

Environmental Planning in Algeria as a Strategy for Environmental Protection

Chinar Saadane 

Abstract. *The environment in Algeria, mirroring global contexts, faces escalating challenges stemming from rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, and natural resource degradation. This article examines the concept of environmental planning in Algeria as a fundamental strategic mechanism for countering these threats and ensuring ecological security. Environmental planning plays a crucial role in harmonizing economic development with the sustainable conservation of natural resources, grounded in core principles such as prevention, integration, and environmental impact assessment. Through a qualitative analysis of the Algerian legislative framework including Law 03–10 on environmental protection and various sectoral mandates the study explores the multifaceted dimensions of environmental planning across comprehensive, sectoral, local, and regional levels. Despite the establishment of robust legal structures like the National Action Plan for the Environment and local Agenda 21 initiatives, the implementation of these strategies encounters significant obstacles. Primary challenges include a deficit in funding, a lack of advanced technological infrastructure, a shortage of qualified personnel, and horizontal administrative fragmentation affecting regional ecosystems. To achieve sustainable development, it is imperative to enhance community awareness, strictly enforce environmental legislation, and foster cohesive cooperation between governmental bodies and civil society. The study highlights the urgent need for continued scientific research and technological innovation to support Algeria's transition toward a sustainable environmental future.*

Keywords: *environmental planning, sustainable development, environmental challenges, Algeria, cooperation*

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Əlcəzairdə ətraf mühitin mühafizəsi strategiyası kimi ekoloji planlaşdırma

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Xülasə. *Əlcəzairdə ətraf mühit global kontekstlərə bənzər olaraq, sürətli urbanizasiya, sənayenin genişlənməsi və təbii sərvətlərin degradasiyasından irəli gələn artan çətinliklərlə üzləşir. Bu məqalə həmin təhlükələrə qarşı mübarizə və ekoloji təhlükəsizliyin təmin edilməsi üçün əsas strateji mexanizm kimi Əlcəzairdə ekoloji planlaşdırma konsepsiyasını araşdırır. Ekoloji planlaşdırma profilaktika, integrasiya və ətraf mühitə təsirin qiymətləndirilməsi kimi əsas prinsiplərə əsaslanaraq, iqtisadi inkişafın təbii sərvətlərin davamlı qorunması ilə uzlaşdırılmasında mühüm rol oynayır.*

Əlcəzairin qanunvericilik bazasının – o cümlədən ətraf mühitin mühafizəsi haqqında 03-10 sayılı qanunun və müxtəlif sahə mandatlarının keyfiyyət təhlili vasitəsilə, bu tədqiqat kompleks, sahəvi, yerli və regional səviyyələrdə ekoloji planlaşdırmanın çoxşaxəli ölçülərini öyrənir. Ətraf Mühit üzrə Milli Fəaliyyət Planı və yerli Gündəlik 21 (Agenda 21) təşəbbüsləri kimi möhkəm hüquqi strukturların yaradılmasına baxmayaraq, bu strategiyaların həyata keçirilməsi ciddi maneələrlə üzləşir. Əsas problemlərə maliyyə çatışmazlığı, qabaqcıl texnoloji infrastrukturun olmaması, ixtisaslı kadr çatışmazlığı və regional ekosistemlərə təsir edən üfüqi inzibati parçalanma daxildir. Davamlı inkişafa nail olmaq üçün ictimai maarifləndirməni artırmaq, ekoloji qanunvericiliyi ciddi şəkildə tətbiq etmək, dövlət orqanları və vətəndaş cəmiyyəti arasında sıx əməkdaşlığı inkişaf etdirmək zəruridir. Tədqiqat Əlcəzairin davamlı ekoloji gələcəyə keçidini dəstəkləmək üçün davamlı elmi tədqiqatlara və texnoloji innovasiyalara təcili ehtiyac olduğunu vurğulayır.

Açar sözlər: *ətraf mühitin planlaşdırılması, davamlı inkişaf, ekoloji problemlər, Əlcəzair, əməkdaşlıq*

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Introduction

The environment in Algeria, as in many countries around the world, faces increasing environmental challenges as a result of accelerated human activities and urban and industrial expansion. These challenges include land degradation, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity, which threaten the environmental stability and health of societies. Under these conditions, environmental planning becomes a vital tool to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and protect the environment from further degradation.

Environmental planning relies on integrating environmental policies into various development sectors to ensure a balance between economic progress and environmental conservation. However, the success of this process depends on several factors, including the effectiveness of environmental legislation, community awareness of the importance of the environment, and the ability of institutions to implement policies in an integrated manner.

1. What is environmental planning?

Environmental changes have brought about a shift in the environmental policy of countries in a manner consistent with the requirements of sustainable development, realizing the seriousness of the deteriorating environmental reality due to the development taking place, which led to the emergence of some environmental solutions to mitigate the severity of the situation. From this standpoint, what is called environmental planning emerged. As a mechanism to protect the environment.

1.1 Environmental planning concept

Planning is considered environmental as it is one of the most important scientific means of preserving the environment and a leading mechanism in development. Through the latter, it is possible to ensure that society obtains the desired benefits from development, and at the same time that environmental resources are preserved for future use.

1.2 Definition of environmental planning

Environmental policies in the international community have sought to find reasonable solutions that stand as a solid barrier in the face of the environmental deterioration witnessed by the world.

Environmental planning is considered one of the ways to achieve a clean environment or at least reduce the imminent environmental danger (Abdul-Maqsoud, 1982, p. 13).

Environmental planning in general achieves results in the future and has a positive impact on the environment through the goals that are drawn up in advance, as well as having well-studied strategic dimensions (Al-Faqih, 2015, p. 12). Environmental planning is one of the most important preventive means of protecting the environment, as the Stockholm Declaration of 1972 on the nature of the environment enshrined it in its second principle, where it insisted that the environment must be preserved in the present without neglecting the right of future generations to natural resources of air, water, soil, animals and plants, all through planning (Yousfi, 2012, p. 4).

Environmental planning can be defined as an organized scientific method that aims to reach the best means through which the natural resources of the environment can be exploited, as well as human capabilities, in a comprehensive integration and harmony, according to a specific and pre-determined timetable through a set of proposed projects. It is thus a new concept and approach in the various fields of planning, where the environmental dimension plays a fundamental role in evaluating projects, and not relying on it is a flagrant violation of the rules of environmental protection (Al-Faqih, 2015, p. 13). To achieve effective environmental planning, the latter must be characterized by credibility and realism of solutions and transparency of standards, which ensures an environmental balance that guarantees prosperity and well-being for citizens in the present and the future (Damoush, 2010, pp. 39–42).

Environmental planning sometimes precedes environmental damage, but this does not prevent planning from occurring later or after the hazards have occurred. In this case, it aims to reduce and absorb the hazards and their damages. Referring to the Algerian legislator, he did not give a definition of environmental planning, but it can be said that Planning relates to the elements mentioned in Article 04, Paragraph 07 of Law 03/10 on the protection of the environment within the framework of sustainable development, which are the elements that make up the environment from natural resources, both living and non-living, such as air, atmosphere, water, land and its subsoil, plants, animals, cultural heritage, and forms of interaction between these resources, as well as places, landscapes, and natural landmarks. However, some terms were used to express this planning (Abdul-Maqsoud, 1982, p. 13).

In general, it can be said that environmental planning is the optimal, thoughtful and organized use of environmental resources and is the way to achieve human needs and goals (Yousfi, 2012, p. 94).

Despite the efforts made, there are still several problems that need to be addressed, most notably:

Does environmental planning in Algeria have the capacity to meet current and future environmental challenges?

Methods

This study employs a qualitative, descriptive-analytical methodology to evaluate the environmental planning framework in Algeria. The research relies on a comprehensive review of primary legislative texts, including Law 03-10 on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (2003), Law No. 01-19 on Waste Management and Control (2001), and associated executive decrees. Secondary sources, including academic literature, national action plans – such as the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PNEAD, 1996) and Local Agenda 21 – and

government reports, were systematically analyzed to assess the structural implementation of environmental planning across comprehensive, sectoral, local, and regional levels.

Results

The Algerian legislation has separated the types of environmental planning that contribute to the consecration of the principle of integrating the environmental dimension in the preparation of plans and programs necessary to protect the environment, from the participatory methods in which the state undertakes to develop these plans in coordination with civil society groups and the private sector, through anticipating and forecasting environmental risks and problems that may occur in the future, and taking precautions and caution regarding them..

1. Comprehensive and sectoral environmental planning

Algeria, like other countries in the world, seeks to promote local development in various ways, while preserving the environment in its various development projects, through environmental development plans that aim to preserve the basic environmental elements related to air, water and soil during the implementation of these projects related to various vital sectors, and also aims to provide good management for them.

1.1 Holistic environmental planning

Environmental planning has emerged as a new method for managing the environment recently, considering planning as a means of future visualization, prediction and guidance that works to achieve preventive-protective intervention for the environment. The issue of protecting economic plans was absent in its early stages in Algeria due to the circumstances accompanying development processes and the difficulty of estimating some negative impacts on the environment and the lack of environmental data and information. In response to the transformations witnessed by environmental policy in Algeria, comprehensive environmental planning was adopted to address the shortcomings of sectoral planning, i.e. each sector separately, forests, water, fishing, etc. (Maafi, 2014, p. 96).

1.1.1 The National Action Plan for the Environment 1996

The National Action Plan for the Environment 1996 included a set of objectives and guidelines to identify environmental problems, determine their causes and address them. Through this, environmental inspectorates were approved at the level of each state (Executive Decree No. 98–276, 1998) and through this, the National Action Plan for Environmental Action and Sustainable Development for the Environment was approved and ended in 2001.

In order to implement the directives of the National Action Plan for the Environment, the National Environmental Action Program has identified two main phases:

- I knew the first stage "At the stage of assessment and diagnosis which was launched in 1997, and the diagnostic report related to it was completed, and this process was undertaken by a group of experts, and covered a group of topics, including developing the institutional and legal aspect of the environment, the topic of health and the environment, and the topic of pollution by liquid flows and waste...."
- The second phase was known as "defining the national environmental strategy", which ended in the second half of 1999, and was accomplished by resorting to international expertise, and ended with a report on the state of the environment in 1998, which became the subject of an annual update.

After completing the diagnosis, study and priority-setting phase, the National Plan for Environmental Action and Sustainable Development was adopted in 2001, to introduce the national environmental policy into its active phase.

The principle of comprehensive environmental planning was enshrined in Law 03-10 (2003), which stipulated that the ministry in charge of the environment should prepare a national plan for environmental activity and its sustainable development on a regular basis, in accordance with Article 14. This is in order to set short, medium and long-term environmental goals in many areas such as health, drinking water, public service, sanitation and waste management.

1.1.2 National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development 2001-2004

After the presentation of the report on the state of the environment and its future in 2000, which gave justified and actual reasons for the interest in the ecological situation in Algeria, preparations were made to prepare a plan for the environment and sustainable development by attracting attention, especially from the public authorities, in view of the huge costs incurred by the country as a result of environmental problems, which was indicated in the report issued in 2001. In an effort to remedy the situation, Algeria committed itself to preparing a national strategy for the environment and a national plan for the environment and sustainable development (Gadari, 2017, p. 170). This initiative was executed by the Ministry of Territorial Planning and Environment, which opened a national discussion on May 12, 2001, summarizing the environmental situation with the participation of all community actors to encourage environmental protection. This stage was also characterized by the issuance of legislation that treated the environment as an essential element of sustainable development (Ramadan, 2019, p. 80).

1.1.3 The Ten-Year Environment Strategy 2004–2011

Based on the previous plan and the Algerian authorities' efforts to improve health in all parts of the country and their interest in the lives of citizens by reducing dangerous industrial pollutants and reducing industrial waste and in an effort to protect biodiversity by reducing greenhouse gases and removing substances harmful to the ozone layer, the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development was adopted to keep pace with the ten-year strategy for environmental protection and depends on allocating each strategic goal to the expected results in the long term (Gadari, 2017, p. 171), without neglecting the short and medium term, while identifying priority objectives (Mahrez & Sayed, n.d., p. 192).

1.2 Section Two: Sectoral Environmental Planning

Environmental planning in Algeria has been limited during the past three decades to sectoral environmental planning only, and has included the water, waste management and urban planning sectors.

1.2.1 Water sector planning: Sectoral planning related to water deals with the national plan for water resources development, and hydrographic basins as a regional tool for managing and protecting water resources. Planning for the mobilization and use of water resources aims to meet water demand and to balance regional and sectoral development, by increasing the quantities of water resources, protecting their quality and rationalizing their use in harmony with the environment and other natural resources (Order No. 96-13 Concerning Water Resources, 1996).

It also supports the national plan for water resources development with the water master plan. In this regard, the government issued Executive Decree No. 10-01 dated January 4, 2010 regarding in the master plan for water resources development, which encourages the valuation of water resources, their economy, their rational use, and the development of non-traditional water resources such as seawater desalination and their use (Wanas, 2007, p. 42).

1.2.2 National plan for the management of special waste: The 1901 law on waste referred to the organization to explain how to prepare a national plan for the management of special waste. Therefore, the task of preparing the national plan for the management of special waste was assigned to a committee headed by the Minister in charge of the Environment or his representative, and

composed of representatives of the Ministry in charge of National Defense and Local Authorities, and each of the Ministries of Trade, Energy, Health, Finance, Water Resources, Small and Medium Enterprises, Traditional Industry, Construction, Industry (Law No. 01-19 on Waste Management, 2001).

1.2.3 The extent to which urban planning keeps pace with environmental tasks: Central planning for the planning and sustainable development of the region was severely delayed due to the dire situation that Algeria went through, and attention was paid to it in light of the profound reforms that took place in the subject of environmental protection, and the stipulation that Creating a national plan for regional development based on basic guidelines such as rational use of spaces and conservation of natural resources (Executive Decree No. 03-477, 2003).

2. Local and regional environmental planning

Environmental planning is one of the most important tools that help preserve the environment and improve environmental quality in urban and rural areas. Through it, environmental risks and potential problems are identified in various areas, whether local or regional, through plans and procedures to deal with these problems and future improvements. As well as focusing on adopting clear strategies to improve the quality of air, water and soil in the specified area.

2.1 Local Environmental Planning

Algeria has relied on local planning as a basic means of achieving economic, social, industrial, agricultural and urban development, as it has assigned local councils the task of planning in these areas. As a result of the inability of the two previous systems, namely sectoral planning and comprehensive planning, to fully achieve the specified environmental objectives, local environmental planning was rethought in the form Which allows for the absorption of regional and local environmental protection concerns, to include various mechanisms for local environmental planning, including (Wanas, 2007, p. 53).

2.1.1 Municipal Charter for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

The Municipal Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development was first adopted within the framework of the 2001–2004 Three-Year Economic Recovery Program. Its objectives included defining the actions that municipal authorities must undertake in order to maintain a good quality environment and adopting an effective policy to achieve sustainable development at the municipal level.

2.1.2 Local Agenda 21(2001–2004)

As a result of the great deficit of local intervention in the field of environmental protection, and the increasing interest in the subject of environmental protection, the Algerian planner was convinced of the importance of changing the approach of local intervention to manage and protect the environment by introducing the element of prediction and visualization into local environmental work, through the local plan for environmental work 2001–2004 Agenda 21.

Local Agenda 21 aims to improve the environmental situation and ensure sustainable development of the municipality as approved by the international community in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro and also urged enriching the local environmental management method by expanding consultation, participation and consultation with all partners, actors and representatives of civil society where it is worth noting that the aim of the local plan is to improve the environmental situation, expand consultation and participation, and prepare industrial areas and urban expansion areas, noting that local environmental planning (The Municipal Charter and Agenda 21) were not subject to a law or decree, but rather came as a result of a discussion opened by the Ministry of Regional Planning and Environment (Maafi, 2014, p. 97).

2.2 Regional Environmental Planning

Local planning has reached a level of maturity that has allowed for the transcendence of traditional local planning methods based on creating local planning according to administrative geographical division, to a planning that is compatible with the specificities of the subject of environmental protection, in view of the natural extension of its elements and systems through homogeneous natural systems and on the basis of confronting environmental pollution that extends and spreads to other administrative borders of local communities.

2.2.1 The crystallization of the idea of regional planning

According to the above, the Blue Plan report prepared by a joint ministerial working group on the pollution of the Chlef Valley, which receives wastewater from 24 urban agglomerations distributed over five states (Medea, Ain Defla, Chlef, Ghlizane and Mostaganem), pointed to the shortcomings of the traditional decentralized policy in confronting the deterioration of ecosystems (Wanas, 2007, p. 151). The same applies to other ecosystems that suffer from horizontal administrative fragmentation, such as the coast, wetlands, basins, and the pastoral steppe region, which has become threatened by desertification and the spread of vegetation cover, as a result of the lack of joint local programmers and plans that provide a way for the local groups concerned with this environment to intervene (Wanas, 2007, pp. 150–151).

2.2.2 Regional symposium on regional planning and development

After much hesitation, the Algerian legislator approved the regional conference system for regional planning and development, which is established at the level of the region's program for regional planning and development (Wanas, 2007, p. 152) and left its formation, tasks and methods of operation to the organization. The region's program for preparing the region was defined as "The region consisting of several adjacent states with similar and complementary physical characteristics and development trends" (Law No. 01-20 on Regional Planning, 2001, Art. 5). This program is considered a framework for consultation and coordination between local authorities in order to prepare Regional plan for the development of the region, its implementation and follow-up (Law No. 01-20, 2001). Regional planning aims to eliminate the logic of sectoral confrontation in the field of planning and eliminate the imbalances resulting from inequality in facing regional problems as a result of the lack of Regional geographical and material proportionality and the success of the regional planning method.

The Algeria 2001 Development Program referred to a comprehensive review of the current list of investments before the Central Agency for the Registration of Investments. Central investments must then be classified into two new categories. The first category includes operations of a joint nature between regions or of a national nature that are managed centrally. The second category includes operations of regional interest or between states that belong to the same regional framework and are subject in the future to investments. Decentralization within the framework of development contracts of the state and local authorities (Wanas, 2007, p. 53).

2.2.3 The legal system for regional environmental planning in Algeria

It should be noted that the regional planning symposium is in fact of a technical nature only and is a tool for consultation and prediction only. This is due to the absence of a legal organization that governs it and clarifies its organization and workflow. The regional planning system does not bring about a change in the current administrative structure, which only recognizes the legal personality of the municipality and the state at the local level as a basis for exercising authority. Organizational (Wanas, 2007, p. 156).

Discussion

1. Environmental planning components

The planning method in the environmental field seeks to avoid mistakes before they occur and to address mistakes before they occur. Environmental planning as a trend and approach in environmental management is affected by the credibility of the solutions, the clarity of the adopted standards, and their efficiency in creating environmental balance in a way that ensures the prosperity and well-being of the citizen in the present and the future (Damoush, 2010, p. 42). Environmental planning is based on a set of components and pillars that must be available to ensure the effectiveness and success of planning in the mission of protecting the environment, and they can be accomplished as follows:

1.1 Availability of comprehensive and transparent environmental information: Environmental planning depends primarily on the availability of a set of comprehensive and detailed information about the environmental condition of the area or region to be planned and its absorptive capacities, it also requires the availability of data on the available natural resources and the population census of the region in order to plan and develop mechanisms to ensure the sustainable management of these resources and meet the diverse current and future needs of the population without harming the quality of the environment (Mahrez, n.d., p. 185).

1.2 Environmental plan: An environmental planner is a person who has sufficient experience and knowledge in the field of environmental protection and preservation and relies on his experience and knowledge when planning various projects. The environmental planner is characterized by the following features and characteristics (Al-Rumaidi, 2018, p. 267):

- Natural resources are seen as limited and may run out if they are depleted or misused.
- He has a broad scientific background, experience and knowledge as he always seeks to know everything new in the environmental field.
- High environmental awareness and continuous efforts to preserve the environment and reduce waste and pollutants.

1.3 Environmental control: Environmental monitoring is an important tool to ensure that all parties concerned with environmental protection adhere to the conditions included in the plan. It also provides a corrective feedback mechanism through which the plan can be modified and adapted to changes in the internal and external environment (Mahrez, n.d., p. 186).

1.4 Environmental awareness: Continuous monitoring and follow-up represent one of the sources of success for environmental planning, as it contributes to ensuring that all environmental procedures and obligations contained in the plan are implemented and not ignored. Environmental monitoring also contributes to identifying deviations and violations in the implementation of the plan, and then there is the possibility of taking corrective measures that restore the situation to its natural course and ultimately achieve the targeted objectives (Al-Rumaidi, 2018, p. 268).

1.5 Popular participation: It is a charter that recognizes the participation of the masses, dialogue, setting and implementing policies, with the participation of all residents and official bodies, and following the decentralization approach, due to the role of governments and municipal and village councils in preserving the environment (Mahrez, n.d., p. 186).

2. The role of environmental planning in protecting the environment

2.1 Environmental planning principles

Environmental planning can only be carried out if it is based on a set of principles, including:

2.1.2 Prevention principle: Environmental planning is based on preventive rules, considering that environmental matters require rules that regulate them in advance of the occurrence of pollution and the occurrence of damage, considering that the principle of prevention aims primarily to take the necessary measures to avoid potential damages that may be difficult for society to bear their effects,

in accordance with the common proverb that prevention is better than cure. The issue of identifying the source of pollution and proving its negative effects on the environment, as well as imagining how to treat it before it causes damage, is essential in the prevention process, as the principle of prevention seeks primarily to achieve two goals, the first of which is related to avoiding damages that may be difficult to remedy after they occur. The second is related to reducing the economic cost of treating environmental pollution.

Given the importance of this principle, it has been enshrined in many international conventions, including the Rio Declaration of Principles on Environment and Development, which is included in Principle 15 (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 1998, p. 13). The Algerian legislator, in turn, adopted the principle of preventive activity and correcting environmental damages with priority at the source, and this is done by using the best available technologies and at an acceptable economic cost (Law No. 03-10 on Environmental Protection, 2003).

2.1.2 The principle of integration and comprehensiveness: Environmental relationships are characterized by the property of interconnection, which makes them affect each other, and any damage to one element affects the other. This is what environmental planning depends on, as the environment is viewed from a perspective of integration and comprehensiveness when implementing various plans so that the environmental plan is comprehensive for all elements of the environment, which ensures optimal protection for it. For example, combating pollution must be comprehensive for all elements of the environment, from air to land. Neglecting any element of it makes the environmental plan useless (Damoush, 2010, p. 47).

2.1.3 Back to nature principle: Human life has become primarily artificial due to the development that has taken place, thus ignoring everything that is natural. Therefore, environmental planning, when preparing its environmental plans, is keen on natural solutions because they are more effective and less expensive (Abdul-Maqsoud, 1982, p. 37). For example, biological resistance i.e., one of the attempts to restore the natural balance to what it was by encouraging and increasing the natural enemies present in the environment, importing them, trying to acclimatize them, then spreading or releasing them with the aim of reducing agricultural pests to a level that is less than critical (Yusuf, 2024). In addition to its effectiveness, it does not pose any danger to living organisms and their surroundings, and it improves soil properties and encourages sustainable agriculture. In addition to its economic cost, unlike synthetic pesticides that have serious environmental effects in addition to their high cost. The principle of environmental impact assessment: Planning as a new approach and concept that builds projects from an environmental perspective and through it the principle of environmental impact assessment is implemented (meaning studying the potential positive and negative impacts of the project on the environment from all its natural, economic and social aspects, and estimating these impacts with expenses, social benefits and environmental impacts as a criterion for choosing between the proposed alternatives (Maleh, 2015, p. 43); by taking into account the environmental load when proposing development projects. So that these projects and their ambitions do not exceed the limits of the load called the critical ecological limit, which is the limit at which development must stop and not exceed it. Thus, we can say that planning can influence all development decisions by choosing its location, level, type and time (Abdul-Maqsoud, 1982, p. 43).

2.1.4 Integration principle: Environmental planning contributes to the consecration of the principle of integration, as the latter requires the integration of arrangements related to environmental protection and sustainable development when preparing and implementing sectoral plans, which is what environmental planning works on, as it is planning governed primarily by the environmental dimension, which makes it an advanced stage in the consecration of this principle.

2.1.5 The principle of self-reliance: Each community has a set of unique characteristics due to its reality and the nature of its environmental resources. Therefore, we find that the success of

environmental planning depends on the extent of its ability to link the community to its environment by finding solutions that suit the local environment (Hassouna, 2013, p. 142).

Since foreign solutions do not conform to the local environment. Therefore, environmental plans must be based on local knowledge and expertise to be in line with local specificities. This does not mean not benefiting from foreign expertise, but rather the benefit must be according to the necessity and needs of the local community (Damoush, 2010, p. 43).

2.2 The importance of environmental planning

Environmental planning is an effective mechanism for using environmental resources efficiently and in a thoughtful manner, without affecting or harming the environment. It also has developmental goals that appear in the short, medium and long term. Over time, all countries of the world have concluded that there is no room to achieve sustainable development without effective environmental planning, as it contributes to achieving a balance between development and preserving the environment at the same time (Al-Rumaidi & Talhi, 2018, p. 262). The importance of environmental planning is evident in various fields, whether economic, social or health, which can be explained as follows: The importance of environmental planning is evident in various fields, whether economic, social or health, which can be explained as follows:

2.2.1 Economic aspect: The advancement of the economy inevitably depends on prior studies and statistics through which the broad policy items that countries and institutions will adopt to achieve an ideal economy are drawn. The latter cannot be achieved unless the environmental aspect is taken as a basic element in drawing its lines, as environmental planning contributes to achieving significant economic growth directly or indirectly (Al-Rumaidi & Talhi, 2018, p. 263).

2.2.2 Social aspect: This is evident from the basic principle of environmental planning, which is the optimal exploitation of natural resources, without prejudice to the rights of future generations on the one hand, and between humans and other creatures on the other hand, through preserving natural resources and limiting the manifestations of their depletion and achieving social justice and the principle of equal opportunities through (Hassouna, 2013, p. 23):

- Eliminate poverty in all its forms;
- Working to solve unemployment problems;
- Finding solutions to population growth problems;
- Achieving a tangible balance between population growth and the exploitation of available resources;
- Eliminate the manifestations of chaotic construction and all social ills.

2.2.3 Health aspect: a healthy and clean environment will inevitably have a positive impact on the health of citizens, and this is what environmental planning has brought about, as it contributes to the following (Gadari, 2017, p. 161):

- Good planning of vehicle traffic and the road network in general reduces pollution and noise levels;
- Purifying the air and reducing pollution rates by increasing green spaces in a thoughtful manner in urban areas and working to preserve and expand agricultural areas;
- Isolating industrial areas away from areas witnessing citizen movement and residential areas;
- Safe disposal of waste, recycling, and the spread and transmission of diseases and health deterioration (Gadari, 2017, p. 162).

Conclusion

In conclusion, environmental planning is an indispensable strategic tool to address the growing environmental challenges facing Algeria and the world in general. Despite the efforts made to develop environmental policies aimed at achieving a balance between economic development and environmental protection, there are still gaps that require greater attention. Providing financial and technical resources, increasing community awareness, and developing environmental legislation are all essential elements for the success of any effective environmental plan. Improving cooperation between various government and private sectors, and enhancing the role of civil society in protecting the environment, are necessary steps towards achieving sustainable development. There remains an urgent need to enhance scientific research and adopt technological innovations that contribute to reducing negative impacts on the environment. Through continuous collective efforts, environmental planning can achieve its goals in building a sustainable environmental future that preserves the country's resources for future generations, and ensures a clean and safe environment for all.

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