E.ISSN: 2661-7404 *Academic Journal of Legal and Political Researchs* P.ISSN:2571-9971

Year: 2026 Vol : 10 No : 02 Page : 699 - 709

THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DAOUDI Djamel*
University of Algiers 1, Faculty of Law,
Algeria
Laboratory: Mechanisms for Achieving Comprehensive Development in Algeria
d.daoudi@univ-alger.dz

Received: 08- 06- 2026 **Accepted: 15- 08- 2026** **Published: 22- 09- 2026**

Abstract

Political parties in democratic states undoubtedly play a significant role in raising public awareness, particularly in recent years, of environmental issues and the risks they entail. This paper seeks to examine that role by reviewing several leading international models and the place of political parties in the Algerian experience.

Keywords: environment; political parties; Green parties; environmental awareness; international experiences.

Introduction

Following growing awareness of the importance of protecting the environment from pollution and increasing concern about the uncertain fate the environment may be heading towards, grassroots organizations in many states have begun to take shape to protect and preserve it. Thus, in the 1980s, political parties emerged that defended and sought to preserve the environment; these parties came to be known as Green parties. They were initially formed in European states and subsequently developed to encompass the rest of the world, including the Arab states.

* **Corresponding author**

The basic programs of political parties represent the fixed intellectual framework and ideological premises through which they address societal issues in an organized manner. Hence, such programs are of considerable importance in identifying the parties' fixed and continuing positions on environmental issues, as they play a major role in raising individuals' awareness within the framework of party activity and political action.

The research problem centers on the following question: To what extent are political parties' interventions effective in environmental protection?

To reveal the extent of the contribution of political parties to protecting the environment and preserving it from pollution, it is necessary to address certain models of leading parties in the field of environmental protection at the international level (Section One), and then the role of political parties in the field of environmental protection in Algeria (Section Two).

Section One: The Contribution of Political Parties to Environmental Protection in International Experiences

Following growing awareness of the importance of protecting the environment from pollution, and increasing concern about the uncertain fate towards which the environment may be heading, grassroots organizations in many states began to take shape to protect the environment from pollution and preserve it, and they came to be known as Green parties, or the Green movement.[i] Green parties around the world succeeded to such an extent that they established the Green International. This conference brings together all Green parties worldwide and was held in Paris from 7 to 9 April 1989.[ii]

Among the states considered pioneering in the formation of political parties concerned with environmental affairs, reference may be made to certain political parties in Western states (Subsection One), and to the Egyptian experience (Subsection Two) as a pioneering experience in the Arab states.

Subsection One: Experiences of Political Parties in Western States

Among the pioneering Western states in establishing political parties concerned with environmental issues are Germany (first), France (second), and the United States (third).

First: The German Experience

Germany is among the states that were pioneers in the emergence of the Green Party trend. This party was established on 13 January 1980 in the city of Karlsruhe in southern West Germany. Ten years later, a party branch was established in the former German Democratic Republic under the name Alliance 90. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the disappearance of the German Democratic Republic in 1992, the two parties united into a single party bearing the current name, "Alliance 90/The Greens." It became the third-most-popular party after the ruling Christian Democratic Party and the opposition Social Democratic Party.[iii]

The Green movement in West Germany entered the 1980 parliamentary elections and obtained 1.6 percent of the total votes cast.[iv] The party's popularity increased because of its positions in support of peace and environmental protection and against nuclear energy. In 1982, it participated in the parliamentary elections, obtaining 5 percent of the total votes cast.[v] In 1984, the party succeeded in entering the German parliament, and in 1998 it was able to participate in the formation of the German government after securing the required parliamentary majority in the general elections, owing to its alliance with the Communist Party and the Democratic Labor Party, which obtained 14 percent of the votes cast.

The slogan of the German Green Party is environmental protection through non-violent struggle and the avoidance of violence. The strength of this party lies in the large number of young members who have joined its ranks.[vi]

Second: France

The Green Party was established in France in 1984. It obtained 3.78 percent of the vote in the 1988 presidential election, and the party's popularity rose to 8 percent in 1989. The party has more than two thousand members in municipal councils.[vii]

Third: The United States

The Green movement in the United States began in 1970. Its membership increased from three million to ten million between its inception and 1990, and continues to grow to the present day. The National Wildlife Federation experienced the greatest increase in membership, rising from 2.6 million to 5.8 million.[viii]

Subsection Two: The Egyptian Experience

Among the most important parties present in the Egyptian political arena and concerned with environmental issues are the New Wafd Party and the Green Party. The most notable feature of these political parties is their priority on environmental issues. The New Wafd Party addresses environmental issues alongside political,

economic, and social issues, whereas the Green Party was established specifically to serve and defend the environment.

First: The New Wafd Party

Proceeding from the party's deep conviction that the environmental issue has become one of the issues affecting Egyptian national security, the New Wafd Party considers that the protection of the environment from the risks threatening it must be carried out along the following lines:[ix]

- Protection against natural risks by preserving natural environmental resources and generalizing the principle of sustainable development to safeguard the right of future generations to these resources.
- Incorporating environmental considerations into the development process in Egypt.
- Establishing general state strategies to reduce natural environmental risks.
- Applying international environmental standards to all industrial projects, while imposing strict controls against perpetrators of environmental violations.
- Working to prevent any nuclear leakage from abroad into Egyptian territory, while definitively prohibiting the burial of any nuclear waste within Egyptian lands, whatever the reasons may be.
- Establishing clear legislation and granting absolute powers to environmental protection bodies in applying this legislation to prevent environmental pollution from exceeding international limits in Egyptian air, water, or soil.
- Fully committing to the use of biological control methods to combat agricultural pests and reducing the use of chemical pesticides to the minimum possible extent.

Second: The Green Party

The Green Party emerged in Egypt in response to the shipment of contaminated West German foodstuffs in 1987. The Green Party in Germany raised the issue as a political matter; at the same time, the issue received extensive coverage in the Egyptian press, and some articles expressed the importance of establishing a party in Egypt similar to the Green Party in West Germany to protect the environment and individuals from the dangers of pollution. A group of activists concerned with this issue therefore submitted an official request to the Parties Committee for approval to establish the Green Party in Egypt. When the

committee rejected this idea, this group of activists brought an action before the courts, and the matter ultimately ended with the party being legally recognized on 14 April 1990.[x]

The party's program aims at protection, preservation, and reform across the economic, social, political, and environmental fields, since the party's slogan does not merely aim to protect air and trees but rather to advance a more comprehensive concept that extends to human economic, social, and political life. The party defends the human right to a healthy life free from pollution.[xi] It also represents a plan of action for environmental protection. It isamong the best party programs for its treatment of environmental issues, as it proposes measures to protect and preserve the environment.

Among the most important objectives that the Egyptian Green Party seeks to achieve are the following:

- Securing the Egyptian ecosystem and ensuring its harmonious and stable development and growth within the framework of its direct and indirect relations with global ecosystems.

- Working to protect the elements of the Egyptian environment so that they remain sound, pure, productive, and suitable for the life of the Egyptian people and their generations.[xii] The party has defined the program calling for environmental protection as follows:[xiii]

✓ The ethical consideration of environmental protection: through the responsibility of current generations to provide and secure a clean environment free from pollution for future generations.

✓ The humanitarian consideration: represented by the human right to live in a sound environment free from pollution.

✓ The economic consideration: regarding the environment as an integrated economic entity, on the basis that it is the foundation of development and that any pollution affecting it and its economic resources leads to a weakening of Egypt's future development opportunities.

Section Two: The Experience of Political Parties in Environmental Protection in Algerian Law

The basic programs of political parties represent the fixed intellectual framework and ideological premises through which they address societal issues in an organized manner. Hence, such programs are of considerable importance in identifying the parties' fixed and continuing positions on environmental issues, as

they play a major role in raising individuals' awareness within the framework of party activity and political action.

Within this framework, Algerian political parties may be classified, according to their programs, into two types: parties concerned indirectly with environmental issues (Subsection One) and parties concerned directly with environmental issues (Subsection Two).

Subsection One: Parties Concerned with Environmental Issues Indirectly

Through an examination of the basic laws of the various political formations active in Algeria, one observes the absence of environmental stakes, as these formations address this aspect only in exceptional and occasional cases, namely, during environmental disasters that strike Algeria.

Exceptfor the development of renewable and clean energies as a necessity for ensuring the country's energy security in light of the decline in its reserves of conventional energies, political parties have not put forward proposals and mechanisms capable of addressing the environmental problems from which Algeria suffers, such as desertification and waste, contenting themselves instead with affirming the environment through the use of general terminology.[xiv]

In this context, the National Liberation Front Party emphasized the need to implement major renewable energy projects. It encouraged scientific research to develop appropriate technologies that diversify energy sources without harming the environment. The party also drew attention to the need to preserve wetlands and protected areas to ensure ecological balance and to focus on afforestation to combat desertification and soil erosion.

We also found the Movement of Society for Peace. An examination of its basic law shows that environmental protection is absent from the party's objectives.[xv] However, it emphasized this issue in its electoral programs on several occasions. Within the framework of its Islamic orientation, its principal objective was to live in a sound, green environment; to disseminate the culture of stewardship on earth and embody the concept of trust; and to promote environmental culture at the level of schools, the media, and mosques.[xvi]

Thus, this aspect was absent from the perspective of the basic political formations, which did not address it either in the objectives set out in their basic laws or in their electoral programs, despite Algeria having become one of the countries most exposed to the effects of climate change on natural resources.

Despite the environmental degradation witnessed by Algeria, the environmental question does not appear to constitute a priority in the electoral programs of competing political parties, each according to its ideological

orientation. Although they generally agree on broad principles, such as the need to preserve a healthy, clean environment, they avoid delving into the details of implementing their environmental programs. Compared with social entitlements, the issue of the environment may appear secondary; however, the serious repercussions of industrial pollution, waste disposal, the risks posed by shale gas, and the water crisis will compel political parties, more than ever before, to include environmental issues in their political programs. This is, on the one hand, while, on the other hand, it also requires citizens to pay attention to the environmental programs of elected parties.

Subsection Two: Parties Directly Concerned with Environmental Issues

Through an examination of the composition of political parties active in the Algerian political arena, it may be said that the most important partyif not the only onethat may be described as a Green party, concerned with the field of the environment as one of its primary objectives, is the accredited National Movement for Nature and Development in Algeria, which was founded in 1992 and is headed by Mr Abderrahmane Akif. This is because the principles of this party aim to protect the environment, and its political agenda includes introducing environmental education into the school curriculum, disseminating environmental awareness among citizens, and training young people in this field.[xvii]

The demands of this party center on the need to apply all legal texts relating to environmental protection and to address certain issues connected with it, such as treating the water network and protecting it from pollution, and modernizing the dust removers or filters found in cement factories and other facilities. This party also calls for the disclosure of the quantity of waste produced by institutions, the preparation of reports on private industrial institutions, and the establishment of institutions to treat such waste.[xviii]

In addition to its political activities, the party participates in various environmental events. The party's president participated in the Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development, and he is also an active member of the two international associations, Metropolis and Telecom. This party also participated in the activities of certain Algerian associations concerned with environmental protection.[xix]

The emergence of the environment as a concern for certain political parties remains weak and limited. By way of example, tracing many of the programs presented by political parties during electoral campaigns has made it clear that there is little political interest in the environment, which these programs addressed only by way of incidental reference and through broad, general principles.

Conclusion

From the foregoing, we conclude that environmental protection requires the efforts of political parties, and that these parties are even more in need of adopting environmental issues. This is an issue that concerns every citizen; the more parties rely on environmental issues and succeed in addressing them, the more their popularity and mass base will increase. The citizen, the party, and the nation will benefit; pollution will decrease, beauty will increase, ugliness will disappear, and tourism and the economy will flourish.

This study shows that political parties in Algeria, despite their different currents, seek to consolidate their presence by defending their divergent societal projects, which differ according to their frames of reference, objectives, and contents. Nevertheless, they converge around the reality of Algerian society as the field from which these projects are derived and within which they seek to address its issues according to their own conceptual frameworks. Certain field studies, as well as reality itself, indicate that most political parties are distant from large segments of the population, and that there is a clear mass reluctance to engage in political party activities. This means that large segments of the population are absent from party activities. This requires intensive efforts and studies by these parties to examine the reasons behind the reluctance of large sectors of citizens to join and participate in party activities. It also requires identifying appropriate means and issues that can attract citizens to party activities. I believe that environmental issues concern and affect every citizen, whether in rural, desert, or urban areas, and constitute a principal means of attracting citizens and strengthening trust between citizens and the party. This is because Algerian citizens generally suffer from environmental problems in various forms. Given the contacts and influence that parties possess with executive bodies, as well as their experience and experts in popular participation and the leadership of social action to solve the problems of the masses, parties are therefore among the most important bodies capable of leading the masses in the field of environmental protection in particular. This is because the interest here is shared among parties, the masses, officials, and executive bodies; the environment brings together all parties, and everyone benefits from these efforts. For this reason, Green parties in the West have generally succeeded.

Nevertheless, political parties in Algeria can play an important role in protecting the environment through the following:

- Including the principles of environmental protection explicitly and decisively, not only in their programs but also in their basic laws.

- Presenting proposals and solutions to environmental problems in a manner that ensures the protection of environmental components.
- Guiding their elected representatives at the national and local levels on the need to work towards establishing, supporting, and strengthening the rules of environmental protection.
- Contributing to the dissemination of environmental awareness, which is considered an effective means of ensuring the success of environmental protection policy, through the organization of study days and national and even international forums.
- Organizing training courses for their elected representatives and activists at the national and local levels.

Bibliography

First: Books

Bouhania, Goui, and Mohamed Tahar Ghaziz. "The Role of Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations in Sustainable Development: The Local Administration Approach." In Participatory Democracy under Political and Administrative Reforms in the Maghreb States, edited by Goui Bouhania. 1st ed. Amman: Dar al-Hamid for Publishing and Distribution, 2015.

ʿAbd al-Qawi, Mohamed Hussein. Criminal Protection of the Air Environment. Cairo: Dar al-Nahda al-Arabiyya, 2002.

Atiya, Tarek Ibrahim al-Desouki. Environmental Security: The Legal System for Environmental Protection. Cairo: Dar al-Jamiʿa al-Jadida, 2009.

al-Helou, Majed Ragheb. Environmental Protection in Light of Sharia. Alexandria: Dar al-Jamiʿa al-Jadida, 2015.

ʿAbd al-Halim, Nabila. Towards a Unified Law for Environmental Protection. Egypt: Dar al-Nahda al-Arabiyya, 1993.

Mohamed, Mohamed Mahmoud al-Roubi. Administrative Policing and Its Role in Environmental Protection: A Comparative Study. 1st ed. Riyadh: Library of Law and Economics, 2014.

Ahmed, Abdullah Jad al-Rab. Protecting the Environment from Pollution in Administrative Law and Islamic Jurisprudence. 1st ed. Alexandria: al-Wafaʾ Legal Library, 2016.

Gomaa, Salwa Shaarawi. Environmental Policymaking in Egypt. Cairo: Social Research Center, American University in Cairo, n.d.

ʿAbd al-Qawi, Mohamed Hussein. Criminal Protection of the Air Environment. Golden Eagle Printing, 2002.

Second: Theses and Dissertations

Kheniche, Senoussi. The Strategy of Environmental Protection in Algeria. PhD diss., specialization in Political and Administrative Organization, Faculty of Political Sciences and Information, University of Algiers, 2005.

Bekkai, Amal. Sustainable Development in the Programs of Algerian Political Parties: The National Liberation Front Party as a Model. Master's thesis in sociology, specialization in political sociology, Faculty of Humanities, Mohamed Lamine Debaghine University, Sétif 2, 2017.

Third: Websites

Al Jazeera. "Encyclopedia." Accessed May 15, 2026. www.aljazeera.net/encyclopedia/.../2015/3/8.

Algeria Press Service. Accessed May 3, 2026. https://www.aps.dz/ar/algerie/42390-2017-04-25-11-13-06.

Movement of Society for Peace. "Basic Law." Accessed May 2026. https://hmsalgeria.net/ar/%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%82%d8%a7%d9%86%d9%88%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d8%b3%d8%a7%d8%b3%d9%8a.

Endnotes:

i. Goui Bouhania and Mohamed Tahar Ghaziz, "The Role of Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations in Sustainable Development: The Local Administration Approach," in Participatory Democracy under Political and Administrative Reforms in the Maghreb States, ed. Goui Bouhania, 1st ed. (Amman: Dar al-Hamid for Publishing and Distribution, 2015), 155.

ii. This conference included seventeen parties representing fifteen countries, namely Belgium, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, West Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Poland, the United States, and Canada. See Mohamed Hussein ʿAbd al-Qawi, Criminal Protection of the Air Environment (Cairo: Dar al-Nahda al-Arabiyya, 2002), 397.

iii. The intellectual origins of the German Green Party go back to leftist organisations, peace movements, and youth and student groups that were active in the demonstrations of 1968, opposed the German political establishment, and called for nuclear disarmament and opposition to NATO. See www.aljazeera.net/encyclopedia/.../2015/3/8. Accessed May 15, 2026, at 18:00.

iv. Tarek Ibrahim al-Desouki Atiya, Environmental Security: The Legal System for Environmental Protection (Cairo: Dar al-Jamiʿa al-Jadida, 2009), 493.

v. Majed Ragheb al-Helou, Environmental Protection in Light of Sharia (Alexandria: Dar al-Jamiʿa al-Jadida, 2015), 38.

vi. Nabila ʿAbd al-Halim, Towards a Unified Law for Environmental Protection (Egypt: Dar al-Nahda al-Arabiyya, 1993), 95.

vii. Mohamed Mahmoud al-Roubi Mohamed, Administrative Policing and Its Role in Environmental Protection: A Comparative Study, 1st ed. (Riyadh: Library of Law and Economics, 2014), 387.

viii. ʿAbd al-Halim, Towards a Unified Law for Environmental Protection, 96.

ix. Abdullah Jad al-Rab Ahmed, Protecting the Environment from Pollution in Administrative Law and Islamic Jurisprudence, 1st ed. (Alexandria: al-Wafaʾ Legal Library, 2016), 433.

x. Salwa Shaarawi Gomaa, Environmental Policymaking in Egypt (Cairo: Social Research Centre, American University in Cairo, n.d.), 23.

xi. Mohamed Hussein ʿAbd al-Qawi, Criminal Protection of the Air Environment (Golden Eagle Printing, 2002), 401.

xii. Ahmed, Protecting the Environment from Pollution in Administrative Law and Islamic Jurisprudence, 388.

xiii. ʿAbd al-Halim, Towards a Unified Law for Environmental Protection, 100; Ahmed, Protecting the Environment from Pollution in Administrative Law and Islamic Jurisprudence, 440–45; Mohamed, Administrative Policing and Its Role in Environmental Protection, 388–89.

xiv. Article published at https://www.aps.dz/ar/algerie/42390-2017-04-25-11-13-06. Accessed May 3, 2026, at 11:30.

xv. For the basic law of the Movement of Society for Peace, see https://hmsalgeria.net/ar/%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%82%d8%a7%d9%86%d9%88%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d8%b3%d8%a7%d8%b3%d9%8a.

xvi. Amal Bekkai, Sustainable Development in the Programmes of Algerian Political Parties: The National Liberation Front Party as a Model (master's thesis in Sociology, specialisation in Political Sociology, Faculty of Humanities, Mohamed Lamine Debaghine University, Sétif 2, 2017), 160–61.

xvii. Bouhania and Ghaziz, "The Role of Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations in Sustainable Development," 157.

xviii. Senoussi Kheniche, The Strategy of Environmental Protection in Algeria (PhD diss., specialisation in Political and Administrative Organisation, Faculty of Political Sciences and Information, University of Algiers, 2005), 205–6.

xix. Kheniche, The Strategy of Environmental Protection in Algeria, 205.