المشاكل البيئية العالمية تحديات ومخاطر على الأجيال الحالية و مستقبل البشرية

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#### **Abstract:**

The purpose of the research paper is to study the reality of global environmental problems through the problem centered on the impact of environmental changes on human life and its future, has been the use of statistical data published by global bodies, Regional and national publications and specialized books of interest about research and study tried to focus only on the global environment. It has been confirmed by research on the critical situation of the global environment, which has serious repercussions on the planet and living organisms, including humans, requiring the intensification of international efforts to remedy this situation. Identifying the common points of the global environment between the different countries.

**Keywords:** : global environnent; climat change; biodiversity; forests; désertification; Air Pollution. **JEL Classification Codes**: *Q53*, *Q55*.

#### ملخص:

هدفت الورقة البحثية إلى دراسة واقع المشاكل البيئة العالمية من خلال إشكالية تتمحور حول انعكاسات التغيرات البيئة العالمية على الحياة البشرية ومستقبلها، وتم الاستعانة بالبيانات الإحصائية الصادرة عن الهيئات العالمية والمنشورات الإقليمية والوطنية والكتب المتخصصة التي تحم موضوع البحث وحاولت الدراسة تركيز فقط على البيئة العالمية. وتم تأكيد من خلال البحث على الأوضاع الحرجة للبيئة العالمية والتي لها انعكاسات خطيرة على كوكب الأرض والكائنات الحية بما فيها الإنسان، الأمر الذي يستوجب تكثيف الجهود الدولية من اجل تدارك ذلك عن طريق تحديد النقاط المشتركة للبيئة العالمية بين مختلف الدول.

كلمات مفتاحية: البيئة العالمية، التغيرات المناخية، التنوع البيولوجي، الغابات، التصحر، تلوث الهواء.

تصنيفات JEL : Q53

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Since the end of World War II, the world has witnessed many activities, whether on a local or global scale, that threaten the ecosystem, whether at the level of environmental diversity or at the level of the quality of housing areas, agricultural areas, forests, rivers, etc., and the globe has come to know a set of problems And environmental challenges that transcend state borders, such as air pollution, pollution of the seas and oceans, desertification, biodiversity, acid rain, climate changes, and others.

These activities are man-made, which are manifested in his daily practices, which are manifested in local and international institutions (production, trade, agriculture...etc) as well as individuals (waste of water, household waste, cutting forests...etc). This research paper touches on global environmental problems with an important problem represented in the following:

## - What are the most important negative effects of human activities on the global environment?

#### **Hypothesis:**

Through this study, we will try to identify the limits of the environment and the most important problems facing the global environment. Therefore, this study will start from the following main hypothesis:

• The existence of serious repercussions on the global environment due to human activities?

## **Objectives of the study:**

This study seeks to clarify the basic concepts about the environment and pollution and touches on the most important global environmental problems. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to reach the following objectives:

- ♦ Learn about the scope of the environment and environmental pollution.
- Seek to identify the difference between local pollution and international pollution.
- ♦ Learn about the pollution tolerance range in the ecosystem.
- ♦ Access to knowledge of the negative effects of human activities on the planet Earth.

### **Study Approach:**

In order to answer the problem and to prove the validity of the established hypothesis, the study tries to follow the descriptive analytical approach, and accordingly the study was divided into the following elements:

- The first axis: the environment and pollution.
- The second axis: the problem of air.
- The third axis: the problem of biological diversity.
- The fourth axis: depletion of forests and desertification.

### **Previous studies:**

1- (l.Jianping & et al., 2013) The study focused on the need to solve issues such as the destruction of the global ecological environment and climate warming, countries must show wisdom and courage to break down the narrow concept of national interests and work for international cooperation, collective security, common benefit and rational negotiation to protect the environment.

- 2- (UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY, 2017) The aim of the study is to investigate climate change through diverse, comprehensive and integrated approaches to address social and health consequences simultaneously. Human security requires this humanitarian mission, and UN Member States have overwhelmingly highlighted its importance in dealing with climate change.
- **3-** (Valavanidis, Current Environmental Issues and Emerging Global Challenges in the 21st Century for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, 2019) The study shows that environmental issues and global challenges emerging in the twenty-first century have changed significantly in recent years. Humanity has experienced pressing pressures as a result of climate change and the challenges of environmental pollution caused by emerging pollutants.

## The first axis: the environment and pollution

#### **First: Define the environment:**

Based on the growing interest in environmental issues, many researchers have tried to give a definition of the term environment, but the definition process always remains one of the difficult tasks for researchers and it is difficult to find a comprehensive and unified definition that everyone agrees on, and therefore it unites many different definitions of the environment.

#### 1- Linguistic definition of the environment:

There are several definitions of the concept of the environment at the linguistic level. In the modern Arabic lexicon, the term environment means "the medium in which a living organism lives." For the International Council of the French Language, the term environment means "a group at a specific time of the physical, chemical, and biological elements, as well as the social factors that It can have a direct or indirect effect, immediate or to a certain extent, on living organisms and human activities. (16 صفحة 2012)

#### 2- Terminological definition of the environment:

The word "ecology" "the science of the environment" goes back to the Greek scientist Aristotle and his student Theophrastus in the fourth century BC, and the first to use the term ecology was the German scientist Ernst Haeckel in 1866, and it means the house or habitat in which a person lives with the local environment. وهيبي، الإنسان والبيئة والتلوث البيئي، 2004 صفحة (11

The economist Kenneth Boalding expressed in 1960 that the environment is a closed system and is more like a spaceship and that the ability of this ship to support its astronauts is limited by the available resources (materials, energy) and what it can derive from external energy sources if possible. (20 صفحة الله) (1996)

The definition of the environment in Islam is a comprehensive definition, as it means the earth, the sky, the mountains, and the creatures, influences and various phenomena in them, including man and the motives, emotions and instincts that surround him. Jean, seas, rivers, mountains, plants, animals and insects, For the Almighty said: "And He subjected to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth, all of it from Him. Indeed, in that are signs for people who reflect" (Surah Al-Jathiya, verse 13)

## Second: the concept of environmental pollution:

Environmental pollution is defined as every quantitative or qualitative change in the components of the environment to be absorbed without disturbing their balance. Insects, fungi, and others are concentrated in water, soil, air, plants, and animals.

(و هيبي، الانسان والبيئة والتلوث البيئي، 2004، الصفحات 35-36)

Environmental scientist Adeem defines environmental pollution as any distinct physical, chemical or biological change that leads to a harmful effect on the air, water or land, or that harms the health of humans and other living organisms and leads to damage to the production process to affect the state of renewable resources. (رزيق ، التلوث البيئي : مخاطر الحاضر وتحديات ) المستقبل، 1997، صفحة 65)

Raphael Romy defines pollution as the conscious or unconscious human actions or actions that cause damage to one of the natural elements, so it can be identified, diagnosed, and the location of its occurrence (air, water, soil pollution, etc.). (33 صفحة 2012، صفحة 2012)

Despite the multiplicity and variation of definitions, there is an almost unified definition, which is the definition according to the International Law on Pollution issued by the United Nations in 1974, where pollution is considered to be human activities that necessarily lead to an increase or addition of new materials or energy to the environment where these work Energy or materials endanger human life, health, livelihood, well-being or natural resources, whether directly or indirectly. (55 صفحة 1997، صفحة 1997)

### Third: Elements and types of environmental pollution

#### 1- Environmental Pollution Elements:

- \* Introducing polluting materials into the environment, and these materials are (solid, liquid, gaseous...) or energy such as heat and radiation in the natural environment and are called pollutants, where all these materials enter the environment and disturbances occur in the environmental systems. (32 صفحة 2010، صفحة)
- \* Every distinctive physical, chemical or biological change that leads to a harmful effect on the air, water or land, or harms the health of humans and other living organisms.

(رزيق ، التلوث البيئي: مخاطر الحاضر وتحديات المستقبل، 1997، صفحة 24)

- \* Existence of intensive human activities that directly or indirectly affect the safety of the environment in the short, medium or long term. (مقداد، قانون البيئة، 2012، صفحة 2012، صفحة عناستان البيئة، 2012
- \* It is everything that affects all elements of the environment, including plants, animals, and humans, as well as everything that affects the composition of non-living natural elements such as air, soil, seas, lakes, and others. (99 منعة 2023، صنعة)

## 2- Types of pollution according to geographical division:

- a- Local pollution: It is the pollution that is related to a part or a region within the country, such as pollution resulting from a specific industrial project, or it may be at the state level, winch a country suffers from it in general, such as the problem of water pollution, for example. (حبد ربه و غزلان، اقتصادیات الموارد والبیئة، 2000، صفحة (عبد ربه و غزلان، اقتصادیات الموارد والبیئة)
- **b- International pollution:** It is the pollution that affects the countries of the world to different degrees in general, such as the problem of the ozone layer and others. (عبد ربه و غزلان، اقتصادیات الموارد والبیئة، 2000، صفحة 55)
- 3- Types of pollution according to its effects on the environment:
- **a- Reasonable pollution:** It is the degree to which the environmental balance is not affected and is not accompanied by any major environmental hazards. This degree is found in all regions of the world.

- **b- Dangerous pollution:** It is an advanced stage of pollution stages, as the quantity and quality of pollutants exceed the critical limit, which begins with the negative impact of pollutants on the elements of the natural and human environment. What we witnessed in London in 1952 is an example of this degree. (70 عادل، 1997)
- c- Destructive pollution: It is the most dangerous type of pollution, as its rate reaches high levels, which leads to the collapse of the ecosystem. Perhaps the Chernobyl incident is evidence of this, as a radioactive leak occurred at the end of 1985 in Chernobyl in the Republic of Ukraine, but this leakage spread to Belarus and Russia, and the radiation reached Within the borders of some Eastern European countries, a biological change occurred, the symptoms of which did not appear until after several years, in addition to thousands of victims as a result. (25 صفحة 1998)

### The second axis: the problem of air

The problem of air pollution is not a local problem, but has spread to become a global problem. There are many air pollutants and their dangers are difficult to count. Among the gases polluting the air, we find carbon dioxide resulting from the intensive use of fuel coal, oil, natural gas and wood. Because of the increase in carbon dioxide occurs global warming phenomena.

## First: the decline of the ozone layer:

The ozone layer prevents ultraviolet radiation from entering the earth, and the decline of the ozone layer leads to an increase in the amounts of those radiations coming to the earth, and the decrease in ozone concentration leads to negative aspects, as it allows an increase in the amount of ultraviolet radiation that reaches the surface of the earth, which leads to skin cancer In addition to causing a change in the genetic factors of some organisms.

It has become known to all that chlorofluorine and carbon, known as freon, lead to erosion of the ozone layer, and chlorine and fluorine compounds are increasingly used in compressed spray cans, such as paints, perfumes, hair sprays, refrigeration gases, air coolers, and other chemical fertilizers and aircraft. jet. After 1954, the uses of chlorofluorocarbons and chlorofluorocarbons increased sharply, and in 1974, chemists Ma Rumolina and Shirudnalala pointed out that man, by manufacturing these substances, had reduced the ozone concentration in the stratosphere, and developed countries produced chlorofluorocarbons and chlorofluorocarbons by about 84% and the rest is produced by developing countries.

And among the most important damages that occur as a result of the depletion of the ozone layer, we mention: (134 صفحة 2003، صفحة )

- The increase in the flow of ultraviolet radiation to the earth has serious damage to all living organisms, as it leads to skin cancer, sunburns, eye diseases, fetal deformities and weakening of the human immune system.
- These rays also lead to damage to the DNA known as DNA, which is responsible for the transmission of genetic traits.
- An American statistic confirmed that a decrease of 2% in the ozone layer leads to 18,000 cases of leukemia every year, and it has also been proven that an increase in ultraviolet radiation harms agricultural crops and leads to slow growth and the cessation of tissue-building processes in plants.

And international measures were taken to protect the ozone layer when the United Nations Charter on the Protection of the Ozone Layer was drawn up in Vienna in 1985, and in 1987 an executive protocol attached to the treaty was held at the Montreal Conference, and that charter requires freezing the use of CFCS at the rate of 1987 by 1989 and reducing it to 80% of what it was in 1987. By 1994, almost all industrialized countries are bound by the Montreal Protocol, and these countries consume 80% of the total CFCS and have announced their plans for complete abolition. Developing countries enjoy a grace period to achieve these goals. (2003، صفحة 2003)

## Secondly, acid rain:

Acid rain is a recent phenomenon whose appearance coincided with the beginning of the industrial revolution in the middle of the nineteenth century, where a relationship was observed between smoke and ash rising in the air from factories and that there was acidity in the rain water falling on the areas surrounding the factories. ODEN) in 1967 was the first to notice that the rain that falls over some parts of Sweden increases its acidity with time.

Gases and substances suspended in the atmosphere undergo chemical changes, and acidic compounds become attached to raindrops, tin beads, snow and dew, thus polluting fresh water sources in rivers and lakes, and these acids, when their concentration increases in the atmosphere, fall in the form of solid particles that have an effect Harmful to plants, forest trees and living organisms in general.

### Third - climate change and global warming:

The phenomenon of global warming is due to the high percentage of pollutants from various gases, the most important of which are carbon dioxide, methane, ozone oxide, chlorofluorine and carbon, in addition to some other gases and dissimilar particles in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is responsible for the phenomenon of global warming by 55%, and its percentage is constantly increasing, and this is indicated by the measurements, where a sample of the air trapped in the snow masses in the Antarctic was analyzed, where it reached 343 parts per million in 1984, and its concentration is expected to reach 6000 parts per million in the year 2100, estimated The amount of methane gas emitted to the atmosphere annually is about 550 million tons, and it increases by 1% annually in the atmosphere. The concentration of ozone oxide in the atmosphere was 303 parts per billion in 1984, and it is expected to reach about 375 parts per billion in 2030. (129-128 الصفحات 1984, 2004).

Global warming resulting from climate change leads to an increase in the temperatures of ocean waters and the surface of the Earth, causing natural disasters that include floods, melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and abnormal rainfall, leading to floods, hurricanes, forest fires, drought, excess snow, or desertification. (Conserve Energy Future, 2023)

Accordingly, we can conclude the most important consequences of climate change on various environmental systems, which are as follows:

1- When the temperature rises to three degrees Celsius, the risk of extinction will affect about 20% - 50% of the living organisms, and the great threat will occur in the important biodiversity areas, such as the loss of about 40% of the animals of the national parks in the

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African continent and in wet areas and In the Mediterranean basin and Southeast Asia, a serious deterioration is also expected in the most important food regions of the world with biodiversity, the most important of which is the Amazon forests spread in the South American continent.

- **2-** It is also expected that rainfall rates will decrease in the Mediterranean region and some areas in South Africa to 30% if the temperature rises by two degrees Celsius, and 40% to 50% if the temperature rises by four degrees Celsius. As for the areas that are exposed to waves of drought Successive regions such as eastern and central African regions, these waves will occur every 10 years instead of 100 years, which will lead to higher rates of famine, and regions that receive water from melting ice such as Honduras, China, western Europe and the western United States will suffer. America and some areas in Canada and the tropics in the Andes from fluctuating access to water due to the rapid melting of ice.
- 3- The increase in the rates of violent climatic phenomena such as hurricanes and floods, which led to an increase in the direct costs of global losses, and the losses vary according to the economic development of countries. Developing countries receive about \$89 billion annually, equivalent to 1.6% of GDP, while countries in the Economic Cooperation and Development Zone (OECD) will incur \$180.5 billion, or 1.3% of GDP. In addition to these losses, the monetary values of the human losses, which have been controversial about how to estimate them in developed and developing countries, and where they are affected by the extent of the difference between countries, their technical development, their economic growth, and the degree of their vulnerability as a result of climate changes. A study of the German Economic Institute in Berlin showed the losses The economic losses resulting from the rise in temperature rates in the European continent in the past 30 years amounted to about 17 billion euros. On the other hand, some scholars estimated the economic losses resulting from the rise in temperature rates by one degree Celsius at about one trillion euros. (الهيني، و ابر اهيني، الصفحات 2010، الصفحات
- **4-** The International Energy Agency (IEA, Paris) measured CO2 emissions in the period 2021-2022. In 2021, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a jump of nearly more 2 billion tons compared to the previous year 2020. But the increase in 2022 was smaller. Measurements of CO2 emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are on track to rise less than 1% in 2022. That is despite widespread concerns of a rush back to coal, oil and gas (global energy crunch and Russia's war in Ukraine). The difference is the increased use of electric vehicles and growth of renewable energy sources (Valavanidis, The 12 Most Pressing Global Environmental Issues. Environmental problems humanity needs to resolve before 2050, 2022)
- **5-** Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are rising at a record pace, with the current levels having increased by about 24% since the 1950s. 2016 was Earth's warmest year on record, and 2018 was the warmest one for oceans, which have also become 30% more acidic since the Industrial Revolution. (Planetary Health Alliance, 2015)
- **6-** There are a variety of views on the impact of global warming resulting from climate change on agriculture. It may have a beneficial or negative effect on different crops in different parts of the world. Since the average temperature in these regions is already high, tropical and subtropical regions will be more affected. Even an increase of 2 degrees Celsius could be disastrous for crops. (Zhang, Meng, Huangxin, Yuexinyi, & Shuiguang, 2022)

### The third axis: the problem of biological diversity

Biodiversity is one of the components of ecosystems, so the multiplicity of animals and plants is necessary for the existence, balance and continuity of the ecosystem, and ecologists agree that wildlife and biodiversity are in continuous deterioration, and one of the results of this deterioration is the loss of diversity and the loss of habitat, and extinction is not the correct measure for the continuity of Wildlife, many wild animals are not now threatened with extinction, but their numbers are declining, which is more common and faster than extinction, and therefore the decrease in number may have been a better indication of the conditions of wildlife, and even of the conditions of the ecosystems themselves.

(محد، اقتصاد حماية البيئة، 2003، صفحة 87)

Currently, there are more than 150,300 species on The IUCN Red List, with more than 42,100 species threatened with extinction, including 41% of amphibians, 37% of sharks and rays, 36% of reef building corals, 34% of conifers, 27% of mammals and 13% of birds. (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 2022)

In addition to the loss of diversity, the natural habitat for wildlife is rapidly declining. In sub-Saharan Africa, 65% of the wildlife habitat has been lost, at a rate of 35% in Gabon and 89% in the Gambia. In tropical Asia, the total natural habitat is 65%. (29 مفحة 2003)

Although mammals and birds receive most of the attention of environmental societies and the public, lower species such as insects often play a vital role in the web of life. The most optimistic scientific estimates suggest that depletion rates for all species currently run from one to three species a day. Some of these projected losses are to species such as pollinating insects that may play important roles in maintaining ecosystems. (Brown, 2001)

A recent WWF report found that the population sizes of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians have experienced a decline of an average of 68% between 1970 and 2016. The report attributes this biodiversity loss to a variety of factors, but mainly land-use change, particularly the conversion of habitats, like forests, grasslands and mangroves, into agricultural systems. Animals such as pangolins, sharks and seahorses are significantly affected by the illegal wildlife trade, and pangolins are critically endangered because of it. (earth.org, 2023)

## The fourth axis: depletion of forests and desertification

#### a- Depletion of forests:

Forests are the richest ecosystems in terms of biomass and biodiversity, as they provide a habitat for half of the known plant and animal species. To transform the filled forests into non-filled forests, and in Latin America, the large projects of forest settlement led to the change of 60% of the existing forests in the eighties to land for the implementation of projects. In Asia, the change was mainly for the establishment of farms and shifting cultivation, which indicates that development projects and population pressure Rural populations are the two main causes of deforestation in these areas. (2003 صفحة 85)

In the first 13 years of this century, the area of intact forest fell by 7%, bigger than France and the UK combined. Although the overall rate of deforestation has slowed, this is partly an

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accounting trick, as monoculture plantations replace biodiverse jungle and woodland. (the guardian, 2020)

Agricultural expansion in all regions of the world remains the main driver of deforestation, forest establishment and associated forest biodiversity. Large-scale biodiversity agriculture for export (primarily livestock farming, soybean farming and oil enterprise) accounted for 40 percent of green deforestation between 2000 and 2010, and self-sufficient subsistence agriculture the other 33 percent. (FAO and UNEP, 2020)

### **b- Desertification:**

Desertification is a recent word on global dictionaries. The Nairobi Conference, which was held in 1977 under the supervision of the United Nations Environment Program, defined desertification as a phenomenon of shrinking or completely destroying the biological capacities of the land, which leads to a phenomenon that provides conditions that turn a region into a desert or semi-desert. It is considered a phenomenon Desertification at the present time is a global phenomenon that many countries in different continents suffer from, with an area of about 45 million square kilometers, or about 30% of the land area. (2008 نوحي)

In addition to the influence of climate change factors on the desertification process, many human factors also lead to it, including:(2008 (بن حمادي)

- Excessive or inappropriate exploitation of land that leads to soil depletion.
- Deforestation, which operates the cohesion of the soil of the earth.
- Overgrazing leads to depriving the land of its grass.

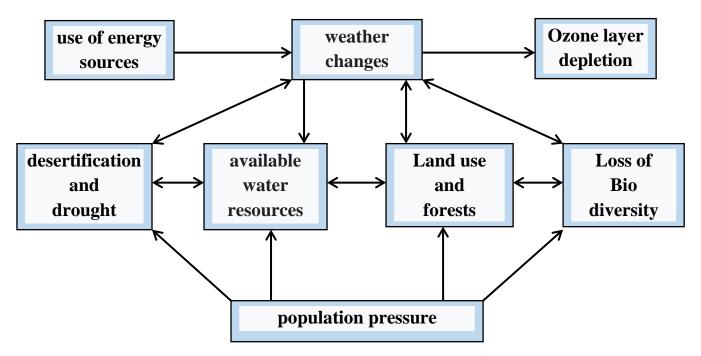
Soil erosion is considered one of the most dangerous factors that threaten plant and animal life in various parts of the world, and the amount of agricultural land that has deteriorated in the world in the last 100 years due to erosion is estimated at more than 23% of agricultural land.

The effects of desertification on humans appear through mass migration that is associated with the drought crisis. In Africa, for example, famine, malnutrition, and deaths that spread as a result of drought and desertification, which befell about 21 countries, constituted a major crisis estimated at about 30-50 million people affected by desertification between 1984-1985 and that ten million people were displaced from their homes and 150 million people suffered from malnutrition, poverty and loss of property. (30 صفحة 2010)

Figure 01 contains a summary of the interrelationships between factors causing drought, climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. There should be complementarity among the three environmental conventions, and efforts should be coordinated for a safer environment and sustainable development. The combined know-how, knowledge and partnership should also be harnessed and utilized for the immediate control of the three scourges of species disappearance, greenhouse effect and desertification.

Population growth is accompanied by intensive use of forests, agricultural land, water resources and energy, leading to desertification, drought, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Figure 01: Cases of interrelationship between the three environmental conventions (desertification and drought, climate change, and biodiversity).



(اللجنة الاقتصادية لافريقيا: مكتب شمال افريقيا، 2003، صفحة 303)

#### **Conclusion:**

Global environmental problems no longer threaten the quality of life for current generations only, but also threaten the future of humanity. Climate changes, extinction of biodiversity, desertification and hurricanes are all due to human activities in the era after the industrial revolution, where if countries do not cooperate to protect the environment, nature and living organisms, including humans, will bear losses. It cannot be compensated (extinction of plants and animals and the emergence of diseases and epidemics) in addition to the possibility of the emergence of university migration during the coming decades if the environmental conditions continue to deteriorate (the planet's temperature rise, water scarcity).

The study reached a number of results that confirm the hypothesis set at the beginning of the research, as follows:

- \* The existence of global environmental problems that threaten not only the current generations, but also the future of humanity.
- \* The increase in the flow of ultraviolet radiation to the earth has serious damage to all living organisms, as it leads to skin cancer, sunburns, eye diseases, fetal deformities and weakening of the human immune system.
- \* Increasing human suffering due to climatic changes (mass migration, diseases, desertification, etc.).
- \* Shrinking forest areas due to export agriculture and fires, which affects the ecosystem.

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\* The problem of desertification has become a global issue due to the impact of many countries on different continents.

#### **Recommendations:**

- There is a need to work internationally to limit human activities that destroy the environment, such as felling forests and indiscriminate hunting of animals.
- Discussions on the local environment, the regional environment and the global environment must be separated in international forums.
- Work to create international financial funds to contribute to the preservation of wildlife and the ecosystem.

### **Prospects of the study:**

Finally, the following themes can be suggested which could constitute an extension and complement to this theme:

- Environmental pollution and sustainable development in the Arab Maghreb countries.
- Propose an accounting model to evaluate the environmental performance of exports and imports in Algeria.

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