

Betting on environmental management in Algeria

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Received: 22/01/ 2020

Published: 30/07/2020

Abstract :

The international community is also seeking to establish a legal base among all countries to create a balance between sustainable development, population and the environment, as the population continues to increase compared to natural resources which are constantly decreasing, and the need to increase the consumption of natural resources significantly, which led to environmental pollution and waste of environmental capacities Possible. Sustainable development seeks to preserve the environment and address all aspects of human damage. Therefore, in this study, we discussed the relationship of the environment to sustainable development with the dimensions and objectives of the latter.

Keywords: Environmental, Managemen, Sustainable Development, Green Economy, Environmental governance.

ملخص:

يسعى المجتمع الدولي إلى إنشاء روابط قانونية بين جميع الدول لإيجاد توازن بين التنمية المستدامة والسكان والبيئة على صعيد عالمي، حيث لا يزال عدد السكان في تزايد مستمر مقارنة بالموارد الطبيعية المتناقصة، وازدياد الحاجة إلى الموارد الطبيعية بشكل أكبر، مما أدى إلى تلوث البيئة وهدر القدرات البيئية؛ ولأجل ذلك تسعى التنمية المستدامة للحفاظ على البيئة ومعالجة جميع جوانب الضرر البشري التي يمكن أن تلحقها؛ على ذلك، ناقشنا في هذه الدراسة علاقة البيئة بالتنمية المستدامة في أبعادها وأهدافها مع السعي لتقصي مكانة الجزائر ضمن هذه الجهود العالمية.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الإدارة البيئية، التنمية المستدامة، الاقتصاد الأخضر، الحكامة البيئية.

1. Introduction

Sustainable Development and Environmental Governance is the result of a historical development that emerged and grew in the late 1980s with interdependent and common characteristics. In the mid-1990s, it became a fertile field for researchers and academics. This has been accompanied by a renewed interest in the role of institutions in societal change and the pursuit of a better life for individuals and communities. Despite the significant evolution in the concept, there are still some impurities that affect the term by virtue of its overlap with some of the concepts related to the subject.

In this article, we will highlight the importance of Environmental Governance, the environmental situation in Algeria and the degree to which the concepts of balance and satisfaction achieved by government endeavors have been achieved through public policies pursued by the Algerian state over decades and the effectiveness and efficiency of these policies.

2. Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development

In general, management has evolved with the emergence of a set of new concepts and with them the associated terminology, the most important of which is the term “governance” which is part of the current trend. In its evolutionary stages, management has been associated with environment. The term Environment - a set of natural conditions that are likely to affect organisms and human activities because they are general and somewhat abstract - has formed a qualitative and descriptive relationship and constituted a fertile field for studies.

There is also no universally agreed definition and understanding of environmental management¹. It can be interpreted in several different ways. In principle, Environmental Management includes rules, practices, policies and institutions that determine how humans interact with the environment. In this paper, the term “Environmental Governance” refers to decision-making processes that are involved in environmental control and management with a view to achieving environmentally sustainable development. Good environmental management takes into account the role of all actors and factors affecting the environment. From governments to NGOs, the private sector, civil society,

individuals, and citizen groups, collaboration is critical to effective governance that can help us move towards a more sustainable future².

In general Environmental Management is a critical factor required for sustainable development. Provides opportunities for:

- (a) Long-term commitments.
- (b) Policy coordination between government agendas and sectorial initiatives.
- (c) Public participation and oversight in the formulation of sustainability strategies³.

The concept of Environmental Management also includes relationships and interactions between governmental and non-governmental structures, procedures and agreements, where authority and responsibility are exercised in environmental decision-making. It is about how decisions are made, with special emphasis on the need for citizens, interest groups and communities in general to be heard and heard. Therefore, the concept does not apply to government alone, and the term "Governance" should be distinguished from "Government". It is necessary to examine government actions in terms of environmental policy and decision-making, but we must also note how citizens take their own responsibility and develop effective environmental initiatives⁴.

As a complement to the concept, good Environmental Management is effectively measured through strategies and initiatives implemented to achieve the desired environmental objectives. Indeed, these objectives could help to build capacity and qualifications and increase access to environmental information for greater participation⁵.

Environmental Management must also have a social component and ambitious towards a society based on social justice. Keeping in mind that "environmental problems are also social problems, both in their causes and effects," and that effects Environmental Degradation is felt more acutely by

people who are already subject to social and economic deprivation. Environmental Governance must respond to concerns about equity and justice⁶.

Coordinated approaches are essential to solving the major environmental and sustainability problems facing developing and developed regions of the world. Therefore, there is a need to understand the interdisciplinary interrelationships between sustainable development, human health and the environment. Globalization and Sustainable Growth, poverty, organizational performance and sustainability, Environmental Management, eco-audit, human health, water resources and environmental recycling should be emphasized in the research process⁷.

Sustainable Development is influenced by three main factors such as environmental, economic, social and political factors. So, to achieve sustainable development, social, economic and environmental goals must be achieved. We cannot sustain long-term development if we fail to balance social, economic and environmental goals. For example, to ensure sustainable development, there must be a healthy, economically resilient, educated and desirable population. This type of population is the result of Good Governance and appropriate policies⁸.

3. Impact of Environmental Mismanagement

According to statistics in 2016, Environmental Degradation and pollution account for a quarter of all deaths, up to 234 times the number of premature deaths in annual conflicts and more than 25% of all children under the age of five. A report, entitled "Healthy Environment, Healthy People" issued by the Second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), stresses the importance of a healthy environment for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and addresses the risks posed by air pollution, chemicals, climate change and other issues that link environmental quality to health.

The report concludes that in 2012, 12.6 million deaths were due to Environmental Degradation, with the highest incidence occurring in South-East Asia and in the Western Pacific, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa. NCD-related deaths are rising in all regions⁹.

4. Environmental situation in Algeria

In Algeria, the environment is under severe pressure in terms of the management of local waste, especially when this is related to the inadequate collection of household waste in Algeria's largest cities, which has led to many Public health problems. How to manage local waste does not meet the needs of local communities.

As with other developing countries, the levels of the triangle and landfills have risen, reflecting the need to raise awareness of environmental protection. The need for integrated urban solid waste management, and this despite the huge budget allocated to the collection, transport and disposal system. The management system shows a set of problems at the municipal level and portrays Algeria as a country in need of cleanliness, especially its major cities.

Since 1977, the environment has been associated with various formal structures. In general, it was under the Ministry of Hydraulic, but in 1981, was connected to the State Secretariat of Forestry and Land use. In 1984, it was the responsibility of the hydraulic department then the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, after being under the Ministry of Interior in 1988. The Ministry was the Commissioner for Research and Technology Responsible for the environment in 1990. It was passed under the Ministry of National Education in 1992, then Ministry of universities in 1993. The Ministry of Interior was responsible for the environment in 1994. But in 1995, the Ministry of Equipment and Land Use Planning confirmed this task until 1999. After that, the task passed under MATE which changed to MATET by integrating tourism in 2007¹⁰.

According to a 2018 study by Harvard University, Algeria is among the countries at highest risk because of their 'heavy dependence on foods that lose nutrients when the concentration of CO₂ in the air increases'. This was the same conclusion drawn by the World Bank and the Institute of Health Measurements and Evaluation, a research institute concerned with the acceleration of health

progress. In a joint 2016 report titled *Cost of Air Pollution*, the two organizations stressed that Algeria is among the world's most polluted countries, along with Mexico, China, India and countries in the Middle East. The report also noted that the mortality rate due to pollution was 10 per cent in 2013¹¹.

5. Environmental Management in Algeria

Since the 1980s, the Algerian government has become more interested in protecting the environment. By institutional and legislative consolidation, it is able to push companies to take into account the environmental dimension by implementing environmental measures that are supposed to be regulated within the framework of strategic environmental planning.

As part of the reconstruction process in the early 2000s, the Algerian government recognized the strong need to establish and strengthen environmental management systems to regulate industrial emissions and environmental protection.

However, due to insufficient human resources in Environmental Management, it was difficult to design and install new systems. The Algerian government Seek technical assistance from international donors in the following areas¹²:

- (i) Institution building and planning support: institution building within the environmental ministry (MATE) and relevant authorities (support for drafting of laws, regulations, and plan of the environmental management issues).
- (ii) Practical support for strengthening the capacities of the environmental management administration: enhancement of monitoring and enforcement activities by the local environmental department of "Wilaya" (the provincial-level local government unit in Algeria; DEW) and the public monitoring agency (Observatoire national de l'environnement et du développement durable ; ONEDD), and the human resource development.

6. Environmental performance and green economy policies

Waste is often considered a financial and environmental burden of no value, when improperly managed, waste is hazardous to humans and the economy Environment in general. Municipalities around the world are often confronted to the same challenges when dealing with waste, from lack of or inadequate facilities, improper maintenance, or malfunction, equipment, rare collection points, to over-reliance on disposal of landfill, etc. With modern and suitable techniques technology, municipal waste can be transformed to create economic value through recycling, reuse and / or energy conversion¹³.

Apart from the National Plan of Action and Adaptation to Climate Change (2003), adaptation measures have largely focused on sustainably meeting the growing demand for a secure water supply, particularly in cities and coastal towns. Algeria has invested around USD20bn in dams, water treatment plants, drinking water sanitation and desalination facilities. The most recent 5-year infrastructure plan (2010-2014), included the construction of 35 dams, 35 supply treatment plants, over 3,000 upgrades to drinking water facilities, and eight new desalination plants, in addition to the 21 small-capacity plants built in 2002-2003. The Second National Communication to the UNFCCC identified a number of potential adaptation measures for the water sector, as well as irrigation goals for agriculture¹⁴.

Algeria's environmental challenges, coupled with its significant reliance on fossil fuels, which account for 99% of electricity generation, has led the government to prioritize investments in both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, one of the only North African countries to explicitly articulate comprehensive national adaptation and climate change mitigation strategies. These strategies largely focus on 3 areas¹⁵:

- (i) Implementing plans for sustainable socio-economic development.
- (ii) Building new and strengthening and integrating existing institutions and human capacity.

(iii) Mitigating GHG emissions via energy diversification and reforestation efforts. Although most policy objectives are codified in law, the laws generally do not outline specific policy prescriptions. Rather, they direct or recommend that the details be laid out in regulation. While climate change mitigation and adaptation measures frequently require inter-ministerial collaboration, most legislation pertaining to climate change mitigation and adaptation falls under the broad authority of four ministries: Land Management and the Environment (MATE), Energy and Mines, Water Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development.

7. Conclusion

Algeria is striving to improve its governance indicators through a series of reforms and amendments, these included various political, economic, and social aspects. Given Algeria's natural potential allow it to achieve sustainable development, the irrational use of various environmental resources has resulted in high costs for victims of environmental degradation, the economic assessment of the costs of environmental degradation complains of double uncertainty.

The second is the economic uncertainties related to methods most economic techniques used in evaluating economic assessment and the credibility of their use in environmental fields. The economic effects and costs of environmental problems are approximate, based on the theory of individual preference and desire to accept payments for environmental improvement, or their willingness to accept compensation for environmental losses.

The state of the environment in Algeria raises fundamental questions that require suggestions and appropriate solutions, especially in front of stakes and challenges of the third millennium. The environment has witnessed very rapid and clear developments in various areas, among them Areas of contemporary global and local environmental problems (such as pollution, lack of water resources, poor quality, etc.). Such problems in the environment have weakened the strength of domestic laws in order to know all what threatens these resources, which is the basis for achieving sustainable development that is accompanied by the rights of present generations, without prejudice to the rights of generations. So, it was necessary to recognize this issue and take into account its interdependent nature and to embody many means of protection in legislation in various countries of the world, including Algeria.

Footnotes:

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