

Mrs. Grabis

Ethics

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Peru

Peru is a small developing country located on the the coast of South America, and has a population of 32.17 million people. Compared to the United States Peru is significantly smaller in population size and in the per capita income. The current per capita income in Peru is \$12,890, while the United States is \$60,200, that just shows the difference between developed and developing countries. The common environmental impacts that Peru seems to struggle with is water pollution, soil erosion, and deforestation. Honestly I feel like this is a global issue too for developing countries. Developing countries are trying to bring up their country, in so many cases they resort to deforestation because they have a large supply of trees, and trees are a huge profit because there is always a demand for trees around the world. Then from there it's like falling dominos because without any trees soil begins to erode, and without that topsoil on the ground there is no natural filter to filter out the rainwater so all of the rain and pollution that is on the ground goes straight into the water. That has been an issue in lots of countries around the world and especially for, and has been struggling with that for years, and the effects from deforestation and soil erosion has been catastrophic for them.

Peru is a resource rich country which means Peru has a huge supply of natural resource. Copper, silver, gold,petroleum, timber, fish, iron ore, coal, phosphate, potash, natural gas, hydro-power are all of Peru's natural resources¹. Natural resources are a huge money pit that can

¹Limaeasy.com

give a country a huge profit, and that is why areas are being depleted at a vigorous rate because of the demand and wealth that comes from mining. What has been a huge income for Peru is mining, the mining in 2007 the sector represented 63% of the country's export revenue².

According to revista.drclas.harvard.edu "Peru was the world's second largest producer of copper, silver and zinc and the sixth producer for gold." The mining business is huge, and the price of minerals have gone up so much because of China's demand on the minerals³. If there is a higher demand for minerals, there's higher the profit for mining.

Peru is home to many species like the Jaguar, amazon dolphin, llama, alpaca, speckled bear, humboldt penguin and many more.⁴ A lot of these species need forests, grasslands or water to live a sustainable life, and developing countries like Peru, are damaging the resources they need. For instance mining has been a huge environmental impact not only for humans but for animals and more and more animals are becoming endangered. From 1999-2016 the mining in Peru has a forest loss of 10,964 acres every year and from 2012 the mining had increased by 40%⁵. Forests are homes to many animals and once they are gone there is no coming back, and not only the species living in the forests are affected but the species that near the forests as well. Without trees the water, or the soil that the forests kept contained will just run straight through the other species habitats. Aquatic animals will be affected as well because all of the runoff will go straight into the water with no filtration. If the land and the surrounding areas are not conserved soon, there will be a lot of animals extinct and a lot of land that will not be able to have any use.

² Peru's mineral health and woe

³ Time of Resurgence

⁴ Deforestation from gold mining in Peru continues, despite gov't crackdowns

⁵ John C Cannon

The biggest industries in Peru right now are mining and fishing. These two industries have brought Peru great economical success and kept Peru striving for years. The fishing industry in Peru is very well known, and has been employing approximately 80,000 people, and in 2000 Peru had exported more than \$1 billion in fish⁶. Mining is Peru's highest industry and because of the natural resources in Peru mining represents 10% of the country's GDP⁷. Even though that these two industries are very profitable for Peru, there can be some serious environmental consequences from them. To make this easier to understand think of Peru like a table, and if a glass of water gets spilled on it, the water could get absorbed by the objects on the table like paper or objects that prevent the water from going off the table like a book or an eraser. But once those objects are taken off the table, the water spills off on the table, and spills all over then ground leaving a wet spot or even a stain. The paper and the erasers are like the trees and forests, without trees or forests all of the water and pollutants will not be absorbed by the trees or small grasses, so they will spill right through the land. Then eventually the water will hit the ground, and in this case the ground in the nearby waters, all of the runoff has not been filtered, which leaves the water at its purest form. The stain on the ground acts like the impact of water pollution because once there are pollutants in the water, they are really hard to be removed and have lifetime effects on the ecosystem.

Peru have been faced with many environmental challenges like air pollutants in urban areas. Peru has been struggling with air pollution especially in Lima which caused premature deaths in children⁸. Since the government at the time did not a lot of government organizations

⁶ Nationsencyclopedia.com

⁷ Peru

⁸ Access to quality information is crucial to tackle Peru's environmental problems

that took responsibility to these environmental impacts so they could not take action all of the way. The main cause for air pollution in Peru is the industrial and vehicle emissions. There are so many vehicle's in small cities like Lima and even so many industrial emissions that just get trapped in these cities because there's no other place for them to go because of the amount of emissions that has already been polluted. If these conditions do not change human health would be impacted so severely that more and more people will get sick or even die. Another environmental challenge that Peru has been struggling with water pollution. Peru's water pollution has been derived industrial waste, sewage, and oil waste. What is shocking is that finding pure fresh water is very hard to find and only 87% people in the cities and 67% of the rural population have the access to the water⁹. That just shows how bad the water pollution is and if Peru does not start working on this, then people's lives will be at stake.

In 2016 Peru produced 1.81 metric tons of carbon emissions and did a 2.67% increase every year since 1997. Carbon emission are really bad for the environment and also for human beings as well. Most of Peru's carbon emissions come from land use change and forestry¹⁰. For instance there is a lot of carbon emission because of the deforestation of the Amazon. Trees and plants natural filter out carbon and produce oxygen, and when forests are being clear cutted, and large amounts of trees are cut down, all of that carbon that they filtered out is in the air. The Amazon is massive, and is home to many species and plants, so when people are destroying all of the living trees plants and other organisms in the Amazon, there will be effects that will be detrimental to Peru. Since Peru is still a developing country they do not have good laws

⁹ Peru- Environment

¹⁰Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy: Peru's main sources of GHG

regarding traffic, and even poor driven car practices that add extra carbon emission. The traffic is not efficient compared to other countries so when cars are just sitting there running, all of the exhaust is just seeping into the air¹¹.

Peru has been taking step to help improve their environmental impact by creating new policies. According to mongabay.com Peru is creating new policies like “regulating ecosystem services” or “Approving a National Forestry and Climate Change Strategy for diagnosing major threats to Peru’s forests” and “Providing official guidance on developing biodiversity offsets in Andean ecosystems.¹²” These policies should help with preserving the wildlife, but Peru also has to care about the people too so the people can live and have clean drinking water, or have less air pollution. Peru has taken great strides to switch to natural gas and renewable energy and to really take responsibility of their actions. Also Peru is apart of the Paris agreement which is an agreement to help deal with greenhouse emissions. Peru is striving, and trying to help improve their living qualities and the conditions will only improve fromw now.

Every country struggles with similar environmental impacts but in some countries they survarity of they impacts may vary. Peru still needs to improve with their environmental impacts that they have on the country and on the humans that live there. Mining needs to be cut back and only in small portions because clear cutting away so many trees and grasslands for mining, which is incredibly bad for the environment. There is hope for Peru, and only from this point

¹¹Peru - CO2 emissions per capita

¹²Peru’s new environmental policies: What are they and will they work?

Peru can only get better, and strive to be a better country, there will be some setbacks, but there are high hopes for Peru in the years to come

Work Cited

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Summary = 25/25 Nice work compiling the factual information and presenting it in an orderly manner

Reflection/Position Statement = 25/25 Clear conclusions drawn from the data; Good expansion on key ideas

Mechanics = 22/25 Some wording and spelling errors as noted

Citation = 25/25 Good incorporation of notes, multiple resources used, and proper formatting

Total = 97 Great work, Becky. You addressed the assignment questions and incorporated your ideas and position.

