

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Drastically Reducing Maritime Pollution, including Plastic

Country : Australia

School: Champion School, Cochin, Kerala, India, Pin: 682024

Covering seventy percent of our planet, oceans are the world's valuable natural resources. Our weather depends on water, air too is cleaned by it. Its a source of living for many of us. Oceans are home to many life on earth, from algae underwater to the blue whale, the largest living animal available.

Major oceans that cover the world including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Southern Oceans, There are three main marine ecosystems we witness, they are Oceans, Estuaries and Coral reefs. If these are polluted we sacrifice our peace with marine nature. Marine pollution is a combination of chemicals and garbage, which mostly comes from land and is washed or blown into the ocean. This results in permanent damage to the ecosystem, organisms, and to economic need from that too.

Australia, as a nation, holds a huge marine environment. It's the world's third largest marine space, with 13.86 million square KM. It is home to a diverse marine species, many found only in my country. Our oceans also contribute to the national economy , 85 percent of our ocean species directly and indirectly support commercial fisheries and aquaculture, worth \$2.5 billion in 2013–14. Monetary value of resources extracted from oceans is expected to double by 2030.

Types of pollution that concern us at present are;

1. **Carbon emission and acidification of water.** As we continuously pollute water sources and dispose of them to oceans we create greater threat for species to survive underwater.
2. **Garbage in the ocean solid and liquid:** All our sewage ends in the river to sea. Increased use of single use plastic is a major contributor to ocean pollution.
3. **Noise pollution of ocean:** Using water bodies as transport, continuous extraction of oil etc. keeps our silent world on toe of excitement. This makes species go extinct.
4. **Offshore drilling:** Blast underwater in search of oil and other minerals kills water habitat in large.

How to solve:

We as a world if we come together and find alternatives for all our needs we can make a change. If we can use solar power, wind power mills as an energy source rather than depending on natural resources. We also can contribute in space research rigorously to find energy from the outer world that is under water. If we limit using water bodies for transportation and livelihood it will make a better balance earth for us.

1. Finding alternatives to fossil fuel. Under international climate agreements, Australia has two targets to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions:
 - 5% below 2000 levels by 2020 (under the Kyoto Protocol) and
 - 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030 (under the Paris Agreement).
2. Australia supports a world plan to reduce marine litter. Projects include:
 - a. The Pacific Ocean Litter Project
 - b. The Reef 2050 Plan
 - c. Threat Abatement Plan
3. Australia \$500 million investments in ocean adaptation and resilience, including long-term investments to fund environment and climate research supporting science-based solutions to environmental issues including ocean noise
4. Australia regulate oil and gas activities in Australian Commonwealth waters under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006

Australia stands with world: To name a few campaign that we are part of

1. As a nation Australia is part of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for its clean sea campaign since inception.
2. The Government is investing \$16 million (2019 – 2025) in the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) to reduce sources of marine litter in the Pacific Ocean.
3. The Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) CTI-CFF is a partnership between Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. The CTI-CFF is focused on improving marine conservation and management and through sustainable livelihoods, food security and economic development. Australia is a strong supporter of the CTI-CFF and has official partner status.

Together if we continue we can create a better world.

Bibliography:

Marine pollution (eBook, 2017) [WorldCat.org

Reference sites:

1. <https://www.awe.gov.au/>
2. <https://www.csiro.au/>
3. <https://www.australianenvironmentaleducation.com.au/>
4. <https://www.unep.org/>
5. <https://www.aph.gov.au/>
6. <https://www.industry.gov.au/>

Reference Reports:

1. <https://soe.environment.gov.au/>
2. <https://www.ecocoast.com/>
3. <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/>