



# CHINA OVEREXPLOITING EAST TURKISTAN'S NATURAL RESOURCES

**EAST TURKISTAN ONE OF THE UNHEALTHIEST REGIONS  
IN CHINA:** GROWING AIR POLLUTION, WATER  
POLLUTION, DESERTIFICATION AND OVERALL  
ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE

**EAST TURKISTAN'S CAPITAL, URUMQI** HAS SUCH  
SEVERE AIR POLLUTION THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO A  
HIGH MORTALITY RATE FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES,  
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, ASTHMA, LUNG CANCER  
AND TUMORS.

**INFLUX OF HAN CHINESE TO EAST TURKISTAN:** DUE  
TO THE AGGRESSIVE DEMOGRAPHICAL CHANGES IN  
EAST TURKISTAN, THE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED AIR  
POLLUTION PUT A STRAIN ON THE ALREADY LIMITED  
RESOURCES IN THE REGION, LIKE WATER. THE POOR  
AIR QUALITY IS ALSO THE RESULT OF COAL FIRED  
POWER PLANTS, COAL MINING, VEHICLE EMISSIONS,  
INDUSTRIAL FACTORIES, AND UNDERGROUND COAL  
FIRES.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF POOR MANAGEMENT:**

○ IN 2018, AN ILLEGAL COPPER MINE NEAR THE  
CITY OF TURPAN HAD CARVED OUT AN OPEN PIT  
COVERING 23,000 SQUARE METERS

○ EAST TURKISTAN'S TOURISM AND LAND  
RESOURCE BUREAUS HAVE GREEN LIT HYDROPOWER  
STATIONS AND TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN NATURE  
RESERVES. USE OF HYDROPOWER DRASTICALLY  
DEGRADES NATURAL HABITATS.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

**THREATENED SPECIES:** BRI CORRIDORS OVERLAP WITH THE RANGE OF 265 THREATENED SPECIES INCLUDING 39 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES AND 81 ENDANGERED SPECIES - INCLUDING SAIGA ANTELOPES, TIGERS AND GIANT PANDAS.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY IMPORTANT AREAS:** BRI CORRIDORS OVERLAP WITH 1,739 IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OR KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS AND 46 BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS OR GLOBAL 200 ECOREGIONS.

**PROTECTED AREAS:** ALL PROTECTED AREAS<sup>6</sup> IN BRI CORRIDORS WERE POTENTIALLY IMPACTED. IN ADDITION, 32% OF THE TOTAL AREA OF ALL PROTECTED AREAS IN COUNTRIES CROSSED BY BRI CORRIDORS WERE POTENTIALLY AFFECTED.

**WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES:** KEY NATURAL AND SEMI- NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE IMPORTANT FOR SUPPORTING WATER-LINKED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (E.G., NATURAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS) IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS THE BIGGEST PRESSURE ON WATER SUPPLY AND THE HIGHEST RISK OF LARGE FLOODS.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:** NEW ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS (E.G., A ROAD THROUGH A PREVIOUSLY REMOTE, INACCESSIBLE AREA) CAN CAUSE MORE SERIOUS LONG-TERM IMPACTS THAN AN EXTRA ROAD IN AN ACCESSIBLE AREA.

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