**Conversational Topic**

**International Environmental Organizations**

An ***environmental organization*** is an organization ***aiming at*** conserving, protecting, analyzing or monitoring the environment.

There are a lot of environmental organizations in the world. Some of them are international or ***at least*** continental like *World Wildlife Fund (WWF)* and *Greenpeace*. Others are national – like *Australian Koala Foundation* and *Clean Ocean Foundation* (in Australia) or *Green Belt Movement* and *Earthlife Africa* (in Africa).

Both national and international organizations can be ***broad-focus*** environmental groups and solve different environmental problems (e.g. *Sierra Club*, *International Institute for Sustainable Development*, *Friends of the Earth*, etc.) or can have specific aims (e.g. *International Rivers*, *Campaign for Better Transport*, etc.). For example, they can focus on ***climate changes*** (e.g. *The Climate Reality Project*, headquartered in Washington, D.C.), on ***forest protection*** (*Rainforest Action Network*, headquartered in San Francisco) or energy and ***mining***.

International organizations are more powerful because they function worldwide, enjoy a better financial support and, thus, are more successful in achieving their goals.

Some of the most famous and effective international environmental organizations are *Greenpeace*, *World Wildlife Fund (WWF)*, *350.org* and others.

***Greenpeace*** is a ***non-governmental*** environmental organization with offices in over 39 countries and an international coordinating body in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Greenpeace was founded in 1971 by Canadian and US environmental activists. Its goal is to «ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its ***diversity***» and focuses on worldwide ***issues*** such as climate change, ***deforestation***, ***overfishing***, ***commercial whaling***, ***genetic engineering***, and ***anti-nuclear issues***. It uses direct action, lobbying, research to achieve its goals. The global organization does not accept funding from governments, corporations, or political parties, relying on three million individual supporters and foundation grants.

***The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)*** is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961, working in the field of the ***wilderness*** preservation, and the reduction of ***human impact*** on the environment. It was ***formerly*** named ***the World Wildlife Fund***, which remains its official name in Canada and the United States.

WWF is the world's largest conservation organization with over five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries, supporting around 1,300 ***conservation*** and environmental projects. They have invested over $1 billion in more than 12,000 conservation initiatives since 1995. WWF is a foundation with 55% of funding from individuals, 19% from government ***sources*** (e.g. the World Bank) and 8% from corporations in 2014.

WWF aims to «stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature».

***350.org*** is an international environmental organization addressing climate change with the goal of reducing atmospheric ***carbon dioxide*** to 350ppm from the ***current level*** of 400 ppm. It was founded by author Bill McKibben in order to ***slow the rate*** of ***global warming***. *350.org* takes its name from the research of Goddard Institute for Space Studies scientist James E. Hansen, who posited in a 2007 paper that 350 ***ppm*** of CO2 in the atmosphere is a safe upper limit to avoid a climate ***tipping point***.

No matter what the goals of environmental organizations are, they all seek to ***protect our nature*** and ***preserve*** it for future generations.

**Vocabulary (в порядке встречаемости в тексте)**

**environmental organization** природоохранная организация

**aim at** ставить целью, стремиться к

**at least** по крайней мере, как минимум

**broad-focus** общие, нацеленные на решение общих/разных вопросов

**climate change** изменение климата

**forest** **protection** охрана леса

**mining** добыча полезных ископаемых

**non-governmental** неправительственный, негосударственный

**diversity** разнообразие

**issues** вопросы, проблемы, темы

**deforestation** вырубка леса, обезлесивание

**overfishing** чрезмерный отлов рыбы; рыбная ловля, истощающая ресурсы водоема

**commercial whaling** коммерческий китобойный промысел

**genetic engineering** генная инженерия

**anti-nuclear** противоядерный, антиядерный, противоатомный

**wilderness** дикая природа

**human impact** антропогенное воздействие

**formerly** ранее

**conservation** охрана природы, сохранение

**source** источник

**carbon** **dioxide** углекислый газ

**current level** существующий уровень, настоящий уровень, текущий уровень

**slow the rate** замедлять темп

**global warming** глобальное потепление

**ppm (parts per million)** число частей на миллион, частиц на миллион (по объему)

**tipping point** граница, переломный момент

**protect nature** защищать природу

**preserve** сохранять, оберегать, охранять

**Exercises**

**Ex. 1 Make sure that you know the following words.**

Wilderness, whaling, overfishing, diversity, forest protection, climate change, current level, commercial, genetic engineering, non-governmental, formerly, source, slow the rate.

**Ex. 2 Translate into English.**

Изменение климата, обезлесивание, генная инженерия, дикая природа, охрана природы, антропогенное воздействие, по крайней мере, неправительственный, добыча полезных ископаемых, охрана леса, углекислый газ, глобальное потепление, защищать природу.

**Ex. 3 Match the synonyms.**

Wilderness

Issues

Preservation

human impact

variety

forest clearing

at minimum

ecological group

CO2

Current

Wide

focus on

protection

nature

the rate

mining

deforestation

diversity

anthropogenic influence

production of mineral resources

the tempo

environment

conservation

aim at

broad

present (of today)

carbon dioxide

environmental organization

at least

conservation

problems

wildlife

**Ex. 4 Say if the statements are true or false.**

1. The major concern of all international environmental organizations is forest protection.

2. Greenpeace is a governmental environmental organization.

3. WWF was founded in 1961.

4. WWF gets its financial support from individuals, government sources, and corporations.

5. According to James E. Hansen, 450 ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere is a safe upper limit to avoid a climate tipping point.

**Ex. 5 Finish the sentences.**

1. Examples of national organizations are …

2. International organizations are more powerful than national groups because …

3. Greenpeace is a non-governmental environmental organization with an international coordinating body in …

4. WWF aims to …

5. 350.org was founded by author Bill McKibben in order to …

**Ex. 6 Answer the following questions.**

1. What is an environmental organization?

2. What is the difference between broad-focus and specific-focus environmental organizations?

3. What issues does Greenpeace focus on?

4. What was the former name of the World Wide Fund for Nature?

5. What is the goal of 350.org?