

# The Truth About the Role of Environmental Associations in Protecting the Environment at the National Level – Algeria

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## Abstract

Environmental problem witnessed great interest at the global level in the Framework of international institutions and the very government of the states institutions in order to solve them and establish the rules of) the laws and legislation (to protect the vital area with all its elements.

However, this process did not live up to the aspirations of the international institutions in the Third World as a result of lack of involvement of civil society in this process from the various associations and even environmental associations.

On the basis of the low environmental situation, and despite the existence of an arsenal of laws to protect the environment at the national level necessitated we put this problem in the fact that the role of environmental associations in protecting the environment and whether this is the missing link loop successfully or sustainable development is a complementary all environmental laws.

**key words:** Environment, associations, Sustainable Development, international institutions, environmental laws.

## INTRODUCTION

The world has witnessed technological and social development in the past seven decades, accompanied by great economic growth that doubles every 25 years, but it has greatly affected the environment and its impact is estimated at 3 centuries before this progress.

This influence has led to the creation of an international movement at the level of the United Nations, which necessitated the creation of mechanisms to preserve the environment at the international level and the creation of indicators to measure the extent to which countries are interested in protection, including the indicator of the number of associations as a whole, especially environmental associations, and comparing them with the number of the population, i.e. an association for every number of population Thus, countries, especially Algeria, were required to encourage collective action, especially after the 1990 constitution [1]. From this standpoint, we will try to identify the work of environmental associations, their role and contribution to society, and the reality of their existence [2].

## A Look at Environmental Associations and Organizations

It is a voluntary, not-for-profit group organized by citizens on a local, national, regional or international basis; It revolves around specific tasks led by people with common interests. The work of some of these organizations revolves around specific issues such as human rights, environment, health, women or children. The concept of these organizations has crystallized through the legal status assigned to it by the United Nations Organization and has become The belief that these organizations are the only refuge in the implementation of humanitarian projects in the face of the inability of states and the paralysis of their organs and the increasing role of their role at the regional and international levels.

## Development of Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations and their Tasks

A number of associations and non-governmental organizations developed in the world between 1874 and 2015. These associations and organizations have taken several approaches to protecting the environment, including:

-An introduction that concerns decision-makers by formulating a clear environmental policy, as well as enacting appropriate legislation to protect the environment and ensuring its implementation, in addition to encouraging scientific research and environmental culture.

-An introduction to economic actors in the public and private sectors; This is by allocating part of the resources to environmental affairs, adopting techniques and means to reduce environmental impacts, as well as mitigating environmental pollution and contributing to the cost of addressing environmental imbalances.

-An introduction to associations and non-governmental organizations to participate in efforts to protect the environment and spread environmental culture by contributing to education programs and confronting all dangers that threaten environmental imbalances and transgressing the borders of countries, we mention the most important internationally known organizations.

### **Green Peace Organization for Environmental Protection and Peace**

It is a voluntary non-governmental organization represented in about 40 countries in Europe, South and North America, and its members reach three thousand members distributed in different parts of the world nuclear weapons and the abandonment of the use of toxic chemical pesticides.

### **Global Protection Zone to Protect Wild Animals**

It is a non-governmental organization with branches in 26 countries and the number of its members around the world is about 4.7 million. It is concerned with protecting all types of wild animals, especially those endangered, and contributing to the establishment of natural reserves for wild animals and protecting forests as a natural medium for wild animals from deterioration.

### **The Position of Environmental Associations within the National Associations**

The associative dimension enshrines the freedom of the individual and his actual contribution to society in an organized framework, and it is considered an important indicator for determining the extent of democracy in societies.

In Algeria, the exclusion and marginalization of associations had reasons for fear that they would turn into political associations and not serve society. The issuance of the 1987 law relating to associations, followed by the constitutional establishment of the right to establish associations in the 1989 Constitution and its amendment of 1996 [1], which imposes on the state the flourishing of the association movement [2]The Associations Law of 1990 details how to exercise freedom of association [3].

The total number of National Societies reached 1108, according to very official figures in 2014, including 77 National Societies concerned with the environment and the environment. The following table shows the distribution of the National Societies and their interests (table1).

**Table1.** Distribution of National associations and their interests

<b>The Ratio</b>	<b>The Number of Associations</b>	<b>Interests</b>
24.19	268	Associations interested in professions
16.78	186	Associations active in the field of health
16.43	182	Cultural and artistic associations
08.12	90	Associations interested in science and technology
7.58	84	Associations active in the field of promoting women and defending their rights
06.95	77	Associations interested in the environment
26.08	221	Other associations
100	118	Total number of national associations

Source: Ministry of Environment and Regional Development

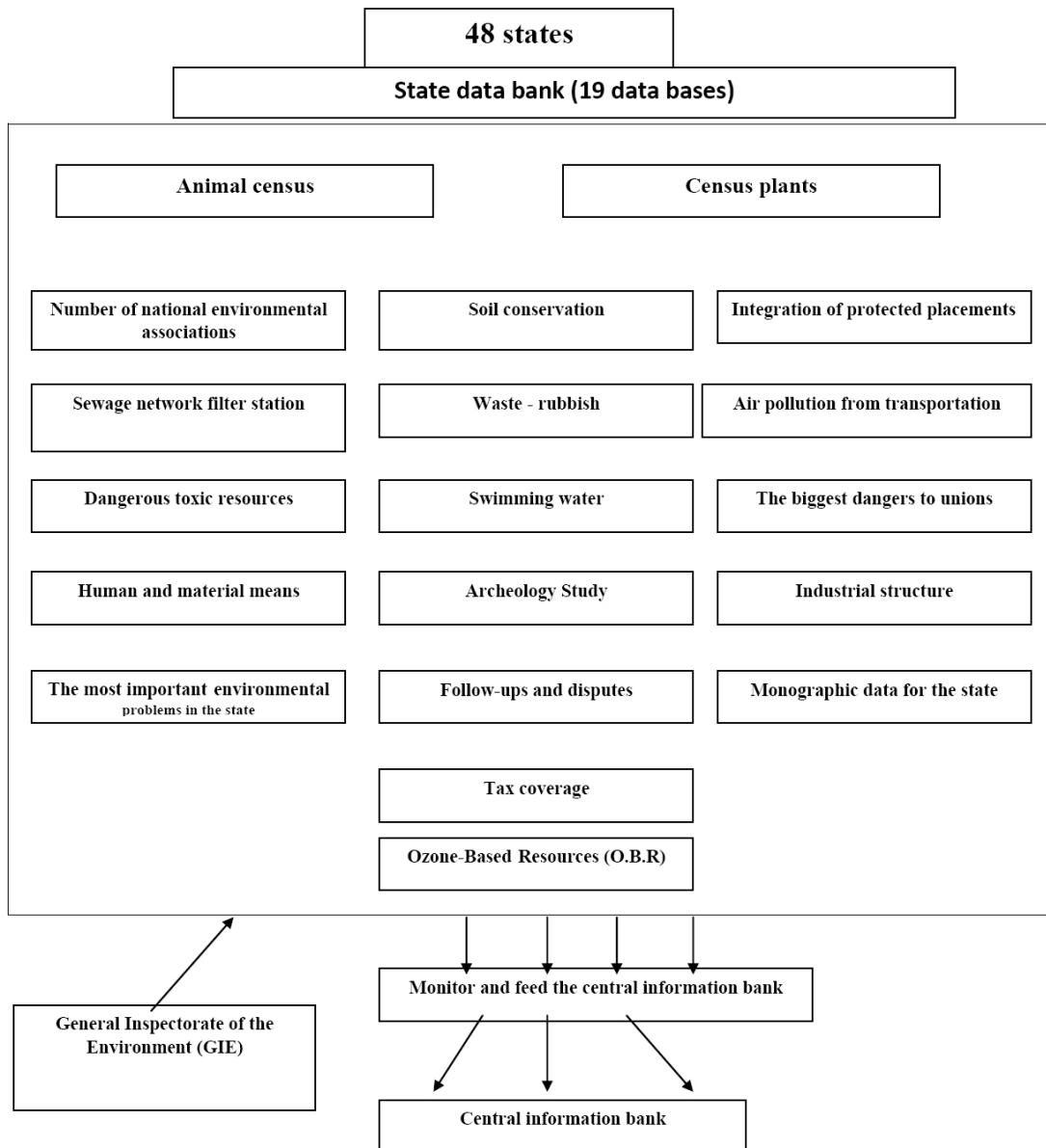
Through the table data, environmental associations occupy the sixth place in terms of interests and national associative activity, which indicates the weak environmental interest in Algeria. If we compare the number of activists with the number of the population able to engage in this activity and among them is more than 18 years old, the real number is an environmental activist for every 291 individuals, which is a weak number compared to international rates and this is due to the weak environmental interest at the level of media, education and advertising.

### **Environmental Associations between Protection and Participation in Decision-Making**

#### **The Role of the Environment Inspectorate and its Relationship with Environmental Associations**

The Environmental Inspectorate is the body responsible for the environmental situation at the state level. It has 48 environmental inspectors at the national level. The Environmental Inspectorate fuses with the protection of the environment and the ocean and tries to monitor any pollution and submit its reservation within the state if it affects the environment.

In addition to collecting all the state’s data in a complex in the form of data in order to divide the current situation and predict potential environmental risks, the following figure shows the environmental data bank at the level of the Environmental Inspectorate (Figure.1).



**Figure1.** Organization and outlets of the data bank for the states

This plan includes the most important topics of interest to the Environment Inspectorate, including the number of local and national environmental associations

However, coordination between the Environment Inspectorate and these associations is only on environmental occasions, as the Environment Inspectorate encourages these associations for the environmental initiatives they undertake.

It does not consider it as an effective partner in environmental management within the state, because most of these associations have limited interests in the environment in the eyes of the Environmental Inspectorate, and this explains the blackout followed by the state towards the real environmental situation.

### **Participation of Environmental Associations in Protecting the Environment**

Through the environmental activities of the National Societies at the national level, the most important concerns were identified according to the data bank at the level of the Environmental Inspectorate, and they are shown in the following table (table2).

**Table2.** Environmental topics with number of national associations

<b>The Ratio</b>	<b>The Number of National Associations</b>	<b>Environmental Topics</b>
3.44	03	protected sites
11.49	10	Water pollution + waste
4.59	04	swimming water
16.09	14	Antiquities and protection of ancient cities
6.89	06	the animals
3.44	3	Agricultural land and desertification
11.49	10	Industrial pollution and its effects on the urban field
31.03	27	The environment in general

Source: National Environment Inspectorate

### **Legal Powers of Environmental Associations**

Law 10-03 related to the protection of the environment came to include associations as an essential partner for the administration in order to achieve the national strategic objectives for the protection of the environment. Monitoring and monitoring of violations that affect the environment and resorting to the judiciary to criminalize the aggressor to the environment are all advantages that give powers to the intervention of associations in all environmental circles and national programs and plans such as the scheme of land occupancy and the creation of green spaces through participation in the preparation of the master plan for preparation and reconstruction in addition to Protection of cultural and historical heritage through the previous plan.

The project also identified cases of exclusive membership of environmental associations in some institutions of an industrial and commercial nature, including the Algerian Water Corporation [4] and the National Office of Sanitation[5].

This representation does not give a real nature to protect the environment due to the absence of environmental specialists in these associations or in the administration, and the consultation between the administration and the associations remains only formal.

### **Reasons for the Weakness of Environmental Associations**

The main forms suffered by various associations in Algeria is the financing aspect, including environmental associations, as they depend on members' subscriptions [6] and subsidies provided by the state and local groups [7] and interests related to their activities, gifts and bequests

All active associations at the state level are transferred from subsidies from state funds to promote youth initiatives and sports practices at a rate of 7 percent of the output of local direct taxes in the states and municipalities [8].

However, the real transfer comes from the Associations Office affiliated to the ministries. Thus, the environmental associations benefit from the Ministry of Territory and Environment Preparation after accepting their annual program of work [9].

-These associations suffer from weak administrative and managerial capacity

- The lack of collective freedom, and this is what the authority sought by linking collective work and making it more administrative than voluntary and linking it to a package of laws and restricting the activities of these associations.

- Establishing the absence of teamwork in universities, which is considered as a real cradle, and thus eliminating any initiative by society in the future, and this ensures the continuity of power

-The society views these associations in conformity with its view of the authority, that is, with an opportunistic view of interests, and this is what the authority seeks

-Complete absence of collective action in education programs

- The absence of a national observatory of associations and lack of coordination between the same associations with one specialization.

### **The Associative Dimension and other Side of Rational Environmental Management**

The rate of associative participation in Algeria, which does not exceed 5 percent of the total population, compared to 11 percent in the West, and in France, 43 percent of the total population, is a very weak rate.

This is a big mistake from an economic perspective, because the more society is framed by associations, the more it can reduce the various dangers and help create a spirit of citizenship within it, and this is through:

\*Communicating all citizens' problems through these associations in an organized framework and defending their rights

\* Keeping pace with the development process and playing the role of an observer for it, and this reduces the complacency and manipulation of development projects in all fields (residential, environmental, cultural).

### **CONCLUSION**

It has become necessary today for environmental associations to work with each other in order to develop a unified strategy and ensure the recruitment of the largest number of citizens and the delivery of a unified media voice through which they can incorporate collective action within the framework of the development process to achieve rational environmental management.

Environmental associations are the basic rule in the urban environment and play the role of bacteria in the watercourse and are expressed by their own power.

So, the environmental associations in any society express their own ability to adapt their lives without harming the environment.

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