

THE ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

I- Dialogue:

1- Explain why the protection of animals has become such a popular cause. Don't you think such militancy can lead to some excesses?

- The protection of animals has become a very popular cause.
- People are more conscious of the problem thanks to awareness-building campaigns led by environmentalist organisations.
- The role of the media is also essential: pictures of whales or elephants being slaughtered are everywhere in the papers, on television.
- This may be due as well to movies dealing with the issue of endangered species, such as Gorilla in the mist.
- Nevertheless it is true that such militancy can sometimes lead to excesses.
- It can lead to a kind of witch-hunt against people wearing fur, or hunters for instance.
- Some environmentalists are in favour of banning hunting. However it is undeniable that hunting contributes to the ecological balance, since some species are too numerous compared to others.
- Therefore, as with any type of militancy, the protection of animals has to remain reasonable in order to avoid excessive actions.

2- Do you think teenagers nowadays are more aware of the state of the planet? What are they willing to do to protect it?

- Teenagers are more aware of the state of the planet than their parents, thanks to the role played by the media.
- We can see in the papers, on television, on the internet, images of the state of the planet, of species threatened of extinction, of seas drying up.
- Teenagers are therefore often willing to contribute to the preservation of the earth.
- Most of them willingly perform simple gestures, such as sorting out the waste, not letting the water run while brushing their teeth.
- Some teenagers get more actively involved and take part in the cleaning of beaches and ski resorts after the holidays.

