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Problems of Assessing Environmental Protection Measures in the Context of the Effectiveness of State and Non- Government Institutions in the Field of Environmental Protection

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Abstract **Review Article**

The article analyses the issues related to the assessment of environmental protection measures by state and non-government institutions in terms of their impact on the processes of improving the environment, maintaining a balance between economic feasibility and environmental impact, and ensuring an appropriate level of environmental safety.

Keywords: Environmental Protection Measures, Public Environmental Control, State Supervision (Control) Bodies, Environmental Safety, Social Effect, Economic Effect, Environmental (Ecological) Effect, Public Environmental Inspectors.

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INTRODUCTION

The issue of evaluating environmental protection measures by state and non-government institutions is quite relevant, because simply carrying out any measure does not mean obtaining a socially significant result, social and environmental results of environmental protection measures.

In addition, it is currently not common practice to carry out a comprehensive assessment of environmental protection measures implemented by both state and non-government institutions, including state and public environmental inspectors, taking into account not only quantitative indicators based on data on identified violations of environmental legislation, but also qualitative indicators of the state of the environment based on the actions of authorised persons, social and economic results of such actions, etc.

Therefore, on the study basis, it seems advisable to develop scientifically sound recommendations to increase the efficiency of environmental assessment in the context of ensuring environmental safety by state and public institutions, based on quantitative and qualitative indicators of their activities, taking into account the possibilities of obtaining social, economic, environmental (ecological), anti-corruption and other effects from the exercise of powers in the field of environmental protection.

Purpose of the Article

Development of scientifically based recommendations for improving the effectiveness of environmental assessment in the context of implementation of environmental protection measures by state and non-governmental institutions based on quantitative and qualitative indicators of their activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employed a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative research techniques to examine and modernize digital mechanisms of citizen participation in state environmental initiatives. Primary data were collected through online surveys, in-depth interviews, and focus groups involving citizens, civil society representatives, and public officials. Secondary data were sourced from national open data portals, government reports, and international analytical publications. Statistical analysis was conducted using Microsoft Excel and Power BI, while qualitative data were processed using NVivo for thematic content analysis. Geographic data were mapped using QGIS to evaluate

regional disparities in citizen engagement. The research design followed a four-stage structure: exploratory review, empirical data collection, model development, and validation through a regional case study, ensuring transparency and reproducibility of the findings.

Analysis of Recent Research and Publications

The theoretical basis of the study is the domestic legal acts and methodologies in the field of environmental protection.

The scientific achievements of ukrainian scientists I. Zharovska, T. Garashchuk, V. Rechytskyi, M. Ostapenko, T. Nalyvaiko, V. Namestnik and others are of great scientific value in the study of means and methods for assessing the effectiveness of implementation of control measures in the field of environmental protection.

The works of such ukrainian researchers as O. Stegniy, K. Sirenko, O. Lokshyna, S. Ilyashenko, L. Ilchuk and others cover the issues of assessing the socio-environmental results of environmental protection measures.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Despite a fairly wide range of studies on the issues of assessing the effectiveness of supervision (control) measures in the field of environmental protection, certain issues still remain unresolved. In particular, the existing system of environmental performance indicators, both in terms of assessing the actions of authorised state and public institutions and in terms of evaluating the measures they take, often does not take into account the possibility of obtaining social, economic, anti-corruption and other effects, along with the environmental (ecological) effect.

In other words, according to the generally accepted paradigm, when assessing the effectiveness of environmental control measures, even qualitative indicators in the form of specific consequences for improving environmental parameters are not always taken into account, instead, the initial data for the assessment are exclusively quantitative indicators, in particular, the number of violations detected, the number of violators brought to justice and the total cost of administrative and economic sanctions accrued and collected.

At the same time, according to the ukrainian researcher M. Babych, with whom the authors fully agree, the assessment of the social and environmental results of environmental measures is carried out for the purpose of comparing the costs and results of these measures in monetary terms, establishing economic standards for stimulating environmental measures and sanctions for their non-implementation or insufficient effectiveness in accordance with the requirements of environmental legislation. Monetary assessment of social and environmental results of environmental protection measures is made in accordance with the economic assessment of damage from environmental pollution prevented through their implementation (Babich, 2011, p. 212).

Other researchers, in particular A. Kraevska, also note that the overall effectiveness of environmental protection measures should be determined by calculating three components: economic, environmental and social (Kraevska, 2007).

In view of the above, it seems advisable to study in more detail the issue of assessing the effectiveness of control measures in the field of environmental protection, taking into account their environmental, economic and social impact, expanding them to study the possibilities of achieving an anti-corruption effect from the implementation of environmental protection measures by state and public institutions. To do this, it is necessary to analyse these aspects and determine whether there is a direct impact of environmental protection activities on the environment, the level of public trust in environmental actors, the economic feasibility and anti-corruption component of such measures.

According to S. Mocherny, the environmental effect is a change in the conditions of the natural environment (environment), the quantity and quality of natural resources. Such changes can be positive and negative, lead to improvement or deterioration of natural living conditions, increase or decrease in the amount of natural resources (Mocherny, 2014).

O.Hindes considers the environmental effect as an integral part of the economic effect, and notes that the environmental and economic effect is the consequences of the impact of various pollutants that enter ecosystems and lead to the qualitative depletion of natural resources during their use. In his opinion, the effectiveness of environmental protection measures is closely related to both environmental and economic efficiency (Hindes, 2013, p. 97).

In general, the analysis of ukrainian scientific sources for the study of different points of view on the concept of environmental effect gives grounds for generalisation and specification of this definition through the prism of the consequences of the impact of economic activity on the quality indicators of the environment, although, in our opinion, the study of alternative views on the assessment of the effectiveness of environmental protection measures by separating the environmental effect from the economic component is necessary, are also quite promising, as environmental protection activities should primarily focus on improving the environmental situation and solving environmental problems, with economic performance being an additional factor in such activities.

Therefore, the economic aspect of assessing the effectiveness of supervision (control) measures in the field of environmental protection should be considered on the basis of research by authors who have extensive experience in determining the economic efficiency of economic activity, summarising and specifying the findings of the study for the environmental industry.

In particular, Professor Paul Heine of the University of Seattle believes that economic efficiency is characterised by the effectiveness of the use of means to achieve goals (Heine, 2005, p. 480).

A. Cherep and E. Strelets consider the economic effect through the prism of budget policy formation (Cherep & Strelets, 2012), which, according to the authors,

is the most successful for analysing the economic component in assessing the effectiveness of environmental protection measures, since the subjects of environmental protection activities, regardless of whether they are state or public institutions, directly affect the financial indicators of filling special funds of both state and local budgets, based on the natural one.

An analysis of the current regulatory legal acts of Ukraine in the field of environmental protection gives grounds to conclude that financial resources from the implementation of supervision (control) measures, namely, revenues from administrative penalties and calculations of the amount of damage caused to the environment as a result of violation of the requirements of the current environmental legislation by business entities, are one of the sources of formation of environmental protection funds of the state and local budgets (Law of Ukraine, 2012).

Therefore, the economic effect, in the context of assessing the effectiveness of environmental protection measures, is the very specific financial consequences of environmental activities for the state or local budgets and is characterised by the effectiveness of detecting violations of environmental legislation and the indicators of cash flows to special funds of local and state budgets from fines imposed as a result of state supervision (control).

An equally important component of assessing the effectiveness of environmental protection measures is the possibility of obtaining a social effect from such activities.

V. Marenichenko believes that social effect is a qualitative systemic result, which includes the search for the most optimal consideration of social needs, and ensures the consideration and satisfaction of the needs of a person and society in the implementation of a particular activity, for example: improving health, developing democracy, education, satisfying aesthetic needs (Marenichenko, 2004, p. 221). Y. Parkhomenko proposed to determine the social effect at the level of the state as a whole and at the regional and local levels (microsocial effect) (Parkhomenko, 2001, p. 73).

Thus, based on the analysis of various scientific approaches to the definition of social effect, we can assume that the most unified definition of the concept of social effect from the implementation of supervision (control) measures in the field of environmental protection is characterised as the result of the activities of state and public institutions in the field of environmental protection, in terms of increasing the percentage of the population of a country or region that understands the importance of environmental problems and the negative consequences of ignoring them, is familiar with the mechanisms and tools available to address such problems, understands, supports and positively perceives environmental activities and has a negative attitude towards violations and offenders of environmental legislation, and is aware of the inevitability of punishment in case of environmental damage.

A separate indicator, which, in our opinion, should also be taken into account when assessing the effectiveness of activities in the field of environmental protection, is the anti-corruption effect, since the experience of countries with effective anti-corruption mechanisms, in particular Finland, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and others, suggests that each of these countries has its own characteristics in the organisation of anti-corruption activities, but they are common to involve public institutions in combating corruption and creating an appropriate legal framework (Lutsevych, 2013), which, firstly, is interesting in the context of our study of the activities of the state and public sectors, and secondly, can serve as a basis for a more detailed analysis of anti-corruption mechanisms for their application in the environmental sector in Ukraine.

Anti-corruption activity is characterised as a system of legal, organisational, managerial, ideological and other measures aimed at reducing the volume of corruption and bringing perpetrators of corruption offences to legal responsibility (Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, 2011).

Thus, the anti-corruption effect in terms of the indicator to be taken into account when assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of supervision (control) measures in the field of environmental protection is the ability of environmental protection entities to influence the elimination of the preconditions and causes of corruption and to ensure a reduction in the volume of corruption and a decrease in the level of corruption in the environmental sector.

CONCLUSIONS

Summing up the above, according to the results of the study on the problems of assessing the effectiveness of implementation of supervision (control) measures in the field of environmental protection, in our opinion, it is advisable to take into account the capabilities of environmental protection entities in terms of obtaining environmental, economic, social and anti-corruption effects from the implementation of their control and supervisory functions in the environmental field.

This approach makes it possible to determine the relevant qualitative and quantitative indicators of the effectiveness of environmental protection measures and is able to ensure an appropriate level of forecasting of further environmental activities, which in turn allows for adjustments to current and future plans to fulfil the tasks set and, as a result, increase the effectiveness of environmental protection measures in general.

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