

# Protection and conservation of natural resources

## Natural Resources

Natural resources are naturally occurring elements that form our earth. These elements include air, water, soils, rocks, forests and plants. All resources are interconnected, so a deficiency in one element puts pressure on all the others. These resources meet our basic needs of air, water, food and shelter.

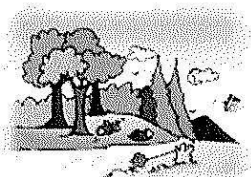
With resource use comes waste. In order to sustain our quality of life, we must conserve our resources through waste **reduction, reuse and recycling**.

These methods of waste management will contribute to the protection and conservation of natural resources.

### In the Past



People



Resources

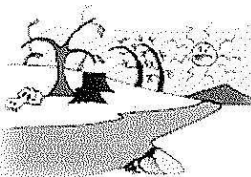


Waste

### Present Days



More people



Less resources



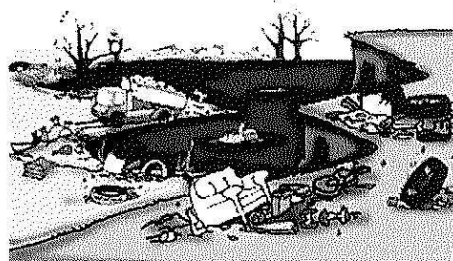
More waste

## One of the most valuable resources: Water

Water is used in almost all human activities, from daily chores such as personal hygiene, preparation of foods and general cleaning to irrigation of plantations and industrial production. These activities produce water flows that put diverse impacts on the receiving bodies: streams, rivers and lakes.

Industrial processes, hospitals, laboratories of clinical analysis, repair shops, slaughterhouses, are some of the activities which contribute to the degradation of water. The cities where most of those activities are concentrated end up with contaminated surface water, but also groundwater.

This situation is aggravated by the indiscriminate discharge of waste in quebradas and watercourses.



The pollution control of this resource constitutes one of the most serious problems and challenges for humanity.

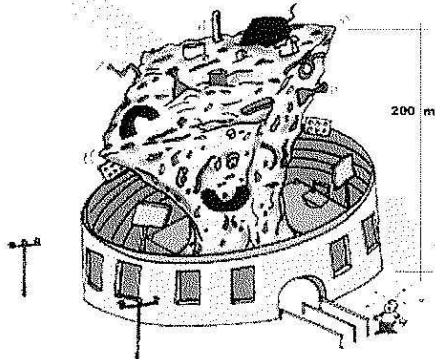
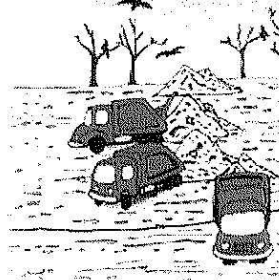
# How much waste is generated in San Salvador Metropolitan Area?

From 420 to 600 grams of waste per person are generated daily in San Salvador Metropolitan Area.



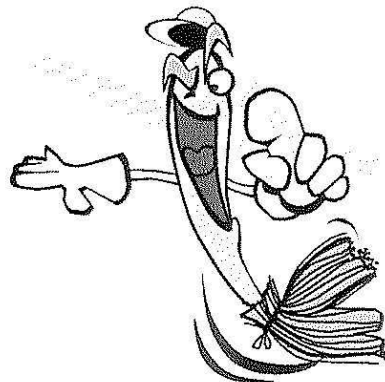
It is considered that a total waste amount of 1,200 tons/day is generated in San Salvador Metropolitan Area, including all generation sources such as restaurants, businesses, etc.

Did you know that approximately 439,630 tons/year of waste is generated in AMSS?



If all this waste is piled up in a soccer stadium (90m x 60m), it would reach a height of 200 meters.

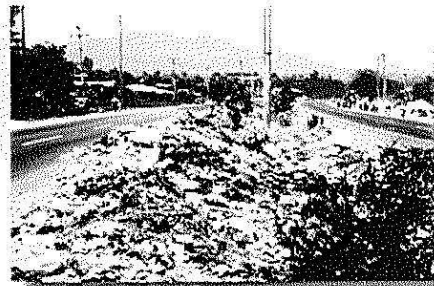
If we do not tackle the waste problem in time, we will have to live in a deteriorated environment, surrounded by waste!



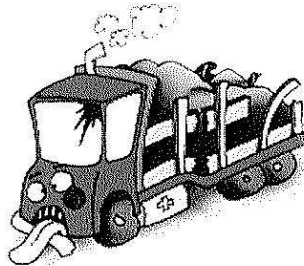
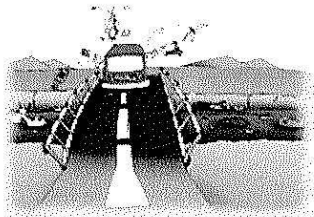
# Problems, causes and effects originated by waste

## Problems of waste

- Waste thrown in quebradas, open areas, rivers, etc.
- Waste heaps in streets and public roads.
- Waste scattered in streets.



## Causes of problems



- Improper habits and insufficient knowledge of the people on appropriate waste handling methods.
- Lack of human resources, equipment and financial resources of the authorities in charge of the collection service.

## Effects of waste

- Proliferation of vectors (flies, mosquitoes, rats, etc.) which transmit diseases.
- Propagation of diseases, especially parasitic and gastrointestinal diseases.
- Emissions of unpleasant odors.
- Aesthetic problems: the unpleasant views of waste accumulation disfigure the urban landscape.
- The obstruction of drainage channels by waste causes floods that put the population at risk.
- Environmental contamination



The presence of biological agents in waste can be a significant factor in the direct and indirect transmission of diseases.