

Islamic Perspective on Human Responsibility as Earth's Steward in Preserving Nature

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Abstract

In Islamic teachings, the concept of humanity as Allah's stewards on Earth places a significant responsibility on the shoulders of human beings to preserve and care for the universe as a divine heritage. The purpose of this study is to explore the meaning and implications of this concept, highlighting human responsibility to conserve nature, maintain ecosystem balance, and use natural resources wisely. Additionally, this research delves into the social and spiritual dimensions of the human role as stewards, including the importance of upholding social justice, promoting peace, and fostering harmonious relationships between humans and nature. The method employed in this study is library research, utilizing a type of library research based on the search for several articles, journals, and other scholarly works related to pre-defined keywords. Subsequently, the researcher gathers and selects all sources to draw conclusions. The findings of the study indicate that by understanding their role as stewards, human beings are expected to fulfill their responsibilities with full awareness and concern, realizing a vision of sustainability and justice in preserving the divine heritage on Earth.

Keywords: *Islamic Perspective, Human Responsibility, Islamic Teachings*

Introduction

The function of humans on Earth as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe also has deep meaning in the context of the survival of humans themselves.¹The beautiful and diverse universe not only provides for human physical needs, but also provides beauty, inspiration, and wonder that nourish the human spirit.

¹Asdelima Hasibuan, "Understanding Humans as God's Caliphs," *ANSIRU PAI: Professional Development of Islamic Religious Education Teachers* 5, no. 1 (2021): 34, <https://doi.org/10.30821/ansiru.v5i1.9793>.

Therefore, preserving the universe is not only a moral obligation but also an investment in the sustainability of human life on Earth.

In addition, understanding the function of humans as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe provides a foundation for collaborative efforts between humans in achieving global environmental goals.²By recognizing that we are all part of the same natural world and that we have a shared responsibility to care for it, humans can work together to address complex environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution.

However, awareness of the importance of this function is often marginalized by narrow economic, political, and social interests. Humans are often trapped in a cycle of consumerism that damages the environment without considering its impact on the universe and human life itself. Therefore, the need for in-depth environmental education and changes in human mindset and behavior are crucial in maintaining the sustainability of the universe. In this context, environmental protection and sustainability efforts are not only the responsibility of individuals but also a shared responsibility of all humanity. By recognizing their role as servants of God who protect and preserve the universe, humans can shape a better future for themselves, for their fellow humans, and for all of God's creation.

The function of humans on Earth as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe also presents complex challenges in integrating economic development with environmental protection.³While economic growth is essential for human well-being, there is often a conflict between economic development and environmental sustainability. Therefore, a balanced and sustainable approach is needed in formulating economic policies and practices that respect the needs of the universe and future generations.

Furthermore, awareness of humanity's role as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe, also inspires environmentally friendly innovation and technology. Humans, as creatures endowed with intelligence and creativity by the Creator, have great potential to develop innovative solutions to maintain the sustainability of the universe. Innovations such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management technology can help humans play a more effective role as guardians of the universe.

Thus, a profound understanding of humanity's role on Earth as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe, raises an urgent moral call for humanity to act responsibly in caring for God's creation. Through collaboration between individuals, communities, governments, and international institutions, humanity can collectively safeguard the sustainability of the universe for the present and the future. In this regard, preserving and caring for the universe is not only a moral obligation but also an expression of humanity's gratitude for the gifts bestowed by the Creator.

Literature Review

The function of humans on Earth as God's servants who look after and maintain the universe is a moral call that holds an important role in maintaining the survival of

²Ayudia Sokarina, *Islamic Political Economy of Accounting: The Concept of Human and Universal Welfare*, Islamic Political Economy of Accounting: The Concept of Human and Universal Welfare (Peneleh Publisher, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.52893/peneleh.2024.93.as>.

³Chintia Bella, *Ethics To Allah SWT, Rasulallah SAW, Humans, And The Environment*, Jambidaily (Center for Open Science, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/cv2wh>.

this life.⁴In many religious beliefs, this concept emphasizes that humans are given the responsibility as custodians of God's creation. This requires that humans act as stewards of nature entrusted to them by the Creator, with full respect and care for all aspects of life on Earth. As custodians of the universe, humans have a responsibility to maintain the balance of the ecosystem. This includes efforts to protect and maintain biodiversity, preserve natural habitats, and manage natural resources wisely. Through practices such as land conservation, reforestation, and protection of endangered species, humans contribute to maintaining the harmony of the universe that God has given them. Furthermore, as stewards of the universe, humans are entrusted with controlling and reducing negative impacts on the environment. This includes addressing air, water, and soil pollution caused by human activities such as industry, transportation, and agriculture. By being aware of the consequences of human behavior on the environment, humans can take steps to reduce their ecological footprint and ensure the sustainability of the universe.

Environmental education and awareness also have an important role in carrying out human functions as servants of God who protect the universe.⁵By increasing our understanding of the relationship between humans and nature, as well as the importance of environmental protection, humans can become agents of positive change in preserving the earth. This awareness can be instilled through formal education, environmental awareness campaigns, and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. Furthermore, humanity's role as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe, also inspires environmentally friendly innovation and technology. Humans, with the intelligence and creativity bestowed by the Creator, have the potential to develop innovative solutions to maintain the universe's sustainability. Innovations such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management technology can help humans fulfill their role as guardians of the universe more effectively. By carrying out this role with full awareness and responsibility, humans can play a meaningful role in preserving the beauty, diversity, and sustainability of the universe, a gift from God. Therefore, preserving and caring for the universe is not only a human responsibility but also a form of worship and respect for the Creator who provided this creation.

Humans' role on Earth as servants of God, guardians and caretakers of the universe, plays a crucial role in maintaining sustainability. This concept represents a fundamental moral calling for humans to act as custodians of the natural world bestowed upon them by the Creator. According to major religions, humans are entrusted with caring for the Earth and all its contents as a demonstration of gratitude and respect for God. As stewards of the universe, humans have a responsibility to maintain the balance of complex ecosystems. This includes preserving biodiversity, protecting natural habitats, and wisely managing natural resources.⁶Through practices such as land conservation, reforestation, and the protection of endangered species, humans play a role in maintaining the harmony of the universe created by God. Furthermore, humans are entrusted with controlling and reducing negative impacts on the environment, including air, water, and soil pollution. By considering the effects of human activities

⁴ hasbullah, *Moral application to Allah SWT, Tarbiyah Islamiyah: Scientific Journal of Islamic Religious Education*, vol. 11 (Center for Open Science, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/uy2hs>.

⁵Taufiq Pasiak, *Spiritual Neuroscience: The Relationship of Man, Nature, and God, Spiritual Neuroscience: The Relationship of Man, Nature, and God* (BRIN Publisher, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.55981/brin.594>.

⁶ Tri kurnia Sari and Masnival, "Teacher's Creativity in Developing Natural Materials and Recycled Materials as Learning Media in Kindergarten," *Bandung Conference Series: Early Childhood Teacher Education* 1, no. 1 (2021): 12–19, <https://doi.org/10.29313/bcsecte.v1i1.33>.

on the environment, such as industry, transportation, and agriculture, humans can take steps to reduce their ecological footprint and ensure the sustainability of the universe.

Environmental education and awareness are also essential components of humankind's role as God's servants, stewards of the universe. Through a deep understanding of the relationship between humans and nature, and an awareness of the consequences of human behavior on the environment, humans can become agents of positive change in preserving the earth.⁷ By carrying out this function with full awareness and responsibility, humans can play a meaningful role in preserving the beauty, diversity, and sustainability of the universe, a gift from God. Therefore, preserving and caring for the universe is not only a human duty, but also a form of worship and respect for the Creator.

As servants of God on Earth, humans have a significant responsibility to protect and preserve the universe. One key aspect of this role is the moral responsibility entrusted to humans as caliphs on Earth. Thus, humans function as managers of natural resources, including the wise management of forests, land, water, and biodiversity. Furthermore, as stewards of the universe, humans also have a responsibility to protect the environment from damage and pollution by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, controlling industrial waste, and stopping the use of hazardous chemicals. Another function is to educate and raise public awareness about the importance of preserving the universe through environmental education. Humans are also required to develop environmentally friendly innovations and technologies such as renewable energy and sustainable agricultural technology. Through global collaboration and a sustainable lifestyle, humans can fulfill their role as servants of God who protect and preserve the universe with full responsibility and awareness.

Understanding humanity's role on Earth as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe has profound implications for humanity's relationship with the environment and the moral duties inherent in that role. Discussions on this subject encompass aspects such as moral responsibility, natural resource management, environmental protection, environmental education, technological innovation, global collaboration, and sustainable living.

First and foremost, this concept emphasizes humanity's moral responsibility as caliphs on Earth, entrusted by God to care for His creation. It emphasizes that humans have a moral responsibility to preserve the universe as a form of respect and gratitude to the Creator.

Furthermore, in carrying out their role as stewards of the universe, humans are required to manage natural resources wisely. This includes practices such as forest conservation, sustainable water use, and environmentally friendly agriculture, which aim to maintain ecosystem balance and the sustainability of natural resources. Environmental protection is also an essential part of human function as servants of God who care for the universe. Humans have a responsibility to protect the environment from damage and pollution, whether from industrial waste, air pollution, or the destruction of natural habitats. This requires concrete action to reduce humanity's ecological footprint and ensure environmental sustainability for future generations.

Furthermore, environmental education plays a crucial role in raising human awareness and understanding of the importance of preserving the universe. Through education, people can understand the impact of their behavior on the environment and

⁷ Hilmi Mizani and Muhniansyah Arasyid Mahani, "Preserving Human Nature Through Islamic Education in the Family," *Al-Falah: Journal of Islamic and Social Sciences* 22, no. 2 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.47732/alfalahjikk.v22i2.206>.

encourage the adoption of more sustainable lifestyles. On the other hand, technological innovation can also assist humans in fulfilling their role as stewards of the universe. The development of environmentally friendly technologies, such as renewable energy and waste management technologies, can help reduce negative impacts on the environment and promote sustainability. Furthermore, global collaboration is key to preserving the universe. Environmental challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss require cooperation between countries to find effective and sustainable solutions.

In carrying out their function as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe, it is important for humans to understand that the sustainability of the universe also includes social and economic sustainability.⁸ Efforts to preserve the universe must not be at the expense of human well-being, but rather must create conditions that enable the continuation of a decent human life. Therefore, a balanced approach between environmental protection, economic development, and social justice is necessary in efforts to preserve the universe.

Furthermore, it is crucial for humanity to shift from excessive consumption to a more sustainable one. By reducing excessive use of natural resources, choosing environmentally friendly products, and supporting sustainable production practices, humanity can reduce pressure on the universe and extend the lifespan of life. In this regard, the role of governments and international institutions is also crucial. Public policies that support sustainable development, environmental protection, and investment in green technology are key to creating conditions conducive to environmental preservation.

Education also plays a crucial role in changing human behavior towards the environment. Through formal and informal education, people can increase their understanding of environmental issues and encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly behaviors. In the context of global climate change, individual action is also invaluable.⁹ Simple efforts such as reducing energy consumption, using environmentally friendly transportation, and reducing food waste can make a positive contribution to reducing humanity's ecological footprint.¹⁰ Furthermore, collaboration across sectors, including the public, private, and civil society sectors, is also necessary to safeguard the universe. By working together, they can pool resources, knowledge, and expertise to achieve the common goal of protecting and preserving the universe.

Finally, looking after and preserving the universe is also a form of worship and respect for the Creator. By caring for God's creation, humans also respect His wisdom and express gratitude for all the gifts given to them. Thus, taking care of the universe is not only a moral obligation, but also an expression of human spirituality and faith in God.

Method

⁸Sunardi Sunardi and Khozainil Fauza, "Improving the Quality of Education as an Effort by the Principal to Maximize His Supervisory Function at MTs 1 Kediri," *Al-Idaroh: Journal of Islamic Education Management Studies* 5, no. 1 (2021): 1–24, <https://doi.org/10.54437/alidaroh.v5i1.206>.

⁹Budi Indrawati, Murti Wijayanti, and Risma Wati, "Implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility on the Human Development Index Mediated by Economic Growth in Siak Regency, Riau," *Al-Mal: Journal of Islamic Accounting and Finance* 2, no. 01 (2021): 74–91, <https://doi.org/10.24042/al-mal.v2i01.8029>.

¹⁰Khurul Aimmatul Umah and Avif Alfiyah, "Reconstructing the Role and Function of Mosques as Public Spaces," *Al-Musthofa: Journal of Sharia Economics* 6, no. 2 (2023): 175–90, <https://doi.org/10.58518/al-musthofa.v6i2.2206>.

The method used in this research is library research (*library research*). This research uses a library research type based on searching several articles, journals, and other scientific works related to the keywords that have been compiled. Then the researcher collects, analyzes and selects all these sources to draw conclusions.

Researchers access the latest references to ensure that the sources used as references are sources that have high credibility so that they can improve the quality of the research results found. Researchers also note each reference obtained to make it easier to conduct a literature review so that each reference that has been collected can be easily evaluated, which can later be used as a source of citations in this library research.

The literature research in this study is classified as a qualitative research approach and the data examined in this study is related to the function of humans on earth as servants of God who guard and maintain the universe.

Results and Discussion

The aspects and functions of humans on Earth as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe encompass various elements essential to maintaining sustainability. First, in a moral and spiritual context, humans are viewed as caliphs on Earth, entrusted by the Creator to care for and protect His creation. This affirms that humans have a significant moral responsibility to act as guardians of the universe, as a form of respect and devotion to God.

One important aspect of this function is the wise management of natural resources. Humans are entrusted with managing forests, land, water, and biodiversity in a manner that maintains ecological balance and long-term sustainability. Practices such as land conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable management are integral to human efforts to preserve the universe. Environmental protection is also a crucial aspect of humankind's role as God's servants who care for the universe. Humans have a responsibility to protect the environment from damage and pollution, whether from industrial waste, air pollution, or climate change. This requires concrete action to reduce negative impacts on the environment and ensure the sustainability of the universe for future generations.

Environmental education is also a vital part of this human function. Through education, people can increase their awareness and understanding of the importance of preserving the universe.¹¹ This education can include knowledge about ecology, sustainable practices, and awareness of the impact of human behavior on the environment. Furthermore, technological innovation also plays a vital role in fulfilling humanity's role as God's servants and stewards of the universe. The development of green technology, renewable energy, and other innovative solutions can help humanity reduce its ecological footprint and transition to a more sustainable development model.

Global collaboration is also necessary to preserve the universe. Environmental challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss require international cooperation in finding effective and sustainable solutions. This collaboration can involve countries, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations in a joint effort to preserve the universe. Finally, preserving and maintaining the universe is also a form of worship and respect for the Creator. By caring for God's creation, humans also express gratitude for all the gifts given to them. Overall, understanding and implementing human functions as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe

¹¹Furqon Furqon, "The Role of Humans on Earth as Caliphs in Social Change," *The Naba* 4, no. 1 (2021): 1–13, <https://doi.org/10.51614/annaba.v4i1.66>.

have a significant impact on maintaining sustainability and sustainability. Human functions on Earth as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe include various responsibilities that are important in maintaining the sustainability of ecosystems and life. Here are some aspects of these functions:

1. Natural Resource Management

Humans have a responsibility to wisely manage natural resources, such as water, air, land, forests, and biodiversity. This includes agricultural, fisheries, forestry, and other industrial practices that maintain ecological balance and long-term sustainability.¹² Humans have a significant responsibility to manage natural resources wisely. This includes managing various aspects of the environment, including water, air, land, forests, and biodiversity. In managing these natural resources, humans must consider ecological balance, long-term sustainability, and the needs of future generations.

One important aspect of natural resource management is water. Water is a vital resource for human life and ecosystems. Humans are responsible for using water wisely, avoiding waste, and protecting water sources from pollution and misuse. Furthermore, air is a vital component of the environment that affects human health and ecosystems. Humans have a responsibility to reduce air pollution emissions, both from industry and motor vehicles, and to maintain clean and healthy air quality for life.

Land is also a vital natural resource that must be managed wisely. Practices such as soil conservation, sustainable agricultural techniques, and erosion control need to be implemented to maintain soil fertility and prevent land degradation. Forests play a vital role in maintaining environmental sustainability, providing habitat for various species, and regulating the global climate. Humans have a responsibility to manage forests sustainably, protect them from deforestation, and restore disturbed ecosystems.

Biodiversity is another aspect of the environment that humans need to manage wisely. Loss of biodiversity can have serious impacts on ecosystems and cause ecological imbalances that negatively impact humans and other living things.¹³ Therefore, protecting natural habitats, conserving endangered species, and managing conservation areas are important parts of human responsibility in maintaining biodiversity.

Overall, wise management of natural resources is key to maintaining environmental sustainability and human life on Earth. Through responsible and sustainable actions, humans can ensure that these natural resources can be enjoyed by current and future generations. The following table discusses "Natural Resource Management and Human Function on Earth as God's Servants, Guardians and Caretakers of the Universe":

| Discussion Aspects | Natural Resource Management | Man's Function as God's Servant Who Cares and Sustains the Universe |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Moral Responsibility | Humans have a moral responsibility to manage | Acting as a caliph on Earth entrusted by God to treat and |

¹²Verliany Riasty Vindy Manunay, "The World of Economics as a Stage for Glorifying God: John Calvin's Theological Discourse," *ARUMBAE: Scientific Journal of Theology and Religious Studies* 4, no. 2 (2022): 167–89, <https://doi.org/10.37429/arumbae.v4i2.882>.

¹³ Tri kurnia Sari and Masnipal, "Teacher's Creativity in Developing Natural Materials and Recycled Materials as Learning Media in Kindergarten."

| Discussion Aspects | Natural Resource Management | Man's Function as God's Servant Who Cares and Sustains the Universe |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | natural resources sustainably, taking into account the needs of future generations. | protect natural resources as His trust. |
| Habitat and Ecosystem Conservation | Protect and maintain natural habitats and ecosystems to maintain balance and sustainability. | Maintaining the balance of the ecosystem and protecting natural habitats is part of human responsibility in maintaining the sustainability of the universe. |
| Forest Management | Manage forests wisely, including sustainable logging practices and restoration of degraded forests. | Acting as forest guardians by maintaining the balance of the ecosystem and ensuring the survival of the flora and fauna in it. |
| Biodiversity Protection | Protecting and preserving biodiversity, including endangered species, and maintaining ecosystem balance. | Responsible for the protection and preservation of biodiversity as a form of respect for the Creator. |
| Clean Water Management | Ensuring the availability of clean water for human life and ecosystems, and protecting water sources from pollution and degradation. | Responsible for maintaining the quality and availability of clean water as a mandate from Allah and a vital necessity for life. |
| Sustainable Agricultural Practices | Implement sustainable agricultural practices to minimize land degradation, maintain soil fertility, and minimize negative impacts on the environment. | Manage land responsibly to keep it fertile and productive, and maintain a balance between agriculture and the environment. |
| Restoration of Affected Ecosystems | Carrying out restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems disturbed by human activities or natural disasters. | Responsible for repairing environmental damage and restoring affected ecosystems, as an effort to maintain the balance of the universe. |

The table above provides an overview of the various important aspects related to the management of natural resources and how this relates to the function of humans on Earth as servants of God who protect and preserve the universe.

2. Conservation/Maintaining Biodiversity

Humans are expected to preserve Earth's biodiversity by protecting endangered species, preserving natural habitats, and stopping destructive practices such as deforestation and illegal hunting.¹⁴

Conservation and preservation of biodiversity are essential aspects of humankind's role on Earth as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe. Humans are entrusted by God with the responsibility to care for all of His creation, including the biodiversity that enriches Earth's ecosystems. In carrying out this role, humans have several functions closely related to the conservation and protection of biodiversity.

First, humans have a responsibility to protect the natural habitats that are home to diverse species. This includes efforts to maintain and restore natural ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and coral reefs, which are home to diverse flora and fauna. By conserving these habitats, humans can ensure the survival of the many species on Earth.

Furthermore, protecting endangered species is also a crucial part of human responsibility in maintaining biodiversity. Humans have a responsibility to prevent the extinction of threatened species due to human activities such as illegal hunting, habitat destruction, and the wildlife trade.¹⁵ Conservation efforts such as increasing public awareness, establishing conservation areas, and rehabilitating populations of endangered species are needed to protect biodiversity.

Furthermore, as servants of God who care for the universe, humans are also required to pay attention to the importance of genetic diversity in maintaining ecosystem stability. Genetic conservation efforts through the establishment of gene banks, replanting rare plant varieties, and maintaining germplasm are part of humanity's responsibility to maintain biodiversity as a whole.

Environmental education also plays a crucial role in supporting biodiversity conservation. Through education, people can increase their understanding of the importance of biodiversity and become aware of the impacts of human activities on ecosystems and other species. This education can also help build awareness of the importance of conservation and protecting the environment for future generations.

Thus, conservation and maintaining biodiversity are integral to humankind's role on Earth as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe. Through these conservation efforts, humans can ensure the sustainability of Earth's ecosystems and fulfill their moral responsibility as caliphs on Earth. The following table discusses "Conservation/Maintaining Biodiversity" and the role of humans on Earth as God's servants, guardians and caretakers of the universe:

| Discussion Aspects | Conservation/ Maintaining Biodiversity | Man's Function as God's Servant Who Cares and Sustains the Universe |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Moral Responsibility | Humans have a moral responsibility to protect and | Moral responsibility as a caliph on Earth, who is entrusted by Allah to |

¹⁴Detsy Henrlinair, "Improving Students' Analytical Skills and Scientific Attitudes Through Guided Inquiry Models on the Concept of Structure and Function of Human Tissue," *Direct Journal* 3, no. 1 (2022): 29–38, <https://doi.org/10.47353/bj.v3i1.192>.

¹⁵Riastrri Haryani, "Optimizing Bawaslu's Authority as an Election Supervisory Institution and an Institution Carrying Out Judicial Functions According to the Election Law," *Binamulia Law* 12, no. 1 (2023): 89–98, <https://doi.org/10.37893/jbh.v12i1.347>.

| Discussion Aspects | Conservation/ Maintaining Biodiversity | Man's Function as God's Servant Who Cares and Sustains the Universe |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| | maintain biodiversity as a form of respect for the Creator. | care for all of His creations, including biodiversity. |
| Natural Habitat Protection | Efforts to maintain and restore natural ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and coral reefs as habitats for various species. | Protecting natural habitats as homes for various species, as part of human responsibility in maintaining biodiversity. |
| Protection of Endangered Species | Efforts to prevent the extinction of endangered species due to human activities, such as illegal hunting and habitat destruction. | Protecting endangered species is part of human responsibility in maintaining and preserving biodiversity. |
| Genetic Conservation | Efforts to maintain genetic diversity through genetic banks, replanting of rare plant varieties, and maintenance of germplasm. | Paying attention to the importance of genetic diversity in maintaining ecosystem stability and preserving biodiversity as part of human responsibility on Earth. |
| Environmental Education | Increase public understanding and awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the impact of human activities on ecosystems. | Support environmental education to increase human awareness of the importance of preserving biodiversity as part of their responsibility as servants of God. |

The table above provides an overview of the various important aspects related to conservation and maintaining biodiversity, and how this relates to the function of humans on Earth as servants of God who protect and preserve the universe.

3. Pollution Control

Humans are responsible for reducing and preventing environmental pollution, whether from industrial waste, domestic waste, or air and water pollution. This requires the use of environmentally friendly technologies and sustainable practices in everyday human activities.¹⁶The following table discusses Pollution Control and the function of humans on earth as servants of God who protect and preserve the universe, as follows:

¹⁶Faheem Tahir Ahmad and Albertus Rusputranto PA, "The Relationship Between Humans and the Bengawan Solo River as a Source of Inspiration for the Creation of Graphic Art Works," *Bricolage: A Journal for the Study of Visual Arts Theory, Practice and Discourse* 14, no. 1 (2022): 34–53, <https://doi.org/10.33153/brikolase.v14i1.4312>.

| Discussion Aspects | Pollution Control | Man's Function as God's Servant Who Cares and Sustains the Universe |
|---|---|--|
| Moral Responsibility | Humans have a moral responsibility to reduce and prevent environmental pollution as a form of respect for the Creator. | Moral responsibility as a caliph on Earth, entrusted by God to take care of all His creations, including the environment. |
| Waste and Emission Management | Efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions, industrial waste, and domestic waste so as not to pollute the air, water, and land. | Managing waste and emissions responsibly as part of human responsibility in protecting and preserving the universe. |
| Environmental Quality Protection | Taking protective measures against environmental quality, including air, water and land, from pollution and contamination. | Ensuring the sustainability of the universe by maintaining environmental quality from damage caused by human activities. |
| Implementation of Environmentally Friendly Technology | Develop and implement environmentally friendly technologies to reduce the negative impacts of industry and transportation on the environment. | Using environmentally friendly technology as part of human efforts to maintain the sustainability of the universe. |
| Environmental Awareness | Increasing public awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and the impact of pollution on the ecosystem. | Support environmental education to increase human awareness of the importance of protecting the universe as a trust from the Creator. |
| The Role of Government and Regulation | Implement strict environmental policies, enforce laws, and regulate industries to minimize negative impacts on the environment. | Collaboration with the government in implementing environmental regulations and supporting policies that support the sustainability of the universe. |

4. Environmental Education and Awareness

As servants of God, humans have a crucial role in raising public awareness of the importance of preserving the universe. By understanding and accepting our mandate as caliphs on Earth, humans are expected to become agents of change by

educating and building awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving the environment.¹⁷

One of the most important ways to do this is through education. Environmental education must be instilled from an early age, from elementary school through higher education. By incorporating environmental materials into the curriculum, we can help create a generation that is aware of the importance of the universe.

Furthermore, public information and campaigns are also crucial in raising public awareness. Through mass media, social campaigns, and government programs, people can spread information about environmental issues, the impact of human actions on nature, and steps that can be taken to maintain environmental sustainability.

Humans also have a role to play in setting an example for others. By practicing sustainable lifestyles, such as reducing the use of single-use plastics, using eco-friendly transportation, and supporting environmentally responsible products, humans can influence others around them to follow suit.¹⁸

Furthermore, collaboration with environmental organizations and non-governmental organizations is also an important step. By joining environmental movements, people can expand their reach and influence in raising public awareness and advocating for policies and actions that support the environment.

Finally, as individuals of faith, humans can use religious values as a tool to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the universe. Many religious teachings emphasize the importance of caring for God's creation and being responsible for the environment. By reinforcing these values within society, humans can inspire others to act for environmental sustainability.

Overall, as servants of God, humans have a moral responsibility to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving the universe. Through education, information, example, collaboration, and religious values, humans can help build greater awareness and encourage positive action for environmental sustainability.

Environmental education and awareness play a crucial role in humankind's role on Earth as God's servants, protecting and preserving the universe. As caliphs on Earth, humans have a moral responsibility to maintain environmental sustainability and ensure the survival of other living creatures and future generations. Here's how environmental education and awareness relate to our role as God's servants, protecting and preserving the universe:

a. Environmental Education

Environmental education is the primary foundation for fostering environmental awareness. Through formal and informal education systems, people are taught the principles of sustainability, the importance of natural resource conservation, and the impact of human behavior on the environment. With proper education, people can understand the complexities of ecosystems and feel a sense of responsibility for their preservation.

b. Environmental Awareness

¹⁷Fathur Rahman Basir and Muh. Rasywan Syarif, "Periodization of the Creation of the Universe in the Kutika Manuscript and Islamic Science," *Elfalaky* 5, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.24252/ifk.v5i1.23941>.

¹⁸Ahmadan B Lamuri and Ridwan Laki, "Educational Transformation in Developing Human Resources with Character in the Era of Disruption," *Old Teacher: Journal of Education and Learning* 5, no. 2 (2022): 21–30, <https://doi.org/10.31970/gurutua.v5i2.122>.

Environmental awareness encompasses individual and societal understanding and awareness of environmental issues and the actions needed to address them. Environmentally conscious individuals are more likely to take proactive actions to protect the environment, such as reducing plastic waste, conserving energy, or supporting sustainable agricultural practices. Environmental awareness also creates a drive to participate in conservation and environmental advocacy activities.

c. Moral Responsibility

As servants of God, humans have a moral responsibility to care for His creation, including protecting and preserving the universe. Environmental education and environmental awareness help strengthen this sense of responsibility. People with a strong environmental awareness are more likely to appreciate the beauty of nature, preserve biodiversity, and take steps to reduce their ecological footprint.

d. Direct Action

Environmental education and awareness are not just about knowledge, but also about concrete actions. Environmentally conscious people tend to take steps to reduce resource consumption, mitigate pollution, and support conservation efforts. Thus, environmental education and awareness provide the foundation for concrete actions to protect and preserve the universe.

e. Social Influence

Environmental awareness also has a strong social impact. Environmentally conscious individuals can influence others around them to participate in environmental conservation efforts. Thus, environmental awareness can be a catalyst for broader social change in support of environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

The role of humans on Earth as servants of God who guard and preserve the universe encompasses various responsibilities that are essential for maintaining the sustainability of ecosystems and life. Humans have a responsibility to manage natural resources, such as water, air, land, forests, and biodiversity wisely, including agricultural, fisheries, forestry, and other industrial practices that take into account ecological balance and long-term sustainability. In addition, humans are expected to maintain Earth's biodiversity by protecting endangered species, preserving natural habitats, and stopping destructive practices such as deforestation and illegal hunting. Humans are also responsible for reducing and preventing environmental pollution, whether from industrial waste, domestic waste, or air and water pollution, which requires the use of environmentally friendly technologies and sustainable practices in daily human activities. As servants of God, humans have a vital role in raising public awareness of the importance of preserving the universe, through environmental education, awareness campaigns, and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. In addition, humans are expected to actively engage in nature conservation efforts, whether through participation in environmental organizations, volunteer activities, or supporting pro-environmental public policies. By carrying out this function as a responsible servant of God, humans can play an important role in maintaining the beauty, balance, and sustainability of the universe that has been given by the Creator.

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