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THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

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In February, 2020 COVID-19 pandemic outbreak was declared and countries have locked down their cities, industries and restricted the movement of their citizens to minimize the spread of the virus. In spite of the negative aspects of coronavirus on the globe, the coronavirus crises made a positive impact on the natural environment. Due to the quarantine restrictions air, rail, and road communications have been limited, and production has been suspended. The world has experienced an evident decrease in pollution and greenhouse gases emission. Recent research demonstrated that the lockdown has declined the environmental pollution excessively worldwide.

At the same time scientists also predict the negative impact of quarantine in the long term. The coming economic crisis will divert attention from the fight against global warming, the threat to biological diversity and slow down the transition to «green energy». The demand for disposable personal hygiene items has increased, and the amount of medical waste that is not recycled has grown. The coronavirus creates obstacles for activists, whose main tool is mass protests.

The ecological crisis and the pandemic are of the same nature – anthropogenic. Human activities create conditions for climate change. As a result, many carriers of infections are changing their habitat: what was in tropical regions is now spreading throughout the planet. Pathogens pass from animals to humans, and many of them are capable of spreading rapidly. New rules in economics and politics should be worked out as soon as possible, aimed at saving the climate.

The climate crisis and the spread of viruses are linked. In the conditions of global warming, the emergence of new infectious diseases and the spread of local diseases around the world is only a matter of time. The climate becomes more and more favorable for great number of diseases.

Sustainability is the key. The sedentary lifestyle caused by isolation can prove to be more comfortable and economical. The planet will only benefit from this: less movement – less emissions into the atmosphere; remote work – reduced power consumption.

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