



## Global Environmental Issues

Resources for Community Facilitators

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Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability  
of future generations to meet their needs.

### **Assembly Instructions for Global Environmental Issues Bulletin Board**

- Cut out individual pieces of text and put them on the board for best results. Cut out related pieces of text that are on separate lines and arrange them together.
- Each section of text can be placed anywhere around the board. The images are related to certain points of the text, and they can go near that particular text or anywhere around the board.
- You may want to put a map or image of a globe as the background. If so, you could use yarn to connect the text with the continent it refers to.
- The question at the top of the pages containing text should either be centered in the board or go at the top.

**We've all heard of energy dependence, but have you ever wondered what the most important environmental issues are in other parts of the world?**

## Asia's "Urban Excess"

Government-imposed low food prices have made it unprofitable to live in rural areas, causing a huge migration to cities. In fact, nine out of thirteen megacities (cities with populations over 10 million) in the world are in Asia. As this pattern continues, the problem of overcrowding in cities will only

worsen, as the Asian urban population is expected to increase to 50% by 2020, up from 38% in 2000. Overcrowded urban conditions contribute to unemployment, undernourishment, and disease, as well as other environmental problems such as air and water pollution.

## Loss of Biodiversity in Africa

Regions with a highly varied wildlife population, usually those with much vegetation, can be extremely useful to human life, not to mention being ecologically valuable in their own inherent right. Human development threatens these regions of high biodiversity, found most commonly in the Eastern

part of Africa. For example, during civil conflict in Uganda in the 1970s, mammal and vegetation populations suffered a great reduction in number of species. The main goal in conservation efforts in Africa, which includes designating forests and other ecosystems as “protected areas”, is to encourage

sustainable use of these natural resources for local people.

### Emissions in Europe

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Europe are rising at rates higher than in the United States and other developed countries. Much of the increase in emissions has come from the rapidly-developing airline

industry, which has proliferated in Europe and across the globe in recent years. The EU also claims that many emissions come from international airline carriers, and they are working to regulate or provide incentives for the international carriers to mitigate their pollution. Currently, mitigation is taking the form of

marketable pollution permits. By 2012, Europe hopes the United States and other countries, though now resisting the intended requirement to buy permits, will be fully compliant with their system.

## Deforestation in South America

Although the most famous is the Amazon, South America is home to billions of acres of forests. These forests are home to millions of people, as well as more than one fifth of the plant and animal species in the world. Forests are being cut down at alarming rates to make room for industry,

agriculture, and mining, which are seen as opportunities to earn a profit by breaking into the Western economy. Furthermore, the practices employed to cut down these forests are highly unsustainable as they create emissions and displace people from their homes. The effects of deforestation are long-term,

including loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, and erosion.

### Habitat Destruction in Antarctica

Though often portrayed as pristine, Antarctica has not escaped ecological destruction. Marine habitats especially have been threatened by over-fishing and large-scale exploration. Whaling,

which is legal only under scientific pretexts, has also become a controversial issue in the Antarctic region. If the destruction of habitats in this fragile ecosystem continues, many species will be at risk of becoming extinct. Unchecked development and human carelessness are causing the

growing threat to marine habitats  
in Antarctica.



**Jakarta, Indonesia: A megacity facing problems with air pollution, among others**

### Population of Asia's Largest Cities

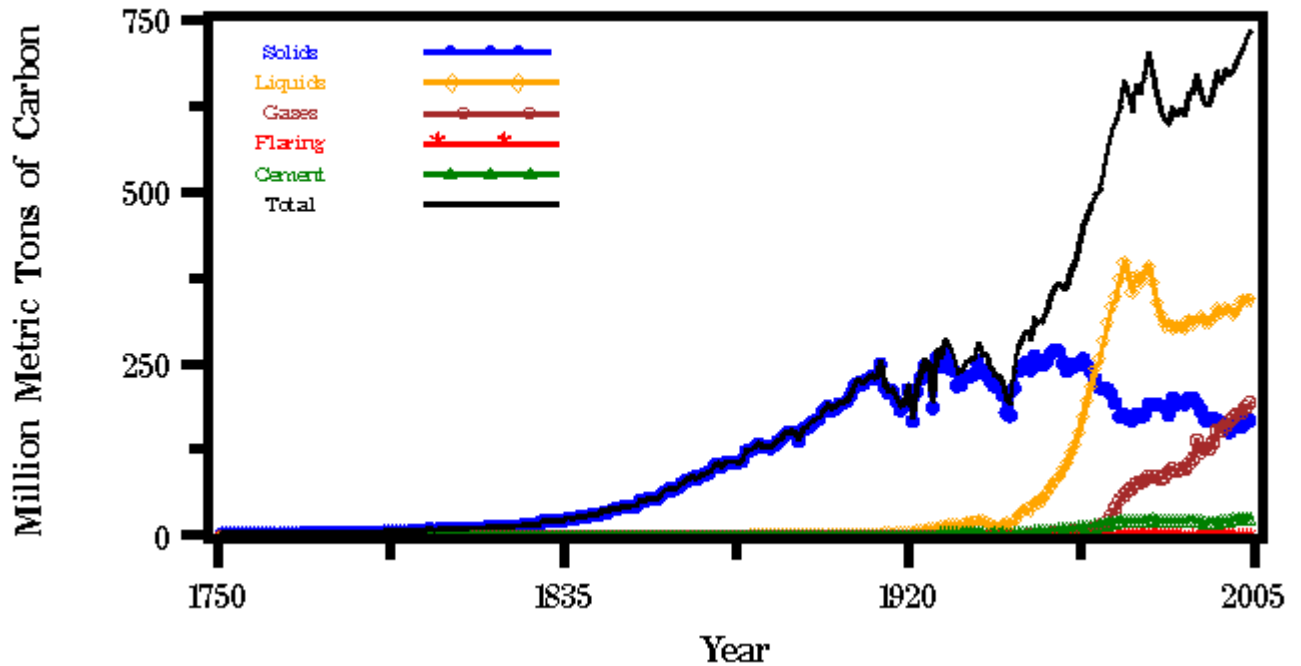
City	World Rank	1995 (Millions)	2015 (Millions)
Tokyo, Japan	1	26.96	28.89
Bombay, India	5	15.14	26.22
Shanghai, China	6	13.58	17.97
Calcutta, India	8	11.92	17.31
Seoul, South Korea	10	11.61	12.98
Beijing, China	11	11.2	15.57
Osaka, Japan	12	10.61	10.61
Delhi, India	15	9.95	16.86
Tianjin, China	19	9.42	13.53
Manila, Philippines	20	9.29	14.66
Jakarta, India	22	8.62	13.92
Dhaka, Bangladesh	23	8.55	19.49



Giraffes and their habitats are threatened by activities causing biodiversity loss in Africa

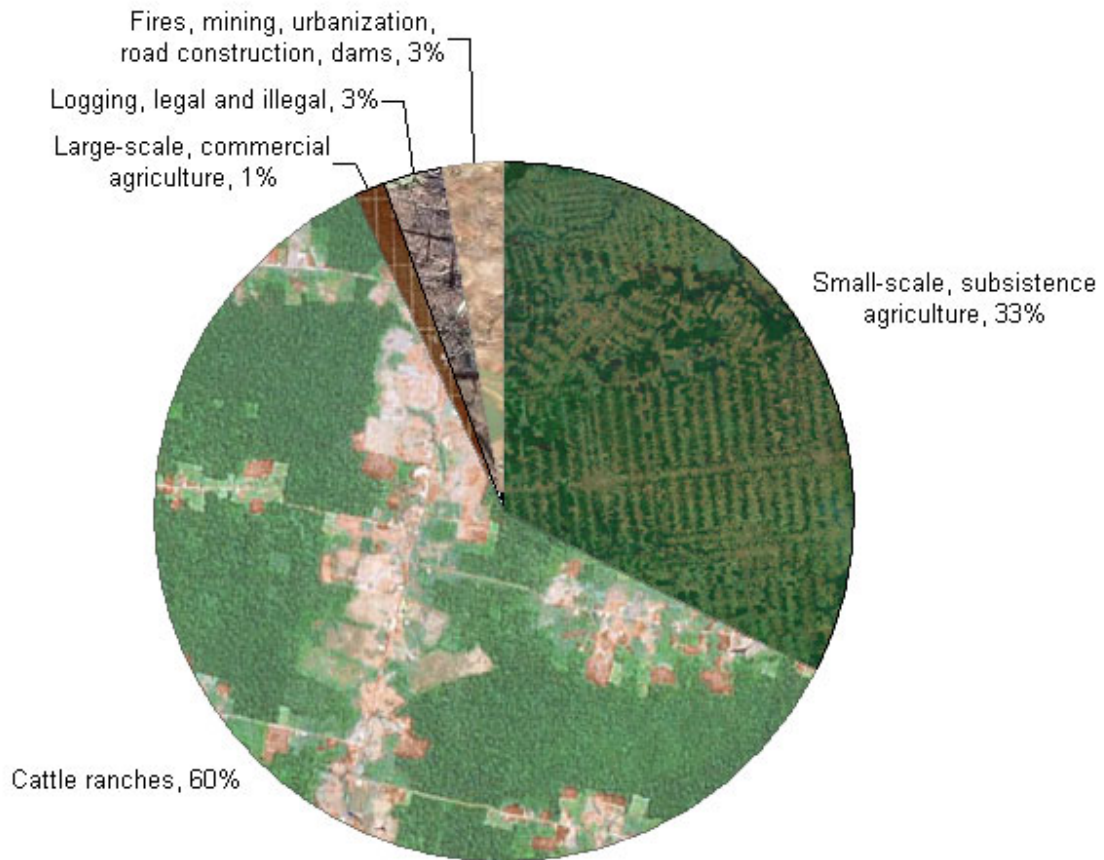


Deforestation in East Africa, as pictured here, represents a loss of plant biodiversity



This graph shows the rise of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Western Europe. Note that the most dramatic rise has been in gas CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Causes of Deforestation in the Amazon, 2000-2005





Development threatens to destroy  
Antarctica's marine habitats



Text:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/apcity/unpan010365.pdf>  
[http://www.unescap.org/huset/hangzhou/paper/urban\\_paper.htm](http://www.unescap.org/huset/hangzhou/paper/urban_paper.htm)  
<http://www.grida.no/publications/other/aeo/?src=/aeo/>  
<http://na.unep.net/publications/biodiversity/biodiversity.html>  
[http://www.gefweb.org/Outreach/outreach-PUBlications/Project\\_factsheet/Africa-redu-10-bd-undp-eng-ld.pdf](http://www.gefweb.org/Outreach/outreach-PUBlications/Project_factsheet/Africa-redu-10-bd-undp-eng-ld.pdf)  
[http://www.eoearth.org/article/Eastern\\_Africa\\_and\\_biodiversity](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Eastern_Africa_and_biodiversity)  
<http://www.leonardo-energy.org/drupal/node/2072>  
<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/11/curbing-foreign-airline-emissions-in-europe/>  
<http://www.tqnyc.org/2005/NYC052139//South%20America.htm>  
<http://www.antarcticconnection.com/antarctic/science/environment.shtml>  
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/03/07/japan.whaling/index.html>

Images:

[http://www.instablogsimages.com/images/2008/06/21/borneo\\_deforestation\\_RiJAz\\_16834.jpg](http://www.instablogsimages.com/images/2008/06/21/borneo_deforestation_RiJAz_16834.jpg)  
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<http://blog.wired.com/cars/images/2008/04/13/contrails.jpg>  
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<http://www.bestcruises.com.au/regions/images/antarctica.jpg>  
<http://www.nslc.wustl.edu/education/courses/edu4741/lessons05/winders/rainforest%202.bmp>