

POLLUTION

What is pollution?

Pollution is the contamination of the environment by throwing unwanted substances that destroy the quality of the environment. As human activities increase, so does pollution. Whatever we do on land ends up in the rivers and the sea. People knowingly or unknowingly discard hazardous materials and eventually these end up in the sea and affect the flora and fauna.

Nature of pollutants

Pollution can be:

- Land (solid waste, chemicals such as fertilisers)
- Air (fumes from cars, heavy vehicles, smoke)
- Water (waste in rivers and sea)

Land pollution

Pollution of land is caused by solid waste, toxic materials and chemicals, carcasses of dead animals and other wastes which are dumped in a very irresponsible manner. Agricultural malpractices such extensive

use of fertilisers and pesticides and burning of sugar cane.

Water pollution

Water pollution is caused by waste thrown in rivers and the sea in the form of oil, chemicals from factories and industries. These are hazardous to human health and aquatic organisms.

Air pollution

Air is a mixture of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and other gases. Fumes from vehicles, smoke cause the proportion of carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and sulphur to increase. Carbon dioxide increase has a warming effect on Earth (Global warming).

We should plant more trees to absorb the excess carbon dioxide. Trees take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen during photosynthesis, a process used by plants to make food. Damage to the ozone layer (ozone is a gas that protects the Earth, humans and all life forms from UV light) is made by harmful chemicals.

What we can do?

Adopt healthy and responsible lifestyle so as to make life sustainable on Earth. Think before we act.

ADD has carried out sensitisation campaigns in schools at Le Morne, Poudre d'Or and Quatre Soeurs; sensitised

women and fishermen on issues of waste and pollution, tree planting and carried out demonstrations on composting, recycling and re-using. It is hoped that participants in the projects will develop responsible attitudes towards the environment.

Pollution of watercourses

Source of pollutants: Agricultural runoff, household waste and effluents, use of waterways as a dumping ground of refuse.

Pollution of Lagoon: pollutants from boats, sewage, agricultural run-off (proliferation of green algae due to excess of nitrates from fertilizers), etc.

Results

Threat to river and lagoon ecosystem, disappearance of fish, crustacean and

other living forms of plants and animals

What can be done to maintain sustainability?

Structural: Management of waste water, (reinforce)

Establish plants that absorb toxins and purify waterways (nénuphars, brède songe, etc.)

Non-Structural: Ethical; Each citizen takes one's own responsibility not to pollute the environment. Education and awareness-building