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QUESTION

1. List and explain briefly, 5 specific organs of the United Nation that are concerned primarily with environmental protection

SOLUTION

1. **Environmental and Social Development Organization(ESDO)**

This is a Bangladeshi organization working to spread the message about the need for environmental conservation – to ensure the protection of biological diversity and ecological balance. Since the official formation of ESDO in 1990, we have focused on generating knowledge amongst the wider community about how human activity can negatively impact on the environment of Bangladesh. As a service oriented non-profit, non-government organization, ESDO strives to improve the livelihoods, the socio-economic status and simultaneously the environmental education of some of the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. ESDO invests in the people to care for the environment through providing essential inputs and capacity building. Environmental and Social Development Organization want to ensure self-reliant rural communities who live in harmony with their environment.

Its mission is to promote and encourage an environmental movement through a participatory democratic framework involving diverse social groups, and to assist them with ideas, information, and leadership for promoting a safe and sustainable environment.

1. **Environmental Compliance Institute(ECI)**

This is a non-profit Non-Governmental Organization based in Nairobi, Kenya.Its mission is to promote sustainable societies in Africa by advancing good environmental governance and environmental rule of law.

They also work to achieve the following objectives:

1. Raise awareness on the importance of environmental protection and sound management and utilization of natural resources.
2. Promote development and implementation of improved environmental policies, laws and institutional frameworks.
3. Build capacity of regulators and other stakeholders in the environmental regulatory cycle on effective implementation and enforcement of environmental requirements.
4. Promote national and regional collaborative networks in order to improve cooperation on mutually beneficial environmental regulatory compliance issues.
5. **Environmental Health Fund(EHF)**

This was founded in October 1998 as a coordinating and fund raising organization dedicated to protecting public health against the introduction and proliferation of toxic chemicals in the global environment.

For over 10 years, EHF has been a central architect of new strategies in the field of environmental health. Our strategies have helped galvanize a thriving movement for safer chemical policies, safer products, green jobs, and sustainable markets. We are working to transform the chemical industry so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the planet.They also seek to Incubate and catalyze environmental health organizing campaigns, networks, and initiatives that build the power of the health and justice movement; Support campaigns for safer chemical policies, markets for environmentally preferable products, and a new relationship between civil society and global corporations; and Leverage resources for the health, capacity, and sustainability of the domestic and global environmental health movement..

EHF connects institutions working at the local level to those working globally, including grassroots groups in the United States and 100 other countries, state and federal government agencies in the U.S., and United Nations organizations including the UN Environment Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Industrial Development Organization.

1. **Forest Action Network(FAN)**

Forest Action Network (FAN) is a networking Non Government Organization with head offices at Nairobi,  Kenya.  Established in 1995, FAN has since worked with local communities, policy makers and researchers to develop a niche in advocating for an improved policy and legislative climate to support the sustainable management of natural resources. With stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels, FAN's scope of operation gives it both a national and international outlook.

A well known organization in the natural resources management sector both locally and internationally,FAN is consulted on many issues related to forest management.  Because of this, FAN played a significant role in developing Kenya's new Forest Policy and Forests Legislation (Forests Act 2005).

FAN is actively involved with communities in the following aspects:-

1. Strengthening of Community Based Organizations forestry related to forestry management through training's on Participatory Forest Management.
2. It has been involved government officers in forms of training such as exchange visits to countries with experience in participatory forest management.
3. Training District Environment Committees (DEC) on their roles and responsibilities as spelt out in the Environment Management and Coordination Act of 1999 (EMCA).
4. **Environmental Liaison Centre International(ELCI)**

This was conceived at the dawn of the modern environmental movement when global apprehension over the state of the planet’s ecosystem reached its tipping point. Pressure from Civil Society Groups around the world led the United Nations to convene a Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 (UNCHE or Stockholm Conference).

ELCI was established with a number of objectives including advising NGOs on issues being raised by NGOs before UNEP and the Governing Council; promoting the participation of NGOs from the South; encouraging the development of information and service centres in the world; taking inventory of the human, technical and financial resources of NGOs and UNEP, facilitating direct communication and utilisation of resources among NGOs and between NGOs and UNEP; and providing staff support for the preparation of global NGO meetings.

By 1992, ELCI had been engaged in a number of highly successful initiatives including:

Introducing the Centre Report, a quarterly journal that initially reported on developments at UNEP. The report was renamed EcoForum in 1980 and went on to become a valued instrument alerting groups on emerging issues and providing information on measures to deal with them. At the height of its circulation, EcoForum was available in four languages (French, English, Spanish and Arabic) with a distribution list of over 7,000 NGOs.

Leading the charge to successfully prevent the construction of the Jonglei Canal, a Sudan Government/ World Bank Project that would have drained one of the world’s largest wetlands, the 80,000 square km Sudd Swamp in Southern Sudan

Lobbying successfully at the 1976 UN Conference on Human Settlement for the creation of the UN Centre for Human Settlements ‘Habitat’ centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

Engaging in numerous other initiatives including creating a directory of 3,000 NGOs / CBOs working on environmental issues in the developing countries, giving voice to unknown NGOs doing good work in environmental issues, bearing witness by bringing local environmental issues to the attention of the world, building networks of like-minded environmental groups, providing information and research on environmental and health issues, providing small grants to improve the environment and taking up a number of environmental causes such as the use of fuel wood for energy, speaking out against the pollution of the environment, promoting world environment day, the world conservation strategy, and the role of women in environment.