




GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

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 *Competing interests* : The author declare no competing interests.

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 *Review text in the conference proceeding*: Contributions published in proceedings were reviewed by members of scientific committee of the conference. For text editing and linguistic contribution corresponding authors.

 Slovak Society for the Environment (Slovenská spoločnosť pre životné prostredie) Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Globalization as a complex process affects all areas of society's life, often with the tendency to form a uniform global culture in the broadest sense of the word.

Today's humanity is mainly troubled by interconnected problems. The sustainable development of human society requires harmonizing socio-economic activities not only with the environment in which it directly carries out its activities, but it is also necessary to take into account relations in wider territorial contexts, often even from a global point of view. It is necessary to look at current global problems mainly in the context of scientific-research, technical-technological, natural science and environmental, socio-economic, political, health, population, ethical, moral and cultural activities and trends.

The present times are set against a backdrop of rapidly accelerating technological change and economic uncertainty, as the world is plagued by a duo of dangerous crises: climate and conflict. At the same time, countries are grappling with the consequences of record-breaking extreme weather as efforts and resources to adapt to climate change lag behind the type, scale and intensity of climate-related events already underway.



Global issues are currently a hot topic. Significant global problems are often related to changes in the environment. These issues are given great importance, they increasingly influence the orientation of traditional politics, cause pressure on socio-economic activities and redistribution of national income between the social and environmental spheres, while becoming the subject of attention of the civil public.

Important topics currently being discussed are the issues of:

- security crises and ensuring peace,
- climate change and global warming,
- changing the country's structures,
- threats to biodiversity,
- ecosystem services,
- unsustainable use of nature and its resources,
- food safety, GMOs,
- geohazards and burdens in environmental protection, including issues of greenfield, brownfield, blackfields,
- risk of chemical substances in environmental components,
- environmental impact assessment,
- environmental reporting,
- environmental crime.

The inability to respond to climate change and the loss of biodiversity are among the most serious risks the world faces in the long term. In addition to climate concerns, the main risks also include geo-economic confrontation, social polarization, and the cost of living crisis. Transnational risks will become increasingly difficult to manage as global cooperation disrupts.

Given the nature of environmental threats, it is essential to combine a realistic view of risks with hope and optimism. Focusing too much on risks can cause people to have a trauma response, which can lead to environmental anxiety. Such reactions may induce inaction and may not serve to alleviate the problems at hand. On the other hand, an overly optimistic view that relies on technological fixes is also unhelpful because decision makers may not choose the correct, realistic path to eliminate given problems.

The aim of the conference "Global environmental risks 2023" was to provide a suitable platform for informing the professional and scientific public, exchanging experiences and presenting new results in the subject matter.