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### **ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS**

To create this project I've done a research and managed to find out some information which will make you think about the way we are living on this planet. I hope that after this research you revise your lifestyle and your attitude to our environment. We get used to consume natural resources and believe that it's reserve is inexhaustible. We've learnt a lot about natural disasters such as earthquake, flood, deforestation, air pollution and so on at school. But this information is out of date. And now I'm going to bring out the reality which we have to face with.

Life as a miracle of the universe appeared around four billion years ago and we humans – only 200 thousand years ago. Yet we have succeeded in disrupting the balance that is so essential to life on Earth.

And in the last 50 years the Earth has been more radically changed than by all previous generation of humanity. In the last 60 years, the Earth's population has almost tripled, and over two billion people have moved to the cities.

Shenzhen, in China, with its hundreds of skyscrapers and millions of inhabitants, was just a small fishing village 40 years ago. In Shanghai, 3,000 towers and skyscrapers have been built in 20 years. Today, over half of the world's seven billion inhabitants live in cities.

New York. The world's first megalopolis is the symbol of the exploitation of the energy the Earth supplies to human. America was the first to discover revolutionary power of black gold. With its help, a country of farmers became a country of agricultural industrialists. Machines replaced men.

A liter of oil generates as much energy as 100 pairs of hands in 24 hours, but worldwide only three percent of farmers have use of a tractor. In the United States, only three million farmers are left. They produce enough grain to feed two billion people. But most of that grain is not used to feed people, it's transformed into livestock feed.

Pesticides, another gift of the petrochemical revolution. Bad harvests and famine became a distant memory. Trucks from every corner of the country brings in tons of grains, soy meal and protein-rich granules that will become tons of meat. The result is that it takes 100 liters of water to produce one kilogram of potatoes, 4,000 for one kilo of rice and 13,000 for

one kilo of beef. Not to mention the oil guzzled in the production process and transport.

For many of us the American dream is embodied by a legendary name: Los Angeles. In this city that stretches over 100 kilometers, the number of cars is almost equal to the number of inhabitants. Here energy puts on a fantastic show every night.

If this model were followed by every society, the planet wouldn't have 900 million vehicles, as it does today, but five billion.

By 2050 a quarter of the Earth's species could be threatened with extinction. In these polar regions, the balance of nature has already been disrupted. Around the North Pole, the ice cap has lost 30% of its surface area in 30 years.

But as Greenland rapidly becomes warmer, the freshwater of a whole continent flows into the salt water of the oceans. Greenland's ice contains 20% of the freshwater of the whole planet. If it melts, sea levels will rise by nearly 7 meters.

If sea levels continue to rise faster and faster, what will major cities like Tokyo, the world's most populous city, do? Every year, scientists' predictions become more alarming. 70% of the world's population lives on coastal plains. 11 of the 15 biggest cities stand on a coastline or river.

In Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro is unrecognizable. 80% of its glaciers have disappeared. In summer, the rivers no longer flow. Local peoples are affected by the lack of water. India risks being the country that suffers most from the lack of water in the coming century. In dry season, women from local villages dig the ground with their bare hands.

All we have just seen is a reflection of human behavior. We have very little time to change. How can this century carry the burden of 9 billion human beings if we refuse to be called to account for everything we have done? 20% of the world's population consumes 80% of its resources. 5,000 people a day die because of dirty drinking water. 1 billion people have no access to safe drinking water. Nearly 1 billion people are going hungry.

Every year, 13 million hectares of forest disappear. 1 mammal in 4, 1 bird in 8, 1 amphibian in 3 are threatened with extinction. Species are dying out at a rhythm 1,000 times faster than the natural rate. The average temperature of the last 15 years has been the highest ever recorded. The ice cap is 40% thinner than 40 years ago. There may be at least 200 million climate refugees by 2050. The cost of our actions is high. Others pay the price without having been involved.

A solution for the future? Nobody knows yet. Where on earth doesn't the wind blow? Everything on Earth is linked . All we have to do is stop drilling the Earth and start looking to the sky. In one hour, the sun gives the Earth the same amount of energy as that consumed by all humanity in one year. As long as the Earth exists, the sun's energy will be inexhaustible. We all have the power to change. And some countries have already done these.

In South Korea, the forests had been devastated by war. Thanks to a national reforestation program, they once more cover 65% of the country. More than 75% of paper is recycled.

Costa Rica has made a choice between military spending and land conservation. The country no longer has an army. It prefers to devote its resources to education, ecotourism and the protection of its primary forest.

And these examples make me think as a future specialist in the sphere of tourism how we can help to solve these problems. The way I see things is that the only way out is to develop ecological tourism. In the last years there are less and less people who can stay indifferent to such kinds of problems. More and more tourists would like to be involved in the process of protection of our environment and conservation of natural resources.

Ecological problems also require appropriate legislative support that should ban modern technologies that have negative impact on environment, and only allow those technologies that do not have, or have only minimum of negative impact on the environment. Passive observation is not sufficient, especially now when we have become witnesses of so many ecological disasters.

It is really time for one global action, and who knows maybe this is our only chance to save Earth. So what are we waiting for?

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### **HYPERLOOP – DIE FAHRZEUGEN DER ZUKUNFT**

Der Hyperloop ist ein Konzept auf Basis des Transrapsids für ein Hochgeschwindigkeitstransportsystem, das durch Solarenergie elektrisch getriebene Transportkapseln mit Reisegeschwindigkeiten von bis zu etwa