



ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA AS A MECHANISM FOR REALIZING PREVENTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract:

The environment stands out as one of the most pressing transitional issues, with its security being necessary for fulfilling peace, national security, and human rights. Environmental security is a fundamental pillar of national security, reflecting the dynamic and interdependent relationship between natural resources and a state's socio-economic structure, thus enhancing local and regional stability.

The need for a regulatory strategy has become evident amid growing restrictions in arid and semi-arid regions, along with signs of changing production patterns, drought, and reduced rainfall. This is further compounded by the unintended expansion of new lands at the expense of forests, tree cover, and pastoral lands, all in an effort to provide livelihoods and meet essential needs.

A consensus has emerged that achieving effective environmental media sought at preserving natural and human resources requires conserving several environmental processes and protecting essential ecosystems. These include maintaining air and water quality, safeguarding forests and wildlife, conserving vegetation cover, and ensuring biodiversity.

key words: Sustainable development; environmental issues; challenges; natural resources; regulations.

Introduction:

The advancement of human civilization has been closely connected to the development of methods for exploiting several environmental resources and natural wealth. In the early phases

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of human life on Earth, humanity's effect on the environment was minimal and almost negligible. Issues such as environmental pollution and resource depletion were not significant, as the environment was capable of absorbing pollutants within the framework of natural ecological balance.

The phenomenon of environmental pollution and exploitation is an old one that has accompanied the existence of humans on Earth. In the past, it did not attract much attention due to the small amount of pollutants and the environment's ability to absorb them. However, this situation changed with the development of life and societies, particularly with the onset of the Industrial Revolution and the entry of humanity into an era of considerable scientific and technological progress across various domains. Given the negative effect of industrial and urban development, as well as the mismanagement and rapid depletion of natural resources, the phenomenon of environmental degradation impacting various components such as water, air, soil, and biodiversity has become more prominent. The environment is no longer able to renew its natural resources, leading to an imbalance between its various elements. As a result, these components are increasingly unable to process the waste and byproducts generated by human activities.

The latter half of the 20th century marked a growing recognition of the need to raise environmental awareness among individuals to conserve the environment. Several regional and international conferences and agreements have been convened, highlighting the significance of maintaining a clean and sustainable environment for human use.

Today, environmental preservation is recognized as a human right under the constitutional frameworks of numerous nations, including the Spanish Constitution, the Portuguese Constitution, the Greek Constitution, and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Al-Hasban, 2011,p284).

Similarly, for a long time, environmental degradation was viewed as an inevitable consequence of industrial and

technological progress, or as a necessary price to pay for the advancements achieved. Discussions about protecting the environment from such degradation were often regarded as a luxury. Humanity did not fully understand the negative effects of environmental degradation until the second half of the 20th century, following a series of environmental disasters that shook the world. These events led to growing and widespread interest in environmental issues at all levels, with the environment becoming one of the contemporary challenges closely linked to development and economic activity.

The relationship between vulnerability to environmental problems and the ability to fulfill environmental security is affected by the societal context. Furthermore, some communities may demonstrate greater capacity to address environmental challenges—even catastrophic ones—compared to others that lack the necessary internal resources to confront them effectively.

The Algerian legislator aimed to develop mechanisms for environmental preservation through legal provisions sought at protecting environmental elements. These measures include granting administrative authorities, whether central or local, the power to issue operating licenses for classified facilities, monitor them, and exercise broad powers in urban planning—including planning, implementation, and oversight—while imposing restrictions to ensure compliance with environmental standards. To manage environmental risks, strategies must be developed to mitigate disasters. This involves recognizing and comprehending risks through identification and evaluation processes.

Article 5 of the Environmental Protection Law within the Framework of Sustainable Development (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**) introduced a set of tools referred to as "environmental management tools." These include environmental media, the establishment of environmental standards, and the planning of



environmental activities. Therefore, environmental media is considered the first of these tools.

This raises the following problem statement: **How effective is environmental media as a management tool in achieving a balance between the environment and sustainable development?**

To address the study's topic and answer the raised problem statement, this article has been divided into two sections. **The first chapter** discusses the conceptual framework of environmental media, while **the second chapter** presents the role of environmental media in protecting the environment to fulfill sustainable development.

First Chapter: The Conceptual Framework of Environmental Media

The environment is one of the most significant issues addressed at both international and national levels due to its close connection with human, animal, and plant life. This prompted governments, countries, and global communities to organize specialized conferences and workshops sought at addressing several environmental concerns. These issues have grown more urgent, especially following the Industrial Revolution, the rise of pollution in natural environments, and humanity's entry into an era of scientific and technological advancement across various domains. The negative effects of development, along with the poor management and rapid depletion of natural resources, have only worsened these challenges.

In this regard, environmental media is regarded as one of the key practical pillars for safeguarding the environment by raising environmental awareness among citizens.

As stipulated by the Algerian legislator in Law 03-10, under Article 03 thereof, this law is based on a set of general principles, among which is the "principle of information and participation". This principle guarantees every individual the right to be informed about the state of the environment and to participate in

preliminary procedures when decisions are made that could harm the environment.

Hence, this chapter will focus on defining environmental media (**First section**) and then examine its forms and objectives (**Second section**).

First Section: Defining Environmental Media

Environmental degradation has increasingly impacted several environmental elements, rendering them incapable of renewing their natural resources. As a result, these components can no longer process the waste and residues generated by human activities. The growing awareness of the severity of environmental problems and their effects has driven the world to seek solutions for environmental damage. This has led to efforts aimed at safeguarding the environment and promoting sustainable development. Global summits and forums have been organized to assess the current state and future of the environment, emphasizing the interconnection between the environment and development. These discussions have highlighted the need to align economic priorities with environmental protection goals and to foster the tools of environmental economics. Among these tools is environmental media, which serves as an economic mechanism to ensure the sustainable use of current resources while considering the interests of future generations. Therefore, the message of sustainable development is clear: without a healthier environment, development will collapse.

To define environmental media as a mechanism for environmental protection within the framework of sustainable development, it is essential to first clarify its meaning (**First subsection**) and then explore the concepts of both the environment and sustainable development (**Second subsection**).

First Subsection: The Concept of Environmental Media as a Mechanism for Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development



Given the interconnectedness of ecosystem elements through laws that ensure ecological balance, any disruption to one of these components leads to an imbalance in the environment. Since human activities and the exploitation of environmental resources often cause changes to elements within the ecosystem, it is important for individuals to consider the environmental effects of any activity they intend to undertake. This can be achieved by conducting studies aimed at evaluating the environmental impacts of a project on ecological balance. However, these studies can only yield the expected results if sufficient information is available.

This information must be disseminated to the population in order to promote environmental awareness and prepare individuals who are environmentally conscious and committed to protection efforts.

Environmental awareness is one of the key practical pillars for conserving the environment by enhancing environmental sensitivity among citizens. One of the most significant mechanisms employed in this regard is environmental media and communication.

Based on this, we will first explore the concept of environmental media from a scholarly perspective (**First**) and then discuss its legal interpretation under Algerian legislation (**Second**).

First: The Jurisprudential Definition of Environmental Information

With the increasing environmental issues, the term "environmental media" began to grow, taking on the responsibility of raising awareness among the public and decision-makers about the significance of conserving the environment and managing its resources in a balanced way.

- Environmental media refers to the use of media by qualified individuals in both environmental and media domains to raise awareness of environmental issues and create public opinion that actively engages with these issues. Thus,

environmental media is regarded as one of the essential pillars in safeguarding the environment by imparting knowledge to the public, making it a tool for spreading values of environmental preservation and eliminating harmful behaviors.

- It is also defined as media that targets the development and protection of environmental capacities, allowing proper functional adaptation socially and biologically for citizens. This leads to more sustainable environmental behavior in their interaction with their surroundings, while motivating them to participate in environmental protection projects and resource preservation (**Jasem, 2021,pp297-298**).

- Environmental media is defined as the use of all types of media to educate individuals and provide them with information that contributes to maintaining the environmental integrity of the areas in which they live.

- It is also the process of developing environmental awareness among the public, as well as decision-makers, through mass communication channels (**Hadiya Youssef & Khalil Abdullah,2016,p82**).

Second: The Legal Definition of Environmental Information

The Algerian legislator defined "the right to environmental information" for the first time under Law No. 03-10 on the Protection of the Environment within the Framework of Sustainable Development. It was regarded as one of the objectives of environmental protection within sustainable development, as outlined in paragraph six of Article 02, which states the following: "The protection of the environment within the framework of sustainable development, in particular, aims to: ... reinforce media awareness, public participation, and the involvement of various stakeholders in environmental preservation measures (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**)."

The "right to environmental information" was also established as one of the principles on which this law is based,



through the recognition of the principle of "information and participation," which grants every individual the right to be informed about the state of the environment and to participate in pre-decision-making processes for decisions that may harm the environment (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**).

In another part of the same law, specifically in "Chapter Two," the legislator included environmental media within the "tools for managing the environment," noting that it is placed first in the enumerated tools. The law states: "The tools for managing the environment include:

- An environmental information body,
- Determining environmental standards,
- Planning the environmental activities conducted by the state,
- A system for assessing the environmental effects of development projects,
- Defining specific legal frameworks and regulatory bodies,
- The involvement of individuals and associations in environmental protection (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**).

The legislator also regulated the process of environmental media and its operation, ensuring that it is comprehensive (**Hassouna, 2012-2013,p214**) and organized according to Article 06, which states: "A comprehensive environmental information system shall be established, which includes the following:

- Networks for gathering environmental information from public or private entities,
- The organization of these networks and the conditions for collecting environmental data,
- Procedures and methods for processing and validating the accuracy of environmental data,

- Rules regarding the general, scientific, technical, statistical, financial, and economic environmental data, which contain accurate environmental information,
- All information concerning various environmental aspects at the national and international levels,
- Procedures for handling requests for information as per the provisions of Article 07 below.

The implementation methods of this article shall be determined through regulation (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**).

Second Subsection: The Concept of the Environment and Sustainable Development

The concern for environmental protection has long been a priority, yielding several positive outcomes that cannot be overlooked. Among the most important of these is the enactment of various laws by countries at different levels, all sought at preserving and protecting the environment. The environment serves as a reservoir of natural resources and materials that underpin development in its economic and social dimensions. However, development often challenges key environmental elements, such as water, air, soil, and biodiversity. As a result, environmental protection is necessary to addressing these challenges, ensuring a balance between development and preservation.

This subsection explores the topic in two parts: first, the concept of the environment, and second, the concept of sustainable development.

First: The Concept of the Environment

Given the widespread recognition of the dangers posed by human activities—such as pollution, resource depletion, and environmental threats—it is significant to organize and regulate these activities and behaviors to protect the environment. This includes determining actions that disrupt the ecological balance.



The environment, as a field of study, is of interest to numerous humanities disciplines, leading to a multiplicity of definitions for the term "environment" across these diverse domains. Each branch of science (Abdel Majid, 1992, p70) defines the environment based on its perspective, shaped by its specific area of specialization.

1. Environment: Linguistically:

In Arabic, the term "environment" has two primary meanings:

First: It refers to a home or dwelling. The environment of a person is his home or the place he chooses to live. For instance, the sentence "*Bawwa'a al-rajul adyaafahu*" means "he hosted his guests," demonstrating that he provided them with a place of hospitality. The word "environment" (*Bee'a*) is derived from the verb "*Bawwa'a*," as in "*Tabawwa'tu manzilan*," meaning "I settled into and prepared a home."

Second: It signifies condition or state. The term "environment" can refer to all aspects related to a person's economic, living, or health status. For example, it is said, "*Inna fulanan la-husn al-Bee'a*," meaning "he is in good condition," referring to his favorable state or circumstances (Ibn Manzur, 1955,p143).

2. The Concept of the Environment in Legal Doctrine

In this context, the environment is understood as:

"The medium or space in which humans live, influencing them and being influenced by them. This meaning aligns with the term *Environnement* in French, which refers to the total natural conditions of a place, including water, air, land, and the living organisms surrounding humans (Keddi, 2010,p34)."

• Alain Bombard, in his book *La Dernière Exploration*, defines the environment as: "*The study of the balance between animal, plant, and mineral species, emphasizing contradictions in ecology* (Taraf, 2002,p16)."

• According to the *Encyclopedia of Natural Geography*, the environment is: *"The space in which humans live and engage in production processes, comprising both living and non-living materials, and influenced by social and economic factors. It includes both the natural and social environments (Fartas,2020, p04)."*

Ecology, on the other hand, is defined as: *"The science that studies the environment in which living organisms exist. In other words, it examines the interactions between living organisms and their natural, social, cultural, and human surroundings (El-Qasas, 1994,p32)."*

In the development of environmental protection within the framework of legislative environmental security, a period emerged in which economic and trade tools were used as a new direction for international environmental protection strategies. These strategies include:

- Imposing total or partial bans on trade in products derived from endangered species.
- Penalizing or prohibiting the international transport of polluting or hazardous products.
- Informing importing countries about the ecological and harmful features of traded products.

In this context, European countries have championed the concept of environmental taxation (Ecotax) as a modern and effective means of safeguarding the environment. Similarly, several Arab countries—including Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan—have adopted this approach and enacted environmental taxation laws (**Rezig, 2007,p101**).

The significance of constitutionalizing the right to a healthy environment is evident in various ways. First, such constitutional provisions prevent legislators and public authorities from disregarding this right when drafting laws, thereby restricting actions that could harm environmental interests. Second, they establish a constitutional obligation for both individuals and the state to safeguard the environment. Finally, these provisions



provide environmental advocates with a solid constitutional foundation to defend and enhance environmental protection. (Afkiren, 2006,p23).

The Algerian legislator addressed environmental protection in the 1967 Constitution, specifically in Article 151 of Chapter Three. This article granted Parliament the authority to legislate in areas associated with regional development, environmental protection, the preservation of animals and plants, the safeguarding of cultural and historical heritage, and the regulation of forests and water systems. In the same context, the 1989 Constitution, in Article 115 under the Chapter on legislative authority, reaffirmed Parliament's mandate to legislate on matters regarding the environment, including:

- General rules associated with the environment and living conditions.
- General rules for the protection of animal and plant life.
- The protection and preservation of cultural and historical heritage.
- The general system for forests and grazing lands.
- The general system for water resources (Fartas, 2020, p08).

When discussing environmental laws, four types of standards are typically determined: environmental quality standards, emission standards, product-specific standards, and process-specific standards. In addition, there are international legal instruments, which are represented by the field of international environmental law, marking a considerable transition toward the activation of global environmental protection efforts. Moreover, each country has its own national legal measures for environmental preservation (Al-Toum,2013,p192).

Second: The Concept of Sustainable Development

Development activities rely on the exploitation of environmental materials and natural resources, along with the legal implications that arise from these activities. Negative

environmental phenomena, such as pollution, the accumulation of solid waste in streets and roads, and urban disarray, point to the absence of a legal framework to govern environmental protection and sustainable development.

The Algerian legislator defined the principle of sustainable development in Law 03-10 as: *"A concept that means reconciling social and economic development that can be sustained with environmental protection, i.e., integrating the environmental dimension into development to meet the needs of present and future generations (concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003)."*

Second Section: Forms of Environmental Media and Its Objectives

With the appearance of the concept of sustainable development and the growing international awareness of the sensitivity of the situation, emphasized by international conferences such as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the initiative for a national plan in 1993 was launched to define authorized activities for handling, purifying, and recycling solid waste, as well as conserving historical and archaeological landmarks. To further this transformation, the High Council for Sustainable Development was established to support environmental planning, as per Presidential Decree No. 94-465, issued on December 25, 1994 (Fartas, 2020,p11).

The issue of environmental protection necessitates understanding at the global, regional, and local levels, including scientific, cultural, and dialogical dimensions. It begins with political viewpoints, followed by economic considerations. The common nature of environmental security emphasizes the global scope of environmental issues, revealing that environmental concerns are no longer merely theoretical, as they were in the past. Today, they have evolved into political and economic decisions with associated costs and various strategies.



Thus, environmental media serves as an effective protective mechanism within the framework of sustainable development. In this context, we will first discuss the forms of environmental media (**First Subsection**), followed by the key objectives of this mechanism (**Second Subsection**).

First Subsection: Forms of Environmental Media

Referring to the Law on Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, it is noted that the Algerian legislator has established two levels for the right to environmental information and access:

First – The Public Right to Environmental Media:

The Algerian legislator recognizes environmental media as a public right for both natural and legal persons (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**). These individuals and entities have the right to request information about the state of the environment, as well as the measures taken to ensure its protection. The legislator highlighted that environmental information should include details of environmental damage within the broader context of environmental protection. However, the method of spreading this information is left to regulations.

Second – The private right to environmental information:

The Algerian legislator also acknowledges environmental media as a private right (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**), allowing natural or legal persons who possess information about environmental components to notify the relevant local or environmental authorities. Any individual or entity that holds information about environmental factors that could impact public health—either directly or indirectly—must report this information to local authorities or those responsible for the environment (**Ben Ahmed , 2008-2009,p70**).

It is noteworthy that there is a restriction of the right to information concerning major natural or technological hazards on two levels: **The first level** limits this right to citizens only, meaning individuals holding Algerian nationality, which contrasts with the broader use of the term "persons" in other parts of the law. **The second level** further restricts this right by confining it to citizens residing in areas where major hazards—whether natural or technological—exist. For instance, a citizen not living in an area exposed to the risks of a certain facility cannot claim their right to information about these risks (**Ouanes, 2007,p162**).

Therefore, the Algerian legislator has enshrined the right to environmental information and access in two levels: the first as a public right and the second as a private right. The implementation of these provisions, however, is left to regulatory texts. Unfortunately, the issue that arises is that these texts remain, regrettably, unimplemented in practice, as the regulatory texts clarifying how to implement and activate these provisions have not been issued, despite the law being passed in 2003 (**Hassouna, 2012-2013,p215**).

Conversely, the state has an obligation to inform citizens in specific areas about potential hazards, especially those associated with scientific or technological activities or other possible risks. It is worth noting that specialized environmental media in Algeria still falls short of addressing the environmental risks it faces, as well as the global challenges in this area. Media stakeholders—whether individuals, institutions, or states—have yet to engage in this field in a specialized and professional manner, despite the fact that environmental risks are no less significant than those arising from wars, political conflicts, and social issues (**Ben Mohammed,2015,p181**).

Second Subsection: Objectives of Environmental Media

The primary goal of environmental media is to raise environmental awareness and enhance a sense of responsibility among the public and decision-makers. It aims to direct their



behavior and activities toward a deeper understanding of environmental issues, leading to a change in societal lifestyle and behaviors that harm the environment and nature. This transition encourages a more natural and intuitive relationship with the environment—concepts that have been instinctively understood by farmers and nomads.

Environmental media also seeks to inform individuals about the need to balance their interests and activities on the one hand, and the sustainability of nature and its components on the other. This balance ensures the continuation of human life on Earth while conserving and enhancing the quality of life for wildlife. In other words, environmental media seeks to safeguard humans from nature, protect nature from humans, and promote sustainable development (**Ben Mohammed, 2015, pp182-183**).

In the same context, environmental media contributes to fulfilling numerous objectives and functions, including:

- Raising and developing environmental awareness, meaning increasing awareness of environmental issues and problems.
- Spreading environmental knowledge: The media must strive, through its various environmental content, to raise awareness about environmental issues among the three parties: the government, society through its different institutions, and individuals who become protectors of the environment when they are fully aware of environmental issues. Similarly, individuals could also become polluters and create related problems if they do not have proper knowledge and awareness of their responsibilities toward the environment they live in.
- Pressuring government institutions responsible for the environment, through regional and international organizations, to take appropriate preventive measures to safeguard the environment, fulfill sustainable development of natural resources, and resolve all environmental problems (**Hadiya Youssef & Khalil Abdullah , 2016, pp83-84**).

Second Chapter: The Role of Environmental Media in Protecting the Environment to Fulfill Sustainable Development

The topic of environmental protection is one of the most complex legal issues due to the intricate rules associated with it across several sectors. The Algerian Environmental Protection Law clearly reflects the state's commitment to preventing harm to the environment within the framework of sustainable development. This law seeks to conserve all elements of the environment, restore damaged ecosystems, and enhance the rational ecological use of natural resources, guided by two key principles: one preventive, and the other corrective, deterrent, and remedial.

As specified in Article 3, this law (Law 03/10) is grounded in a set of general principles, one of which is the "principle of information and participation." According to this principle, every individual has the right to be informed about the state of the environment and to participate in the decision-making process, particularly when decisions may affect the environment.

To elaborate on this, we will divide this chapter into two sections. The first section will discuss the state of environmental media in Algeria, while the second will focus on the challenges of implementing environmental media in Algeria and the prospects for fostering it as a tool for protecting the environment in pursuit of sustainable development.

First Section: The State of Environmental Media in Algeria

Environmental issues are recognized by most countries due to their effect on the lives of individuals and communities at all times. This has prompted countries to issue laws to regulate environmental affairs and reduce its problems. Despite the progress made by several countries in this context, and the role of the security apparatus in conserving and controlling environmental crimes, we find that this role is often overlooked, sometimes even completely ignored, particularly in recent environmental laws. This is especially true when considering a



new type of harm in this field, referred to by legal scholars as "environmental damage." This harm includes the deterioration of the natural elements of the environment itself, separate from the damage typically caused to humans and their property (**Salama, 1992,p49**).

Notably, the intervention of law in the field of environmental protection and preservation has been partial. Initially, the law intervened to safeguard the marine environment from pollution, and certain branches of law were the first to address the protection and preservation of the environment. International law has been a pioneer in this field, emerging before national environmental laws (**Salahuddin, 1983,p20**). International treaties regulating water bodies, such as rivers and international lakes, preceded national legal frameworks. Notable examples include the Paris Agreement of 1814, which regulated the use of the Rhine River's water between the countries it passes through, and the 1875 Declaration to safeguard wildlife and beneficial agricultural birds, signed by Austria, Hungary, and Italy (**Salama,, 1992,p49**)

Following this historical perspective, we will turn to national legislation by referring to applications of the role of environmental media in embodying the preventive nature of environmental security and protection (**First Subsection**). Then, we will outline the practical mechanisms to enhance the role of environmental media in Algeria (**Second Subsection**).

First Subsection: Applications of the Role of Environmental Media in Embodying the Preventive Nature in the Field of Environmental Security and Protection

Despite the Algerian legislator's attempt in Law 83-03 (**Law 83-03 dated February 5, 1983**), the first law dedicated to environmental protection in Algeria, to adopt a comprehensive approach to waste disposal on the one hand and environmental protection on the other, various factors have prevented the fulfillment of the desired goals. These goals include protecting natural resources, adding value to them, and preventing and

fighting all forms of pollution. One of the primary reasons for this failure was the delay in issuing a considerable number of regulatory texts stemming from the law, with some of these texts being issued after a delay of seven years or more.

The legislator addressed all aspects associated with environmental information, starting with environmental data, then processing and classifying this information, and expanding the scope of environmental information from its narrow internal context to a broader international framework (**Hassouna, 2012-2013, p214**). The legislator also established a general framework for addressing requests for environmental information, as defined in Law 03-10 under the title "The General Right to Environmental Information." It stipulates that:

“Every natural or legal person who requests information from the relevant authorities about the state of the environment has the right to obtain it. This information can relate to any data available in any form related to the state of the environment, the regulations, measures, and procedures aimed at ensuring the protection and organization of the environment (**concerning Environmental Protection within the Framework of Sustainable Development, Law No. 03-10 dated July 19, 2003, 2003**).”

The legislator has referred the application of this article to regulation (**Hassouna, 2012-2013, p214**). However, it is notable that these texts have remained inactive and unenforced due to the referral to regulations, which are meant to specify how the right to information and access should be exercised. Despite the environmental law stipulating that every natural or legal person has the right to obtain information about the state of the environment from the relevant authorities, it refers to the regulations—which have not yet been issued—to outline the reporting procedures (**Ouanes, 2007, p162**).

Second Subsection: Practical Mechanisms to Promote the Role of Environmental Media in Algeria



For environmental media to succeed in Algeria, it is necessary to implement policies and follow the practical mechanisms listed below, which require:

1. Establishing a central environmental information database, available to environmental and media institutions, providing them with the required data and information.

2. Offering a scientifically logical, clear, and easily understandable approach, with scientific and methodical treatment of environmental issues based on logic, evidence, and solid proof, and avoiding mere description, narration, or superficial coverage.

3. Coordinating with several institutions concerned with the environment, and working on the integration of activities and tasks to ensure effective environmental awareness.

4. Appointing a responsible entity capable of conveying environmental information clearly and accurately, supported by necessary figures and data to address environmental issues and stay up-to-date with the digital age.

5. Pre-planned media strategies for fulfilling the desired environmental media goals that serve environmental issues.

6. Raising awareness among environmental journalists about the significance of their role in safeguarding the environment.

7. Offering opportunities for every individual in society to take responsibility by participating in expressing their environmental views through various media channels, ensuring they serve as interactive platforms for disseminating environmental awareness and culture.

8. Ongoing support and encouragement from environmental administrations to artists, journalists, and media professionals, motivating them to be creative in presenting environmental topics.

9. Providing study programs associated with environmental media in schools, universities, or in scientific and training courses organized by environmental bodies.

10. Establishing an annual award for environmental journalists for their best work related to the environmental sector, in printed, audio, and visual media, to encourage media professionals to engage in this field.

11. The significance of cooperation between all ministries, institutions, and bodies in addressing environmental issues, and benefiting from global experiences in this field, along with active participation in international environmental conferences and forums and using the discussions and recommendations that arise.

12. Collaborating with associations associated with environmental matters and developing a joint cooperation plan to support their activities, particularly those requiring awareness campaigns for voluntary community work and environmental care.

13. Developing policies, plans, and programs and organizing environmental media campaigns for urgent or priority topics, in collaboration with various stakeholders in the environmental sector.

14. Conducting seminars to raise awareness among all segments of society about different environmental issues and the roles assigned to these segments in contributing to environmental matters.

15. Implementing mobile environmental caravans equipped with all necessary audio-visual equipment, providing participants with special publications on environmental topics. Documentary films on environmental issues can also be presented, alongside instant competitions with symbolic prizes. This is an effective mechanism for spreading environmental awareness, as it can reach all segments of society in cities and villages. These caravans can also be organized as environmental weeks at schools, universities, and training centers, including cleaning and planting activities.

16. Increasing the number of publications, brochures, leaflets, and posters addressing environmental issues and encouraging the



change of negative environmental behaviors, values, and concepts (Kzadari, 2018, pp. 249-250).

17. Implementing radio and television programs that demonstrate environmental facts to the public, informing them of their roles and responsibilities regarding environmental problems.

18. Encouraging individuals to form environmental clubs, professional associations, and NGOs with environmental goals, joining them, emphasizing their objectives and activities, supporting their programs, and ensuring the success of their environmental protection projects.

19. Organizing specialized lectures, seminars, research sessions, and conferences to raise awareness and promote education on various environmental issues, such as family planning or pollution control.

20. Raising awareness among senior media officials about the significance of their role in preserving the environment and contributing to the continuity of sustainable development (Jasem, 2021,p306).

Second Section: Obstacles to Implementing Environmental Media in Algeria and Prospects for Enhancing it as a Mechanism for Environmental Protection in Achieving Sustainable Development

The diversity of contemporary environmental problems has prompted international bodies and most countries around the world to seriously legislate laws sought at identifying appropriate solutions to mitigate these risks. Similarly, environmental preservation and sustainable development have been reflected in Algerian legislation, with Algeria, as a member of the international community, bearing the obligations this entails. Thus, this section will outline the relationship between these concepts, the overlap of their respective fields, the various challenges they encounter, and the effectiveness of the mechanisms adopted by the Algerian legislator to strike a balance

between the demands of development on one hand and the need to safeguard the environment on the other.

This section will be divided into two subsections: the first will address the obstacles to implementing environmental media in Algeria (**First Subsection**), and the second will explore the prospects for fostering environmental media as a mechanism for environmental protection in the pursuit of sustainable development (**Second Subsection**).

First Subsection: Obstacles to Implementing Environmental Media in Algeria

Numerous researchers in the field of media and the environment believe that environmental media in Algeria has not paid adequate attention to environmental issues and problems. Media coverage has been event-based, superficial, and lacking in explanation, interpretation, and depth on the topic. The main problems facing environmental media in Algeria, which impede its development, include the following:

1. The absence of specialized and experienced journalists in the field of environmental media.
2. The widespread apathy of civil society towards environmental issues, due to a lack of awareness.
3. The absence of a clear environmental media strategy by state institutions.
4. The failure to prioritize the most significant environmental issues that threaten life on Earth.
5. The inability of environmental media to keep up with global developments in environmental matters, relying instead on traditional means (**Sallami, 2020,p39**).
6. The lack of a comprehensive and well-thought-out media strategy, evidenced by the neglect of public health and nature topics. Furthermore, media coverage of these topics, if it occurs, is momentary, arising from an event and lasting only for a few hours or part of a day at best.



7. The absence of a dedicated environmental media institution that adopts and documents environmental issues and problems.

8. The lack of specialization and professionalism in environmental media in most developing countries, as well as in many other countries.

9. The lack of or limited knowledge of journalistic principles of ecology, due to the absence of training and the neglect of workshops and seminars.

10. The cessation of many specialized environmental and nature magazines and bulletins due to a lack of funding (**Ben Mohammed, 2015,p184**).

Second Subsection: Prospects for Strengthening Environmental Media as a Mechanism for Environmental Protection in Fulfilling Sustainable Development

Strengthening environmental media as a mechanism for environmental preservation in achieving sustainable development is evident through:

First: Enhancing capacities in environmental information and fulfilling sustainable development: Sustainable development is one of the Millennium Development Goals. Many initiatives have been launched to integrate information and communication technology (ICT) into addressing environmental issues. To further foster this effort, the European Union launched an initiative in 2007 focusing on ICT and the environment, specifically in climate and disaster management.

Among the priorities related to promoting capacities in environmental information are the following:

1. The right to knowledge should be enshrined in the constitution, ensuring citizens' right to environmental information.

2. Offering sufficient information about national policies and environmental agreements.

3. Supplying individuals with environmental information, monitoring sustainable development indicators, and environmental performance.

4. Publishing regular reports on the state of the environment and updating them.

5. Fostering the role of civil society in ensuring the quality and reliability of environmental information (**Sallami, 2020,p391-392**).

Furthermore, other legal provisions associated with environmental protection from a sectoral perspective stipulate that the administration must offer necessary information to individuals. For example, Law No. 05-12 (**Law No. 05-12 dated August 4, 2005**) related to water states that the administration in charge of water resources must establish an integrated management system for water-related information, which aligns with information systems and data rules. It is required to provide ecological information to anyone wishing to undertake a project legally authorized to extract water from public property (**Allal, 2010-2011,p63**).

Second: Strengthening Environmental Media and Engaging the Public in Measures to Raise Environmental Awareness and Protect the Environment

Environmental preservation within the framework of sustainable development seeks to enhance sustainability by improving living conditions, fulfilling a balance between social and economic development, and working to prevent all forms of pollution and environmental degradation. This is achieved to ensure the preservation of environmental elements and to restore damaged ecosystems through the promotion of rational ecological use of available natural resources, the adoption of cleaner technologies, and the strengthening of media and awareness efforts. Furthermore, it involves engaging the public and various stakeholders in environmental protection measures, as outlined in Article 2 of Law 03-10.



Thus, the responsibility for activating mechanisms for public participation in the development process does not rest solely on government authorities. It extends to civil society organizations and private sector institutions, which have become an integral part of the overall development process (**Sallami, 2020,p392**).

Conclusion:

Based on the above, environmental media planning for the desired objectives must be prioritized. This planning should focus on serving the community, avoiding unwarranted sensationalism, ensuring the provision of knowledge and skills to individuals, and promoting a commitment to environmental preservation and enhancement. It should lead to increased awareness and comprehending among community members about how to address environmental issues, as well as the methods for safeguarding and preserving the environment.

In this context, the state is responsible for the lack of environmental security and must develop its mechanisms to address evolving environmental challenges. On the other hand, society bears liability for continuing traditional practices, ignorance, illiteracy, and its reluctance to develop and adapt. In this regard, society becomes complicit in destructive behavior and limited awareness regarding environmental preservation, which is a significant indicator of the lack of self-environmental security.

In this study, we have reached a set of results and recommendations, which are as follows:

First : Results

- The integration of sustainable development in environmental protection has become an absolute necessity.
- Lack of awareness among members of civil society due to weak environmental media.
- Environmental issues are only addressed after a disaster occurs.

- The media focuses on positive aspects, without addressing the negative impacts on the environment.
- The weak role of state institutions responsible for environmental affairs.
- The lack of journalists specializing in environmental media.

Second: Recommendations

- Enacting new laws that keep pace with global developments in various domains associated with the environment.
- Exchanging the experiences gained in environmental awareness and media between the responsible entities in the public and private sectors to refine and develop the skills of those working in the media.
- Offering opportunities for society at all levels to take responsibility by expressing their environmental opinions through media channels, creating an interactive and creative means to spread environmental awareness and culture.
- Appreciating the efforts of media professionals in the environmental field.
- Rely on prior media planning and monitor the desired goals.
- Communicating with all actors in environmental issues, including scientists, ministries, and environmental bodies.
- Collaborating with civil society organizations on environmental matters to contribute to the realization of sustainable development.
- Training and re-skilling journalists specializing in environmental issues, while supporting environmental-oriented newspapers.
- Encouraging knowledge exchange between countries in the field of environmental media and environmental preservation.
- Giving importance to university graduates specializing in environmental studies by providing them with job opportunities.
- Rewarding environmental journalists through annual awards for the best work in environmental media.



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