



**Committee:** United Nations  
Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Topic:** Climate Change:  
Conservation of Natural Resources

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## **Background**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. (UNEP, 2019)

Natural resources are the base of everything the humankind has, from paper to cellphones. The list includes plants, minerals, air, soil, water and wildlife, all equally necessary for development, but many in critical situations.

Conservation is the care and protection of these resources previously mentioned, so that they can persist for future generations; it includes maintaining diversity of species, genes, and ecosystems, as well as functions of the environment, such as nutrient cycling. Conservation also seeks the sustainable use of nature by humans, for activities such as hunting, logging, or mining, while preservation means protecting nature from human use. Currently, more than 26,500 species are estimated to be at risk of extinction, the exact number is difficult to know. (National Geographic, 2019)

Climate change has been for several years and continues to be a concerning issue, with predictions that estimate an increase of 1.5°C in the global temperature

according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which will eventually lead to catastrophic consequences. Regarding this issue, the Paris conference took place and managed to unite 192 nations to confront climate change. The Paris Agreement officially entered into force the 4<sup>th</sup> of November of 2016, and all participant nations must take actions to reduce their greenhouse emissions in order to maintain global temperature rise under 2 degrees for the current century.

To contribute to sustainable development, the United Nations established in 2015 the 2030 agenda, consisting in 17 goals adopted by all UN Member States that must be achieved by the end of 2030, from which 8 are directly related to the use and management of natural resources.

**Guide questions:**

1. What actions is your country taking against climate change?
2. What laws or policies are regulating the use of natural resources?

## References:

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