



## **Environmental Governance Performance of Local Authorities and Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in Algeria: Policy Framework, Implementation Mechanisms, and Sustainable Development Outcomes**

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### **Abstract:**

*The research examines the strategic framework which evaluates Algerian environmental governance effectiveness through its assessment of complete environmental policy execution for achieving local sustainability goals. The research shows that local communities must work together with national environmental protection policies to achieve success when working with multiple environmental regulations. The research shows that provinces need to establish institutions which should enforce environmental protection regulations and monitor environmental standard compliance through institutional partnerships and coordinated systems. The analysis shows that environmental partnerships function as innovative governance systems which enhance local environmental management performance and advance sustainable development objectives.*

**Keywords:** *Environmental Sustainability; Environmental Partnerships; Environmental Contracts; Local Communities; Governance.*

**Résumé :**

*La recherche examine le cadre stratégique qui évalue l'efficacité de la gouvernance environnementale algérienne à travers l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre complète des politiques environnementales visant à atteindre les objectifs locaux de durabilité. La recherche montre que les communautés locales doivent collaborer avec les politiques nationales de protection de l'environnement pour réussir à mettre en œuvre les multiples réglementations environnementales. La recherche montre que les provinces doivent mettre en place des institutions chargées de faire respecter les réglementations en matière de protection de l'environnement et de contrôler le respect des normes environnementales grâce à des partenariats institutionnels et à des systèmes coordonnés. L'analyse montre que les partenariats environnementaux fonctionnent comme des systèmes de gouvernance innovants qui améliorent les performances de la gestion environnementale locale et font progresser les objectifs de développement durable.*

**Mots-clés :** *Durabilité environnementale ; Partenariats environnementaux ; Contrats environnementaux ; Communautés locales ; Gouvernance.*



## Introduction:

The international community together with national governments face their most crucial strategic challenge in protecting the environment through public policy development and execution. The environment establishes a direct connection to human survival and all living organisms and it protects the existence of upcoming generations. The system maintains its connection to the environment while supporting the long-term survival of all organisms on our planet. Multiple elements generate extensive damage to the environment because people create direct and indirect effects on natural systems. People build their life through different activities which seek happiness yet fail to consider environmental elements that lead to the destruction of natural systems.

The Algerian government works to execute its environmental protection policy through local initiatives which focus on strengthening institutional frameworks and achieving established targets for effective legal environmental protection. The approach led to the creation of special administrative units which gave power to local authorities for environmental protection tasks through legal mechanisms and procedures.

The study of Algeria's local environmental policy requires an analysis of a core research problem which leads to the following question:

**To what extent are the environmental management performance of local communities and participatory bodies in Algeria effective?**

The descriptive method was selected for this study because it enables researchers to maintain objectivity while presenting scientific information about local-level environmental protection in Algeria. The analytical method was selected because the subject requires an examination of Algeria's environmental protection strategy and its contribution to environmental sustainability.

To tackle this research issue and thoroughly investigate the topic, the subsequent structure will be employed:

- First Section: The role of local communities in environmental protection.
- Second Section: Local public economic institutions established within the framework of environmental partnership as a modern approach to environmental protection.

### **First Section: The Role of Local Communities in Environmental Protection**

Algeria has tried to give local governments more power to protect the environment, natural resources, and public health as part of its efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for environmental protection at the local level. This is in addition to the role of the central environmental administration.

The goal of this approach is to give local governments the power to handle environmental issues on their own, without having to go through the central government. However, the central government will still be in charge of overseeing them. But the powers that municipal and provincial laws and environmental laws give these groups are still limited compared to their place in the administrative structure and the idea of decentralization as a whole.



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## **First Requirement: The Role of the Municipality in Environmental Protection: A Study of Powers and Mechanisms**

The municipality is the smallest unit of the state and the main way to protect the environment at the local level. It is also the best level for putting the state's general policy on environmental protection into action at the local level, as it is the main tool for applying administrative decentralization in environmental matters.<sup>1</sup>

The municipality has a lot of legal power when it comes to local environmental regulation and land use. The Municipal Law, local development laws about the environment, and other laws about protecting the environment and public health give these powers.

### **First: The Powers of the Municipal People's Council in the Field of Environmental Protection**

Law No. 10-11 on the Municipality sets out the basic rules for what municipalities can do to help with local development and protect the environment.<sup>2</sup> It gives the Mayor (as an executive body) and the Municipal People's Council (as a deliberative body) a lot of power in this area.

#### **1. In the Field of Public Hygiene:**

The municipality works with the state's technical departments to make sure that the laws about public health and hygiene are followed, especially in these areas:<sup>3</sup>

- Picking up trash from homes, businesses, and factories
- Setting up committees to protect health, hygiene, and the environment

- Keeping an eye on the cleanliness of the environment and public health
- Getting rid of wastewater and giving out clean water
  - Keeping disease vectors in check and food safe
- Keeping up with roads and traffic signs - Making new green spaces and keeping up with parks and other places to have fun

## **2. In the Field of Urban Planning and Development:**

Municipal Law No. 11-10 establishes a cohesive framework for the urban and environmental authorities conferred upon municipalities, which encompass:<sup>4</sup>

- Taking part in making and carrying out plans for regional development
- Giving feedback on investment projects based on how they will affect the environment
- Protecting green spaces through urban planning schemes
- Keeping an eye on construction and infrastructure work all the time
- Fighting against illegal and low-quality housing - Protecting architectural and cultural heritage

## **3. In the Field of Spatial Planning and Local Development:**

The National Plan for Territorial Development is an important tool for putting public policies on sustainable urban development into action. The Algerian government has made this plan legally binding, turning it from a moral obligation into a legally enforceable framework.

In this case, Municipal Law No. 11-10 gives municipalities a lot of power over local development and spatial planning. So, municipal popular assemblies must:<sup>5</sup>



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- Make sure their yearly plans are in line with the National Plan for Territorial Development and the sectoral master plans.
- Help the growth of economic activities and get people to invest in their own communities
- Help plan and carry out sustainable spatial planning operations
- Safeguard farmland, parks, and water supplies - Get involved in evaluating the environmental effects of urban and economic projects

These mechanisms create a useful framework for achieving sustainable development at the local level while also making sure that the balance of the environment and natural resources is preserved for future generations.

## **Second: The Role of the Municipality in Environmental Protection under Environmental Legislation**

The Algerian government has tried to give the municipality more power in the area of environmental protection by giving it more authority under specialized environmental laws. The municipality stands as a leading organization within this field. The method seeks to establish stronger legal regulations which oversee municipal environmental duties while solving problems with current power distribution under Municipal Law No. 11-10.

### **1. The Municipality's Environmental Powers under Law No. 03-10**

The main environmental protection law for sustainable development exists in Law No. 03-10. The document emphasizes that local authorities including municipalities

should lead the work in this field. The lawmaker has tried to give the municipality a lot of environmental powers so that it can help strengthen the legal protection of the environment at the local level.

### **1.1. Granting Licenses for Classified Establishments<sup>6</sup>**

- The municipality is in charge of giving licenses to third-category classified establishments. These establishments are classified based on how risky they are and how much harm they could cause by being open.
- Establishments that don't need an environmental impact study to be built must go through a declaration process before the President of the Municipal People's Assembly.

### **1.2. Administrative Oversight<sup>7</sup>**

- Before licenses are given out, the municipality has to give an opinion on fourth-category classified establishments.
- The license application file must include a requirement for the operator to conduct a public inquiry and prepare an environmental impact study or a summary of it.
- The study must look at possible health and environmental risks and the effects on natural resources, tourist areas, and ecosystems.

### **1.3. Evaluation Criteria<sup>8</sup>**

- The process of giving out licenses is based on following the rules set out in national environmental laws and regulations.



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- The municipality thinks about how the activity might affect public health, natural resources, and areas that are sensitive to the environment.

The municipality receives legal authority through these powers which enables them to protect the environment while they work toward achieving economic development and environmental protection objectives.

## **2. Environmental Powers of the Municipality under Law No. 01-19 on Waste Management**

One of the biggest problems that cities and towns have to deal with is waste management, which has a direct effect on public health and the cleanliness of the environment. Law No. 01-19,<sup>9</sup> which sets the rules for how to handle waste at the local level, was the Algerian government's answer to this problem.

### **2.1. The Municipal Waste Management Plan:**

To solve environmental issues from waste disposal the state together with its urban areas implements various programs and initiatives. The most critical elements of these are:<sup>10</sup>

- The complete assessment of domestic waste materials and non-active waste products.
- The process requires locating facilities and structures which perform waste disposal operations.
- The evaluation process assesses local waste processing capabilities and requirements..
- The plan requires approval from the President of the Municipal People's Assembly.

- The municipal plan needs to maintain alignment with the provincial land-use plan.

## **2.2. Implementation Mechanisms:**

- The project needs to be accessible for public viewing and comment submission.
- The idea of openness in waste management operations.
- The responsibility of waste management operations should fall to both natural persons and legal entities.

Municipalities possess substantial authority in this domain yet they fail to apply it properly because their financial resources remain insufficient. The private sector must become involved in environmental partnerships to develop lasting solutions for waste management problems. At the same time, we need to give municipalities more financial and technical support so they can do their part to protect the environment and public health.

## **3 – Municipal Environmental Powers in the Field of Public Health under Law No. 18-11**

Keeping the public healthy is one of the most important things that local governments should do as part of their duties as local communities. In this regard, Law No. 18-11 gives them a lot of power. Article 107 says that local governments, working with health services at the wilaya (provincial) level, are in charge of making sure that standards are met and that the quality of water, air, and food is good.<sup>11</sup> These powers include the following:



### **3.1. Health and Environmental Oversight**

The President of the Municipal People's Council has set up a Municipal Health Protection Office to make sure that municipal authorities are always watching over public health issues. This office does the following:<sup>12</sup>

- Works with the health services at the wilaya level to make sure that water, air, and food products meet quality standards.
- Works under the authority of the President of the Municipal People's Council to make sure that public health is always being watched.
- The institution operates public area inspections which generate health protection recommendations for people who use these spaces.
- The main objective involves fighting against infectious diseases while simultaneously eradicating hazardous animals.

The legal framework establishes these powers which authorize cities and towns to defend their local environment and public health through active participation. The framework requires local and provincial organizations to unite their efforts for successful achievement of public health and environmental targets.

### **Second Requirement: The Role of the Wilaya in Environmental Protection**

The wilaya (province) functions as the state's regional administrative unit which operates with its own legal status and autonomous financial system. The system operates through its fundamental rules which require the central government to maintain consultation and solidarity with

decentralized administrative units. The public policies of this system operate at the regional level to support economic development and social progress and cultural growth and environmental protection.

The Algerian government has given the wilaya a number of powers in the area of environmental protection, which allows it to play a key role in protecting the environment in the region. The position requires uniting various local organizations to implement national environmental policies while working to improve community living standards and safeguard natural resources of the area.

### **First. The Powers of the Wilaya in Environmental Protection under Law No. 12-07<sup>13</sup>**

Law No. 12-07 on the Wilaya sets the rules for how it can protect the environment and help the local economy grow. The law tries to protect the idea that people should live in a healthy environment at the regional level. Protecting the environment is closely tied to people's health and the long-term survival of life, making it a key part of the security of societies.

#### **1. The Powers of the Wali in the Environmental Field**

The wali (governor) has two roles: he is the representative of the state and the representative of the wilaya. This dual capacity is manifested as follows:

As the Wilaya's Representative:<sup>14</sup>

- Making sure that the decisions made by the Wilaya Popular Assembly are carried out
- Writing regular reports on the activities of the wilaya and giving them to the assembly - Following the advice of the Wilaya Popular Assembly



As the State's Representative:<sup>15</sup>

- Overseeing and coordinating the work of decentralized state services
- Keeping the peace, safety, and security of the public
- Making sure that the active sectors in the wilaya are working properly

The wali has many powers when it comes to protecting the environment, according to environmental laws. These powers include:

### **1.1. Licensing of Classified Establishments:**

- Giving permission for the operation of classified establishments in the second category
- Keeping an eye on the activities of these establishments at all times
- Reviewing applications for the establishment of new classified facilities

### **1.2 Combating Marine Pollution**

- Leading the "Tel el-Bahr" Committee for the province.
- Making and putting into action plans for responding to emergencies that will help fight marine pollution.
- Taking steps to avoid spills before they happen.
- Approving the plan for managing waste in all of the provinces.

### **1.3 Coordination in the region**

- Working with the Regional "Tel el-Bahr" Committee.
- Setting up training sessions and practice drills for emergency situations.

- Suggesting relief efforts and sending supplies to affected areas.

#### **1.4 Regional Coordination**

- Working with the Regional "Tel el-Bahr" Committee.
- Setting up training sessions and practice drills for emergency situations.
- Suggesting relief efforts and sending supplies to areas that need them.

## **2. Powers of the Provincial People's Assembly in the Environmental Field**

The Provincial People's Assembly functions with considerable authority to safeguard the environment while supporting sustainable development projects within its provincial jurisdiction. The organization establishes centralized systems which enable people to participate in environmental matters and local development activities while supporting public administration functions that protect provincial environmental resources and public health.<sup>16</sup>

The Assembly performs its role by organizing various activities which support social and economic and cultural development. The system supports development initiatives which maintain equilibrium while aligning with the particular requirements of the province. The document contains information about health matters and housing and farming and irrigation and environmental concerns and natural resource protection according to the guidelines of Law No. 12-07.<sup>17</sup>

The Assembly holds the responsibility to defend agricultural land while it fights against flood and drought



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disasters and manages pest populations. The organization performs forest property defense activities while conducting water cleaning operations and protecting soil health and maintaining adequate sanitation standards. The organization supports programs to protect both plant and animal health while working to stop disease outbreaks.

Article 33 of Law No. 12-07 which defines the powers of the province states that the Assembly must establish permanent specialized committees including the Committee on Environmental Health and Hygiene.

The Provincial People's Assembly under Law No. 12-07 requires provincial departments to collaborate for forest resource protection and public asset enhancement related to these resources. The purpose of these measures exists to protect natural resources which will lead to better results for the general population.<sup>18</sup>

The legal framework establishes these powers which enable the province to perform environmental protection activities at the regional level. The example reveals that sustainable development requires national policies to unite with local initiatives for success.

## **Second: The Powers of the Wilaya (Province) in the Field of Environmental Protection under Environmental Legislation**

The Algerian government has assigned the wilaya a fundamental responsibility to safeguard the environment through legal provisions which grant it environmental authority at the local level. The wilaya receives general authority through Law No. 12-07. The organization gained additional authority through the Provincial People's

Assembly which now operates as a more active body to achieve superior environmental protection and sustainable development results.

### **1. The Powers of the Wilaya under Law No. 03-10:**

According to Law No. 03-10 on Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, the wilaya has certain powers in this area. The lawmaker created this system to grant the institution necessary tools for managing environmental threats. The powers show themselves in these particular ways:

- The law mandates that proper authorities within the wilaya must share environmental information together with details about environmental risks. People gain the ability to safeguard the environment through preventive measures which occur before actual threats develop. Environmental communication stands as the most crucial method to generate public interest in environmental problems while creating lasting changes in their conduct.<sup>19</sup>
- The Wilaya Law No. 12-07 grants citizens the right to watch Provincial People's Assembly discussions and obtain complete or partial records of these meetings. The law mandates public display of these discussions in suitable locations to enhance transparency which will lead to better public involvement in environmental matters.<sup>20</sup>
- The Wali (Governor) receives authority from Law No. 03-10 to monitor classified establishments because these facilities present risks to public health and environmental safety. The Wali leads the provincial committee which monitors these types of locations. The same law mandates businesses to conduct



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environmental impact assessments and public inquiries to evaluate risks and effects before obtaining activity permits.<sup>21</sup>

The Algerian government has shown support for wilaya environmental protection through its environmental regulatory authority and administrative power and public participation and environmental information accessibility. This method supports the ideas of good environmental governance and moves us closer to the main goal of sustainable development.

## **2. The Powers of the Wilaya under the Law on the Protection of Forests and Forest Resources**

The Algerian government has given the wilaya (province) a big and important job in protecting and preserving forests and forest resources through a number of laws and regulations. These forests and resources are seen as a national asset that is important for the environment and the climate. The wilaya has been given more powers than just normal administrative tasks. These include activities to prevent, monitor, and intervene in order to fight different threats to forests and forest formations.

### **2.1. Protection of Forests from Fires and Degradation**

- Law No. 84-12 (now repealed), along with later laws and regulatory orders like Decrees No. 87-44<sup>22</sup> and No. 87-45,<sup>23</sup> gave the Wali (Governor) certain powers over how to organize and oversee firefighting efforts on and around national forest properties. These powers include:

- The authorities have established rules for administrative actions during the fire prevention season which starts on June 1 and ends on October 31 but the dates can shift based on weather conditions.
- The authorities decide to shut down mountain areas during the fire prevention season as a precautionary administrative measure.
- The wilaya needs to have fire prevention and firefighting plans ready for implementation.

## **2.2. Protection of Forest Lands and Degraded Areas**

The new Law No. 23-21 on Forests and Forest Resources,<sup>24</sup> which replaced the old Law No. 84-12, gave the wilaya clearer powers, such as:

- The wilaya authorities receive the power to protect forests and forest-type lands and degraded pastoral areas through decisions based on forestry administration recommendations for their local areas.
- Local community discussions about integrated watershed management plans enable soil erosion prevention and environmental protection through measures designed to decrease water erosion damage to soil.<sup>25</sup>

## **2.3. Protection of National Parks and Natural Areas**

The law gives the wali a strategic role in protecting the national parks and natural reserves that are within the wilaya's borders. The law says this:<sup>26</sup>

- Holding a public inquiry before putting any park or natural reserve into a category.
- Sending the classification file to the Minister in charge of the environment along with the wali's opinion.



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- Giving out hunting licenses in the wilaya's area of responsibility according to the law, while also keeping in mind the need to protect biological diversity.

The rules establish wilaya as the leading authority which manages forest protection and forest resource management. The organization holds authority to determine land classification systems and reserves the right to protect against fire outbreaks and water erosion damage. The legislation demonstrates a clear intent to enhance environmental management systems while strengthening local authority control over natural resource protection and sustainability enforcement.

## **Section Two: Local Public Economic Institutions Established within the Framework of Environmental Partnership: A Modern Approach to Environmental Protection**

Environmental protection at the local level exists beyond the jurisdiction of specialized administrative organizations. The expansion of local environmental affairs organizations requires public economic institutions with specialized operational capabilities to take over certain responsibilities for the organizations to reduce their operational demands.

The institutional collaboration between organizations serves as the base for this partnership which continues through defined processes that determine environmental cooperation boundaries. The plan needs modern wilaya-level organizations to become responsible for monitoring environmental standard compliance and protecting environmental regulations.

## **First Requirement: The Concept of Environmental Partnership**

The mechanism allows public economic institutions to receive environmental protection powers based on their founding statutes. The process depends on public service delivery through the institutional network of local environmental partnership areas.

### **First: Definition of Environmental Partnership**

An environmental partnership is a way for institutions to work together and coordinate their efforts to protect the environment at the national level. The system operates under the principle which demands that social partners must distribute their duties and obligations equally. The approach will protect the environment now and in the future by making sure that everyone's interests are taken into account.<sup>27</sup>

Environmental partnerships exist to allow institutions to exchange knowledge while working together. The interaction between these systems leads to better environmental results while organizations achieve their environmental goals through stable and long-lasting implementation of their policies. We achieve better resource management through collaboration which prevents duplicated work.<sup>28</sup>

### **1. Objectives of Environmental Partnership**

- Everyone needs to participate along with taking all necessary collective actions and actions based on solidarity to fight pollution which is the main cause of environmental damage to stop pollution and environmental harm.



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- To strengthen efforts within a single institutional framework directed by an integrated strategic vision in order to embody the principles enshrined in Law No. 03-10, which act as the fundamental references for protection mechanisms.
- To encourage effective institutional cooperation by putting collaborative frameworks into action that support sustainable development, which will make public environmental protection policies work better by making them more complementary and synergistic in a participatory setting.

## **2. Mechanisms for Implementing Environmental Partnership**

The Algerian government has tried to put the idea of partnership into action in the area of protecting the environment at the local level by setting up a system of contracts and other agreements. The idea behind these mechanisms is that public administration and economic operators should work together to protect the environment, encourage development, and attract investment.<sup>29</sup> In this case, environmental contracts and investment projects are the most important types of contracts because they are seen as effective ways to promote sustainable development.

People who sign these contracts obtain the freedom to establish innovative environmental solutions through adaptable approaches which match environmental needs.<sup>30</sup> The state or local authorities will establish contracts with businesses or partners to support local environmental protection initiatives. The system functions as an

institutional framework which enables local governments to improve their environmental management operations.

Environmental contracts fall under administrative contracts according to legal standards because they involve a public legal entity which exists to serve the public interest. The classification system gives these contracts specific characteristics which differentiate them from standard private contracts while making them subject to administrative law.<sup>31</sup> The following contracts are included in this category:

### **2.1. Development Contracts**

According to Article 59 of Law No. 01-20 on Regional Planning and Sustainable Development, development contracts, also known as program contracts,<sup>32</sup> set out the ways that environmental partnerships can work. The state or local authorities and economic partners sign these contracts so that master plans and regional planning schemes can be put into action.

Development contracts are a natural next step in the developmental planning system because no local entity can sign a contract with the state without first making a development plan. This requirement is necessary to make sure that strategic planning and the actual implementation of development policies at the local level are in sync.<sup>33</sup>

### **2.2. Waste Management Contracts**

Article 33 of Law No. 01-19 on Waste Management, as amended and supplemented, establishes a mechanism that enables municipalities to delegate the management of bulky waste and special waste resulting from domestic activities to natural or legal persons, whether governed by public or



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private law.<sup>34</sup> This delegation is done according to a standard specification document that lists the requirements and responsibilities that must be met.

The process of contracting includes dealing with the trash that comes from businesses and from people living in cities and towns. The goal of this mechanism is to lessen the financial and administrative burdens on local governments, especially municipalities, by moving the public waste management service to the private sector through concession and private investment contracts.<sup>35</sup>

Current laws also let municipalities work together to manage waste through bilateral or collective partnership agreements. These agreements could be about managing all or part of the trash and other waste from the home. The contractor can also collect taxes and fees for these services.

The State gives money and rules to encourage and support measures related to collecting, sorting, transporting, recovering, and getting rid of waste. These steps encourage private companies to get involved in this area and make sure that citizens get better services.<sup>36</sup>

### **2.3. Concession for Water Treatment and Sanitation**

The Algerian government has given permission for the public service delegation mechanism to be used for tasks related to cleaning and treating water. Law No. 05-12 on Water allows for public service delegation through competitive processes that outline the delegatee's duties. These duties include the type of services provided, the conditions of implementation, the contractual obligations, the length of delegation, the payment methods, the service

tariffs charged to users, and the standards for judging service quality.<sup>37</sup>

In accordance with Article 101 of this law, Executive Decree No. 08-53 of February 9, 2008, approved the model specifications for the public sanitation service's concession-based management and its regulatory framework.<sup>38</sup> Executive Decree No. 08-54 of the same date also approved the model specifications for the concession-based management of the public drinking water supply service and the rules that go with it.<sup>39</sup>

These rules say that the Minister of Water Resources<sup>40</sup> can give the concession to a legal entity that is governed by law for thirty (30) years to run the public sanitation service.<sup>41</sup> After this time is up, the person who holds the concession must return all of the facilities and infrastructure that are part of it in good working order.<sup>42</sup>

The concession contract is an administrative contract in which the concessionaire agrees to run and manage an economic public service in exchange for fees paid by users. However, the concessionaire must still follow the basic rules for how public services should work.<sup>43</sup>

## **2.4. Environmental Performance Contracts**

Environmental contracts function as modern environmental management tools which consist of agreements between economic entities that conduct activities resulting in ecological threats.<sup>44</sup> The legal framework of this system continues to evolve while academic researchers and legal scholars conduct ongoing studies about its development.<sup>45</sup> The contracts enable polluters to self-enforce environmental regulations which



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leads to their participation in environmental policy development.<sup>46</sup>

The agreements function as vital tools for environmental problem resolution because they require industrial operators who generate pollution to take full responsibility for protecting natural resources and ecosystems. The operators receive environmental advantages through state-sponsored financial assistance which consists mainly of government subsidies.

### **Second Requirement: Institutions Established within the Framework of Environmental Partnership**

To improve environmental protection at the local level, the Algerian government has taken a modern institutional approach that involves setting up local public economic institutions with their own legal status and financial independence. This method is carried out through a number of contractual means, such as the concession system for delegating public services, in order to broaden the range of actions aimed at reducing environmental damage within the powers given to these organizations.

### **First: The National Office of Sanitation (ONA): A Specialized Institutional Mechanism**

Executive Decree No. 01-102 set up the National Office of Sanitation (ONA),<sup>47</sup> which is a national public institution that deals with business and industry. It has its own legal identity and financial independence. Its main job is to carry out national sanitation policy in collaboration with local governments, while following the rules of good

environmental management and taking into account how its actions affect the environment.

## **1. Organizational Structure and Functions**

The Office is made up of regional agencies that cover the whole country and local units at the provincial level. This is how it works. This structure has been changed many times in order to make operations more efficient and to expand the range of services offered.

The Office is responsible for the following tasks in the area of environmental protection:

- Making sure the aquatic environment is safe and protected.
- Overseeing the building and operation of important sanitation infrastructure.
- Managing sanitation services that are given to private companies under concession agreements, following approved specifications.

The Office is therefore an advanced institutional tool for dealing with environmental and public health problems caused by water pollution. This helps to achieve sustainable water security.

## **Second: The Provincial Public Institution for the Management of Technical Landfill Centers**

The Provincial Public Institution for the Management of Technical Landfill Centers is a public business that is in charge of collecting, transporting, and managing municipal solid waste at the local level. Article 3 of Law No. 01-19 on the management, monitoring, and elimination of waste sets the rules for how it works. It defines a waste treatment



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facility as “*any facility that is meant to collect, store, treat, or get rid of trash.*”<sup>48</sup>

## **1. The Concept of Technical Landfilling of Waste**

Technical landfilling is the scientifically controlled process of burying solid waste in a way that reduces the negative effects of traditional disposal methods, like pollution of air, water, and soil and harm to public health.

This is one of the most common and best ways to get rid of things in countries with large areas. It is especially useful in developing countries and cities with more than 150,000 people because it can handle many different types of waste, such as municipal, industrial, and even hazardous waste.

Using modern technologies that stop pollution and harmful gas emissions makes technical landfilling a controlled and safe process for the environment.<sup>49</sup>

## **2. The Institution’s Competences in the Field of Environmental Protection at the Local Level**

The organization has established several objectives which can be summarized into the following points:<sup>50</sup>

- The main goal focuses on preventing waste production while reducing its total volume and negative environmental impact.
- -The process of waste management includes four important steps which involve collection and transportation and sorting and treatment.
- The process of identifying recyclable materials and reusable components enables waste to transform into valuable resources.

- The organization must establish waste management systems which protect the environment and operate with cost efficiency.
- The goal requires public education about waste-related health and environmental dangers together with methods to prevent these hazards.

### **Third: The Provincial Public Institution for Sanitation, Urban Works, and Green Spaces**

The Wilaya established the Provincial Public Institution for Sanitation, Urban Works, and Green Spaces as a public entity which operates under industrial and commercial regulations to handle public service management. The institution serves as an example of an organization which was established through an environmental partnership.<sup>51</sup> The organization operates with the same characteristics as public institutions because it maintains financial independence and legal independence. The organization performs its essential function by operating an industrial and commercial public service which follows private legal regulations.<sup>52</sup>

The organization specializes in multiple environmental fields which include public sanitation and household trash collection and green space development and public garden construction and urban beautification and maintenance of public lighting systems and recycling operations management. The program operates to protect local nature through its street and sidewalk cleaning services and its waste management awareness campaigns and environmental respect promotion activities. The entire process follows the specifications document which defines



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party rights and duties while being monitored by the Wali (Governor).<sup>53</sup>

The Algerian legislator created new systems to build and improve local institutional frameworks at the local level. The new mechanisms depend on specification document compliance and institutional commitment to continuous collaboration for local environmental damage reduction. The supervisory authority monitors their operational activities while they remain fully accountable for any system failures which may occur.

People should understand the value of these organizations because they protect nature while maintaining clean public areas and protecting green spaces from harm. The state public policy focuses on building institutional capacity while bringing businesses into environmental protection roles to achieve sustainable development goals. The public interest requires both local stakeholders and resource optimization to reach the desired outcome.

## **Conclusion**

Environmental protection stands as a critical issue which demands united efforts from national organizations and local communities. Local governments must enhance their efforts to establish sustainable environmental protection systems which comply with both sustainable development principles and legal requirements for environmental protection.

The Algerian government continues to advance environmental strategies through positive future-oriented

plans as it strives to manage current difficulties. The state demonstrates its commitment to develop solutions which address environmental destruction and all types of pollution that impact human existence.

### **Study Findings**

- Local environmental taxes which serve to protect the environment have proven to be ineffective. The funds acquired from local environmental taxes fail to cover the complete environmental damage caused by economic activities and commercial operations and urban development.
- The Directorate of Environment and the Regional Environmental Inspectorate which protect the environment have failed to meet their goals because they operate with limited power and inadequate operational performance.
- Local communities lack the ability to protect the environment because they bear the majority of environmental responsibility at the local level. The team fails to execute their plans correctly because they lack sufficient power and administrative control and financial resources.
- Environmental protection through participatory democracy has proven successful at national and international levels and local communities achieve this by uniting all stakeholders and using environmental participation as a modern institutional tool.



## **Study Recommendations**

- The concept of local environmental planning needs definition along with the creation of implementation methods which enable strategic planning that considers specific local characteristics.
- The system of local environmental incentives requires modernization to encourage businesses to select environmentally friendly production methods and technologies.
- The system of local environmental taxes requires modification to properly reflect the actual environmental harm caused by economic operations. The process involves implementing new environmental charges along with increasing existing fees according to the "polluter pays" principle.
- The new Law on Regional Communities needs to authorize local communities especially municipalities to develop their own environmental tax systems.
- The Law on Regional Communities needs to be modified to grant local governments additional authority which matches their position as primary environmental protectors.
- Businesses must participate in every environmental protection activity to build environmental partnerships while assuming primary responsibility for funding and advancing environmental protections through their available resources and expertise.

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