

Discuss the issue of toxic waste in Africa. What are the implications of this issue for the future of the continent?

Pirates are people who sail in a ship and attack other ships in order to steal from them. The Somali pirates did not begin with the intention of targeting the crew and steal their cargo, they were normal fisherman who went out on speed boats in attempted to protect their country from those polluting it's unregulated waters, draw attention to the situation , or at least tax them. However, instead of listening to their complaints the international community waged war against them. These illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessels poach approximately \$450 million worth of seafood every year. Stealing a vital source of income and food from the citizens of Somalia, as only 2% of Somali land is suitable for arable farming. In addition, they have been the reason for hundreds of residents falling ill. Even though, the Somali have not been treated fairly, most condemn the work of the pirates. It is clear that high income countries (HIC) only care about their countries interests and completely disregard low income countries (LIC) such Somalia. The consequences would be devastating if Africa continues to be exploited and the injustices are allowed to progress.

Somalia is a country located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east. Somalia has a population of around 10 million with nearly half living below the poverty line. The Somali government collapsed in 1991, and there has been on-going conflict since. Foreign interests seized the opportunity, knowing that Somalia was vulnerable, and instead of helping the Somali they took advantage of them. The UN have secretly been secretly been protecting their vessels in Somali waters, while on the surface has been appearing to have Somalia's interests at heart. They are willing to bend the law to benefit themselves but punish those who break it.

The dumping of toxic waste has a huge impact on the environment and its inhabitants. It contaminates the water; this poisons seafood, and in turn poisons those who eat seafood, such as humans. Toxic waste can also get into your drinking water, especially in countries where there is poor sanitation. Drinking contaminated water has many long term effects, as well as serious health issues and even death. It can lead to cancer as the radioactive material in the water – from toxic waste – attacks your cells. It can also affect your fertility, and even if you are able to produce children, there may be birth defects and mutations. It also contaminates land, leading to soil erosion. This means plants and trees will not be able to grow, and die. As Somalia has an extremely low percentage of arable land for farming, this is devastating.

Africa is the home of some of the most stunning landscapes and beautiful scenery. Some of its inhabitants are the most majestic animals in the world. The continent is also bursting with culture and history. There is a mass of tribes, each with their own language, myths and heritage. This attracts a huge amount of tourists to Africa every year. If atrocities, such as

dumping toxic waste, are allowed to continue, this will have a huge impact on the future of tourism in Africa.

If countries with high authority continue to exploit Africa, in the years to come, our future generation will not have chance to experience Africa's beauty. HIC's have taken away a valuable resource in Somalia, in turn taking away their livelihood. Especially as coastal areas depend on fishing as that's their only resource. This leads to an increase in migration, such as urban migration, putting excess stress on the government. This means they cannot able to care for their health, pay for education and feed their children. As a consequence they will always rely on developed countries, such as UK and America to provide aid. And it is these developing countries which exploit them the most. In addition, HIC countries seem to want Africa to depend on them, and use their power to stop the continent developing. This is a dangerous spiral that most born LIC's are not escape. The solution is not to just provide aid but to not destroy the continent in the first place.

In conclusion, Africa is a fascinating continent – with so much potential but lacks the respect and political ability around the world to be able to progress. Somalia reflects the unjustness throughout Africa. There are two kinds of pirates dominating the Somali waters, and only one of them resides in Somalia.