There are plenty of opportunities to get involved at an international level through the thousands of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work on issues of environment and sustainability around the world. The best way to get involved on an international scale is to connect with local individuals who have experience working internationally, such as University of Arizona professors.

The United Nations is one way to work to address global environmental issues, ranging from public health organizations like the World Health Organization, to large funding groups like the World Bank. The environmental problems that the United Nations addresses are problems that cross national boundaries and are felt by many countries.

The primary ways to become involved with the UN are to:

1. Apply for an internship with one of the UN programs.
2. Work on international issues that the UN addresses within your own country.

You can also view a list of United Nations Programs, Funds and Agencies: http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/un-agencies-funds-and.html

If you want to work within the United States on issues of international importance, look for opportunities within the State Departments.

Additionally, a variety of organizations, including the Sierra Club, SustainUS, National Resource Defense Council, Climate Reality, US Climate Action Network, and many others are accredited to attend various UN conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties (climate conferences), Rio +20 (Rio Earth Conferences), Conference to Combat Desertification. Each conference’s website includes a list of organizations that are allowed to attend the conference, for example see the UNFCCC. These organizations may provide another opportunity for you to work at a global level.