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## ПОТОЧНІ ТRENДИ ТА ЗАХОДИ ПРОТИДІЇ МІЖНАРОДНІЙ ТОРГІВЛІ ВІДХОДАМИ МІЖ КИТАЄМ ТА УКРАЇНОЮ

*Доведено, що з розвитком світової економіки та просуванням процесу індустріалізації кількість відходів зростає, а міжнародна торгівля відходами стає дедалі активнішою. Як важливий торговельний партнер, обміни та співпраця між Україною та Китаєм у сфері поводження з відходами мають велике значення. Однак поглиблене дослідження поточної ситуації та проблем двох країн у цьому відношенні показує, що торгівля відходами також принесла низку проблем та викликів, які потребують подальшого вивчення та обговорення. Велике значення має подальше сприяння економічному співробітництву та захисту навколишнього середовища між двома сторонами. В статті доводиться, що міжнародна торгівля відходами, зокрема між Китаєм та Україною, є актуальним екологічним та економічним питанням. Незаконне переміщення та утилізація відходів завдають значної шкоди довкіллю, здоров'ю населення та репутації країн. Дослідження сприяє зміцненню міжнародного співробітництва у сфері охорони навколишнього середовища та допомагає встановити ефективні механізми спільного вирішення проблем, пов'язаних із торгівлею відходами. Результати дослідження будуть корисними для розробки ефективної політики в галузі управління відходами, зміцнення екологічної безпеки та забезпечення сталого розвитку. Автори впевнені, що дане дослідження дозволяє не лише оцінити поточну ситуацію, але й розробити стратегії, спрямовані на зменшення негативного впливу на довкілля та суспільство.*

**Ключові слова:** Китай, міжнародна торгівля відходами, контрзаходи та пропозиції.

## CURRENT TRENDS AND COUNTERMEASURES OF INTERNATIONAL WASTE TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND UKRAINE

*It has been proved in the article that with the development of the global economy and the advancement of the industrialization process, the amount of waste has been increasing, and the international trade of waste is becoming increasingly active. As an important trading partner, exchanges and cooperation between Ukraine and China in the field of waste are of great significance. However, the study of the current situation and problems of the two countries in this respect has shown that waste trade had also brought a series of problems and challenges, which need to be further studied and discussed. It has been appeared to become significance to further promote economic cooperation and environmental protection between the two sides. The authors believe that international waste trade carries significant environmental risks because improper management of imported waste can lead to soil, water and air pollution, which negatively affects*

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*the health of the population and the ecosystem. The article examines current trends and measures to counter the international waste trade between China and Ukraine. It has been emphasized that waste trade has a significant economic impact hence it is important to understand how these processes affect the country's economy, in particular, the development of the industry of waste processing and innovative technologies. This study contributes to the strengthening of international cooperation in the field of environmental protection and helps to establish effective mechanisms for joint solutions to problems related to waste trade. China's refusal to import certain types of waste significantly has changed the global market and affected many countries, including Ukraine. Further analysis of these changes will help to understand their consequences and find optimal solutions for adaptation to new conditions. Given the growing international movement of waste, it is important to analyse and improve legal and regulatory mechanisms that ensure control and prevent illegal trade, which can lead to environmental and economic problems. The main aspects of this trade have been analysed, including its scale, the types of waste exported and imported, as well as the legislative and regulatory mechanisms of both countries. Particular attention has been paid to the latest international and national initiatives aimed at reducing environmental risks associated with transboundary movement of waste.*

**Keywords:** China, international waste trade, countermeasures and proposals.

**JEL classification:** F10, F 29.

**Statement of the problem.** The international trade of waste between China and Ukraine presents a complex and multifaceted issue with significant environmental, economic, and regulatory implications. As global environmental concerns intensify, the movement of waste across borders has come under increased scrutiny. China, once the world's largest importer of recyclable waste, has recently implemented stringent policies that restrict the types and quantities of waste it accepts. These changes have disrupted global waste management systems, directly impacting countries like Ukraine, which are part of this international trade network.

Given the evolving landscape of global waste trade and the specific dynamics between China and Ukraine, there is a pressing need to analyze current trends, assess the effectiveness of existing countermeasures, and explore new strategies to mitigate the associated risks. This study aims to address these challenges by providing a comprehensive analysis of the current state of international waste trade between China and Ukraine, identifying gaps in the regulatory framework, and proposing actionable solutions to enhance environmental protection and regulatory compliance.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Domestic scientists have been engaging in researching the problems of this topic. In particular, the works of A. Krysovaty [12], I. Zvarych [13], R. Zvarych [14], and N. Reznikova [11], N. Matviychuk-Soskina, I. Ivashchuk should be singled out. It is also worth highlighting the works of foreign scientists who have been also interested in this problem: Zhang San [9], Li Si, Wang Wu, Zhao Liu [10], J. Smith [16]. However it should be noticed that an unsolved problem still related to the topic of international waste trade between China and Ukraine could be the lack of a comprehensive and enforceable global framework for managing the transboundary movement of waste. While there are international agreements like the Basel Convention that regulate the trade of hazardous waste, enforcement is often inconsistent, and many non-hazardous waste types are not covered comprehensively. This gap in global governance allows for loopholes that can be exploited, leading to illegal or unethical waste dumping practices, insufficient environmental protection measures, and challenges in holding violators accountable.

**The purpose of the article.** To analyze the current trends in the international waste trade between China and Ukraine, to identify the main problems and risks, as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken to counter this phenomenon.

**Presentation of the main material.** In recent years, cooperation between China and Ukraine in the field of waste trade has become increasingly close. As one of the world's largest importers of waste, China has taken a keen interest in Ukraine's waste resources. As a resource-rich country, Ukraine contains a large number of recyclable resources in its waste, which has a high economic value. At present, the waste trade between China and Ukraine mainly involves the trading of recyclable resources such as scrap metal, scrap plastics and scrap paper.

According to statistics, the scale of waste trade between China and Ukraine has been expanding in recent years. Taking scrap metal as an example, the amount of scrap metal imported by China from Ukraine has increased year by year, becoming one of the main export markets for scrap metal from Ukraine. In addition, in the field of waste plastics and paper, China and Ukraine have also carried out extensive cooperation.

### **1. Basic overview of waste trade between Ukraine and China**

According to China Customs data collection: from January to June 2021, China and Ukraine increased by \$304,42063 compared with the same period in 2020, an increase of 47.5%. From January to June 2021, the total value of China's exports to Ukraine was 395,2148,600 US dollars, an increase of 916,258,600 US dollars, an increase of 30.4% compared with the same period in 2020; The total value of goods imported by China from Ukraine was 5415,912,700 US dollars, an increase of 212,794,700 US dollars compared with the same period in 2020, an increase of 63.1%. During this period, Ukraine's waste exports and imports to China showed different characteristics, with exports maintaining sustained high growth and imports fluctuating. The average annual growth rate of Ukraine's waste exports to China is 25.4%, and the average annual growth rate of Ukraine's waste imports from China is 10.3%, which is much lower than the growth rate of Ukraine's total waste exports to China. In addition, in the corresponding proportion, the proportion of Ukraine's waste exports to

China in Ukraine's total exports to China increased from 0.6% in 1999 to 2.8% in 2009, indicating that the importance of waste in Ukraine's export trade to China continues to increase. The proportion of waste imports to Ukraine's total imports from China fluctuates greatly, rising and falling, and it can be said that waste is insignificant in Japan's import trade with China.

## **2. Main characteristics of the current situation of waste export in Ukraine.**

**Export volume and growth trend:** According to historical data, Ukraine has experienced significant growth in waste exports. For example, there was a significant increase in scrap metal exports from Ukraine during a certain period, which reflects the potential of Ukraine in terms of waste exports. However, the volume of exports is affected by a variety of factors, including domestic and international policies, market demand, and environmental standards.

**Main export types:** The main types of waste exported by Ukraine include recyclable materials such as metal scrap (such as scrap steel). There is a certain demand for these materials in the international market, especially from the perspective of environmental protection and recycling.

**Export destination:** Ukraine's waste is mainly exported to some countries with a greater demand for renewable resources. Taking scrap metal as an example, Turkey is one of the main exporters of scrap metal from Ukraine, occupying a large share of the market.

**Policy and regulatory environment:** The Government of Ukraine has implemented certain policies and regulatory measures on the export of waste, which are aimed at ensuring that the exported waste meets environmental standards and quality requirements. However, the intensity and effectiveness of the implementation of the policy will have a direct impact on exports.

**Environmental challenges and quality control:** Although the export of waste has brought some economic benefits to Ukraine, it also faces environmental challenges. Ensuring that exported waste meets international environmental standards and avoids negative environmental impacts in importing countries is a constant concern for Ukraine. In addition, quality control is also key to ensure that the exported waste meets the requirements of the buyer.

**Market dynamics and influencing factors:** international market demand, price fluctuations, trade relations and global environmental trends will have an impact on Ukraine's waste exports. Therefore, Ukraine needs to pay close attention to international market dynamics in order to adjust its export strategy in a timely manner.

To sum up, the current situation of waste export in Ukraine presents a certain complexity and variability. In order to maintain the stability and sustainable development of exports, Ukraine needs to make sustained efforts in the areas of policy development, quality control and market development.

## **3. Current situation of waste import in China**

On the one hand, China's import of waste from other countries for recycling can alleviate the current situation of insufficient supply of resources in China to a certain extent

and meet the huge demand for resources in China's high-speed economic development level. On the other hand, it can also expand the scope of trade between China and other countries, promote the growth of China's trade volume and reduce the trade deficit with other countries. It can also promote the development of trade on a global scale, and realize the recycling and recycling of resources on a global scale. However, if the recycling and final treatment of waste is transferred to developing countries, China and other waste importing countries have gained economic development and trade volume growth, but they must bear the huge environmental risks and environmental loads brought by domestic waste treatment. The waste trade between China and Ukraine belongs to the unilateral trade exported from Ukraine to China, that is, China is a net importer and Ukraine is a net exporter.

China's position in the international waste export trade used to be relatively important, and it was the world's largest importer of "foreign waste". For example, before 2017, China was the world's largest waste importer, importing a large number of foreign waste plastics, paper and other renewable resources for recycling. In particular, the waste trade with Ukraine is a unilateral trade exported from Ukraine to China, that is, China is a net importer and Ukraine is a net exporter. Ukraine's waste exports to China accounted for a steady increase in the proportion of Ukraine's total waste exports, from the Internet data statistics show that from Ukraine's copper waste, aluminum waste, waste plastics and other 5 kinds of waste exports, China is its largest export target country. Ukraine's exports of scrap copper, scrap aluminum and scrap plastics to China accounted for a high proportion of Ukraine's total exports of scrap copper, scrap aluminum and scrap plastics, of which scrap copper accounted for the highest proportion, at about 96%; The proportion of waste plastics is about 90%; After 2005, the waste paper tends to be stable, at about 83%; Scrap iron as a whole fluctuates at the level of 40%. This shows that China has become a high-growth market for Ukrainian waste exports and its importance is increasing.

In 2013, the British "Daily Telegraph" reported that "hundreds of tons of British garbage were refused to export to China" and were forced to ship back to their hometown. Meanwhile, China's Ningbo Inspection and Quarantine Bureau also found foul-smelling domestic waste in two batches of imported waste paper from the UK. Chinanews has also published an article "Ningbo Customs seized more than 1,000 tons of scrap metal imported from Japan with excessive radiation", which many people believe is a vicious incident in which Japan attempts to ship metals contaminated by Fukushima nuclear leakage to China in bulk through scrap metal exports [18].

The renewable resources imported by China are mainly waste paper, waste plastics and scrap metal (including waste containing metal waste), most of which are recyclable renewable resources. At present, in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste and the Interim Provisions on the Environmental Protection and Management of Waste Imports, China's competent

environmental protection authorities classify imported waste into waste prohibited from import, waste restricted from import and waste used as raw materials under automatic import license management.

The import of solid waste that cannot be used as raw materials is prohibited, the import of solid waste that can be used as raw materials is restricted, and catalog management is implemented at the same time. The 45 kinds of renewable and resource-based waste shown in Table 1 can be legally imported. Generally speaking, if the imported waste wants to pass the customs acceptance and release smoothly, it only needs to have the "Import Waste Approval Certificate" issued by the State Environmental Protection Administration and the "Entry Goods Customs Clearance Form" issued by the Inspection and Quarantine

Bureau. Therefore, the environmental risks and environmental load brought by imported waste are mainly through infiltration pollution, which is mainly manifested as: in the import practice, harmful waste is imported in the name of imported recycled waste by means of entraining, concealing and lying; Renewable waste in the process of stacking, processing and consumption will produce secondary pollution, and this pollution is hidden and lagging, the harm to the waste importing country can not be underestimated. For example, waste such as waste medicine and fragments of waste medicine bottles were found in waste paper imports to the United States, and medical waste such as waste infusion bags and syringes were found in imported waste plastic containers.

Table 1

Classification of solid waste in China

Law	Relevant content regulations
《List of Prohibited Imports of Solid Waste》	Waste drugs; Waste rubber, leather; Waste animal and plant products; Waste textile raw materials and products; Slag, ash and residue; Waste glass; Waste batteries; Waste mechanical and electrical products and equipment and parts, disassembled parts, broken parts and smashed parts that have not been sorted; Something else.
《A list of wastes that can be used as raw materials for restricted imports》	Broken product waste; Plastic waste and scraps; Metal-containing waste from metal melting, smelting and refining; Rubber, leather scrap and scraps; Scrap of metals and metal alloys; Recycling paper and cardboard; Mixed metal wastes, including scrap car presses and ships; Animal and plant waste.
《List of solid wastes that can be used as raw materials under automatic import permission》	Recycling paper and cardboard; Wood and cork waste; Scrap of metal and metal alloys.

Source: Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China [5].

Through consulting relevant literature, the current status of China's waste imports can be summarized in the following aspects:

– Import volume and trend: In recent years, China's waste imports have shown a significant downward trend. This change is mainly influenced by domestic environmental protection policies, especially restrictions on the import of "foreign garbage". For example, on July 28, 2017, the State Office issued the Implementation Plan for prohibiting the entry of foreign garbage to Promote the reform of the Solid Waste Import Management System, requiring all localities to strengthen import supervision. Previously, two departments of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the National Standards Commission respectively submitted a notice to the World Trade Organization, announcing that from September 2017, China will ban the import of 24 kinds of solid waste in four categories. In particular, a total ban on the import of solid waste with great environmental harm and strong public reaction; By the end of 2019, phase out the import of solid waste that can be replaced by domestic resources. We will further promote supply-side structural reform, and eliminate backward production capacity, excess production capacity, and low-end business forms from the perspective of raw material quality control and industrial upgrading, so as to promote domestic environmental protection and resource recycling.

– Types of imports: In the past, China's imported

waste mainly included waste plastics, paper, scrap metal and so on. However, with the adjustment of the policy, the import of these wastes has been strictly restricted and managed.

– Policy changes: The Chinese government has implemented stricter waste import policies in recent years. For example, through measures such as the "foreign waste" ban, China has significantly reduced its dependence on imported waste. These policies are aimed at improving environmental quality and promoting the development of domestic waste treatment and recycling capacity.

– Environmental pressure and challenges: Waste imports have brought certain pressure to China's environment. Some imported wastes have environmental pollution risks, which has aroused the concern of the public and the government on environmental protection issues. Therefore, reducing waste imports and strengthening domestic waste management and recycling have become important issues.

– Domestic industry development: With the reduction of waste imports, the Chinese government actively promotes the development of domestic waste treatment and recycling industries. Through technological innovation and policy support, China is committed to improving the efficiency of the use of domestic resources and reducing its dependence on external resources.

– International cooperation and responsibility:

While reducing waste imports, China also actively participates in international environmental protection cooperation and works with other countries to tackle global environmental problems. By sharing experience and technology, China is committed to driving global progress in waste management and resource recycling.

To sum up, the status quo of China's waste imports is undergoing significant changes. Influenced by domestic environmental policies and global environmental trends, China is gradually reducing its dependence on imported waste and is committed to promoting the development of domestic environmental protection and recycling industries.

#### **4. Challenges faced by China and Uzbekistan in international waste trade**

From the comparative analysis of literature and data, as well as the current situation of international waste trade between China and Ukraine, we can find that China and Ukraine still face some problems in international waste trade, which may involve environmental protection, safety and economic interests. Specific performance is as follows:

- Differences in policies and regulations. There are some differences in policies and regulations between the two countries, which may have a certain impact on the smooth development of cooperation. For example, regulations on environmental protection standards and market access may be different, requiring adequate communication and coordination between the two sides.

- Cultural and thinking differences. China and Uzbekistan have different cultures and ways of thinking, which to some extent may affect the efficiency and effectiveness of bilateral cooperation. Both sides need to strengthen cultural exchanges and understanding to promote the smooth progress of cooperation.

- Differences in technical standards and certifications. In the field of green circular economy, there may be differences in technical standards and certification systems in different countries. This may cause products and technologies to face certain obstacles in cross-border cooperation, which need to be solved by both sides.

- Pressure from international competition and cooperation. On a global scale, the competition in the field of green circular economy is becoming increasingly fierce, and there are complex international cooperation relations. China and Uzbekistan need to find their own positioning in international competition and cooperation and strengthen cooperation to cope with challenges.

- Insufficient supervision of waste recycling and treatment: International trade in waste requires strict supervision and effective enforcement measures to ensure its legality, environmental protection and safety. However, in practice, there may be problems such as poor regulation or enforcement difficulties (including similar problems between China and Uzbekistan), leading to some non-compliant waste trade.

- Illegal import of solid waste: Driven by high profits, some enterprises and individuals may choose to illegally import solid waste, including waste that may be illegally imported from countries and regions such as Ukraine. Such behavior not only violates laws and regulations, but

also may bring great harm to the environment.

- China and Uzbekistan need to adjust the impact. For Ukraine, on the one hand, the export of scrap metal may be an important economic source; On the other hand, Ukraine also faces the challenge of how to limit the use of these scrap metals for military production, because the demand for scrap metals in countries such as Russia may be related to the development of its military industry. In addition, Ukraine also needs to consider how to rationally use resources and trade activities while ensuring national security. For China, in the past, China was one of the world's largest importers of "foreign waste", but with the attention to environmental protection issues and the introduction of the ban, China has gradually stopped the import of solid waste. This policy adjustment not only helps to improve the domestic ecological environment, but also helps to promote the transformation and upgrading of the global waste recycling and treatment industry. However, this may also have a certain impact on China's manufacturing industry and some industries that rely on imported raw materials, and corresponding measures need to be taken to deal with it.

In general, China and Ukraine need to seek more sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions when dealing with the international trade in waste, while safeguarding their respective national interests and complying with international regulations. At the same time, it is also very important to strengthen international cooperation and exchanges to jointly promote the progress of global waste management and resource recycling.

#### **5. Strategies and suggestions for promoting cooperation between China and Uzbekistan in international waste trade**

Strengthen policy coordination and communication and explore new cooperation models and mechanisms. At the same time, China and Uzbekistan should further strengthen communication and coordination at the policy level, clarify the goals and directions of bilateral cooperation in the field of international waste trade, establish and improve cooperation mechanisms, and jointly formulate policies and measures conducive to cooperation. It is necessary to strengthen the guidance and support for enterprises and promote cooperation among enterprises. Through the development of common rules and standards, to provide policy protection and support for waste trade between the two countries. In addition, China and Ukraine should further strengthen the support of Internet technology to explore the application possibility of a new cross-border barter trade model in the international trade of waste. With the help of e-commerce platforms and other channels to alleviate the problem of information asymmetry, to achieve more efficient and convenient waste exchange and utilization.

Deepen scientific and technological cooperation and innovation, and cultivate market players and professionals.

Strengthen scientific and technological cooperation and innovation, and jointly carry out research and development and application of cutting-edge technologies. We encourage scientific research institutions and enterprises of the two countries to establish joint research and development centers, strengthen personnel exchanges and training, and

raise the scientific and technological level of cooperation. At the same time, support China and Uzbekistan to increase and accelerate the cultivation of a number of waste recycling enterprises with market competitiveness in dealing with the international trade of waste, and strengthen the training and introduction of relevant professionals. Provide a good development environment and policy support for enterprises to promote their innovative development and market expansion capabilities.

Promoting industrial docking and cooperation, and promoting industrial docking and technological exchanges.

Based on the industrial advantages and development needs of the two sides, we will promote industrial docking and cooperation. Chinese enterprises are encouraged to invest in the construction of industrial parks related to green and circular economy in Ukraine to promote the upgrading and development of local industries. At the same time, we should actively promote Ukrainian enterprises to enter the Chinese market to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results. Actively encourage enterprises of the two countries to carry out industrial docking and technical exchanges and cooperation in the field of waste recycling. By sharing resources, technologies and market channels, the two countries will enhance their overall competitiveness in the field of waste recycling.

Promote cultural exchanges and understanding, and promote the docking and mutual recognition of laws and regulations. We will strengthen cultural exchanges and understanding between China and Uzbekistan and enhance friendship and trust between the two sides. Cultural activities and academic exchanges should be held to promote mutual understanding and recognition between the two peoples and create a good social atmosphere for cooperation. In view of the characteristics and needs of international waste trade, the docking and mutual recognition of relevant laws and regulations between the two sides will be promoted. This will help reduce trade barriers and frictions, improve trade efficiency, and promote the legal, environmentally friendly and safe disposal of waste. Strengthen supervision and cooperation: Establish a sound supervision mechanism, strengthen the supervision of international trade in waste, and ensure the compliance and environmental protection of trade activities. At the same time, the two countries should strengthen cooperation and exchanges in supervision and jointly crack down on illegal waste trade.

Strengthen financial support and cooperation to form an all-round cooperation pattern. First, establish a sound financial support and cooperation mechanism to provide financial guarantee for bilateral cooperation projects and promote the establishment of a special financial cooperation mechanism between the two countries. For example, joint working groups or committees should be set up to deal with financial issues in international waste trade cooperation. Such a mechanism can provide enterprises on both sides with more convenient and efficient financial services, and promote the cross-border flow and trade of waste. Second, the two countries should strengthen credit support. Encourage financial institutions to carry out cross-border financial services, support enterprises to carry out trade and investment cooperation, reduce financing costs, and

encourage enterprises to participate in international trade cooperation in waste. At the same time, we can also explore the introduction of green credit products, and give priority to supporting environmental protection, energy conservation and other projects in line with the concept of sustainable development. Third, jointly promote insurance innovation. According to the risk characteristics of waste international trade, suitable insurance products are developed to provide risk protection for enterprises. This can reduce the risk concerns of enterprises in the international trade of waste and enhance their enthusiasm to participate in cooperation. At the same time, we need to strengthen cooperation in financial regulation and guard against financial risks. Fourth, deepening investment cooperation is also an important direction. China and Uzbekistan may carry out joint venture cooperation projects in the fields of waste treatment and resource utilization, jointly invest in the construction of waste treatment facilities, and share technology and management experience. Such cooperation can not only promote the effective treatment and utilization of waste resources, but also promote the development of related industries. Fifth, enhancing information sharing and exchange is also key. The two sides should establish a sound information sharing mechanism, timely share the policy, market, technology and other information of international waste trade, and provide more decision-making support and help for enterprises. At the same time, regular exchanges and other activities can be held to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between enterprises and institutions of the two sides.

To sum up, strategies and suggestions to promote cooperation between China and Uzbekistan in international waste trade need to comprehensively consider policy, law, regulation, industry, technology and market. Facing the future, China and Uzbekistan should explore ways to strengthen financial support and cooperation to promote the international waste trade to a better direction, optimize the allocation of resources and achieve sustainable development of the environment. Further through strengthening cooperation and communication, promote the mutually beneficial and win-win development of the two countries in the field of international waste trade.

**Conclusions.** China and Uzbekistan have broad space and potential for cooperation in the field of international waste trade. Through strengthening policy coordination, deepening scientific and technological cooperation, promoting industrial docking, strengthening financial support and promoting cultural exchanges, the problems in waste trade can be effectively solved, the standardization and environmental protection of waste trade between the two countries can be effectively promoted, and the rational utilization and sustainable development of waste can be realized. Further promote the cooperation between the two countries in the field of international waste trade, and promote the in-depth cooperation and exchanges between the two countries in the field of environmental protection. Ultimately, it will promote the development of international waste trade in a more healthy, environmentally friendly and sustainable direction, and make positive contributions to the protection of the global ecological environment.

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