

# Globalization and Environment

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Globalization is altering the global environment. Some perceive the net ecological impact of globalization as positive, as a force of progress and better lives. It fosters economic growth and cooperative institutions, both necessary in the long run to manage the global environment. Others see the net impact as negative, as a force sinking the globe into a bog of ecological decay. It is accelerating the destructive process of too many people consuming too many natural resources without any concern for equality or justice. Both the pro- and anti-globalization camps present persuasive data and arguments. Globalization involves multiple and complex sets of overlapping processes. Inevitably, there will be manifold and at times cross-cutting effects on the global environment.

It is important to highlight that not only does globalization impact the environment, but the environment impacts the pace, direction and quality of globalization. At the very least, this happens because environmental resources provide the fuel for economic globalization, but also because our social and policy responses to global environmental challenges constrain and influence the context in which globalization happens.

## Global warming and Green house effect

After 150 Years of Industrialization, Climate Change is Inevitable. Global warming-also called climate change-refers to the worldwide rise in temperatures as the result of “greenhouse effect”.Greenhouse gases are released by activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing, and agriculture.

How Do Humans Contribute to the Greenhouse Effect? While the greenhouse effect is an essential environmental prerequisite for life on Earth, there really can be too much of a good thing.

The problems begin when human activities distort and accelerate the natural process by creating more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere than are necessary to warm the planet to an ideal temperature.

- **Burning natural gas, coal and oil** -including gasoline for automobile engines-raises the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- **Some farming practices and land-use** changes increase the levels of methane and nitrous oxide.
- **Many factories produce long-lasting** industrial gases that do not occur naturally, yet contribute significantly to the enhanced greenhouse effect and “global warming” that is currently under way.
- **Deforestation** also contributes to global warming. Trees use carbon dioxide and give off oxygen in its place, which helps to create the optimal balance of gases in the atmosphere. As more forests are logged for timber or cut down to make way for farming, however, there are fewer trees to perform this critical function.
- **Population growth** is another factor in global warming, because as more people use fossil fuels for heat, transportation and manufacturing the level of greenhouse gases continues to increase. As more farming occurs to feed millions of new people, more greenhouse gases enter the atmosphere.

The relationship between globalization and the environment is too complex to sum up in a single judgment – whether “good” or “bad”. On the other hand, changes in the composition and techniques of economic activity can lower the damage relative to income. A sound environment is essential to realizing the full potential of globalization. Conversely, the absence of a sound environment can significantly undermine the promise of economic prosperity through globalization. Technological solutions will inevitably determine the future of globalization as well as the global environment. But they will do so within the context of global consumption demands. Technology cannot change the demands or help us satisfy all of them but it can, through globalization, help meet these demands in a more planet-friendly way.