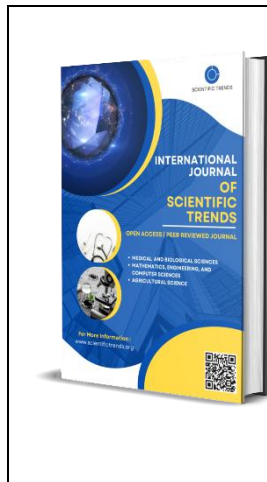


The System and Powers of State Governance Bodies in The Field of Ecology

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Abstract

This scientific article provides a comprehensive analysis of the system of public administration bodies in the field of ecology and their competencies. The study examines the institutional structure of environmental governance, the distribution of powers, and the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation. Particular attention is given to the role of digital technologies, public participation, and economic instruments in implementing environmental policy. Based on international experience, recommendations for improving environmental governance are proposed. The findings highlight the need to modernize public administration to ensure environmental safety and achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: Ecology, public administration, competencies, environmental control, sustainable development, environmental policy, digitalization, public participation, green economy, environmental safety.

Introduction

In the current context of globalization and industrialization, environmental problems are becoming one of the most pressing issues of human development. Factors such as climate change, air pollution, the depletion of water resources, and the reduction of biodiversity require special attention to the field of ecology within the system of public administration. From this perspective, the scientific study of the system of state governance bodies in the field of ecology and their powers holds significant theoretical and practical importance. Modern scientific research shows that the effectiveness of environmental governance largely depends on the distribution of powers among state bodies, their mutual cooperation, and the extent to which control mechanisms are properly established. In particular, in the implementation of environmental policy, the institutional system of the state—namely, the integration of specially authorized bodies, supervisory structures, and public institutions—plays an important role. Therefore, the formation of an effective model of public administration in the field of ecology is considered one of the priority directions of contemporary scientific research.

The current Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Nature Protection” clearly defines the powers of state bodies responsible for public administration. State bodies are divided into general competence bodies and specially authorized bodies. General competence bodies include the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and local government authorities, while specially authorized bodies include the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, the

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Bodies with general competence, while carrying out public administration in economic and social spheres, also address certain environmental issues. For this reason, they are referred to as bodies with general competence.

Specialized management bodies play a crucial role in addressing tasks related to environmental protection and ensuring the rational use of natural resources. They are entrusted with carrying out important functions in the field of environmental governance, including environmental planning, standard-setting, expertise (assessment), licensing, certification, monitoring, and other related activities.

Specially authorized state bodies include ministries, state committees, and agencies that carry out public administration in the field of ecology, and since their activities are primarily related to the regulation of environmental relations, they are classified as specially authorized bodies. Specially authorized state bodies are divided into intersectoral bodies, which manage several sectors and multiple natural resources, and sector-specific bodies, which are responsible for managing a particular natural resource. There are also other authorized bodies involved in the system of public administration in environmental protection and the use of natural resources; although they do not carry out specialized environmental activities, their participation in governance in this field is evident. These include the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its Hydrometeorological Service Center, as well as the Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In recent years, issues of environmental governance have also been widely discussed in international academic literature. In particular, studies conducted in 2023 analyzed the interrelationship between environmental law and climate policy, revealing that monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in the implementation of environmental legislation are not sufficiently effective. This highlights the need to improve the powers of state governance bodies, enhance the coordination of their activities, and strengthen accountability systems.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, environmental protection and ecology are recognized as one of the priority directions of state policy. In particular, the “Uzbekistan – 2030” Strategy includes ensuring environmental safety, the rational use of natural resources, and achieving sustainable development among its main objectives. This, in turn, necessitates the improvement of the system of state governance bodies in the field of ecology and the clear definition of their powers. The system of public administration in the environmental sphere generally consists of several levels, including central government bodies, regional administrative structures, specially authorized agencies, and public oversight institutions. Within this system, each body performs its own specific functions, such as normative-legal regulation, control and monitoring, preventive measures, environmental expertise, and executive functions. At the same time, the existence of public oversight institutions plays an important role in ensuring openness and transparency in environmental governance.

According to modern approaches, environmental governance is not limited solely to the activities of state bodies, but also includes public-private partnerships, the involvement of civil society institutions, and innovative technologies. For instance, some studies emphasize that the introduction of digital technologies and accountability systems in strengthening environmental

monitoring and control can serve as an important factor in reducing environmental violations. This, in turn, makes it necessary to revise the powers of state governance bodies in the field of ecology in line with modern requirements. In addition, the effectiveness of the environmental governance system is largely determined by its legal foundations. Legislation must clearly define the powers of state bodies, their interrelations, liability measures, and control mechanisms. Otherwise, duplication or ambiguity of powers may reduce the effectiveness of governance. Based on the above, a comprehensive study of the system and powers of state governance bodies in the field of ecology is considered relevant not only from a theoretical perspective but also from a practical one. This research analyzes the structure of the state environmental governance system, its main components, and the distribution of powers on a scientific basis, as well as develops proposals regarding existing problems and ways to address them.

The study of the system of state governance in the field of ecology and its powers has recently become one of the important directions of scientific research. In particular, in the period after 2020, the intensification of global environmental problems, climate change, and the increasing relevance of sustainable development issues have required a deeper examination of both the theoretical and practical aspects of environmental governance. Analysis of modern literature shows that the environmental governance system is being viewed as a multi-level, complex, and integrated mechanism. In international scientific literature, the concept of environmental governance is interpreted as a system formed on the basis of interaction and cooperation between the state, the private sector, and civil society institutions. Recent studies emphasize that the effectiveness of environmental governance is closely linked not only to the activities of state bodies but also to social cooperation and public participation. In particular, research conducted in 2025 revealed that regions with a higher level of eco-efficiency also demonstrate increased public involvement in addressing environmental issues. This indicates the need not only to expand the powers of state governance bodies in the field of ecology but also to integrate them with the public. Furthermore, in studies published by the OECD in 2024, the concept of “green budgeting” has been given special attention, substantiating the need to align state fiscal policy with environmental priorities. This approach emphasizes that the powers of state governance bodies should be expanded not only in terms of control and regulation but also through financial support of environmental policy. This, in turn, demonstrates the close interconnection between environmental governance and economic instruments.

The theoretical foundations of the state governance system in the field of ecology have also been widely studied by local scholars. In particular, research conducted in 2023 interpreted environmental governance as an executive and directive activity of the state, noting that its main objectives are environmental protection, the rational use of natural resources, and ensuring ecological safety. This approach presents environmental governance as an important component of state policy. In recent scientific works, the institutional structure of the environmental governance system is being analyzed in detail. In particular, articles published in 2025 note that the system of public administration in the field of ecology is formed through legal foundations, authorized bodies, and their interrelations. In this context, the clear distribution of powers and the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination mechanisms are assessed as key factors in the implementation of environmental policy. In addition, modern scientific literature also increasingly addresses the relationship between environmental governance and digitalization processes. In

particular, some studies view the improvement of environmental monitoring and control systems based on digital technologies as an effective tool for identifying and preventing environmental risks. This indicates that, alongside the traditional powers of state governance bodies, new digital governance functions are also emerging.

Another important direction of environmental governance is cooperation between the state and international organizations. In recent years, initiatives aimed at developing cooperation between Uzbekistan and European countries in the field of ecology and environmental protection have been promoted. This, in turn, creates the need to improve the national environmental governance system in accordance with international standards. In scientific sources, the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the environmental governance system also play an important role. In particular, the activities of state governance bodies are assessed based on indicators such as sustainable development levels, environmental safety, and resource efficiency. Some studies have also noted that strategic planning and a comprehensive approach in the implementation of environmental policy are not yet sufficiently developed. In addition, modern scientific perspectives also emphasize that improving the legal foundations of the environmental governance system remains an urgent issue.

The clear definition of powers in legislation, the strengthening of accountability mechanisms, and the effective functioning of the control system are considered key conditions for effective environmental governance. In Uzbekistan, a number of normative legal acts have also been adopted to strengthen environmental policy, and systems of environmental control and certification are being implemented. The analysis of literature shows that the system of state governance in the field of ecology is a multifaceted and complex system, formed through the combination of legal, institutional, economic, and social factors. Modern scientific approaches emphasize that environmental governance should be developed not as a centralized system, but rather as an integrated, open, and participatory one. Therefore, further scientific research aimed at improving the system and powers of state governance bodies in the field of ecology remains of significant importance.

Within the framework of this research, the system of state governance bodies in the field of ecology and their powers were comprehensively analyzed. The results obtained show that the effectiveness of the environmental governance system largely depends on the clarity of the institutional structure, the proper distribution of powers, and the level of inter-agency cooperation. At the same time, in modern conditions, environmental governance is not limited to the activities of state bodies alone, but also requires integration with civil society, the private sector, and international organizations. The analysis revealed that in some cases, duplication or lack of clear delimitation of powers among state governance bodies in the field of ecology is observed. This leads to coordination problems in the governance process and slows down decision-making procedures. In particular, the distribution of environmental control, monitoring, and permitting functions among different agencies sometimes reduces overall efficiency. Therefore, there is a need to clearly define and optimize the allocation of powers. During the study, it was substantiated that an integrated governance system represents a more effective model of environmental management. In such a system, central government bodies are responsible for strategic planning and normative-legal regulation, while regional bodies perform practical implementation and monitoring functions. This ensures a balance between vertical and horizontal governance

structures. At the same time, it was found that the use of digital technologies in the implementation of environmental policy can significantly increase the efficiency of governance.

The issue of digitalization occupies a special place in the discussion of this research. In modern environmental governance systems, GIS technologies, remote monitoring, and automated control systems are widely used. This enables real-time observation of environmental conditions, rapid identification of problems, and timely implementation of appropriate measures. From this perspective, the powers of state governance bodies should also include the introduction of digital management tools. The results of the study also demonstrated the importance of public participation in environmental governance. Civil society institutions, non-governmental organizations, and mass media play an important role in strengthening environmental control. Public oversight increases the transparency of state bodies' activities and enhances social responsibility in addressing environmental issues. Therefore, mechanisms of cooperation with the public should also be considered when defining the powers of state governance bodies in the field of ecology. In addition, the research also discussed the economic aspects of the environmental governance system. The use of economic instruments in the implementation of environmental policy, including environmental taxes, subsidies, and incentive mechanisms, is of great importance. Through these tools, the state not only exercises control but also encourages environmentally responsible behavior. At the same time, the introduction of "green economy" principles is recognized as an important direction for improving the effectiveness of environmental governance.

During the discussion of the research, a comparative analysis with international experience was also carried out. In developed countries, environmental governance systems are more decentralized, meaning that regional bodies and local administrative structures are granted broad powers. This enables faster and more effective resolution of regional environmental problems. In the context of Uzbekistan as well, taking this experience into account, it is possible to further improve the environmental governance system. At the same time, the study identified existing problems and developed proposals for their elimination. In particular, it is necessary to revise the distribution of powers among state governance bodies in the field of ecology, strengthen inter-agency cooperation, widely introduce digital technologies, and increase public participation. These measures will contribute to improving the effectiveness of the environmental governance system. The improvement of the system and powers of state governance bodies in the field of ecology is of great importance in addressing modern environmental challenges. The results of the study demonstrate the need for a comprehensive approach to ensure more effective environmental governance and confirm that further scientific research in this direction remains highly relevant. The results of this study demonstrate the need to improve the system of state governance bodies in the field of ecology and their powers. It has been established that the effectiveness of environmental governance primarily depends on the clear distribution of powers, strong inter-agency coordination, and the introduction of modern management mechanisms. In addition, the use of digital technologies in environmental governance, the expansion of public participation, and the effective application of economic instruments were recognized as important factors. The analysis of international experience also highlighted the effectiveness of decentralized governance models and identified key directions for improving the national system. Overall, the modernization of the activities of state governance bodies in the field of ecology and the optimization of their

powers play an important role in ensuring environmental safety and achieving sustainable development.

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