Worksheet 4.4

Conservation organizations: Different roles for different needs

Aims
A. Compare and contrast the role and activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity.
B. Consider recent international conventions on biodiversity (for example, conventions signed at the Rio Earth Summit (1992) and subsequent updates).

Answer the following questions. Use websites referenced in the textbook, and those below, to help you.

Questions
1. What are non-governmental organizations? List any you can find involved with conservation.
2. What are intergovernmental organizations? List any you can find involved with conservation.

Environmental organizations fall into two categories depending on how they operate and are funded. Governmental organizations (GOs) may be intergovernmental or part of a national government; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are set up by environmentalists independent of government, and may be international or local, and funded through interested independent parties or subscriptions.

The organizations you have investigated operate in different ways. In their dealings with people, some work at government level whilst others work with local people ‘in the field’. To bring about change, some work conservatively by careful negotiation, while others are more radical and draw attention to issues using the media.

Place the organizations you have mentioned in questions 1 and 2 on the following axes and add others that you know of locally and nationally.
1. Compare and contrast UNEP (a governmental organization – GO) and WWF (a non-governmental organization – NGO) in terms of use of the media, speed of response, diplomatic constraints, political influence, and enforceability (whether the measures the organizations take are enforceable in law). Fill in the following table.

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<th>GOs (e.g. UNEP)</th>
<th>NGOs (e.g. WWF, Greenpeace)</th>
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<td>Use of media</td>
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Read about UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme):
Look also at the UNEP Organizational Profile.

2. What is the mission statement of UNEP?
3. When was UNEP formed?
4. What are UNEP’s responsibilities?
5. What are UNEP’s priority areas?
6. What is the World Conservation Strategy (WCS)? Who set it up and why?
7. What are the main objectives of the WCS?
8. When planning conservation strategies, certain arguments are likely to be more influential than others. Which arguments do the WCS focus on, and why?
9. What were the aims of the ‘Earth Summit’ of 1992?
10. What is Agenda 21?
11. Why is it called Agenda 21?
12. What is Local Agenda 21 (LA21)? Are there any LA21 programs in your local area?
13. What was the outcome of the UN Millennium Summit, held in 2000?

Now check your answers using pages 204–207 of the textbook.