an extent that it no longer is capable of supporting the species and ecological communities that naturally occur there. It often results in the extinction of species and, as a result, the loss of biodiversity.

Leave a comment Illustration of Cyclura Nubila on cover of free booklet showing differences between the native rock iguana and the invasive green iguana The Cayman Islands are a system of three islands located south of Cuba: Two kinds of iguanas are found there. Their body color is really the most amazing sky blue. They were almost lost to extinction, but some hardworking humans created the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme and their numbers are climbing. They are endemic to only the Sister Islands. Along with the usual human-caused problems, habitat destruction and feral pets, the iguanas on Brac have a high road mortality. Because the iguanas enjoy the warm, smooth roads, they are at risk for being run over by cars. Sadly, over the last few years many of the local iguanas have died this way. My friend Bonnie Scott Edwards , who lives on the Brac, asked me to help her spread the word about the iguanas being needlessly killed. She had some terrific photos of iguanas both living and dead – I prefer the live ones myself. Then my friend, Anderson, who does great drawings for my books, filled in the blanks with his illustrations for my book, Silent Rocks. The book turned out great and I hope it helps not only to educate people but also tugs at their consciences. Every time an iguana is senselessly killed, a part of the future dies. Some people wonder about the value of the iguanas. Did you know that many plants require the help of the iguanas to germinate and grow? When seeds pass through the iguana after being eaten, they germinate faster. They go up the bluff, then down the bluff, then up the bluff, then down – well, you get the idea. However, not just any iguana will do. Only the correct iguana will do. This makes sense, since many of the plants evolved along with the iguanas. More studies are being done. Bonnie also tells them about the dangers of letting their pets run loose. It is so sad when they realize their mistake too late. And lastly, are the poisons. Of course, the rats and mice were introduced by people, too. So many dangers have come along with people. The reduction in population is the result of human activity on their habitat and the threats can only be eliminated by human action. Like the blue iguanas on Grand Cayman, the Brac rock iguanas can be brought back from the brink of extinction. I wrote a book about this important issue. Read here about reptiles, birds, cats in a variety of locations. Read the blog to learn how the books come to be, what inspires an author to write, and many more interesting aspects of the publishing business. Fill in the box below and we will add you to our email list.

Chapter 7 : Habitat Destruction | Kids Discover Online

Coral reefs can be vibrant ecosystems, but they are also vulnerable to human activities. This image gallery reveals the beauty and plight of coral reefs. At Smithsonian Ocean, we have lesson plans, activities, and resources to help you engage your students in the wonders of our oceans.

Total trawled catch was divided by the total area of soft-bottom habitat to produce a measure of trawl intensity per unit area. The subtidal hard bottom destruction proxy scored regions based upon data from Reefs at Risks Revisited, which recorded the presence of destructive artisanal blast and poison cyanide fishing on a country-level basis. These data were not a perfect proxy, as they only cover coral reef habitats, however, suitable global data for additional hard bottom habitats were not available. The intertidal habitat destruction proxy measured the coastal population density within 10 km of the coast based upon the assumption that the potential for intertidal habitat destruction was proportional to the density of human population living along the coast. Population density was extracted from the gridded population of the world dataset CIESIN , using only the UN-adjusted population counts and density for the most recent year, All pressures are ranked for their differing affects on different goals. The actual data-derived value of the pressure is then multiplied by the weight assigned to it for that goal. That process is repeated for each pressure-goal combination. The sum of those values divided by 3 the the maximum pressure-goal value expresses the total affect of pressures on the goal. The three components of Habitat Destruction are each weighted and evaluated separately for all Ocean Health Index goals. What Are The Impacts? Destructive fishing practices e. When seagrass, mangrove and salt marsh habitats are destroyed, they are no longer able to sequester carbon dioxide CO₂ from the atmosphere and significant amounts of CO₂, released from stored carbon, are emitted back into the atmosphere. Ships can damage habitats with their hulls, propellers and anchors. Divers and snorkelers can damage habitats such as coral reefs and seagrasses when in direct contact i. The installation and maintenance of pipelines and fiber optic cables on the seafloor can damage marine ecosystems and result in sedimentation and pollution. More than half of all new cancer drug research is focused on marine organisms Cesar et al. Habitat destruction can result in a loss in commercially or recreationally important marine species, potentially impacting opportunities for exercise, relaxation or outdoor learning. The destruction and loss of coastal habitats decreases shoreline protection, which can negatively impact human lives and property. Habitat destruction can eliminate organisms that filter sediments and pollutants, reducing water quality and impacting human health. Decreased shoreline protection due to habitat loss can affect coastal communities and industries that are exposed to climactic events e. Currently, half of the world population lives within 60 km of the ocean and three-quarters of the large cities are located by the coast. What Has Been Done? Established in , Leam Markham is a acre community-managed mangrove forest and sea grass conservation zone in the Trang Province in Thailand. Years of collaboration between local conservationists, economists, scientists, grassroots activists, students and citizens have protected mangrove forests from logging, development and destruction for aquaculture, and seagrass beds from damage by trawling, dynamite fishing and pushnets.

Chapter 8 : Habitat destruction definition | Biodiversity A-Z

Habitat destruction, alteration and fragmentation May 7, Habitat destruction, alteration and fragmentation are probably the most serious causes of current and future amphibian population declines and species extinctions (Dodd and Smith).

Tweet on Twitter Habitat destruction is defined as the changing of a natural environment which causes difficulties for local flora and fauna to survive. From the collection of firewood to the demolition of rainforests to create croplands, millions of acres of habitats are lost on a regular basis. Even a degradation of habitat can cause flora and fauna loss. As humanity grows and continues to require space, is it also possible to implement solutions to habitation destruction that are cost-effective and meaningful? Here are some ideas that could make a meaningful difference. In Costa Rica, more than one-quarter of its national territory has been listed as protected lands. Offer land management solutions. Zoning can also be an effective method of land management. This is because zoning dictates specifically how a certain area of land can be used. We often think of zoning as being residential, commercial, or industrial, but the creation of a National Park, State Park, or similar reserve is also a form of zoning that can prevent habitat destruction. Monitor and test water quality. Even when the physical structure of a habitat is being preserved, the habitat may be being destroyed from within. This is due to the quality of water that is available to those who call the area home. By monitoring water quality levels, performing regular sampling and testing, and then working to improve damaged areas, a habitat can begin the journey toward recovery. Publication of habitat loss. For many people, the idea of habitat loss is one that does not enter their mind unless it affects them personally in some way. Through journalistic activities that report on habitat destruction, a greater public awareness of the issues being faced can be obtained. Manage existing lands in a proper way. A good example of this comes from the logging industry. In the past, clearcutting was considered a viable solution to the commercial need for wood. The only problem was that clearcutting altered the habitat in many ways, such as through soil erosion, and it could take up to 50 years to restore the land. By using forestry management techniques, local habitats could still be protected while commercial needs were still met. Only use what is needed. The primary reason why habitats are destroyed is because we are consuming resources. By limiting waste within our resource chain, we create a similar limitation in the area of habitat destruction. When we focus on education and personal action, then we have effective solutions to habitat destruction that can create a meaningful impact on local, national, and global scales. Sometimes helping a habitat may be as simple as turning off a light. Our planet is diverse. These steps can help us make sure it stays that way.

Chapter 9 : Main Types of Habitat Loss - Everything Connects

Habitat loss poses the greatest threat to species. The world's forests, swamps, plains, lakes, and other habitats continue to disappear as they are harvested for human consumption and cleared to make way for agriculture, housing, roads, pipelines and the other hallmarks of industrial development.

The marine habitat destruction and loss is where the marine environment or the ecological set up is unable to support life due to degradation. This is a process that is contributed by various natural and human activities. Most countries have had the opportunity to stock marine animals and plants. One irrefutable assertion is that marine lives are highly appreciated. The primary reason for this would be that they add the beauty of a country. Here are the various causes of marine habitat loss and destruction.

Causes of Marine Habitat Loss and Destruction

Climate and seas changes Scientists explain that when there is higher concentration of carbon dioxide in the air, the water absorbs much of it. The water gets contaminated and the level of heat in the water rises beyond the expectations of life. When the ocean temperatures rise; there are other associated adverse impacts that are experienced in the aquatic environment.

Climate change-related heat The heat melts the icecaps and as a result, there is a resultant rise in the ocean level. The melted ice caps and glaciers contaminate the water and this threatens the life of the aquatic plants and animals. The increase in temperature has another aeration negative impact. It obviously limits the concentration or the solubility of oxygen in the water. Plants and animals will then suffocate. The changes that take place in the sea due to climate change-related heat are also responsible for the marine habitat loss and destruction as they may contaminate the water or even alter the water temperatures.

Pollution There are some human activities which are responsible for the changes in the marine ecological conditions and such may mean alteration or destruction and loss to the marine habitat. Such can entail water pollution, air pollution, and land pollution which intoxicate the environment and makes the water contaminated. Thermal pollution as a result of industrial activities also destroys marine habits. The end result is the depletion of marine animal and plant species.

Unsustainable fishing It is always important that the fishing activity has the ability to support the environmental conservation attempts. Too much aggressive fishing activity can damage the marine habitat as it leads to the loss of many fish and aquatic species.

Lack of protection from the governments Where governments have failed to acknowledge the importance of conserving the natural habitat, there is higher probability that negative impacts will be made. In the case of marine habitats, when there are no policies regulating access to such areas, sea plants and animals will shoulder the burden of irresponsible acts.

Shipping Impact In many cases, countries rely on the shipping means of transport for bulky cargo. But the effect of the process does not always augur well with the well-being of the sea habitat. Marine habitat is therefore destroyed by the oil spills among other associated hazards which poison the water.

Eutrophication Eutrophication can be understood as the process where the fertilizers from land are washed off into the waters. These fertilizers always contain phosphate and nitrate ions and when they come into contact with the waters; they form basic and acidic compounds thereby leading to dense growth of algal blooms, which in return create intolerable environment that cannot support aquatic life.

Development of coastal places Due to the existence of water transport, many countries develop a consequential drive to develop their coastal regions. But in the process, less or no concentration is rendered on the need to conserve the natural marine habitat and all that it contains.

Effects of Marine Habitat Loss and Destruction

Low oxygen concentration When the marine habitat is destroyed and is at the brink of vanishing, there various effects that would be likely. The first major impact that acts as the determinant and influences the outcome of the others is that oxygen concentration in the water gets to the lower level, to the extent that it can barely support aquatic life. This can be as a result of water or air pollution which even makes the water to be contaminated. The resultant situation of such destruction is that most plants and animals disappear through death.

Migration of marine animals Some animals may be forced to migrate on sensing that there is that element of environmental hostility. It means that the country or the people that border this particular water body will be obviously deprived of the opportunity to freely gain from the benefits of the aquatic plants and animals.

Food reduction Because there is some degree of dependence between the terrestrial and aquatic lives;

the former will be hit by the depletion of the latter. A significant example that can be cited in this particular scenario is that humans depend on some sea fish such as octopus, star fish, salmon and much more for food. When they are depleted, humans will definitely suffer from that negative impact. Extinction of animal and plant species Animals such as whale, shark and many others depend on other aquatic ones such as seals for food. Extinction of one means the extinction of the others in the food chain. The whole consequence of the marine habitat loss and destruction is that it leads to death and migration of animals. Some plants also die and become extinct due to the extreme ecological conditions. Rapid land conversion rate Where marine habitat loss and destruction is characterized by the disappearance or the decrease in water masses, there is quick land conversion rate. This may benefit humans for settlement but other benefits drawn from the aquatic life will surely vanish. Loss of coastal natural beauty The beauty of the coastal places is dictated by the variety of plants and animals that are existing. This implies that when the natural habitat is encroached or even destroyed, such species or animals and plants become extinct. The extinction takes away the beauty of the coastal areas because its natural aspect is taken away. Loss of revenue to the governments Coastal regions are major tourist attraction sites. Not only do the sandy beaches attract people but also the picturesque view of the aquatic plants and animals play crucial roles. Whenever such animals and plants are rendered extinct, the beauty of these places is taken away and this implies that the countries have to contend with decrease in tourism activities and as such, the loss in revenue. Solutions of Marine Habitat Loss and Destruction Controlling Pollution The first measure that would be useful in combating this environmental threat would be the step to control environmental pollution. Water, air and soil pollution are responsible for the adverse climatic changes. Such changes result into glaciation, melting of the icebergs and in the process, the marine habitat is threatened by degradation. Environmental conservation Policies Human discipline would be quite necessary in ensuring that the problem of marine destruction is solved. How would this happen? Perhaps, various environmental conservation bodies such as UNEP can be in liaison with the various governments so that laws seeking to control industrialization and waste disposal are ratified. Eventually, global warming shall have been controlled and the threat posed to the aquatic lives will have minimized. Controlled fishing There are other associated activities that can be used constructively. This may entail the controlled or moderated fishing which is sustainable. Overfishing tampers with the aquatic ecology and food chain. It can be done in a way that other plants and animals are not rendered extinct in the process. Overfishing can render certain animal species extinct due to the deprivation of food. Fishing regulations can therefore help in giving guidance. Civic Education Humans sometimes need to be educated on how they can respect the sanctity of the laws of nature. This encompasses the duty to treat the plants and animals with care. Civic education can be important in the marine areas as it would equip the people with the necessary skills to help them avoid the destruction of marine habitat. This activity can be conducted in small groups. Restricting over aggressive coastal developments Governments can only use the relevant coastal locations to boost other activities such as trade. This move will be very helpful in limiting the spread of urbanization and coastal developments which pose serious threat to the marine habitat. Other policies can be formulated which support and give guidance on what needs to be done during coastal urbanization to preserve the marine habitats. Limiting land conversion drive When uncontrolled, human settlements can be a nuisance to the existing ecosystem. In the coastal regions, it can get over ambitious and this connotes doom to the marine habitat. As a consequence, plants and animals will be endangered. Such human activities can be moderated by limiting land conversion drive. Using designate routes only during shipping Countries that are using water transport can go ahead and control the activities. This can be achieved through the strict use of designate routes in order to limit the spread of danger that can be caused by the ships. It can reduce the oil spill disasters and other heat related dangers.