
15 LIFE ON LAND – Marie Schmalzbauer

We are all part of the planet's ecosystem. Our life on land is the foundation for our life on the planet. Throughout history we have caused severe damage to this ecosystem through deforestation, loss of natural habits and land degradation.

So, what is goal 15 about? It's about promoting the sustainable use of our ecosystem and preserving biodiversity. This does not only include protecting and preserving the use of our ecosystem, but also to protect and sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and stop biodiversity loss.

Problems:

- 10 million hectares of forest are destroyed every year.
- Biodiversity was largely neglected in COVID-19 recovery spending.
- Around 40,000 species are documented to be at risk of extinction over the coming decades.
- Almost 90% of global deforestation is due to agriculture expansion. (49,6%: cropland expansion; 38,5%: livestock grazing)

Targets:

- By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods.
- By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity.
- Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.
- Take action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity.
- Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies.
- Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

Project:

My idea is that every school should plant flowers around their buildings. This would be great for the ecosystem because a lot of different insects could live there, especially if the flowers are wildflowers. Furthermore, it would be a great opportunity for biology lessons to see the insects in real life, not only in pictures.
