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# **Foreign direct investment, stock market capitalization and sustainable development: Relative impacts of domestic and foreign capital**

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21 September 2022

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/117551/>  
MPRA Paper No. 117551, posted 08 Jun 2023 09:13 UTC

1 **Foreign direct investment, stock market capitalization and sustainable development:**  
2 **Relative impacts of domestic and foreign capital**

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24 It is well acknowledged that achieving sustainable development goals without negatively  
25 impacting a country's economic activity is complicated. The question of whether foreign or  
26 domestic capital can be used to address the financial demands of the nations who lack the  
27 financial resources for a green transformation should now be resolved. Based on this, the main  
28 goal of this research is to analyze the impacts of domestic and foreign capital on carbon  
29 emissions for a heterogeneous panel of 42 countries for the period from 1990 to 2017. Aside  
30 from capital accumulation, the environmental impact of elements such as economic growth,  
31 urbanization, trade openness, and energy usage are also studied. The newly developed quantile  
32 via moment approach is utilized to isolate the impacts according to the countries' emission  
33 levels. Finally, the impact of these variables on the recently constructed sustainable  
34 development index is investigated in order to ensure its robustness. The findings of the study  
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36 emission levels is higher than in countries with high emission levels. Foreign capital, on the  
37 other hand, has no substantial effect on emission levels in all quantiles.

38 **Keywords:** Stock market capitalization; foreign direct investment; carbon emissions,  
39 sustainable development

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**Foreign direct investment, stock market capitalization and sustainable development:  
Relative impacts of domestic and foreign capital**

**ABSTRACT**

It is well acknowledged that achieving sustainable development goals without negatively impacting a country's economic activity is complicated. The question of whether foreign or domestic capital can be used to address the financial demands of the nations who lack the financial resources for a green transformation should now be resolved. Based on this, the main goal of this research is to analyze the impacts of domestic and foreign capital on carbon emissions for a heterogeneous panel of 42 countries for the period from 1990 to 2017. Aside from capital accumulation, the environmental impact of elements such as economic growth, urbanization, trade openness, and energy usage are also studied. The newly developed quantile via moment approach is utilized to isolate the impacts according to the countries' emission levels. Finally, the impact of these variables on the recently constructed sustainable development index is investigated in order to ensure its robustness. The findings of the study reveal that the environmental efficiency of domestic capital accumulation in countries with low emission levels is higher than in countries with high emission levels. Foreign capital, on the other hand, has no substantial effect on emission levels in all quantiles.

**Keywords:** Stock market capitalization; foreign direct investment; carbon emissions, sustainable development

## 76 **1. Introduction**

77 Although the period of the industrial revolution is widely accepted as the origin of climate  
78 change and global temperature anomalies, when global average temperature values are  
79 evaluated in a baseline for the period 1850-2019, it is clear that the period after 1990 is when  
80 the temperature increase accelerated significantly (Morice et al. 2012). The fact that this  
81 increase occurred primarily as a result of a rise in cumulative carbon emissions demanded  
82 adopting actions to reduce carbon emissions, particularly in the context of climate change  
83 mitigation. In this approach, particularly in the recent several decades, international efforts to  
84 find a solution to the problem of climate change have been made, first with the Kyoto Protocol  
85 and later with the Paris Climate Agreement. In actuality, the Paris Climate Agreement's primary  
86 goal is to keep global average temperature rises below 2 degrees Celsius relative to pre-  
87 industrial levels; additionally, the goal has been set at 1.5 degrees Celsius (UNFCCC, 2015).  
88 However, even when carbon emissions are separated from population-sourced emissions, an  
89 increase is evident in the post-Kyoto Protocol period, which might be considered the  
90 predecessor to worldwide efforts. Carbon emissions per capita grew from 4.49 tonnes in 2005  
91 to 4.72 tonnes in 2019 (Ritchie and Roser, 2020).

92 The inability to combat climate change is attributed to a number of issues, including: i)  
93 developed countries do not provide enough financial assistance to developing countries for the  
94 transformation in question, ii) developing countries do not invest the funds required for  
95 transformation in productive areas, and iii) developing countries prioritize economic expansion  
96 over environmental protection. In order to address potential finance challenges for developing  
97 countries, the Paris Climate Agreement prioritizes the goal of stabilizing financial flows on the  
98 road to low-emission and climate-resistant development (UNFCCC, 2015). Countries, on the  
99 other hand, should encourage local capital and foreign direct investments to tackle climate  
100 change and mitigate the danger of worldwide financial instability. In fact, without international  
101 financing, it is impossible to achieve an environmentally sustainable change without causing  
102 economic harm to the country. On the other hand, the promise of low environmental regulation  
103 by developing countries' economies, whose economic development strategies are based on  
104 foreign capital inflows, to pollution-inducing industries that adhere to strict environmental  
105 policies in developed countries makes combating global climate change even more difficult.

106 Aside from the notion that a developed and stable financial system could harm the environment  
107 (Tamazian et al. 2009; Tamazian and Rao, 2010; Boutabba, 2014; Omri et al. 2015; Charfeddine  
108 and Khediri, 2016; Javid and Sharif, 2016; Shahbaz et al. 2016; Haseeb et al. 2018; Hafeez et  
109 al. 2018; Moghadam and Dehbashi, 2018; Shahbaz et al. 2018; Phong, 2019; Zakaria and Bib,  
110 2019; Le and Ozturk 2020; Bui, 2020; Tahir et al. 2020; Kayani et al. 2020; Destek and Manga,  
111 2021), it is well known that studies have found that financial development plays a critical role  
112 in the fight against climate change, thanks to the efficient use of financial resources for access  
113 to and development of renewable and environmentally friendly technologies (Jalil and Feridun  
114 (2011); Shahbaz et al. (2013); Shahbaz et al. (2013); Chang (2015); Destek (2015); Salahuddin  
115 et al. (2015); Lee et al. (2015); Rizwan Nazir et al. (2018); Olowu et al. (2018); Zaidi et al.

116 (2019); Destek (2019); Umar et al. (2020); Godil et al. (2020); Samreen and Majeed (2020);  
117 Baloch et al. (2021). Domestic credits are frequently utilized as a measure of financial  
118 development in these researches, indicating that the environmental consequences of domestic  
119 capital vary by country. Although there is a substantial literature on the consequences of foreign  
120 capital on the environment, there is no consensus at this time. The "pollution haven hypothesis"  
121 refers to the argument that developing countries are seen as a pollution haven, and that foreign  
122 investors will shift their investments to these countries to take advantage of the loose  
123 environmental regulations in these countries, causing an increase in foreign direct investment  
124 inflows to accelerate environmental degradation. On the other hand, the "pollution halo  
125 hypothesis" states that firms that transfer current high technology to rich countries with inflows  
126 of foreign capital help developing countries create environmentally friendly technology.  
127 According to this evidence, the environmental impact of foreign capital varies by country.

128 The previous findings that the comparative environmental impacts of domestic and foreign  
129 capital differ for countries with similar development levels provide a foundation for  
130 determining whether these differences are due to the countries' current production structures,  
131 or, in other words, their current emission levels, rather than the countries' development level.  
132 In this vein, the goal of this research is to compare the environmental implications of domestic  
133 and foreign capital in 42 countries with varying levels of pollution (low, medium, high emission  
134 level) using with quantile-based approaches for the period of 1990-2017. It is possible to  
135 distinguish and observe the environmental impact of various capital accumulations for countries  
136 with varying emission levels in this way. In addition, the effects of domestic and foreign capital  
137 on a country's sustainable development are evaluated for robustness check.

138 The study makes a five-fold contribution to the literature. i) This is the first study to look at the  
139 effects of domestic and foreign capital on the environment for a heterogeneous panel ii) Unlike  
140 earlier researches, the methodology utilized in this one allows for discrimination based on the  
141 countries' emission levels rather than their development levels. As a result, policy  
142 recommendations will be differentiated based on the countries' emission levels, rather than their  
143 degree of development. iii) The impact of variables such as economic growth, urbanization,  
144 trade openness, and energy consumption are also separated according to the emission levels of  
145 the countries in the study, in addition to domestic and foreign capital accumulation. By include  
146 these variables in the empirical model, the omitted variable risk is reduced. iv) A second  
147 empirical model is evaluated in the study for robustness check, in which the recently established  
148 sustainable development index is utilized as the dependent variable instead of carbon emissions.  
149 v) This is also the first study to examine the role of domestic and foreign capital in sustainable  
150 development.

151

## 152 **2. Literature Review**

153 Although many studies have been done on the environmental implications of domestic and  
154 foreign capital, none have been done to compare these effects based on the countries'  
155 development or emission levels. When looking at the literature listed in Table 1, it is clear that  
156 the impact of domestic and foreign capital is either investigated for a panel of countries with

157 similar development levels or on a country-by-country basis. Once we separate the findings  
158 from prior studies according to the countries' emission levels, it is impossible to draw definitive  
159 conclusions, particularly on the consequences of foreign capital. For instance, Jun et al. (2018)  
160 discovered that foreign capital has a growing impact on China's carbon emissions while the  
161 emission-reducing effect of foreign capital for China has been established by Zhang and Zhou  
162 (2016) and Sung et al. (2018). Similarly, Sadorsky (2010), Paramati et al. (2016), and Sarkodie  
163 and Strezov (2019) found that foreign capital has a negative impact on the environment in  
164 emerging economies, while Destek and Okumus (2019) discovered that foreign capital has a  
165 contribution on the environment in a panel of similar countries. Salahuddin et al. (2017) found  
166 that foreign capital has a negative impact on the environment in Kuwait, whereas Al-Mulali  
167 and Tang (2013) found that foreign capital has a positive impact on the environment in the Gulf  
168 Cooperation Council, and Sbia et al. (2014) found that foreign capital has a positive impact on  
169 the environment in the United Arab Emirates. For Turkey, there is a comparable inconsistency.  
170 Foreign capital has an emission-increasing effect, according to Seker et al. (2015) and Kaya et  
171 al. (2017), but foreign direct investments have an emission-reducing effect, according to Ozturk  
172 and Oz (2016) and Mert and Caglar (2020).

173

[INSERT TABLE I HERE]

174 It is feasible to draw a separate conclusion when the environmental consequences of domestic  
175 capital are compared according to the countries' development levels. Namely, Sadorsky (2010)  
176 identified the carbon emission-enhancing effect of domestic capital for 22 emerging countries  
177 and there are also some studies validating the emission increasing effect of domestic capital as  
178 follows: Zhang et al. (2011) for China, Abbasi and Riaz (2016) for Pakistan, Paramati et al.  
179 (2016) for 20 emerging market economies, and Zhang et al. (2019) for China. However, the  
180 contribution of indigenous capital to the environment was identified by Shahbaz et al. (2018)  
181 for France and Raghutla et al. (2021) for the top-10 investment countries. These researches  
182 suggest that when a country's development level rises, domestic capital begins to have a  
183 pollution-reducing effect. Indeed, Paramati et al. (2017) discovered that increasing domestic  
184 capital increased carbon emissions in developing countries while decreasing carbon emissions  
185 in developed countries. However, when prior researches are examined anew, it is impossible to  
186 establish that the environmental impact of domestic capital varies depending on the countries'  
187 emission levels.

188 When the previous researches are reviewed, it is clear that the environmental effects of domestic  
189 and foreign capital are often studied either on a country-by-country basis or for countries of a  
190 specific development level. Few studies have looked at the impact of domestic and foreign  
191 capital on carbon emissions in countries of various development levels. On the other hand, no  
192 research has been done on the environmental impact of domestic or foreign capital based on  
193 disparities in emission levels across countries rather than the countries' development levels. In  
194 addition, most of these studies focus on the efficiency of either domestic or foreign capital, with  
195 no comparison of the two variables' environmental efficiency. The fact that this study analyzes  
196 both variables' environmental activities and is based on a classification of countries based on  
197 their emission levels is significant in terms of filling a gap in the literature.

### 198 **3. Empirical Strategy**

#### 199 **3.1. Data**

200 The study consists of 42 countries (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada,  
201 Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Arab Rep., France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India,  
202 Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco,  
203 Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore,  
204 South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United States) that are  
205 heterogeneous in terms of carbon emissions and sustainable development levels and covers the  
206 annual data from 1990 to 2017. To assess the environmental effectiveness of domestic and  
207 foreign capital at different emission levels, we considered carbon dioxide emissions as a  
208 function of economic growth, domestic capital, foreign capital, urbanization, trade openness  
209 and energy consumption following the studies of Paramati et al. (2017), Shahbaz et al. (2018)  
210 and Zhang et al. (2019). Here, we show carbon emissions (CO) in metric tons per capita to  
211 represent environmental pollution, real GDP per capita in US dollars to represent economic  
212 growth (GDP), market capitalization of listed companies as a percentage of GDP to represent  
213 domestic capital (DC), foreign direct investment inflows as a percentage of GDP representing  
214 foreign capital (FC), percentage share of urban population in total population representing  
215 urbanization (URB), percentage share of total exports and imports in GDP representing trade  
216 openness (TRA), and per capita energy consumption (EC) data in quad btu. In addition, the  
217 sustainable development index (SD) newly developed by Hickel (2020) is also used as a  
218 dependent variable in a second model for compare how carbon emissions and sustainable  
219 development index affected by different types of capital. Hickel (2020) defines the sustainable  
220 development index as the expanded version of the human development index with the  
221 ecological activities of the countries. In the process of collecting datasets, GDP, FC, URB and  
222 TRA data are obtained from the World Development Indicators database published by the  
223 World Bank. DC data were downloaded from the World Financial Development database of  
224 World Bank, CO data is sourced from OurWorldInData, EC data is collected from the Energy  
225 Information Administration database, and SD data is downloaded from the Sustainable  
226 Development Index database developed by Hickel (2020).

#### 227 **3.2. Methodology**

228 To estimate our empirical models, we apply Quantile via Moment approach<sup>2</sup> developed by  
229 Machado and Silva (2019) due to several crucial reasons. First, our variables are highly  
230 heterogeneous across countries and over time. Any standard panel data –based techniques often  
231 fail to capture cross-sectional heterogeneity and variation over time.

232 The advantage of our approach is that it allows the use of methods that are only valid in the  
233 estimation of conditional means, such as differencing out cross sectional effects in panel data  
234 models, while providing information on how the regressors affect the entire conditional  
235 distribution. These informational gains are perhaps the most striking feature of quantile  
236 regression (see, e.g., Chamberlain, 1994, and Buchinsky, 1994) and were emphasized, for

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A for detailed explanation of Quantile via Moment procedure.

237 example, in the surveys by Koenker and Hallock (2001), Cade and Noon (2003), and Bassett Jr  
238 and Koenker (2018). Besides, greatly facilitating the estimation of complex models, our  
239 approach also leads to estimates of the regression quantiles that validate a crucial requisite often  
240 ignored in empirical applications (see also He, 1997, and Chernozhukov et al., 2010).

241 In addition, we also used Driscoll-Kraay estimation technique of Driscoll and Kraay (1998) to  
242 check the robustness of the findings. The reasons of using that estimation technique are that  
243 using this technique both allows cross-sectional dependency among observed countries and our  
244 sample is suitable for DK estimation because we have the data which seems cross-sectional  
245 dimension is greater than time-period ( $N > T$ ) condition.

246

#### 247 **4. Empirical Findings**

248 The effects of domestic and foreign capital on both carbon emissions and the sustainable  
249 development index are explored for different quantiles using the quantile regression approach  
250 in the empirical procedure for two different empirical models. Table 2 shows the results of a  
251 quantile via moment analysis that looked at the impacts of economic growth, domestic capital,  
252 foreign capital, urbanization, trade openness, and energy consumption on carbon emissions for  
253 countries with various emission levels. Once it comes to economic growth, it's been determined  
254 that it raises carbon emissions for all quantiles. This finding is consistent with the studies of  
255 Malik et al. 2020; Bekun et al. 2021; Adedoyin et al. 2021; Bekun et al. 2022; Destek and  
256 Aydin, 2022; Caglar et al. 2022. When the positive coefficients for the Q70-Q90 quantiles are  
257 compared to the positive coefficients for the Q10-Q60 quantiles, it is clear that the positive  
258 coefficients for the Q70-Q90 quantiles are lower. This means that the negative environmental  
259 effects of economic growth are greater in countries with low emissions than in countries with  
260 high emissions. If it concerns to the environmental implications of urbanization, it is obvious  
261 that as the degree of urbanization rises, carbon emissions rise for all quantiles, whereas the  
262 environmental effects of urbanization do not differ significantly depending on the countries'  
263 emission levels. This finding is also validated by some previous studies as Zhang and Zhou,  
264 2016; Behera and Dash, 2017; Solarin and Al-Mulali, 2018. Furthermore, increases in trade  
265 openness and energy use are found to raise emission levels for all quantiles. The negative impact  
266 of both elements on the environment are observed to be greater in countries with low emission  
267 levels. This result confirms the previous studies as follows: Tamazian and Rao 2010; Seker et  
268 al. 2015; Solarin et al. 2017; Zafar et al. 2019; Destek and Okumus, 2019; Khan et al. 2020;  
269 Xie et al. 2020.

270 In connection with the main purpose of the study, we observe the environmental effects of  
271 domestic and foreign capital at different emission levels and it is concluded that an increase in  
272 domestic capital decreases as found in Paramati et al. 2017; Shahbaz et al. 2018; Raghutla et  
273 al. 2021 emission levels for Q10-Q30 quantiles while increasing emission levels in line with  
274 some previous studies (Sadorsky, 2010; Paramati et al. 2016; Zhang et al. 2019) for Q50-Q90  
275 quantiles. This suggests that, in comparison to countries with higher emission levels, domestic  
276 capital is steered towards more environmentally favorable investment areas in countries with



277 lower emission levels. On contrary, the environmental effects of increased foreign capital are  
278 statistically insignificant for all quantiles, and hence for all emission levels.

279 **[INSERT TABLE II HERE]**

280 Table 3 shows the findings of a quantile via moment analysis that looked at the effects of  
281 domestic and foreign capital on sustainable development, as well as the impact of economic  
282 growth, urbanization, trade openness, and energy consumption indicators for various quantiles.  
283 On the surface, domestic capital appears to reduce sustainable development in almost all  
284 quantiles, while foreign capital appears to have no statistically significant influence.  
285 Furthermore, economic growth and energy use are found to impair sustainable development in  
286 all quantiles. Similarly, it is observed that it has a negative impact on sustainable development  
287 in practically all trade openness quantiles. Once the results are divided into quantiles, the  
288 negative coefficient of economic growth in the Q10-Q60 quantiles is more noticeable than in  
289 the Q70-Q90 quantiles. This means that economic growth has a higher negative impact on  
290 sustainable development in countries with a low level of sustainable development than in  
291 countries with a high level of sustainable development. When looking at the effects of  
292 urbanization on sustainable development, the Q40-Q90 quantiles show a positive and  
293 substantial influence. The negative impact of increased urbanization on sustainable  
294 development, on the other hand, is determined in the Q10 quantile. While urbanization in  
295 countries with low levels of sustainable development undermines sustainable development,  
296 urbanization in countries with high levels of development is in line with sustainable  
297 development goals, according to this conclusion. The impact of trade openness on sustainable  
298 development, on the other hand, can be divided into three categories. In other words, the  
299 negative effect in the Q10-Q30 quantiles is smaller than in the Q40-Q60 quantiles. Surprisingly,  
300 in the Q70-Q90 quantiles, the negative effect was statistically insignificant. According to this  
301 study, the adverse effect of trade openness on sustainable development increases as the degree  
302 of development rises, and after reaching a particular level of development, the detrimental effect  
303 of trade openness decreases. In line with economic growth, the negative impact of energy  
304 consumption on sustainable development is inversely proportional to the development levels of  
305 countries.

306 In line with the main purpose of the study, the effects of domestic and foreign capital are  
307 analyzed for countries with various levels of sustainable development, and it is found that  
308 domestic capital has a negative and significant influence on all quantiles except Q10-Q50  
309 quantiles. The negative effect in the Q20-Q40 quantiles is substantially higher than the negative  
310 effect in the Q60-Q90 quantiles, which is worth noting. As a result, the harm caused by domestic  
311 capital to sustainable development lessens as the level of sustainable development rises. On the  
312 other hand, it is established that the influence of foreign capital is statistically insignificant for  
313 all quantiles. This finding reveals that foreign capital inflows have not yet had a significant  
314 impact on the sustainable development of countries.

315

316 **[INSERT TABLE III HERE]**

317 **5. Robustness Check**

318 Additionally, we employ the Driscoll-Kraay (DK) robust estimator to determine the robustness  
319 of the empirical findings. The reason for choosing this estimator is that the number of countries  
320 in the study panel is greater than the number of periods in the study, and the DK estimator  
321 produces accurate results in this case. Before DK estimation, we check the possible cross-  
322 sectional dependency among countries for all variables and present the results in Table 4. Based  
323 on the findings, it is concluded that the null of cross-sectional independency is strongly rejected  
324 for all variables. This finding gives us a chance to use DK estimation technique.

325 **[INSERT TABLE IV HERE]**

326 According to the result shown In Table 5, economic growth and foreign capital have no  
327 statistically significant effect on carbon emissions when carbon emissions are employed as a  
328 dependent variable. Additionally, domestic capital accumulation results in a rise in carbon  
329 emissions. Similarly, urbanization, increased trade openness, and increased energy use all  
330 contribute to a rise in carbon emissions. The results of DK estimate are typically compatible  
331 with the Quantile via moment results presented in the preceding section.

332 **[INSERT TABLE V HERE]**

333 Table 6 shows the DK estimator results for the second model, which uses the sustainable  
334 development index as the dependent variable. Economic expansion, according to the findings,  
335 is detrimental to long-term development. This conclusion suggests that measures aimed at  
336 boosting economic growth come at the expense of social and environmental indices. Increases  
337 in domestic capital have a negative impact on sustainable development. This finding can be  
338 attributed to the fact that domestic investors make investments based only on economic  
339 considerations, with environmental concerns remaining in the background. Increased  
340 urbanization helps to promote sustainable development. As a result, it is clear that the examined  
341 countries' urbanization policies are either ecologically benign or that the benefits of  
342 urbanization in terms of social and economic indices outweigh the environmental costs of  
343 urbanization. Foreign capital, trade openness, and energy consumption, on the other hand, have  
344 statistically insignificant effects on sustainable development.

345 **[INSERT TABLE VI HERE]**

346 In general, our finding as economic growth increases emissions is compatible with the studies  
347 of Aliyu (2005); Tang (2009); Hitam and Borhan (2012) and Blanco et al. (2013). The finding  
348 that economic growth increases carbon emissions less in high-emission countries than in low-  
349 emission countries highlights the fact that environmental awareness has begun to rise in  
350 countries where environmental pollution has reached critical levels, and that the rate of emission  
351 increase is being attempted to be avoided. Furthermore, Solarin et al. (2017), Behera and Dash  
352 (2017), Zhang and Zhou (2016) and Destek (2021) all found that increasing urbanization  
353 increases carbon emissions, similar to our findings. Surprisingly, despite the environmental  
354 damage that urbanization generates, it appears that urbanization benefits to sustainable  
355 development in countries with high levels of sustainable development. This finding

356 demonstrates that urbanization and improved environmental quality can coexist, particularly in  
357 countries that prioritize sustainable urbanization.

358 When the findings are connected to trade flows, the finding that increasing trade openness  
359 increases emissions is consistent with the researches of Kaya et al. (2017); Xie et al. (2020);  
360 and Tamazian and Rao (2010). The fact that increased trade openness is more harmful to the  
361 environment, especially in low-emission countries, indicates that low-emission countries that  
362 produce products with high emission potential, and that as the trade volume of these products  
363 increases, so do the emissions of low-emission countries. The influence of energy consumption  
364 on carbon emissions has been determined, and this finding is compatible with Seker et al.  
365 (2015); Paramati et al. (2016); and Shahbaz et al. (2018). The fact that the negative  
366 environmental effects of energy consumption are stronger in low-emission countries, analogous  
367 to trade openness, suggests that fossil energy consumption-based production has begun in  
368 countries with relatively low emissions. The fact that pollution-intensive production has been  
369 shifted to low-emission countries to avoid the impediments of global agreements to reduce  
370 environmental damage suggests that pollution-intensive production has been shifted to low-  
371 emission countries to avoid the impediments of global agreements to reduce environmental  
372 damage.

373 Domestic capital raises carbon emissions in countries with high levels of emissions, while it  
374 reduces carbon emissions in countries with low levels of emissions. This result is consistent  
375 with the findings of the Paramati et al. (2017), which indicated that domestic capital increases  
376 carbon emissions in developing nations with high emissions while decreasing carbon emissions  
377 in developed countries with low emissions. Considering that countries with greater levels of  
378 emissions place a larger priority on economic growth than environmental sensitivity, the panel  
379 found that these countries are hesitant to impose environmentally friendly laws on corporations  
380 listed on national stock exchanges. The rate of rise in carbon emissions is lower in countries  
381 with strong capital markets over the sample period. The conclusion is that the restrictions in  
382 place in these countries are effective, and that the growth in domestic company activity reduces  
383 emissions. When looking at the findings for foreign capital, it is found that an increase in foreign  
384 capital has no substantial impact on carbon emissions, regardless of whether the country has  
385 high or low emissions. This observation is in line with the findings of Shaari et al. (2014);  
386 Liobikiene and Butkus (2019); and Wang et al. (2021). The obtained result reveals that in  
387 countries hosting foreign investments, an effective policy in terms of environmental sensitivity  
388 of foreign investment is not followed.

389

## 390 **6. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations**

391 This study compares the contribution of domestic and foreign capital accumulation to the fight  
392 against environmental pollution in the 1990-2017 period for 42 countries that are heterogeneous  
393 in terms of environmental damage. In this direction, the effects of economic growth, stock  
394 market capitalization, foreign direct investments, energy consumption, urbanization and trade  
395 openness on carbon emissions are examined in this study. While doing this, the quantile via  
396 moment approach is used to observe whether the said effects change according to the emission

397 levels of the countries. Also, for robustness check, the effect of the same independent variables  
398 on the newly developed sustainable development index is also examined.

399 The results of the research can be summarized as follows: i) economic growth increases carbon  
400 emissions less in high-emission countries than in low-emission countries, ii) increasing  
401 urbanization increases carbon emissions and environmental effects of urbanization do not differ  
402 significantly depending on the countries' emission levels, iii) increases in trade openness  
403 increases carbon emissions and the environmental pollution increasing effect of trade openness  
404 is greater in low emission-countries. iv) raising energy consumption harms environmental  
405 quality and this harmful effect is greater in countries with low emission levels. v) domestic  
406 capital raises carbon emissions in countries with high levels of emissions, while it reduces  
407 carbon emissions in countries with low levels of emissions, vi) increase in foreign capital has  
408 no substantial impact on carbon emissions, regardless of whether the country has high or low  
409 emissions, vii) economic growth has a higher negative impact on sustainable development in  
410 countries with a low level of sustainable development than in countries with a high level of  
411 sustainable development. viii) urbanization in countries with low levels of sustainable  
412 development undermines sustainable development, ix) the adverse effect of trade openness on  
413 sustainable development increases as the degree of development rises, and after reaching a  
414 particular level of development, the detrimental effect of trade openness decreases, x) the harm  
415 caused by domestic capital to sustainable development lessens as the level of sustainable  
416 development rises, xi) foreign capital inflows have not yet had a significant impact on the  
417 sustainable development of countries.

418 In regard with policy implications, the following measures should be taken based on our  
419 findings: i) Intense environmental awareness-raising activities should be carried out in countries  
420 with low emissions, in other words, based on the unconscious destruction of the environment  
421 in countries where pollution does not reach critical levels. The fact that the environment is a  
422 more important goal than wealth should be imposed on these countries. ii) all observed  
423 country's policy makers are required to take measures to reduce the environmental damage of  
424 domestic capital accumulation. Various incentives and tax exemptions should be provided for  
425 domestic capital to fund or invest in projects developed in clean energy or energy efficiency  
426 areas. These tax revenues should be spent on the green transformation of these producers by  
427 imposing additional taxes on domestic producers who are responsible for relatively more  
428 emissions. iii) Instead of transferring foreign capital to countries with lax environmental  
429 regulations, governments should lead their green transformation.

430 The study has some limitations. i) Due to insufficient data, panel results are obtained, but  
431 country-specific coefficients are calculated and country comparisons cannot be made. In future  
432 studies, obtaining country-specific findings with the expansion of data sets will make policy  
433 recommendations more detailed. ii) In this study, the effect of foreign direct investments is  
434 found to be statistically insignificant. On the other hand, the interaction effects of possible  
435 factors that could make the impact of foreign capital on sustainable development significant are  
436 not taken into account. In future studies, the moderating effects of social, economic and political  
437 factors should be examined by including them in the empirical model.

438 **Author contributions:** **Mehmet Akif Destek:** writing original manuscript, conceptualization,  
 439 writing review, supervision and editing. **Kazi Sohag:** formal analysis, methodology, writing  
 440 original manuscript, writing review and editing. **Sercan Aydin:** reviewed, supervision,  
 441 corrected mistakes. **Gamze Destek:** correcting mistakes, reviewed, writing original manuscript.

442 **Data availability:** The datasets will be provided, if required

443 **Declarations**

444 **Ethics approval:** Not applicable

445 **Consent to participate:** Not applicable

446 **Consent for publication:** Not applicable

447 **Conflict of interest:** The authors declare no competing interests

448 **Funding:** Not applicable

449

450

451 **Appendix A**

$$452 \quad Y = \alpha + X'\beta + \sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma)U \quad (1)$$

$$453 \quad E(U) = 0 \text{ and } E(|U|) = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$454 \quad Q_y(\tau|X) = \alpha + X'\beta + \sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma)q(\tau) \quad (3)$$

455 where  $q(\tau) = F_U^{-1}(\tau)$ , so  $\Pr(U < q(\tau)) = \tau$

$$456 \quad Q_y(\tau|X) = \alpha + \delta q(\tau) + X'(\beta + \gamma q(\tau)) \quad (4)$$

$$457 \quad \beta_l(\tau, X) = \beta_l + q(\tau)D_{X_l}^\sigma \quad (5)$$

$$458 \quad D_{X_l}^\sigma = \frac{\partial \sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma)}{\partial X_l} \quad (6)$$

$$459 \quad E[RX] = 0$$

$$460 \quad E[R] = 0$$

$$461 \quad E[(|R| - \sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma))D_\gamma^\sigma] = 0 \text{ a} \quad (7)$$

$$462 \quad E[(|R| - \sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma))D_\delta^\sigma] = 0$$

$$463 \quad E[I(R \leq q(\tau)\sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma)) - \tau] = 0$$

$$464 \quad R = Y - (\alpha - X'\beta) = \sigma(\delta + Z'\gamma)U \quad (8)$$

$$465 \quad D_{\gamma}^{\sigma} = \frac{\partial \sigma(\delta + Z' \gamma)}{\partial \gamma} \quad (9)$$

$$466 \quad D_{\delta}^{\sigma} = \frac{\partial \sigma(\delta + Z' \sigma)}{\partial \delta} \quad (10)$$

$$467 \quad E[UX] = 0$$

$$468 \quad E[U] = 0$$

$$469 \quad E[(|U| - 1)D_{\gamma}^{\sigma}] = 0 \quad (11)$$

$$470 \quad [(|U| - 1)D_{\delta}^{\sigma}] = 0$$

$$471 \quad E[I(U < q(\tau)) - \tau] = 0$$

$$472 \quad U = \frac{Y - (\alpha + X' \beta)}{\sigma(\delta + Z' \gamma)} \quad (12)$$

$$473 \quad Y = D'_{\beta_D} + C'_1 \beta_1 + \sigma(D' \gamma_D + C'_1 \gamma_1) U \quad (13)$$

$$474 \quad D_l = \mathcal{D}_l(C_1, C_2, U^*) \text{ for } l = 1, \dots, k_D \quad (14)$$

$$475 \quad \text{where } \mathcal{D}_l(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^{k_1 + k_2 + 1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \sigma(\cdot)$$

$$476 \quad \text{Let's have } X' = (D', C_1), C' = (C'_1, C'_2), \beta' = (\beta'_D, \beta'_1) \text{ and } \gamma' = (\gamma'_D, \gamma'_1)$$

$$477 \quad Pr\{Y \leq S_y(\tau|X)\} = Pr\{Y \leq S_y(\tau|X)|C\} = \tau \quad (15)$$

$$478 \quad S_y(\tau|C) = X' \beta + \sigma(X' \gamma) q(\tau) \quad (16)$$

$$479 \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_1^n C_i \left( \frac{Y_i - X'_i \hat{\beta}}{\sigma(X'_i \hat{\gamma})} \right) = 0 \quad (17)$$

$$480 \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_1^n C_i \left( \frac{|Y_i - X'_i \hat{\beta}|}{\sigma(X'_i \hat{\gamma})} - 1 \right) = o_p \quad (18)$$

$$481 \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_1^n \psi_i \left( \frac{|Y_i - X'_i \hat{\beta}|}{\sigma(X'_i \hat{\gamma})} - 1 \right) = o_p(1) \quad (19)$$

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