



unit

2

The Earth in danger

VIDEO START



- ▶ Guarda il video per scoprire in modo rapido e facile parole ed espressioni usate per parlare degli eventi climatici e dei principali problemi ambientali.

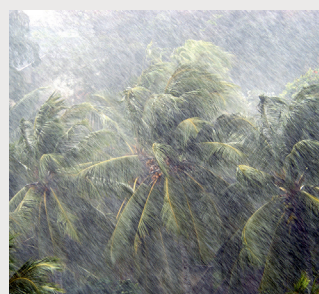
▶ Tick (✓) the severe weather you see in the video.



1 ☒



2 ☒



3 ☐





4 ☒

In questa unità svilupperemo le **abilità** e le **competenze** che ci aiuteranno a comprendere i problemi ambientali e a ricercarne correttamente le cause.



VIDEODOC 3



1   Matt found this interesting documentary while he was doing research for a school project about climate change and the environment. Watch and listen to the video.

1 In 2015, 193 countries adopted the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 **Sustainable Development** Goals. Two of the most important goals **deal with** climate change and saving our forests and biodiversity.

Climate change

2 Greenhouse gas emissions and the two holes in the ozone layer, caused by human activities, are producing higher temperatures. They are now at their highest levels in history. Global emissions of one of these gases, carbon dioxide (CO₂), are now 50 per cent higher compared to 1990.

3 Global warming is changing the world's weather **patterns**. The results are more frequent extreme weather events: hurricanes, tornadoes, severe flooding and drought. If the international community doesn't intervene, **average surface temperatures** will continue to rise. **By the year 2100** they may be more than 3°C higher. The consequences for the environment will be dramatic: more ice will melt and sea levels will rise. There will also be a reduction of basic food **crops** like wheat and maize.

How we say it

Sustainable Development

= sviluppo sostenibile

deal with = si occupano di

patterns = andamenti

average surface

temperatures =

temperature medie di superficie

By the year 2100 = Entro l'anno 2100

crops = colture

poaching = bracconaggio

Forests

4 Forests cover 30 per cent of the Earth's surface. They are essential to combat climate change, protect biodiversity and the homes of the 70 million indigenous population. More than 80 per cent of all terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects live in forests. Every year the Earth loses thirteen million hectares of forests. One of the consequences of forest destruction is desertification. Every minute we lose 23 hectares of land because of drought and desertification caused by human activities and climate change.

Biodiversity

5 Experts at the International Union for Conservation of Nature have a Red List: a list of vulnerable, endangered and extinct animal and plant species. They estimate that 5,600 species might become extinct in the near future. In 1960, for example, there were 2,000 Northern White Rhinos. In 2018 the last male died. Lions, tigers, rhinos, marine turtles, elephants, orangutans, gorillas and pangolins risk extinction. The main causes are climate change, habitat destruction, **poaching** and trophy hunting. How many will be extinct when the sustainable development programme finishes in 2030?

Comprehension

2 It's easy! Read the text and match the words (1-6) to (a-f).

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 f climate | a destruction |
| 2 d greenhouse | b population |
| 3 c ozone | c layer |
| 4 e extreme | d gas |
| 5 b indigenous | e weather |
| 6 a habitat | f change |

3 It's easy! Complete with the correct expression from exercise 2.

- Dealing with climate change is one of the most important goals in the 2030 United Nations Agenda.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are producing higher temperatures.
- There are two holes in the ozone layer.
- Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent.
- The 70 million indigenous population live in forests.
- One of the causes of animal extinction is habitat destruction.

4 ES Read the text again and answer the questions.

- What is the cause of greenhouse gas emissions and the holes in the ozone layer? Human activities.
- What do we know about the emissions of CO₂ compared to 1990? They are 50% higher.
- What is changing the world's weather patterns? Global warming.
- What percentage of the Earth do forests cover? 30%.
- Why are forests essential? They combat climate change, protect biodiversity and the homes of the indigenous population.
- How many hectares of forest does the Earth lose every year? Thirteen million.
- What is one of the consequences of forest destruction? Desertification.
- How much land do we lose every minute? 23 hectares.

Work with the text

5 What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 They (paragraph 2) <u>greenhouse gas emissions</u> | 4 They (paragraph 4) <u>forests</u> |
| 2 These (paragraph 2) <u>greenhouse</u> | 5 They (paragraph 5) <u>experts</u> |
| 3 They (paragraph 3) <u>average surface temperatures</u> | 6 How many (paragraph 6) <u>animals which risk extinction</u> |

COMPETENCES

Critical thinking

6 Answer the following questions. **Open answer**

- Why do poachers kill the animals mentioned in paragraph 5?
- Do you know of any recent examples of an extreme weather event?
- What effect on the environment and ecosystem is global warming having in polar regions?



2 Vocabulary

Climate problems

7 014 **It's easy!** Write the words given in the box under the pictures. Then listen, check and repeat.

hurricane • tornado • flooding • monsoon • drought • sandstorm • desertification •
global warming • greenhouse effect • holes in ozone layer



1 desertification



2 monsoon



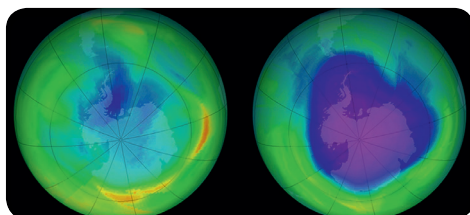
3 greenhouse effect



4 hurricane



5 flooding



6 holes in ozone layer



7 drought



8 sandstorm



9 tornado



10 global warming

8 015 Listen to the descriptions and write the problem using the words from exercise 7. ➡ p. K02

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <u>flooding</u> | 4 <u>drought</u> |
| 2 <u>hurricane</u> | 5 <u>desertification</u> |
| 3 <u>tornado</u> | 6 <u>monsoon</u> |

9 **K T Pair work** Ask and answer. **Open answer**

- Does flooding happen very often in your country?
- When and where was the last time it happened?
- Where do hurricanes usually occur?
- What damage do they cause?
- What is the main cause of drought?
- What effects is climate change producing in Italy?

Environmental problems

10 016 Underline the correct option for each picture. Then listen and check.



1 wildfire / habitat destruction



2 water pollution / air pollution



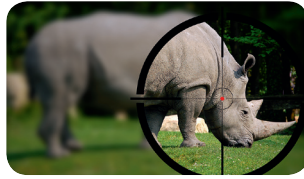
3 acid rain / rainforest destruction



4 poaching / habitat destruction



5 urban development / air pollution



6 rainforest destruction / poaching



7 toxic waste / acid rain



8 environmental disasters / rainforest destruction



9 environmental disasters / urban development



10 habitat destruction / trophy hunting



11 pesticides / toxic waste



12 acid rain / water pollution

11 Read the definition and write the environmental problem.

- the introduction of dangerous chemical substances into the air we breathe
air pollution
- the expansion of urban areas often in an uncontrolled way
urban development
- unwanted chemical substances produced by industry during the manufacturing process
toxic waste
- a catastrophe, often with permanent consequences, caused by man to the environment
environmental disaster
- the killing of wild animals to keep or show to other people
trophy hunting
- the illegal hunting or capturing of wild animals, usually for money
poaching

12 K T Pair work Ask and answer. Open answer

- What are the main causes of air pollution?
- What do the authorities in your city do to reduce air pollution?
- How can people help to reduce air pollution?
- Is recycling popular in your city? Why is it important?

Endangered animals

13 It's easy! Match the names of the animals (1-12) to the pictures (a-l). Then listen, check and repeat.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <u>f</u> lion | 7 <u>c</u> marine turtle |
| 2 <u>i</u> tiger | 8 <u>k</u> whale |
| 3 <u>g</u> elephant | 9 <u>h</u> chimpanzee |
| 4 <u>d</u> rhinoceros | 10 <u>b</u> cheetah |
| 5 <u>l</u> orangutan | 11 <u>a</u> leopard |
| 6 <u>j</u> pangolin | 12 <u>e</u> shark |

