

## **1. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**

### **A) OZONE DEPLETION (Ozonska izčrpanost)**

The ozone layer (plast) protects the Earth from the ultraviolet rays sent down by the sun. If the ozone layer is depleted (izčrpanost, izpraznitev) by human action, the effects on the planet could be catastrophic.

In recent years, the ozone layer has been the subject of many discussions. And rightly so, because the ozone layer protects both plant and animal life on the planet.

The fact that the ozone layer was being depleted (izčrpan) was discovered in the mid-1980s. Antarctica was an early victim of ozone destruction. A massive hole in the ozone layer right above Antarctica now threatens not only that continent, but many others that could be the victims of Antarctica's melting icecaps. (mehki ledenik)

The EPA - Ecology Program Area estimates (ceni) that 60 million Americans born by the year 2075 will get skin cancer because of ozone depletion. About one million of these people will die.

### **B) WATER POLLUTION**

Attention for water pollution exploded in the 1980s, when the ship spilled its oil near Alaska, destroying the local environment and killing a great deal of the wildlife. The gigantic oil spill is the largest ever in the history of the United States.

Every year, 14 billions pounds of sewage, sludge, and garbage are dumped into the world's oceans.

The problem of ocean pollution affects every nation around the world. This is especially true because water is able to transport pollution from one location to another.

For many years, chemicals were dumped into bodies of water without concern. While many countries have now banned such behavior, it continues to go on today.

As the world has industrialized and its population has grown, the problem of water pollution has intensified. (nadaljuje) The simple fact that millions of people live along coastlines and near rivers means that these bodies of water are likely candidates for heavy and destructive (škodljivo) pollution.

### **C) OVERPOPULATION**

Overpopulation has been disastrous for the planet. The world's population has been booming for years. The population is now threatening to reach the stage where there are simply too many people for the planet to support.

Around 1850, the world population reached one billion.

By 1987, it was at five billion and still rising rapidly.

In 1989, about 90% of the people being born were in developing countries.

The United Nations Population Fund predicts that by the middle of the next century, the world's population will stabilize at about 14 billion people.

**2. RSPCA- Royal Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals:** This organization prevents cruelty to animals. They find 80 000 homes for animals every year, treat sick animals and investigate complaints of cruelty.

**EPA - Environmental Protection Agency:** an arm of the USA which has the responsibility of administering laws and rules to preserve the environment

### 3. ~ SMOKING

Cigarette smoking has been the most popular method of taking nicotine since the beginning of the 20th century. Once hooked, smoking is extremely difficult to overcome.

RISKS of smoking: - cancer  
- respiratory illnesses (dihalne bolezni) in children  
- heart illnesses  
- sudden death.

### ~ ALCOHOL

We are familiar with alcohol for thousands of years. But drinking alcohol can caused a lot of pain, suffering, tragedys and innocence victims.

RISKS of drinking alcohol:

- motor accidents
- other accidents including falls, drownings, and fires
- increased risk for suicide (samomor) and homicide (umor)
- increased risk for unplanned or unwanted pregnancy
- decreased use of safer sex behaviors
- increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases
- if a pregnant woman drinks is baby at risk to get an alcohol syndrome
- alcoholism
- chronical diseases