

Research Article

# Integrating Islamic Economic Values into Climate Change Mitigation Policies for Sustainable Global Development

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**Abstract:** Climate change represents one of the most critical challenges of the 21st century, demanding immediate and coordinated global action. While various mitigation policies have been developed, including cap-and-trade schemes and carbon taxes, they often fail to fully address ethical concerns, such as equity, justice, and responsibility. This study explores the potential role of Islamic economic principles in strengthening climate change mitigation policies. Islamic economics, grounded in values like justice (Adl), stewardship (Khilafah), and communal responsibility, offers a moral framework that can enhance global efforts to combat climate change. Through a policy review and comparative analysis, the study examines the alignment of Islamic economic values with existing secular climate policies, highlighting their ability to address social and environmental injustices that often arise from traditional approaches. Additionally, the study discusses the practical applications of Islamic finance instruments such as Green Sukuk, Zakat, and Waqf, demonstrating their potential to fund sustainable projects. The integration of these Islamic values into international climate frameworks is shown to offer ethical and inclusive solutions, promoting a more just distribution of the burdens and benefits of climate action. This paper concludes by recommending that Sharia-based frameworks be incorporated into global climate policies and highlights the importance of future research in understanding the role of religious ethics in climate change mitigation.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Global Cooperation, Islamic Economics, Islamic Finance, Mitigation Policies.

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## 1. Introduction

Climate change is widely acknowledged as one of the most urgent and complex global challenges of the 21st century. Driven primarily by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, it results in significant alterations in weather patterns, ecosystems, and human well-being (Yitian, 2016; Hussein et al., 2024). Despite international efforts to mitigate climate change, such as the Montreal Protocol, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, global temperatures continue to rise, and achieving compliance with these frameworks remains a major challenge (Yitian, 2016). The impacts of climate change are far-reaching, affecting food security, sustainable development, and increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, making effective action imperative (Mujere & Eslamian, 2014; Nasir, Ashfaq, & Kousar, 2020; Ezeasor & Ozougwu, 2022).

One crucial aspect of developing effective climate policies is the integration of ethical frameworks that ensure long-term sustainability and fairness. Ethical principles such as distributive justice, intergenerational equity, and environmental stewardship are vital for crafting policies that are not only efficient but also morally sound (Richie et al., 2024; Rahim et al., 2024). Ethical considerations help address issues of equity and responsibility, ensuring that the burdens and benefits of climate action are shared fairly among different populations and future generations (Turnbull, 2021). By incorporating these ethical values from the outset, policymakers can create more just and effective climate policies (Noor & Hassan, 2024; Mangunjaya, 2023).

Islamic economic values, rooted in principles such as stewardship (khilafah), justice (adl), and communal responsibility, offer a unique perspective on environmental sustainability (Hussein et al., 2024; Al-Jayyousi et al., 2023). These principles emphasize the ethical use of resources, social welfare, and the preservation of the environment, aligning well with the goals of climate action (Ismail & Firas, 2024). Islamic finance, through instruments like Green Sukuk, Zakat, and Waqf, can support environmentally sustainable projects and promote responsible financial practices (Rahim et al., 2024; Noor & Hassan, 2024). Integrating Islamic economic values into climate change mitigation policies can enhance the ethical foundation of environmental actions and foster more inclusive and sustainable development (Al-Jayyousi et al., 2023; Mangunjaya, 2023; Turnbull, 2021).

This paper aims to explore how Islamic economics can contribute to climate change mitigation policies, with a focus on enhancing global sustainability. By examining the ethical and financial principles of Islam, this study highlights the potential of Islamic finance and values in supporting global efforts to combat climate change. The paper seeks to demonstrate how Islamic financial instruments and ethical principles can be incorporated into climate governance frameworks to ensure fairness, justice, and long-term sustainability (Hussein et al., 2024; Rahim et al., 2024).

## **2. Literature Review**

### **Summary of Existing Climate Change Mitigation Policies**

Climate change mitigation policies aim to reduce the negative effects of climate change through various mechanisms. Common policy instruments include cap-and-trade systems, carbon emission taxes, and personal ecological space quotas. These tools vary in terms of their effectiveness and fairness in addressing climate change. For example, cap-and-trade schemes set a limit on total emissions but can be vulnerable to market fluctuations, while carbon taxes can directly influence consumption behavior but often face political resistance (Creutzig, 2019). Effective global coordination remains a challenge due to differing national interests and economic capabilities. International strategies like carbon pricing, infrastructure investment, and divestment from fossil fuels are crucial, yet their global implementation faces

numerous hurdles (Yafiz, 2015). On a local level, sub-national initiatives, such as those implemented by municipalities, also play an important role in climate change mitigation. However, these initiatives often struggle with limitations in accounting systems and practical implementation (Sporchia et al., 2023).

The social impacts of mitigation policies need careful consideration to avoid exacerbating inequalities. Policies that do not take into account social disparities may inadvertently place a disproportionate burden on vulnerable populations (Markkanen & Anger-Kraavi, 2019). Thus, a more holistic approach is required to ensure that mitigation strategies are not only effective but also equitable.

### **The Role of Ethics in Environmental Policy and Sustainability**

Ethics plays a critical role in shaping environmental policies that are just and sustainable. Environmental ethics can be viewed from two perspectives: the instrumental view, which sees sustainability as a means to human benefit, and the intrinsic view, which values nature in its own right (Buckeridge, 2014; Schuler et al., 2017). Both views offer important insights into how to frame environmental policies that account for both human and ecological needs. The normative principles of environmental ethics emphasize intergenerational justice, fair burden-sharing, and individual responsibility, ensuring that environmental degradation does not disproportionately affect future generations or marginalized groups (Schuler et al., 2017). In practice, ethical considerations in environmental policy guide the development of systems that promote fairness and justice, ensuring that actions taken today do not harm the prospects of future generations (Dereniowska & Matzke, 2014).

### **Overview of Islamic Economics and Key Principles**

Islamic economics, grounded in religious principles, offers a unique perspective on environmental sustainability. One of the central principles in Islamic economics is *Maqasid al-Sharia*, which focuses on preserving religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property. These principles aim to promote overall welfare and ethical economic practices (Hussein et al., 2024). *Khilafah*, another fundamental concept in Islamic economics, emphasizes stewardship and responsible management of resources, aligning closely with modern sustainability goals (Muhsin et al., 2024). The ultimate objective of Islamic economics is not only to achieve material well-being but also to foster spiritual and social well-being, integrating ethical and social dimensions into economic activities (Muhamad et al., 2024).

Islamic economic principles can significantly contribute to climate change mitigation, particularly through sustainable resource management and promoting social responsibility in economic activities (Hussein et al., 2024). The concept of *Khilafah* urges humans to act as caretakers of the earth, ensuring that resources are used responsibly and conserved for future generations (Shaleh & Islam, 2024).

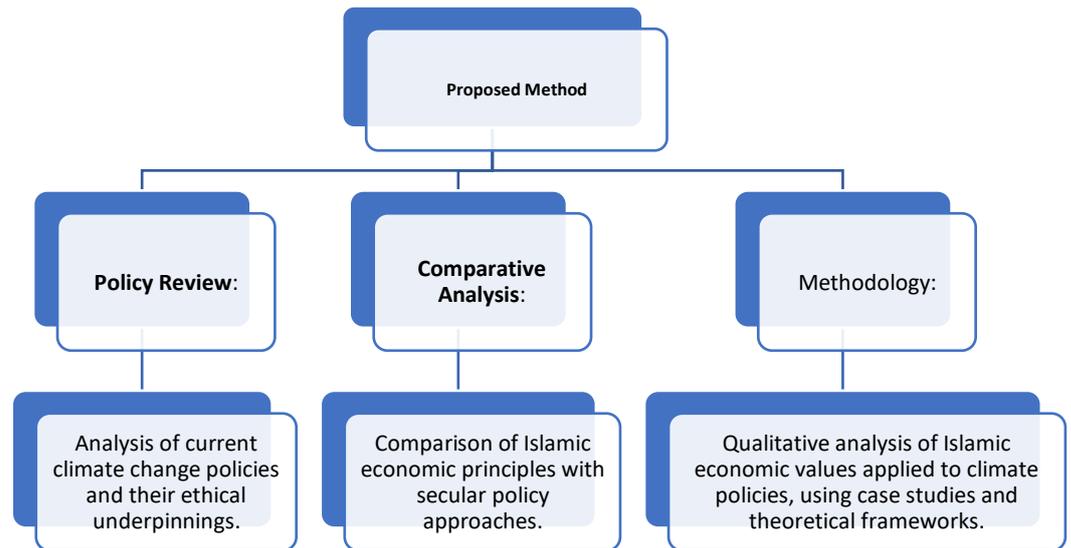
### **Previous Studies on the Intersection of Islamic Values and Environmental Policies**

The integration of Islamic values into environmental policies has been explored in various studies, highlighting their potential to enhance global climate change action. Islamic environmental ethics, such as *Khilafah* (stewardship) and *Adl* (justice), emphasize equity and communal responsibility, which can help shape policies that are more inclusive and just (Al-Jayyousi et al., 2023). These principles support global environmental policies by promoting fairness in the distribution of resources and responsibilities. Furthermore, studies have shown that Islamic values can be integrated into educational curricula to foster environmental responsibility among students (Zabidi, Abd Rahman, & Halim, 2021). Educational integration of these values encourages a broader societal commitment to environmental sustainability (Muhamad et al., 2024).

Practical applications of Islamic values in environmental policies have also been demonstrated in Muslim-majority regions. For example, Islamic finance instruments such as Green Sukuk and Waqf have been used to fund environmentally sustainable projects, providing an ethical and resource-efficient means of financing climate change mitigation (Hussein et al., 2024). Studies have found that these financial tools, when aligned with Islamic ethical principles, can contribute to the global fight against climate change by supporting projects that address both environmental and social needs (Zabidi & Noor, 2021).

### 3. Materials and Method

This study proposes a three-step methodology for exploring the integration of Islamic economic values into climate change mitigation policies. First, a policy review will analyze current climate change policies, focusing on their ethical foundations, including key instruments like carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems. Next, a comparative analysis will examine Islamic economic principles, such as Maqasid al-Sharia and Khilafah, alongside secular climate policies to assess their moral and ethical strengths. Finally, a qualitative analysis will utilize case studies and theoretical frameworks to explore how Islamic finance instruments like Green Sukuk, Zakat, and Waqf can be applied to fund sustainable projects and enhance climate action, offering insights into how these values can complement existing policy efforts.



**Figur 1.** The structure of the Research Methodology flowchart.

### Policy Review

The first step in this research involves a policy review, where current climate change mitigation policies will be analyzed, focusing on their ethical underpinnings. This will include examining the principles guiding international climate agreements such as the Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, and local sub-national initiatives, and evaluating the ethical considerations embedded in these policies. Policy instruments like cap-and-trade schemes, carbon pricing, and emission taxes will be analyzed to assess their effectiveness and fairness in addressing climate change while accounting for issues such as distributive justice, intergenerational equity, and the social impacts of these policies. The policy review will offer a comprehensive understanding of the current climate mitigation landscape and will identify any ethical gaps that could be addressed through the integration of Islamic economic principles.

### Comparative Analysis

The next step involves comparative analysis, comparing Islamic economic principles with secular policy approaches. Islamic economic values, including *Maqasid al-Sharia* (the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property), *Khilafah* (stewardship), and justice (*Adl*), will be contrasted with secular approaches to climate action. This comparison will focus on the moral and ethical commitments embedded in both systems and how they influence climate policies. The comparative analysis will highlight the advantages of integrating Islamic economic values into global climate policies, offering a more inclusive and equitable approach to environmental protection.

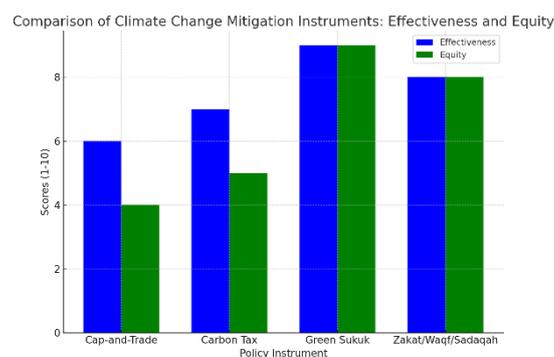
### Methodology

This study will use qualitative analysis to examine how Islamic economic values can be applied to climate change mitigation policies. The research will employ case studies to explore existing applications of Islamic principles in environmental conservation, particularly in Muslim-majority regions. For instance, the use of Islamic finance instruments such as Green

Sukuk, Zakat, and Waqf to fund sustainable development projects will be examined. The analysis will also use theoretical frameworks such as *Maqasid al-Sharia* to assess the alignment of Islamic economics with sustainability goals and how these principles can be applied to strengthen climate policies. By employing these frameworks, the study will provide a deeper understanding of how Islamic economic values can complement and potentially improve current climate change mitigation efforts.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

The study reveals that integrating Islamic economic values, such as justice (Adl), stewardship (Khilafah), and the preservation of life and resources (Maqasid al-Sharia), into climate change policies can enhance global efforts toward sustainability. The review highlights that while current climate policies like carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems are effective, they often fall short in terms of fairness and global coordination. Islamic finance instruments such as Zakat, Waqf, and Green Sukuk can significantly contribute to funding sustainable climate initiatives, ensuring that resources are ethically distributed and preserved for future generations. By incorporating Islamic ethics into policy, there is an opportunity to promote greater moral commitment to environmental stewardship, ensuring that climate action is both just and inclusive.



**Figur 2.** Comparison of Climate Change Mitigation Instruments: Effectiveness and Equity

The bar chart above compares the effectiveness and equity of various climate change mitigation instruments, including Cap-and-Trade, Carbon Tax, Green Sukuk, and Zakat/Waqf/Sadaqah. As shown, Green Sukuk and Zakat/Waqf/Sadaqah are scored higher in terms of equity, reflecting their potential to ensure fairness in distributing the benefits and burdens of climate action. Meanwhile, Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Tax are rated higher for effectiveness, but they may face challenges in promoting equity, especially in terms of social impacts. This highlights the role that Islamic finance instruments, like Green Sukuk and Zakat, can play in bridging the gap between effectiveness and equity in climate change mitigation efforts.

#### Key Findings from the Policy Review and Comparative Analysis

The policy review revealed that while existing climate change mitigation policies, such as cap-and-trade systems and carbon taxes, have made significant strides in reducing emissions,

they often face challenges in terms of equity and global coordination. These systems are effective at a macro level but struggle to ensure fairness, especially in terms of the distribution of burdens between developed and developing nations. Additionally, the lack of universal commitment to these policies remains a significant barrier to achieving global sustainability goals. The comparative analysis highlighted that integrating Islamic economic values, such as *Maqasid al-Sharia* and *Khilafah* (stewardship), into these frameworks can provide a more inclusive and ethically grounded approach. Islamic principles emphasize social justice, equity, and environmental responsibility, which can bridge the ethical gaps identified in secular climate policies, promoting a more globally coordinated and morally committed response to climate change.

### **How Islamic Economic Values Can Enhance Climate Change Mitigation Efforts**

Islamic economic values, particularly *Adl* (justice), *Khilafah* (stewardship), and *Maqasid al-Sharia* (preservation of life, intellect, and property), offer a holistic framework that aligns well with the objectives of climate change mitigation. These principles emphasize ethical resource management, communal responsibility, and the protection of both human and environmental welfare. By incorporating these values into climate policies, governments and organizations can foster a stronger sense of shared responsibility. *Khilafah* encourages the ethical use of resources, ensuring that they are preserved for future generations, while *Adl* advocates for equitable burden-sharing, which is crucial in addressing the unequal impacts of climate change across different populations and regions. Integrating these values into climate action can enhance global cooperation and ensure that policies are not only effective but also morally sound.

### **The Role of Zakat, Waqf, and Sadaqah in Funding Climate Initiatives**

Islamic finance instruments such as Zakat, Waqf, and Sadaqah can play a significant role in financing climate initiatives. Zakat, a mandatory form of almsgiving, can be utilized to fund community-based environmental projects that address climate-related issues, particularly in vulnerable communities. Waqf, a charitable endowment, can be used to establish sustainable infrastructure projects such as renewable energy systems or water conservation initiatives. Sadaqah, voluntary charity, can complement these efforts by providing additional financial resources for climate-related projects. By channeling these funds into environmentally sustainable initiatives, these instruments not only promote social welfare but also align with Islamic teachings on communal responsibility and environmental stewardship.

### **Examples of Islamic Finance Instruments for Sustainable Projects**

Islamic finance instruments such as Green Sukuk have emerged as viable options for funding sustainable development projects. Green Sukuk are Sharia-compliant bonds that are specifically designed to finance environmentally friendly projects such as solar energy parks,

wind farms, and other renewable energy initiatives. The issuance of Green Sukuk aligns with both Islamic economic principles and global sustainability goals, offering an ethical alternative to traditional financing methods. The use of Green Sukuk in funding large-scale climate projects can stimulate private sector investment while ensuring that the projects adhere to Sharia-compliant guidelines, which prohibit the use of interest and encourage risk-sharing and ethical investments.

### **Discussion on the Moral Commitment to Sustainability that Sharia-Based Ethics Can Promote Globally**

The integration of Sharia-based ethics into climate change mitigation efforts can foster a stronger global moral commitment to sustainability. Islamic economic principles, particularly *Adl* (justice) and *Khilafah* (stewardship), promote a profound sense of duty towards protecting the environment and ensuring the well-being of all members of society. Unlike secular policies that may prioritize economic growth or political interests, Sharia-based ethics place equal emphasis on social justice, equity, and environmental protection. By adopting these values, governments and organizations can cultivate a more sustainable and just global response to climate change, one that is deeply rooted in ethical responsibility and collective action. This moral commitment is essential for addressing the climate crisis in a way that is inclusive, fair, and respectful of both human and environmental rights.

## **5. Comparison**

### **Comparing the Moral and Ethical Commitment of Sharia-Based Policies Versus Secular Policies**

Sharia-based climate policies, grounded in principles such as justice (*Adl*) and stewardship (*Khilafah*), place a strong emphasis on ethical considerations, including equity, fairness, and responsibility. These values foster a moral commitment to sustainability that extends beyond economic and political interests, ensuring that both the environment and the well-being of all people are safeguarded. In contrast, secular policies tend to prioritize efficiency and technological solutions, often focusing on market-based mechanisms like cap-and-trade or carbon taxes. While these systems may be effective at reducing emissions, they do not always address the ethical dimensions of climate change, such as intergenerational justice or equitable burden-sharing. The moral commitment in Sharia-based policies promotes a deeper sense of communal responsibility, making them more inclusive and ethically grounded compared to some secular approaches that may overlook social and environmental justice.

### **Analysis of Global Cooperation and the Universality of Islamic Principles in Fostering Sustainable Development**

One of the key advantages of integrating Sharia-based principles into global climate change frameworks is their universality. Islamic values, such as equity, justice, and

stewardship, are rooted in global ethical teachings that transcend national borders and religious affiliations. These principles can provide a common ground for international cooperation, facilitating global efforts to address climate change. In comparison, secular policies often reflect the interests of individual nations or economic blocks, which can create tensions and hinder cooperative action. By adopting Islamic economic values, countries can align on ethical objectives, enhancing global cooperation for sustainable development. The emphasis on equity and shared responsibility in Islamic teachings offers a robust framework for addressing the inequalities inherent in climate change, particularly between developed and developing nations.

### **Evaluation of the Practical Application of Islamic Economic Values in Diverse Global Contexts**

The practical application of Islamic economic values in climate change mitigation has shown promising results, particularly in regions where Islamic finance instruments, such as Green Sukuk, Zakat, and Waqf, are actively utilized. These instruments have been successfully employed to fund sustainable projects, such as renewable energy initiatives and conservation efforts, particularly in Muslim-majority countries. However, their application in non-Muslim-majority regions may face challenges due to the lack of familiarity with Islamic finance and the complexity of aligning these instruments with local legal and financial systems. Despite these challenges, the global principles of Islamic economics—such as the ethical management of resources and social welfare—can be universally applied to foster sustainable development, making them relevant across diverse contexts. The flexibility of these values allows for adaptation to different cultural and economic environments, ensuring that climate policies remain both ethical and effective.

### **Challenges and Benefits of Integrating Islamic Values into International Climate Change Frameworks**

Integrating Islamic values into international climate change frameworks presents both challenges and benefits. One of the primary challenges is the potential resistance from countries or regions that may not be familiar with or open to Islamic principles. Furthermore, incorporating religiously based policies into global agreements may raise concerns about inclusivity and the separation of religion and state in international governance. However, the benefits of integrating these values are substantial. Islamic economic principles provide a strong ethical foundation for sustainable development, promoting fairness, responsibility, and long-term environmental stewardship. They can also enhance the legitimacy of climate policies by aligning them with widely respected moral and ethical frameworks. By bridging the gap between environmental, social, and economic concerns, Sharia-based policies can

offer a more holistic approach to climate change mitigation that is both globally inclusive and deeply rooted in principles of justice and equity.

## 6. Conclusion

This study highlights the significant potential of integrating Islamic economic values into global climate change mitigation efforts. The key insights demonstrate that Sharia-based principles, such as justice, stewardship, and equity, offer a robust ethical foundation for addressing the moral dimensions of climate change. Islamic economic values promote fairness in the distribution of the burdens and benefits of climate action, emphasizing the importance of intergenerational justice and communal responsibility. These principles can complement existing secular policies by filling ethical gaps and ensuring that climate policies are not only effective but also morally grounded.

In order to enhance the global response to climate change, it is recommended that Sharia-based ethical frameworks be integrated into international climate policies. This integration can foster greater global cooperation, as the universal nature of Islamic values provides a common ground for nations to collaborate on sustainable development. Additionally, Islamic finance instruments, such as Green Sukuk, Zakat, and Waqf, should be utilized more extensively to fund sustainable projects, particularly in regions where these instruments have already proven effective.

The policy implications for governments and international organizations are clear. Governments should consider incorporating Islamic economic principles into their climate strategies to ensure that their policies are not only environmentally effective but also socially equitable. International organizations, particularly those focused on climate change, should explore the potential of Islamic finance and ethical values in fostering sustainable global development and facilitating cooperation between nations with diverse economic and cultural backgrounds.

Future research should focus on further exploring the integration of religious ethics, particularly Islamic economic principles, into climate change mitigation. Studies could examine the practical applications of Islamic finance in non-Muslim-majority countries, assess the effectiveness of Sharia-based policies in different cultural contexts, and explore how Islamic values can contribute to a more inclusive and ethical global climate governance framework. This research will help to provide a deeper understanding of how religious ethics can enhance global efforts to combat climate change.

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