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# Organizational and Legal Basis of the Nature Protection System and its Improvement

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the damage being done to nature and its consequences, and also highlights the measures being taken to address these problems and the ways in which the existing system (Nature Protection System) is being developed and improved in line with the times.

**Key words:** Nature protection, Ecological safety, Environmental protection, Ecological law, Water resources management, Environmental regulations, International environmental law, Ecological monitoring, Climate change and ecology, Industry and ecology, Green economy, Ecological education and upbringing, Ecological impact assessment, Water pollution and legislation, Development of ecological law.

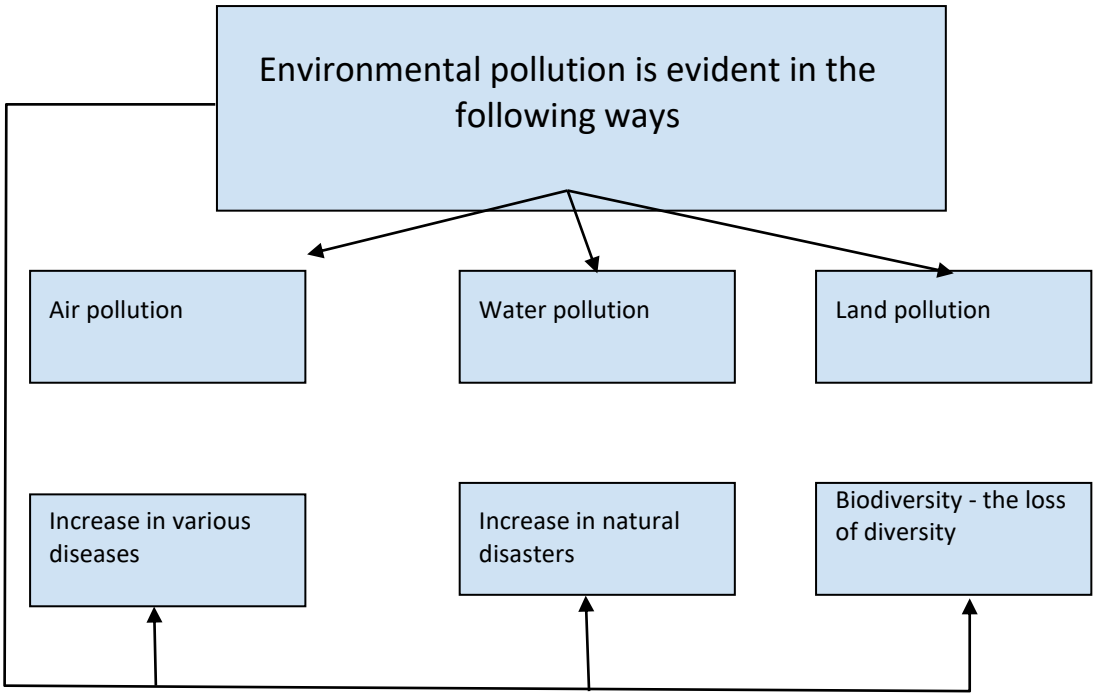


## Introduction

The world we live in was beautiful, peaceful, and free of natural disasters when industry was developed and the environment was free of various harmful gases, waste, and other environmental pollutants. During these times, people were able to enjoy nature. As the economy develops, industry also develops and production volumes increase, resulting in significant environmental damage. In the 20th century, as the population quadrupled, production increased 18-fold, and at the same time, the amount of environmental damage increased by the same amount. This situation is not going to go away. In response, various serious changes in nature (global warming, floods, forest fires, and similar natural disasters) are occurring, which are negatively affecting the economy, people, and the economies of countries. For example, the damage caused by Hurricane Ivan in Grenada in 2004 was 148% of the country's gross domestic product, while the damage caused by Hurricane Maria in Dominica in 2017 was 206%. For this reason, various international measures are being taken to preserve nature, for example, various nature conservation conventions are being implemented between countries, and a number of resolutions and norms are being adopted. Examples of these include the Stockholm Declaration adopted in 1972, the Rio de

Janeiro Declaration developed on the basis of the Stockholm Declaration in 1992, and the Kyoto Declaration adopted by the UN in 1997.

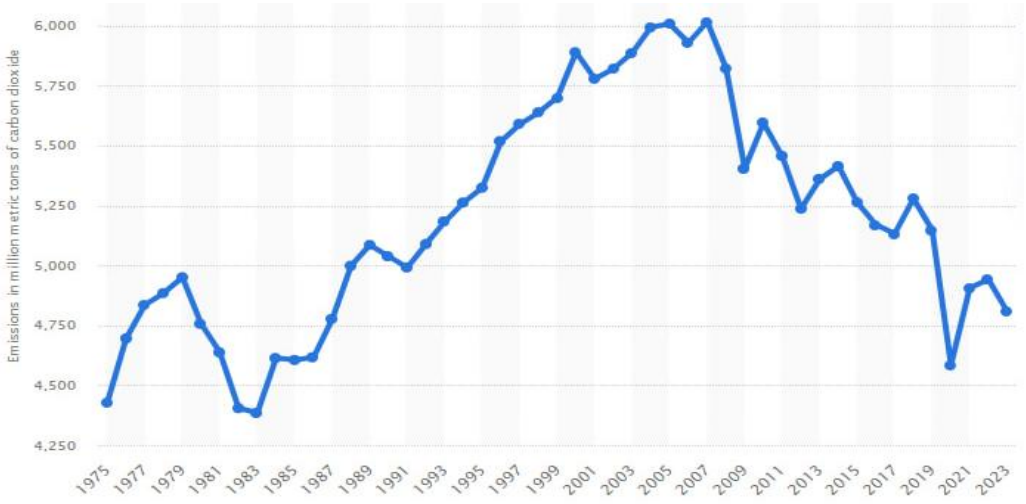
**Forms and levels of environmental pollution**




Air pollution is mainly caused by industrial production, vehicles, and greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., carbon dioxide). Deteriorating air quality poses a threat not only to global climate change, but also to human health (e.g. asthma, cardiovascular disease).At the same time, industrial production and manufacturing processes are often associated with the release of harmful substances into the air, water, and soil. Chemicals, heavy metals, and plastic waste are harmful to the environment. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 7 million people die every year from air pollution.The leading causes of these deaths are heart disease, stroke, lung disease, and cancer.It can be said that industry is developing very rapidly in Uzbekistan, as can be seen in the following statistics:As of January 2024, 69.4 thousand industrial enterprises were operating in the republic, of which 11.8 thousand (17.0% of the total number of registered enterprises) were located in Tashkent city, 7.8 thousand (11.2%) in Fergana region, 7.3 thousand (10.5%) in Tashkent region, 6.2 thousand (8.9%) in Samarkand region, and 5.5 thousand (7.9%) in Andijan region.While this situation contributes greatly to economic development, it also has an impact on environmental damage.For this reason, a number of measures are being taken in our Republic to prevent this, for example, in accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-436 dated December 2, 2022 "On measures to increase the effectiveness of reforms aimed at the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a "green" economy by 2030", the Ministry of Economy and Finance was appointed as the authorized national body coordinating the implementation of measures under the Sustainable Development Support Mechanism in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (Paris, December 12, 2015). A decision was made, together with the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, to develop a program for the introduction of international carbon markets and non-market instruments in the Republic of Uzbekistan by October 1, 2024, which provides for a cooperative approach mechanism in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and guidelines for the application of the rules, methods and procedures of the Sustainable Development Mechanism in the country. Air pollution is a major problem in all countries of the world, including Uzbekistan. We can see how pollution levels are increasing and the changes as a result of the measures taken in several countries:

***1 – Line graph.***

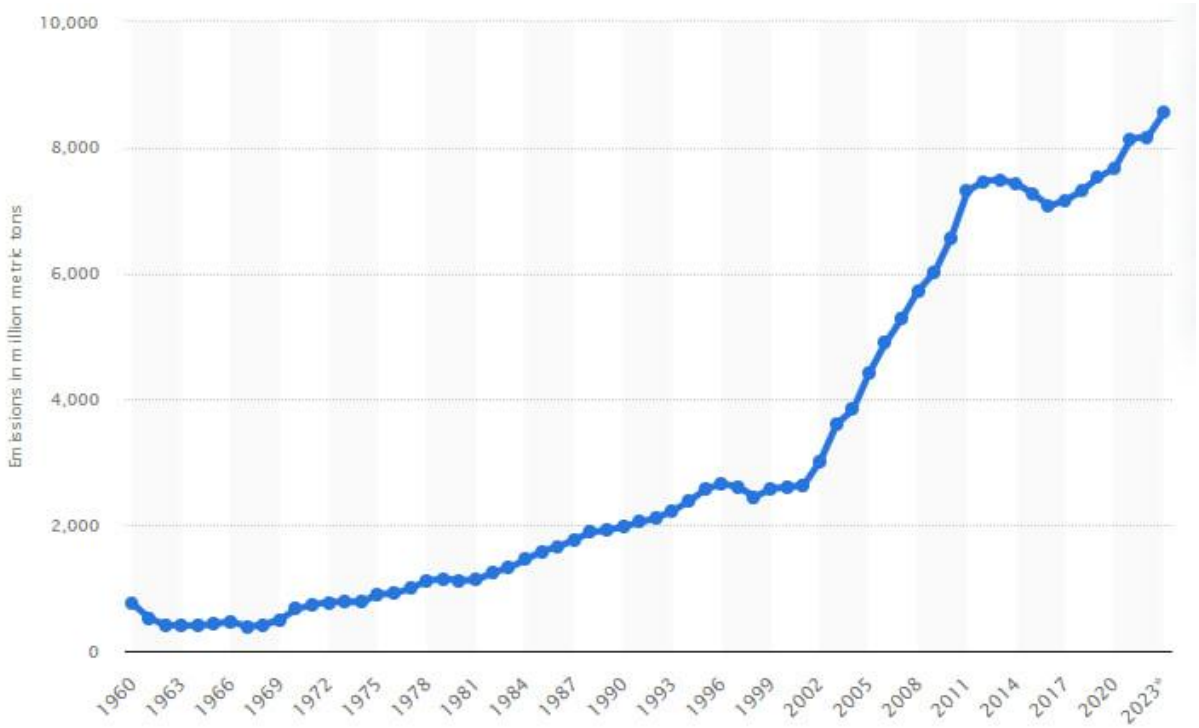
***CO2 emissions in the United States from 1975 to 2023.***




This statistic depicts greenhouse gas emissions in the United States from 1975 to 2023. It is clear that the level of environmental pollution in the United States reached its highest level in 2005, but due to the measures taken, this indicator decreased significantly by 2023.

***2 – Line graph.***

***CO2 emission levels in China from 1960 to 2023.***




This statistic depicts greenhouse gas emissions in China from 1960 to 2023. It is clear that as China's industry develops, environmental pollution is also increasing.

Along with air pollution, water and land pollution are also serious environmental problems. Pollution of water sources is caused by industrial waste, agricultural chemicals, and household waste. This harms aquatic ecosystems and threatens human health, as contaminated water can lead

to health problems if used for drinking and irrigation. According to statistics on water resources of the World Bank and the United Nations, 80% of the world faces pollution of water sources due to specialized industrial and agricultural activities.

- UN reports: Currently, 2.2 billion people worldwide lack access to clean drinking water, and more than 1.7 million people die each year from water-related diseases.

Land pollution is associated with chemicals, plastic waste, and industrial waste, which reduce the fertility of the land. This, in turn, affects agriculture and plant life. The UN Special Report on the Environment states that chemicals are the main source of land pollution. Chemicals, such as pesticides and heavy metals, reduce the fertility of the land and damage ecosystems.The level of land pollution has increased dramatically over the last 50 years.Land pollution from agricultural activities, including the use of pesticides and fertilizers, is leading to a deterioration in soil quality. Approximately 40% of land has lost its fertility. The following international meetings have adopted resolutions on the prevention of water pollution in the world: The Convention on the International Use and Management of Water Resources, adopted by the UN in 1997, provides an important legal basis for combating water pollution.This convention aims to protect transboundary rivers and water bodies from pollution and ensure the equitable use of water resources. In this sense, several agreements and conventions have been concluded, including the Rome Convention (1969), the Paris Agreement (2015), the Stockholm Convention (2001), the Rio de Janeiro Declaration (1992), and others.

State administration in the field of water use is carried out by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, local government bodies, as well as specially authorized state administration bodies and other state bodies that regulate water use directly or through basin (territorial) departments, and in accordance with this, these bodies have implemented the following reforms in order to rationally use water: Placement, design, construction, reconstruction and commissioning of enterprises, structures and other facilities in fishery reservoirs;

Identifying places where enterprises, structures and other facilities that affect the state of waters and water bodies will be built, reconstructed, repaired and restored;

Coordination and state expertise of projects for the construction, reconstruction, repair and restoration of enterprises, structures and other objects that affect the state of waters and water bodies;

Prohibition of the operation of enterprises, structures and other facilities that affect the state of waters and water bodies;

Agreeing on projects for the construction, reconstruction, repair and restoration of bridges, overpasses and other transport communications across water bodies; and a number of similar reforms.

**Environmental protection indicators in Europe and Uzbekistan**

It can be noted that currently, among the developed countries of the world, various reserves and green areas are being established in Uzbekistan to protect the environment and preserve biodiversity.

About 10 decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were developed and improved, and special government programs were adopted. Five new protected natural areas were established.As a result of these new approaches in the country, the area of protected natural areas has increased to 8.3 percent of the country's total area, compared to 5.2 percent in 2017.

**Table 1. Area of protected natural areas for 2016-2021 (in thousand hectares)**

| Regions | 2016 | 2017 | 20 18 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Republic of Uzbekistan | 885,5 | 874,5 | l 545,7 | l 545,9 | l 570,6 | 3 457,8 |
| Republic of Karakalpakstan | 68,7 | 68,7 | 697,0 | 697,2 | 700,2 | 2 589,6 |
| Andijan | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Bukhara | 16,5 | 16,5 | 16,5 | 16,5 | 16,5 | 26,8 |
| Jizzakh | 68,5 | 68,5 | 68,5 | 68,5 | 68,5 | 68,3 |
| Kashkadarya | 84,9 | 84,9 | 84,9 | 84,9 | 84,9 | 82,9 |
| Navoi | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Namangan | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Samarkand | 2,4 | 2,4 | 2,4 | 2,4 | 2,4 | 2,4 |
| Surkhandarya | 23,8 | 23,8 | 23,8 | 23,8 | 23,8 | 23,8 |
| Sirdarya | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Tashkent | 610,4 | 599,4 | 642,3 | 642,3 | 642,3 | 642,3 |
| Fergana | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Khorezm | 10,3 | 10,3 | 10,3 | 10,3 | 32,0 | 21,7 |
| Tashkent city | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |

The European continent, home to the world's most developed countries, is also taking steps to expand green spaces. According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), the average tree cover and green areas in 38 European capitals is 30 percent. The Scandinavian city of Oslo has the highest share of green spaces at 72 percent, followed by Bern in Switzerland at 53 percent, and Ljubljana in Slovenia at 50 percent, while Paris lags behind, with 20 percent, well below the average. Madrid, the capital of Spain, is also at 39 percent, and Rome, the capital of Italy, is at 24 percent.

## Conclusion

As mentioned above, the impact of humanity on the environment is very large, and accordingly, it is causing serious problems. If these problems are not solved in time, it is clear and imminent that the earth will face extinction. Fortunately, this situation was recognized before it was too late and is being strengthened by including it in legislative documents.The situation is being significantly alleviated thanks to the cooperation between the countries of the world. Without this cooperation, the efforts of one or two countries would have been in vain. Countries are not only making decisions on environmental issues, but are also taking steps to educate future generations about this situation in a modern way and train qualified personnel in this field.

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