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### **THE CURRENT STATE OF ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE URGENCY OF ITS PROTECTION**

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#### **Abstract**

This article examines the current state of ecology and the environment, as well as the impact of human activities on nature and the growing importance of environmental protection. The problems of atmospheric, water, and soil pollution, the reduction of biodiversity, and the consequences of global climate change are analyzed. The study also highlights the necessity of maintaining ecological balance, rational use of natural resources, and the implementation of environmentally friendly technologies. Furthermore, the importance of developing environmental awareness and ecological culture among society is emphasized. Environmental protection is considered an essential factor for sustainable development and the well-being of future generations.

**Keywords:** Ecology, environment, environmental problems, air pollution, water resources, soil degradation, biodiversity, global climate change, ecological balance, ecological culture, natural resources, sustainable development.

#### **Introduction**

Environmental and ecological issues are among the most urgent challenges facing humanity today. The relationship between humans and nature has existed since ancient times, and people have always used natural resources to sustain their lives. However, the rapid development of industry, the widespread use of modern



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technologies, the increase in transportation, and the growth of the global population have significantly intensified human impact on nature. As a result, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, and disruption of ecological balance have become serious global problems.

Ecology is the scientific field that studies the interactions between living organisms and their environment. It examines the relationships between humans, animals, plants, and microorganisms and their natural surroundings. This science plays an important role in identifying the impact of human activity on nature and developing measures for environmental protection and sustainable resource use.

### **Environmental Problems and Their Impact**

The environment represents the natural surroundings in which humans and other living organisms exist. It includes the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere. The atmosphere provides oxygen necessary for life and protects the Earth from harmful solar radiation. However, today the atmosphere is increasingly polluted by harmful gases emitted from industrial enterprises, vehicles, and thermal power plants. This leads to deterioration of air quality and poses serious risks to human health.

Air pollution has resulted in an increase in diseases such as bronchitis, asthma, allergies, and cardiovascular disorders. Large cities are particularly affected by high levels of air pollution, which negatively impacts the quality of life. Moreover, greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide contribute to global climate change. Global warming leads to rising temperatures, melting glaciers, and increasing sea levels. Consequently, natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and heat waves are becoming more frequent.

Water is another essential component of the environment. It is vital for all living organisms and widely used in drinking, agriculture, and industrial sectors. However, water resources are increasingly being polluted by industrial waste,



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household waste, and agricultural chemicals. Contaminated water poses serious threats to human health and can cause various diseases.

Water scarcity is also becoming a major issue due to population growth and excessive consumption of water resources. In some regions, there is a shortage of drinking water, which negatively affects living conditions. Therefore, the rational use and protection of water resources are extremely important.

Soil is a fundamental resource for agriculture and food production. However, soil degradation is increasing due to the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and industrial waste. This reduces soil fertility and negatively affects agricultural productivity. Soil degradation is considered one of the major environmental threats to humanity.

Forests also play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. They purify the air, produce oxygen, and regulate climate conditions. However, deforestation has become a serious environmental problem. The destruction of forests leads to the extinction of many plant and animal species, resulting in a decline in biodiversity.

### **Measures for Environmental Protection**

Biodiversity is an essential part of ecological systems. Each living organism plays a unique role in maintaining ecological balance. The extinction of any species can disrupt the entire ecosystem. Therefore, protecting biodiversity is a key aspect of environmental conservation.

In modern times, various measures are being implemented to address environmental problems. The introduction of environmentally friendly technologies, waste reduction, recycling, and the use of renewable energy sources contribute significantly to environmental protection. Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy do not harm the environment and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



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Additionally, every individual has a responsibility to protect the environment. Activities such as planting trees, reducing waste, conserving resources, and protecting natural ecosystems contribute to environmental sustainability. Increasing environmental awareness and promoting ecological culture among society are also essential for solving ecological problems.

### **Conclusion**

Environmental protection has become one of the most important tasks for humanity. If people fail to protect nature, serious ecological problems will arise for future generations. Therefore, it is essential to ensure the rational use of natural resources, implement environmentally friendly technologies, and promote environmental awareness. Protecting the environment will help ensure a healthy and sustainable future for humanity.

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