

## Environmental globalization

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Globalization in economic, social and military affairs contribute to the fourth process, environmental globalization- the increase of movement between continents of pollutants and species. Of the many environmental challenges found around the world, two in particular are driven by environmental interactions between continents: the loss of biological diversity and the increase of global atmospheric pollution.

Increased transportation has breached the oceanic barriers that once ensured the biological separation of species. Thousands of exotic species have been introduced to new continents through various means (biologists transporting these species back to their own countries for study, intentional animal trafficking, and the accidental transport of species through various means of transportation). Invasive species are non-native species that are brought in an area. These species then compete with the native species already existing in the area. Invasive species can be very destructive, often totally eliminating various indigenous species.

Global atmospheric pollution could occur at a rapid rate even if trade, social interactions, and military conflicts decreased. Yet these types of atmospheric pollution are examples of environmental globalization because they require various countries to participate in international agreements in order to effectively reverse the global environmental damage. Nations can address their own soil, water and localized air pollution problems, but the upper atmosphere is truly a shared, global commons. Nations cannot address global climate change, ozone-layer depletion on their own and expect effective results.

The pollutants that cause these environmental problems are released from all nations. Atmospheric wind currents quickly circulate the chemicals to all parts of the globe. Analysis of environmental globalization has led many government leaders to the conclusion that global environmental problems require global solutions. Global agreements to address these problems are complicated by the fact that developed nations release much greater levels of pollutants than the developing nations.

The effort to protect ozone layer has been the most successful global environmental project in history. It has involved the cooperation of many international organizations and nearly every national government. Industrialized countries have stopped producing nearly all the worst ozone-depleting chemicals after signing the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

As a concept globalization is too broad to be useful unless it is broken down into at least four interconnected trends- economic globalization, social and cultural globalization, military globalization, and environmental globalization. These trends are often interrelated. Economic globalization has increased the specialization on workers, as their employers compete in global markets. Social and cultural globalization has changed cultures through the increased dissemination of communication, information, and technology. Military globalization has consisted of intercontinental blocs of allied nations engaging the military conflict with terrorists and with each other. Economic, social, cultural, and military globalization have often had negative impacts on the environment, requiring that all nations of the world cooperate in an effort to slow the process of environmental globalization. Three environmental issues particular-biodiversity, global climate change, and ozone-layer depletion are either caused by globalization or have serious effect that necessitate global cooperation.