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The threat posed to the environment due to various traditions and cultural practices

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The perception of human societies of their environment is largely driven by their unique customs and cultural practices. Traditionally, modern ecosystem management has been driven via a scientific or conservation ethic. This has sometimes led to conflict between culture and conservation, but more recently there has been a strong recognition that effective ecosystem management can only be achieved through a better understanding and integration of the relationships between communities and nature

Objectives:

1. Enhance understanding of cultural practices that impact on or contribute to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, and the cultural knowledge and value systems that underpin practices.
2. Increase knowledge of the role that cultural practices play in climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation and how culture can contribute to improve human responses to climate change in an integrated manner.
3. Assist the development of tools and guidance to understand the relationship between various cultures and ecosystem management and climate change response in different ecosystems of the world and therefore contribute to more effective governance.
4. Promote the development of policies that include and support the role of culture in ecosystem management for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The following examples given bellow illustrate the potential uses and importance of cultural practices and ecosystem management in conservation

and climate change adaptation:

1. Basic assessments of cultural conservation practices in different ecosystems of the world have highlighted the relevance of understanding and supporting local and traditional knowledge, when biodiversity and cultural diversity have never been more threatened than now.
2. The Commission on Ecosystem Management carried out a workshop in Doha in 2013 about “Spirituality and Ecosystem Management”, and included as one of the main recommendations to establish a new thematic group that deals with those issues in a cultural context. As examples, formal and informal religions and spirituality can contribute to ecosystem management through mechanisms such as taboos, practices of care, and community motivations for conservation.
3. Real solutions to address the impacts of climate change and biodiversity conservation require a knowledge and insight from the social sciences, specifically the role that culture plays. For example, culture influences consumption decisions that may impact species or contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, and culture influences how people support or oppose responses to mitigate biodiversity loss or climate change.

Case studies

***Bhutan the only Negative Carbon country**

Unlike its neighbors which are one of the most carbon contributing nations, Bhutan with almost same traditions as its Neighbors, lives with Zero or Negative carbon in the atmosphere, which is mostly a dream of any nation.

***Denmark practices a tradition that killed 800 whales.**

The tradition of whale-slaughtering is an annual event that takes place in the Faroe Islands where the blue sea turns into a horrifying red colour as dead bodies of whales and dolphins fill it up.

How are the whales killed? The fishermen enter the water in boats and as soon as pods of whales arrive close to the bay, they surround the whales and lead them towards land to be beached and slaughtered. When the whale is close enough, a hook is inserted into their blowhole to bring them further up the shore. It's neck is then stabbed with a spinal lance and its spinal cord is severed, which further cuts the blood supply to its brain. The whale loses consciousness and dies within a few seconds.

It is a communal activity where all the locals get together to ruthlessly slaughter at least 800 whales and dolphins.

***Yulin Dog-Meat Festival, China**

The Lychee and Dog Meat Festival, is an annual celebration held in Yulin, Guangxi, China, by the Chinese during the summer solstice in which festival goers eat dog meat and lychees. The festival began in

2009 and spans about ten days during which it is estimated that 10,000–15,000 dogs are consumed. You can imagine how this brutality is successful in ending the kind heart of Human.

Traditional customs creating major Environmental degradation:

1. Using of fire crackers to celebrate festivals.
2. Over using Plaster of Paris for creation of Idols.
3. Celebrating slash and burn cultivation.
4. System of killing animals in name of 'bali'

Some Festivals leading to degradation

- 1. Denmark's Dolphin and whale killing festival**
- 2. Cat Food Festival held annually in Cañete**
- 3. La Tomatina in Spain**
- 4. Up-HellyAa – St Ninian's Isle, Scotland**
- 5. Floating Lantern Festival – Hawaii**
- 6. Diwali, Holi, Ganesh Chaturti India**
- 7. Tlacotalpan Bull Festival, Mexico**
- 8. Yulin Dog-Meat Festival, China**
- 9. Shearing of the Beasts (La Rapa das Bestas), Spain**

INDIA

Questions to follow up

1. What are the policies implemented by Bhutan to achieve the goal.
2. Which are the Countries majorly involved for the cause.
3. Possible measures that can be implemented by a country to tackle the problem
4. Cultural practices that affect children's health must be revisited.
5. cultural practices that impact on or contribute to conservation in different ecosystems of the world
6. cultural practices in relation to climate change, urbanization, and consumption impacting on ecosystems/ecosystem services
7. Develop methodological and practical guidelines for assessing and incorporating cultural practices throughout approaches to ecosystem management and governance.
8. Role of Traditional Practices in Conserving Environment

