

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Text 1 (UFRJ 1999, grupos 1-4)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY HOT COOLANTS

An international clampdown is planned on the black market in CFCs and other banned chemicals. Rowing evidence of large-scale smuggling in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), coolants that deplete the earth's protective ozone layers, has forced the world's rich countries to agree on coordinated action to enforce the Montreal Protocol. That 1987 treaty was intended to reduce and ultimately phase out the chemicals. But although the treaty has driven a 90 percent decrease in CFC production over the past decade, the fall has been slowed by a thriving global black market in the chemicals, fed by factories in Russia, India and China, among other places.

"The illegal CFC trade is one of the greatest threats to ozone-layer recovery," says John Passacantando of Ozone Action, and advocacy group in Washington, D.C.

(From SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, July 1998:19)

Responda à questão 1, em português, com base no texto 1.

- 1) a) Qual o objetivo do Protocolo de Montreal?
- b) Indique um obstáculo para seu sucesso.

Text 2 (UFRJ 1996, 1º dia)

AUSTRALIANS may rage, Germans argue and Japanese protest, but only when the English got involved did French sensibilities become ruffled. An anti-nuclear advertisement produced by a coalition of Green groups in Britain made little impact at home, but provoked fury across the Channel. The ad echoes The Day of the Jackal. A gunman takes aim at an actor who portrays President Jacques Chirac, but then lowers his sight and shoots the bottle of Bordeaux from which the President is drinking. "Drop a bomb on Chirac's plans", says a caption. "Boycott French wine". Shown on French television news, the advertisement brought a reaction fiercer than anything witnessed in France since the announcement that nuclear tests were to resume.

(From THE OBSERVER, Sunday, 27 Aug., 1995)

Responda às questões 2 e 4, em português, com base no texto 2.

- 2) Onde foi criada a forma de protesto mais eficaz contra os testes nucleares franceses?
- 3) Que tipo de protesto foi este?

Agora, ainda com base no texto 2, copie o que se pede.

- 4) A que palavras se referem...
 - a) ... "his"?
 - b) ... "which"?
- 5) Quais os sinônimos de...
 - a) "more violent"?
 - b) "start again"?

Text 3 (UniRio 2007, 2ª etapa)

GOVERNMENT CHIEF SCIENTIST WARNS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

"A three degree centigrade rise in global temperatures is likely within 100 years and will lead to a rise in sea levels and increase in desertification that will place 400 million people at the risk of hunger," UK Government Chief Scientist, Sir David King, has warned, adding that parts of Britain will be flooded as the UK comes under coastal attack.

Expanding on a theme developed earlier at a PSN event in February entitled "The Importance of Global Population," Sir David emphasized that developing countries will be hardest hit, with ecosystems failing to adapt and between 20 million to 400 million tones of cereal production being lost.

He said the temperature rise would be the consequence of carbon dioxide levels of 500 parts per million, roughly double those of the Industrial Revolution. The current carbon dioxide concentration stands at 380 parts per million, already the highest levels likely to have been experienced on Earth for 740,000 years.

Sir David, who has been criticized in the past for restraining his warnings on the advice of Government ministers, had stern words for politicians who say that carbon emissions can be controlled by the use of new, environmentally-friendly technologies.

"There is a difference between optimism and head in the sand," he said. "Quite clearly what we have to do as we move forward with these discussions is see that this consensus position of the scientific community is brought right into the table where the discussions are taking place."

Adapted from Population Matters 2006

Answer questions 6-9 in Portuguese based on the information in text 3.

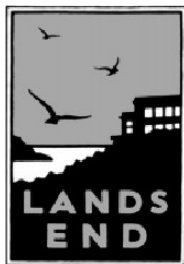
- 6) What can be said about the levels of carbon dioxide nowadays?
- 7) What has the British scientist stated will happen if a 3 degree centigrade rise in global temperature is confirmed?
- 8) How will global warming affect the Third World?
- 9) What was Sir David implying when he said: "There is a difference between optimism and head in the sand"?

Answer question 10 in English based on the information in text 3.

- 10) Por que Sir David King recebeu críticas no passado?

Text 4 (UERJ 2005, Ex Qual)

Com base na imagem e no texto abaixo, responda às questões 11 e 12.



This image for the Golden Gate National Parks was created as part of an identity project to raise awareness of the parks in the San Francisco area. The mark was created by graphic artist Michael Schwab in an effort “to create icons with a timeless American style to them.” The image was used as bus shelter posters, as well as reproduced on T-shirts, mugs and posters for sale at each of the park sites. The response to the image has been greater than expected; many of the transit posters were stolen right out of their frames. A limited edition of 40 x 60” screen-printed posters will be available at *The Louvre*, a San Francisco gallery. To receive a catalog of available posters, T-shirts or other items call The Parks at 415-657-2757.

<http://www.commart.com>

11) The intention underlying the combination of image and words is to:

- (A) protect animal life
- (B) draw city park-goers
- (C) control sea water pollution
- (D) sponsor environmental campaigns

Text 5 (PUC-Rio 2004)

The widespread destruction of tropical rainforest ecosystems and the consequent extinction of numerous plant and animal species is happening before we know even the most basic facts about what we are losing.

- 5 Covering only 6 percent of the Earth’s surface, tropical moist forests contain at least half of all species. The abundant botanical resources of tropical forests have already provided substantial medical advances; yet only 1 percent of the known plant and animal species
- 10 have been carefully examined for their medicinal potentials. Meanwhile, 2 percent of the world’s rainforests are irreparably damaged each year. Scientists estimate that, at the accelerating rate at which rainforests are now being destroyed, as much as 20 or 25 percent of the
- 15 world’s plant species will soon be extinct. Approximately 7,000 medical compounds prescribed by Western doctors are obtained from plants. These drugs had an estimated retail value of US\$ 43 billion some years ago. Seventy percent of the 3,000
- 20 plants identified by the United States National Cancer Institute as having potential anti-cancer properties are characteristic of the rainforest. Tropical forest species serve Western surgery and internal medicine in three ways. First, extracts from organisms can be used directly
- 25 as drugs. For maladies ranging from persistent headaches to lethal contagions such as malaria, rainforest medicines have provided modern society with a variety of cures and pain relievers.
- 30 Secondly, chemical structures of forest organisms sometimes serve as models from which scientists and researchers can chemically synthesize drug compounds. For example, the blueprint for aspirin comes from extracts of willow trees found in the rainforest. Neostigmine, a chemical obtained from the Calabar bean and used to
- 35 treat glaucoma in West Africa, also provides the blueprint for synthetic insecticides. However, the chemical structures of most natural drugs are very complex, and

12) Public reaction toward the National Park poster can be described as:

- (A) neutral with positive outcomes
- (B) negative with insufficient results
- (C) predicted with sufficient evidence
- (D) positive with disorderly behavior

13) Mark the only **correct** statement about the structure of Text 5.

- (A) Paragraph 1 affirms that the world’s population is powerless against deforestation.
- (B) Paragraph 2 warns about the destruction of rainforests and its valuable resources.
- (C) Paragraph 3 aims to inform the exact number of all plants identified in tropical forests.
- (D) Paragraph 4 explains in detail how insecticides can be obtained from plants.
- (E) Paragraph 5 lists the unhealthy or poisonous plants found in the rainforest.

14) All the passages below mention the medicinal use of tropical plants, **EXCEPT**:

- (A) Lines 16-17 (B) Lines 25-28 (C) Lines 39-40
- (D) Lines 42-44 (E) Lines 51-53

15) Check the only pair of antonyms.

- (A) Abundant (line 7) – nonexistent
- (B) Extinct (line 15) - new
- (C) Lethal (line 26) - harmless
- (D) Medicines (line 26) - drugs
- (E) Reduce (line 54) – create

16) In the sentence “yet only 1 percent of the known plant and animal species ...” (lines 8-9), the word

- (A) adds an example. (B) introduces a result.
- (C) makes a comparison. (D) makes a contrast.
- (E) provides a cause.

17) The only item that contains an adjective used in the superlative form is:

- (A) “The widespread destruction (...) is happening before we even know the most basic facts about what we are losing.” (lines 1-4)
- (B) “Covering only 6 percent of the Earth’s surface, tropical moist forests contain at least half of all species. (lines 5-6)
- (C) “Scientists estimate that (...) as much as 20 or 25 percent of the world’s plant species will soon be extinct.” (lines 12-15)
- (D) “However, the chemical structures of most natural drugs (...) simple extraction is usually less expensive than synthesis.” (lines 36-38)
- (E) “Tropical forests offer hope for safer contraceptives for both women and men.” (lines 45-46)

simple extraction is usually less expensive than synthesis. Ninety percent of the prescription drugs that are based on higher plants include direct extractions from plants.

- 40 Finally, rainforest plants provide aids for research. Certain plant compounds enable scientists to understand how cancer cells grow, while others serve as testing agents for potentially harmful food and drug products.
- 45 Tropical forests offer hope for safer contraceptives for both women and men. The exponential growth of world population clearly demonstrates the need for more reliable and effective birth control methods. Worldwide, approximately 4,000 plant species have been shown to offer contraceptive possibilities. The rainforest also holds secrets for safer pesticides for farmers. Two species of potatoes have leaves that produce a sticky substance that traps and kills predatory insects. This natural self-defense mechanism could potentially reduce the need
- 50 for using pesticides on potatoes. Who knows what other tricks the rainforest might have up its leaves?

http://www.ran.org/info_center/factsheets/05
1995-2003 Rainforest Action Ne

18) Mark the only sentence that **CANNOT** be correctly completed with the preposition FROM.

- (A) Commercial sales of drugs derived ___ this plant are about US\$160 million a year.
 (B) Madagascar's rosy periwinkle, a plant ___ Africa, provides two important anti-tumor agents.
 (C) Quinine, an aid in the cure of malaria, is an alkaloid extracted ___ the bark of the cinchona cinchona tree found in Latin America and Africa.
 (D) ___ 1960, only 19 percent of Hodgkin's disease sufferers had a chance for survival.
 (E) Until recently, wild yams ___ Mexico and Guatemala provided the world with its entire supply of diosgenin, an active ingredient in birth control pills.

19) In the sentence "Who knows what other tricks the rainforest might have up its leaves?" (lines 55-56), the author means that:

- (A) nobody will ever know how to decipher the enigmas of the rainforest.
 (B) there must be a way of learning more about the rainforest puzzles.
 (C) people doubt whether rainforest plants hide other mysteries.
 (D) it is impossible to find out all the applications of tree leaves.
 (E) it is possible that forest plants bring us additional surprises

20) Mark the title that best expresses the main idea of Text 5.

- (A) Daily Life in the Rainforest.
 (B) How to Protect World Ecosystems.
 (C) Diseases Caused by the Rainforest.
 (D) Rainforests: Pharmacy to the World.
 (E) Paradise Lost: The Devastated Rainforest.

