

***Are we doing enough to protect our threatened environments? -  
Computer research task***

<b>Name of initiative chosen</b>	UNESCO National Parks
<b>What are the aims of this initiative?</b>	To protect and sustain the Sumatran rainforests by eliminating threats such as road construction, agricultural encroachment, illegal logging, poaching and institutional and governance weaknesses.
<b>What types of work/project do they do? Give some examples of what they are and where they are.</b>	In 2005, they had a battle for a presidential decree to ban saw-mills and illegal logging. Eventually, they succeeded and the decree still stands today.
<b>If the initiative is involved with lots of different environmental projects, choose one and find out a bit more about it.</b>	On 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2004, a tsunami from the Indian Ocean swept over Indonesia (particularly the Sumatran Rainforest). This led to much devastation and loss of life, as well as subsequent earthquakes. In 2005, UNESCO helped to rehabilitate lots of people who lost their homes. On 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2006, the World Heritage Centre and relevant sectors of UNESCO formed an emergency action plan so that they would be prepared for any other natural disasters.
<b>What is good about this project?</b>	It helps protect less developed countries from natural threats, and provides them with guidance and support when others refuse it. Its website helps raise awareness so that the general public can understand the world around them and how they can help preserve it.
<b>What might not work with this project? What problems might it face?</b>	The website is a little challenging for some, and the wording is a slightly complex, however it still proves a helpful resource and an initiative that makes an impact on the community. Also, they promise to try and control natural disasters that affect these places, but natural disasters cannot necessarily be controlled, so they must revisit their claims in order to help with things that can be helped.
<b>Do you think the project(s) is sustainable? In other words, will it continue to work in the future?</b>	Some aspects of the initiative are sustainable, such as the assistance in the Sumatran area; however some things such as the rehabilitation may not have a long-term effect. If another tsunami were to strike, the impact would be colossal, and they would have to rebuild their lives all over again.
<b>Any other interesting/important information?</b>	UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. They help battle natural and manmade disasters all over the globe.

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## Web links

To open the web links...

- hover the mouse over the link
- hold down the CTRL button until a hand appears
- click

# GREENPEACE

Greenpeace -



CITES - <http://www.cites.org/>



UNESCO National Park - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/>



Rio+20 - <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/index.shtml>