

EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Vass Hunor, Pangratie Alexandru, Sicoe-Murg Oana, Stoi Veronica, Mateoc Teodor, Adamov Tabita, Nicoleta Mateoc-Sirb

Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "King Michael I of Romania"
from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism

Abstract: The coronavirus-2019 pandemic (COVID-19) outbreak first occurred in late December 2019 at the Hunan Seafood Market in Wuhan, China, and was declared an international public health emergency in a matter of weeks by the World Health Organization. The global outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) affects every area of human life, including the environment. Measures taken to control the spread of the virus and the slowdown in economic activity have significant positive effects on the environment. Through this study, the authors intend to monitor the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment by analyzing the available scientific literature. The study indicates that the pandemic situation significantly improves air quality in various cities worldwide, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces water pollution and noise, and reduces pressure on tourist destinations, which can help restore green systems. There are some negative consequences of the coronavirus pandemic also, such as the increase in medical waste through the use and disposal of disinfectants, masks and gloves, and the burden of untreated waste that continuously endangers the environment. It seems that economic activity will recover shortly after the pandemic, and the situation could change. Therefore, this study suggests that there are opportunities to get long-term environmental benefits due to pandemic. The proper implementation of the proposed strategies can be helpful in the global sustainability of the environment.