



The Coronavirus Pandemic and Environmental Impacts

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The scenario of economic crisis and occasional illusory events of environmental improvement around the world directly conflict with the crisis in the health system and the number of cases and increasing deaths caused by the new corona virus worldwide. Discussions and debates are initiated on vaccines and economic recovery, with the environmental agenda often masked by such problems, favoring attacks on environmental policies and laws.

The social manifestation about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment was observed intensely on the internet. For example, the sharing of images and videos of landscapes, previously hidden by layers of mud, residues or gases from atmospheric pollution, now clear and visually recovered, were mentioned many times in the beginning of the period of social isolation in several of the world.

In the midst of data on the reduction of global pollution levels, questions were raised about the extent to which and when such changes will remain and will cause some permanent result in ecosystems, in addition to the momentary.

In Brazil, the proper management and management of waste is still one of the basic sanitation challenges, having a extensive volume still without proper destination in ditches, dumps and streets.

As an example of other zoonotic diseases cited by the United Nations Environment Program (2020), there is Ebola, avian influenza, the H1N1 flu virus (or swine flu), the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), Rift fever Valley, sudden acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), West Nile virus and the Zika virus, which have also caused thousands of deaths and economic losses.

In this context, the increase in deforestation in the Amazon should also be the target of greater awareness and attention on the part of the government, as in addition to the various environmental and social problems (such as conflicts with indigenous people), it exposes human health to contact with hosts and pathogens from other diseases.

Given the above, it is noted that there were several changes in the various spheres caused by the pandemic, such as, in the case of the environment, the false initial idea of natural recovery of degraded places, the attacks on environmental policies in a consistent manner and the growing deforestation in the Amazon are shown as an example of worrying changes.

In addition, existing problems were evidenced, such as the failed management of natural resources, economic principles above sustainable principles and the poor environmental education of the population accompanied by a lack of awareness.

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