Environmental Hazards – Hospitality Stats and Facts

FACTS

Here are some common environmental hazards identified in the hospitality industry:

1. **Habitat destruction:** Construction and expansion threaten natural habitats, including wetlands and forests.
2. **Pollution:** Untreated sewage and waste discharge can harm water quality and aquatic life.
3. **Soil erosion:** Land clearing and improper landscaping lead to soil erosion and sedimentation in waterways.
4. **Deforestation:** Clearing land disrupts biodiversity and ecological processes like carbon sequestration.
5. **Noise and light pollution:** Human activities disturb wildlife and interfere with natural light cycles.
6. **Invasive species introduction:** Transporting materials can introduce invasive species, altering local ecosystems.
7. **Resource overconsumption and climate change:** Hotels consume resources, contribute to climate change, and exacerbate natural disasters' impacts.

STATS

- According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), approximately 13 million hectares of forests are lost annually due to deforestation, much of which can be attributed to human activities including construction and land conversion.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 80% of wastewater in developing countries is discharged untreated into rivers or coastal areas, contributing to water pollution and affecting marine ecosystems.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that globally, approximately 24 billion tons of fertile soil are

lost annually due to erosion, degradation, and other factors, impacting agricultural productivity and ecosystem health.

- The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that the world's forests continue to shrink by about 10 million hectares annually, primarily due to agriculture, logging, and infrastructure development.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that tourism accounts for about 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with hotels and resorts being significant contributors due to energy-intensive operations and transportation.