

# EXERCISE 4 - ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



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## Group tasks

- ➔ **Carrying out a SWOT analysis**  
Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the chosen problem.
- ➔ **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**  
Evaluate the environmental impact of the chosen issue at different stages of its life cycle.
- ➔ **Environmental risk assessment**  
Analyse potential environmental risks and propose actions that could minimise them.

- Each group should prepare a short report with the results of the analysis and recommendations for action to mitigate or solve the problem
- Each group has 30 minutes to analyse and 5 minutes to present the results of their analysis
- After each group's presentation, open a discussion by asking questions and asking other groups for comments and suggestions.
- During the discussion, highlight the key elements presented by the groups, drawing attention to the diversity of approaches and perspectives.
- Summarise the main conclusions of the problem analysis, emphasising the importance of critical and analytical thinking in environmental decision-making.

## Materials needed

- Flipcharts or whiteboards for recording group results
- Examples of environmental problems analysed



## Scenarios of environmental problems analysed

### SCENARIO I

#### Plastic Pollution in Oceans

Plastic waste in the oceans poses a serious threat to the marine ecosystem. Microplastics are consumed by marine organisms, leading to poisoning of the food chain, and macroplastics threaten larger animals such as turtles and seabirds.

### Tasks for the group: SWOT analysis

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

Environmental risk  
assessment

LCA Analysis of the  
life cycle of plastics



## Scenarios of environmental problems analysed

### SCENARIO II

#### Climate change and biodiversity loss

Climate change is causing increasingly rapid changes in ecosystems, leading to species extinction and loss of biodiversity. Changes in temperature, rising sea levels and changes in rainfall are affecting the natural habitats of plants and animals.

### Tasks for the group: SWOT analysis

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

Environmental risk  
assessment

LCA Analysis of the  
life cycle of plastics

## Scenarios of environmental problems analysed

### SCENARIO III

#### Air Pollution in Cities

High levels of air pollution in large cities lead to serious health problems among residents, such as respiratory diseases, heart disease and reduced life expectancy. The main sources are emissions from transport, industry and home heating.

### Tasks for the group: SWOT analysis

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

Environmental risk  
assessment

LCA Analysis of the  
life cycle of plastics



## Scenarios of environmental problems analysed SCENARIO IV

### Soil Degradation and Intensive Farming

Intensive agriculture leads to soil degradation, depletion of mineral resources, reduction of biodiversity and contamination of groundwater by fertilisers and pesticides. The result is reduced crop yields and increasing instability of food systems.

### Tasks for the group: SWOT analysis

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

Environmental risk  
assessment

LCA Analysis of the  
life cycle of plastics