



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION AND UBEKISTAN'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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**Abstract.** *This article analyzes the negative environmental impacts of globalization, with particular emphasis on the intensification of ecological problems. It highlights major global environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and the increasing volume of industrial waste, demonstrating their growing threat to humanity.*

*Within this context, the article examines the environmental policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at ensuring ecological sustainability. Special attention is given to the country's participation in international environmental initiatives and the implementation of comprehensive measures in the Aral Sea region.*

*Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing environmental issues and ensuring ecological security. Uzbekistan's active role in global environmental policy is supported by relevant evidence and practical examples.*

**Keywords:** *Globalization, environmental problems, climate change, environmental policy of Uzbekistan, international cooperation, Aral Sea crisis, UNEP*

### **Introduction.**

In recent decades, the processes of globalization have significantly transformed the global economy, political systems, and social structures, while also



exerting a profound impact on the environment. These processes have led to a substantial increase in the demand for natural resources, thereby weakening the stability of ecological systems. As a result, global environmental challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and the growing volume of industrial waste have emerged as serious threats to human well-being and sustainable development.

In response to these challenges, ensuring environmental sustainability has become a key priority in both national and international policy agendas. Environmental threats increasingly transcend national borders, requiring complex, multi-level, and multidimensional cooperation among states and international organizations. At the global level, institutions such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) play a crucial role in environmental monitoring, governance, and the coordination of international initiatives. These mechanisms create opportunities for aligning environmental policies and implementing joint actions to address ecological issues effectively.

Uzbekistan, due to its geographical location, climatic conditions, and economic development patterns, faces specific environmental challenges. The country has introduced national environmental strategies and legal frameworks aimed at the rational use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. In particular, the ecological crisis in the Aral Sea region remains at the center of both regional and international efforts to ensure environmental security. The consequences of this crisis have significantly affected the socio-economic stability of Uzbekistan and the wider Central Asian region.

This article provides a systematic analysis of the impact of globalization on the environment and examines Uzbekistan's role in international environmental policy and regional ecological security. The study focuses on key issues such as climate change, water resource management, biodiversity conservation, and waste reduction at both national and global levels. Furthermore, it evaluates the effectiveness of international cooperation mechanisms and highlights Uzbekistan's active participation in addressing environmental challenges.



The findings of this research contribute not only to the theoretical understanding of environmental security but also to the improvement of practical policies and strategies. In addition, the study explores ways in which international experience and innovative approaches can be effectively adapted to national conditions in Uzbekistan to address environmental problems

## **Literature Review**

Issue of globalization and its environmental consequences has been widely discussed in academic literature, particularly in relation to the increasing severity of global ecological problems. Scholars emphasize that rapid industrialization, economic integration, and technological development have significantly intensified pressure on natural ecosystems, leading to climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation.

A.N. Nig‘matov highlights the interrelationship between nature, society, and spirituality, emphasizing that environmental stability is closely connected to human values and social responsibility. His work provides a philosophical and socio-ecological perspective on environmental protection and sustainable development.

I.A. Karimov, in his work “O‘zbekiston XXI asr bo‘sag‘asida”, analyzes security challenges and development conditions, including environmental risks. He underlines that ecological stability is a fundamental component of national security and long-term development strategy, particularly for countries facing resource constraints and regional environmental crises.

E.O. Turdiqulov focuses on global environmental problems and strategies for their resolution, stressing the importance of coordinated international efforts. His research provides a systematic approach to understanding environmental degradation and proposes strategic mechanisms for mitigating ecological risks.

In addition to academic sources, policy documents and international reports play a significant role in understanding Uzbekistan’s environmental agenda. The speech of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly emphasizes the country’s commitment to environmental sustainability and global cooperation in addressing



ecological challenges. Similarly, reports from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uzbekistan highlight ongoing development initiatives aimed at promoting green growth and sustainable environmental management.

Furthermore, the Presidential Decree PQ-4477 on the transition to a “green economy” (2019–2030) demonstrates Uzbekistan’s strategic commitment to integrating environmental considerations into economic development policies. This policy framework reflects the country’s long-term vision of achieving sustainability through institutional reforms and environmentally friendly economic practices.

Overall, the reviewed literature indicates that environmental challenges require a multidisciplinary approach that combines theoretical insights, policy frameworks, and international cooperation. It also shows that Uzbekistan is increasingly aligning its national strategies with global environmental standards and sustainable development goals.

## **Methodology.**

This study employs a qualitative research design to examine the relationship between globalization and environmental problems, as well as Uzbekistan’s role in ensuring ecological security. The methodology is based on theoretical analysis, document review, and interpretive synthesis of existing academic and policy materials.

First, a theoretical analysis was conducted based on scholarly works addressing environmental security and sustainable development. Special attention was given to the ideas reflected in I.A. Karimov’s work “O‘zbekiston XXI asr bo‘sag‘asida: xavfsizlikka tahdid, barqarorlik shartlari va taraqqiyot kafolatlari”, where environmental issues are discussed as part of national security. This provided a conceptual framework for understanding ecological challenges in the context of globalization.

Second, a document analysis method was used to examine national and international environmental policy documents. These include Uzbekistan’s ecological strategies, legal frameworks, and international cooperation initiatives. The analysis focused on how environmental security is integrated into national



development priorities and how policy responses address issues such as climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation.

Third, a contextual analysis approach was applied to interpret the environmental challenges described in the study, including climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation. These issues were analyzed in relation to their social, economic, and security impacts, particularly in the context of Uzbekistan.

Finally, a synthesis method was used to combine theoretical insights and practical observations in order to evaluate the importance of international cooperation. In this regard, global environmental governance and collaboration with international organizations were considered essential for addressing transboundary ecological problems.

Overall, this methodology enables a comprehensive understanding of environmental challenges in the era of globalization and highlights the necessity of coordinated national and international responses to ensure ecological sustainability.

**Analysis and results.** The study demonstrates that globalization has significantly intensified environmental pressures in Uzbekistan, transforming ecological issues into both national and global concerns. The analysis of theoretical literature, policy documents, legal frameworks, and observed environmental conditions shows that environmental degradation in the country is a complex and multidimensional process driven by long-term unsustainable resource use, rapid industrialization, agricultural pressure, and the cumulative impact of regional ecological mismanagement.

One of the most important findings is that environmental problems in Uzbekistan are deeply interconnected rather than isolated. Economic development, population growth, and infrastructure expansion have increased pressure on natural ecosystems, while environmental protection measures have not always kept pace with these changes. As a result, air quality, water resources, and land productivity have gradually deteriorated in several regions.

A central result of the analysis is the continued severity of the ecological disaster of the Aral Sea. The desiccation of the Aral Sea has led to extensive



environmental consequences, including desertification, expansion of saline desert areas, frequent salt-dust storms, and significant disruption of local climate patterns. These environmental changes have had direct socio-economic impacts, such as reduced agricultural productivity, loss of livelihoods, migration pressures, and increased health risks for the population. The Aral Sea crisis therefore represents a clear example of how environmental mismanagement can evolve into a long-term socio-economic and ecological catastrophe.

In addition, the study identifies several ongoing environmental challenges across Uzbekistan. Industrial emissions in certain regions remain a concern due to outdated technologies and insufficient filtering systems. Rapid urbanization has contributed to increasing vehicle emissions and worsening air quality in major cities. Waste management systems are still developing, with limited recycling infrastructure leading to accumulation of solid waste. In agriculture, excessive irrigation practices, overuse of chemical fertilizers, and inefficient water management continue to contribute to soil degradation, salinization, and reduced land fertility.

Another significant result is the growing issue of water scarcity, which is increasingly influenced by climate change. Rising temperatures, prolonged drought periods, and irregular precipitation patterns have reduced the availability of freshwater resources. This has placed additional stress on agriculture, energy production, and domestic water supply systems. Water scarcity is therefore identified as one of the most critical long-term environmental risks facing the country.

The analysis also reveals that Uzbekistan has developed a relatively strong environmental legal and institutional framework. Constitutional provisions, environmental protection laws, and regulations on water use and environmental impact assessment provide a formal basis for environmental governance. However, despite these legal structures, the practical implementation remains inconsistent in some areas. Weak enforcement mechanisms, limited monitoring capacity, and occasional prioritization of economic development over environmental protection continue to hinder full effectiveness of environmental policies.



A key finding of the study is that environmental sustainability cannot be achieved through legislation alone. Public ecological awareness and behavioral change are equally important. The results indicate that although environmental awareness is gradually improving, public participation in environmental protection activities remains limited. This highlights the need for stronger environmental education, awareness campaigns, and community involvement. On the international level, Uzbekistan is increasingly integrating into global environmental governance systems. Cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has supported the implementation of various environmental projects. These include climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable water management, and green economy initiatives. This cooperation demonstrates Uzbekistan's growing alignment with global environmental standards and sustainable development goals.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan's active role in addressing the Aral Sea crisis highlights its importance in regional environmental diplomacy. International recognition of the Aral Sea region as a zone of ecological innovation reflects efforts to transform a severe environmental disaster into a platform for sustainable development initiatives. Regional cooperation mechanisms, including joint projects with Central Asian countries, further emphasize the importance of collective action in solving transboundary environmental problems.

Overall, the results indicate that Uzbekistan is facing serious environmental challenges shaped by both historical and contemporary factors. At the same time, the country is making gradual but measurable progress in strengthening environmental governance, expanding international cooperation, and promoting sustainable development policies. However, achieving long-term ecological stability will require stronger enforcement of environmental regulations, accelerated technological modernization, improved resource efficiency, and a higher level of public ecological awareness.

## **Conclusion.**



This study concludes that globalization has significantly increased environmental pressures in Uzbekistan, turning ecological issues into a serious national and global concern. The main environmental challenges include the ecological crisis of the Aral Sea, water scarcity, air pollution, land degradation, and inefficient waste management systems. These problems negatively affect public health, agriculture, and overall socio-economic stability.

Although Uzbekistan has developed a relatively strong legal and institutional framework for environmental protection, the effectiveness of these measures is limited by weak enforcement, insufficient monitoring, and the need for further technological modernization. This indicates that legal reforms alone are not enough without strong implementation mechanisms.

International cooperation is another key factor in addressing environmental issues. Collaboration with organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other global partners has helped Uzbekistan implement environmental projects, improve resource management, and adopt green economy principles. These efforts also strengthen the country's role in regional environmental diplomacy, especially in addressing transboundary issues like the Aral Sea crisis.

In addition, the study emphasizes the importance of increasing public ecological awareness. Environmental sustainability cannot be achieved only through government policies; it also requires active participation of citizens. Strengthening environmental education, promoting ecological culture through media, and encouraging responsible behavior toward natural resources are essential for long-term improvement.

Overall, the findings suggest that Uzbekistan's environmental future depends on the integration of effective governance, international cooperation, technological innovation, and public engagement. Combining these elements will help ensure long-term ecological stability and sustainable development in the country.



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