

Ecological problems





**Atmospheric
pollution
raises
problems of
several types.**

**First, there are local
problems due to the
production of smoke
and offensive gases
by factories.**



Secondly, there are regional problems created by industrial agglomerations



which may spread the same harmful effects over whole areas.

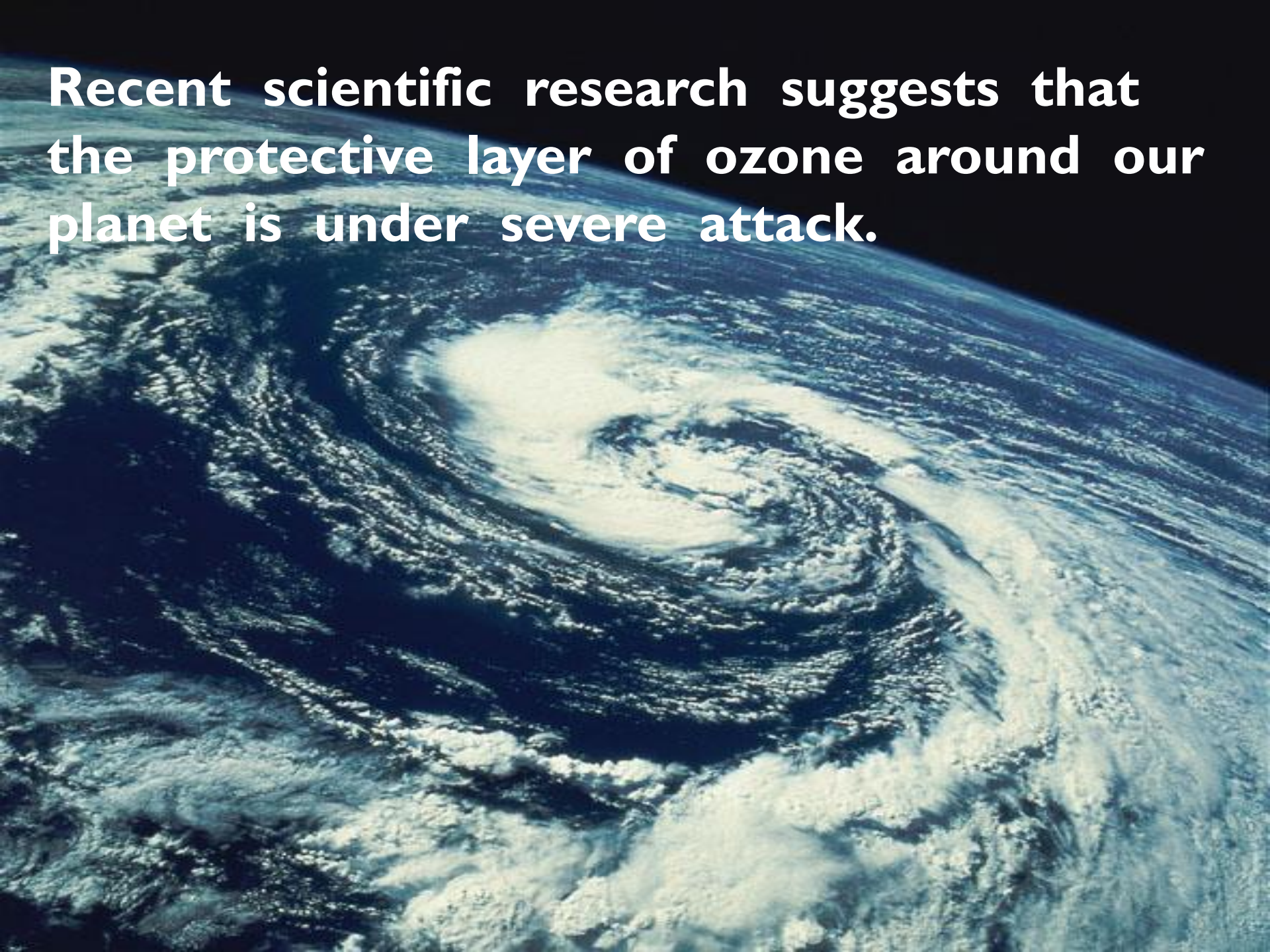
Thirdly, there are some types of pollution, such as those arising from nuclear explosives, which cover a considerable portion of the globe.






And lastly, there appeared one more type of pollution which is threatening the globe as a whole.

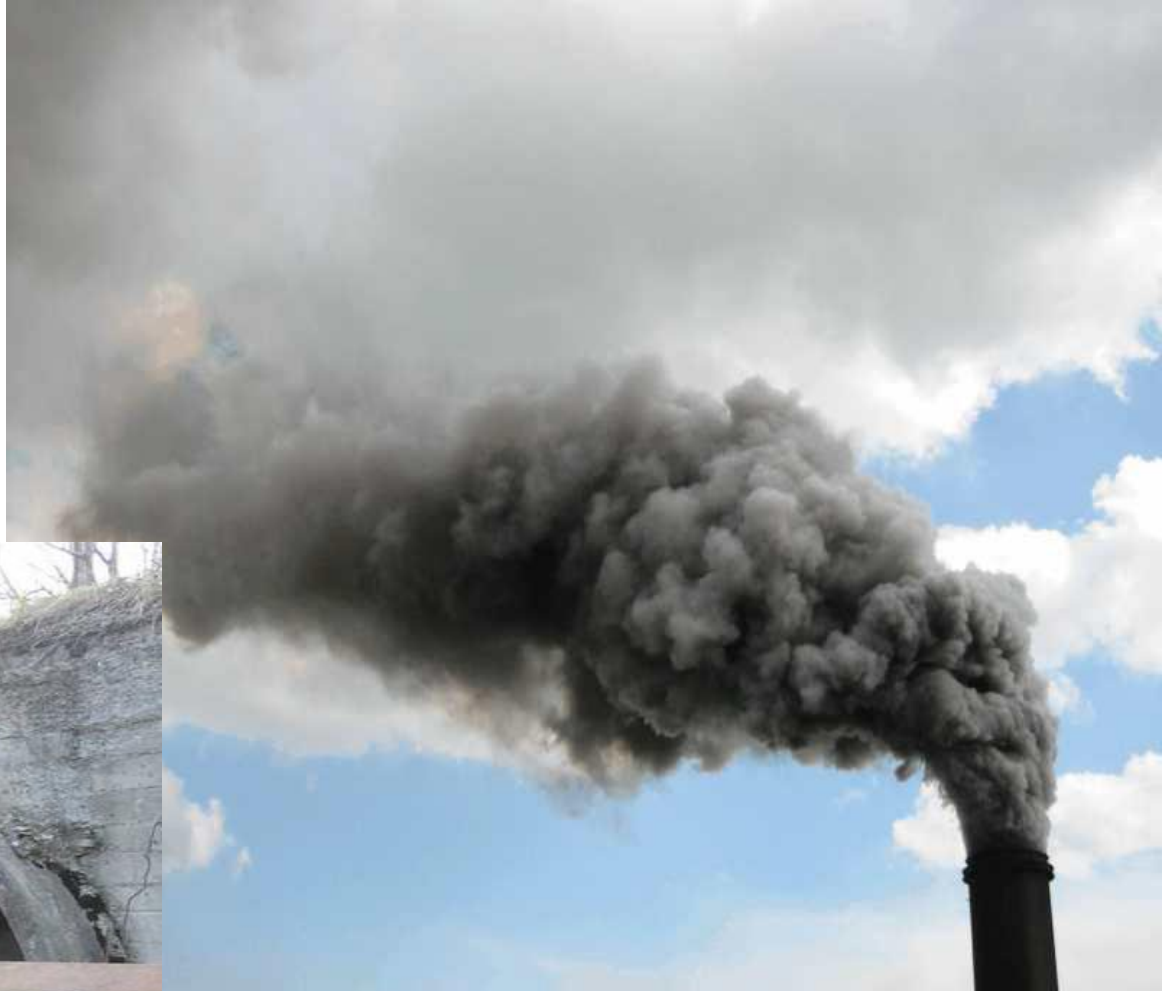
Recent scientific research suggests that the protective layer of ozone around our planet is under severe attack.



A pair of hands is shown from the front, cupping a small, translucent globe of the Earth. The globe is held in the center, with the hands positioned on either side. The globe shows the continents in a light green color against a darker green background. The hands are a light skin tone and are positioned as if they are carefully holding or presenting the globe. The background is a plain, light color, possibly white or a very light grey, which makes the hands and the globe stand out.

Alarm bells were sounded in 1982 when researchers in the Antarctic first identified a yawning hole over the Antarctic where the ozone layer is thinnest.

The major cause of this weakening of the ozone layer is believed to be the increasing



amount of harmful chemicals that are being released into the atmosphere by humankind.

Environmentalists and scientists point out that a further one per cent drop in the overall ozone layer can cause an increase of skin cancer.





The appearance of the **Antarctic hole** has intensified the search for a cause. **Strong evidence** now suggests that it is the growing industrial use of chlorine compounds called **chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** which is responsible. **CFC** is a propellant gas commonly used in aerosol sprays, air cooling systems in fridges and air-conditioning.



Researchers suggest that the level of **CFCs** in the atmosphere

is actually increasing by 5 per cent each year.



Since 1969 the ozone level has fallen by 3 per cent over the densely populated cities of the US,

Canada and Europe and by 4 per cent over Australia and New Zealand.



A group of people, mostly women, are gathered outdoors for a protest or demonstration. They are holding a large white banner with Russian text. The banner reads: "Защита природы - главная задача каждого из нас!" (Environmental protection is the main task of each of us!). The people are dressed in casual clothing, and the background shows a cloudy sky and some greenery.

**Защита природы -
главная задача каждого из нас!**