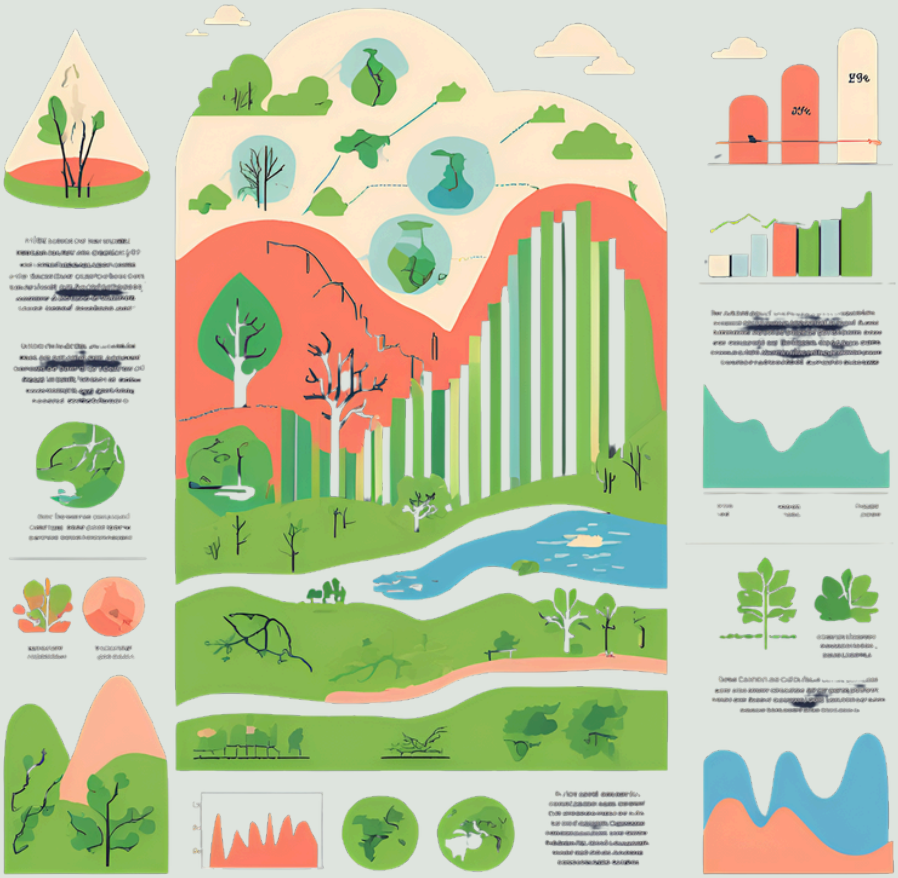
EXERCISE 10 - INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET - ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



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Exercise 10 - Analysis of environmental problems

Read the following case study of fish extinction in a river. Then apply the environmental problem analysis methodology presented, going through the steps from identifying the problem to assessing the potential impacts of the proposed solutions. Answer the following questions to guide your analysis.

Case: Fish extinction in the river

Over the past few months, local communities have noticed a significant decline in the fish population in the river, which flows through several towns and agricultural areas. Dead fish have been observed floating on the surface of the water, causing concern among residents and local authorities. Preliminary investigations suggest that chemical pollutants flowing from nearby agricultural fields and uncontrolled discharges of industrial effluents may be the cause. The problem threatens not only the local ecosystem, but also the livelihoods of the community, which rely on fishing and tourism.

1. Identification of the problem

What is the main environmental problem in the case described?

What are the potential causes of fish extinction in the river?

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2. Data collection and analysis

What data needs to be collected to understand the problem accurately? (e.g. chemical, biological, meteorological, etc.).

What data collection methods would you use to confirm suspected causes of fish extinction?

3. Identification of stakeholders and their impacts:

Who has the greatest interest in solving the problem? (e.g. local communities, industry, farmers, environmental organisations)

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What are their different perspectives and interests regarding the problem?

4. Development of possible solutions

What measures can be taken to counteract the extinction of fish in the river? (e.g. regulations, treatment techniques, changes in farming practices)

What are the potential benefits and risks associated with each proposed solution?

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5. Impact assessment

What short-term and long-term effects may result from the implementation of the selected solutions?

How will you monitor the effectiveness of the implemented solutions?

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Which solution do you consider to be the most effective and why?

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What further steps should be taken to ensure the long-term maintenance of a healthy river ecosystem?

Summary

Once you have completed the worksheet, you will have a fuller picture of how to conduct a step-by-step analysis of an environmental problem. In the next step, we will discuss your answers and compare them with the solutions proposed by other participants, which will allow you to broaden your perspective and develop common conclusions.

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