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How Endangered is our Planet

Shirley Williams
Frederick
Clark
McElroy
Wilson

Wilson

- global warming, toxic pollution, ozone ...
but species depletion #1.

- 5-50 million of 'em in tropical rainforest
- many also in coral reefs.
- 1/4 of all may be lost in next 50 years

- millions of bits of info...

Why should we care about loss of 1/2 the species?

① resource -
esp. for 3rd world countries

② drugs, crops... fibres...

③ ethical

McElroy

CO₂ -
CH₄

little ice age ca 1860
ended v. rapidly



Clark

Some people "destroy" to survive
others "destroy" for lack of anything better to do.

- ① limit population growth
- use. 40% of terrestrial NPP

poverty; food; infant mortality

- ② distribution of wealth
- inc. growth in 3rd world

- ③ must limit damage from growth

Four components

- ① information - must understand interactions
betw. human / environment

- ② basic science

- ③ prices must include environment
costs - or include in GNP

- ④ must not get "benefit" in economic
accounts from non-sustainable
developments

- ⑤ technology

- place sensitive awareness of diff needs
for technology

- ⑥ institutions to coordinate

- ⑦ publicly shared visions of what "sustainable
world" is

Principles of


Development

National Strategy Needed.

Benedict

Accumulation of "individual" decisions
such as use of Aerosol.

Montreal Protocol.

- countries agreed to impose 
short term losses in order to
deal w/ speculative problems
of long term sort.

Lessons

① science / scientists drive policy

② govts must act before "certainty"
because certainty only occurs
when looking at past

③ public opinion #1
(environmental package)

④ leadership by major countries
- esp. ones doing most harm

⑤ international organizations can
be v. helpful.

⑥ treaties MUST deal w/ economic
inequalities,