



ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

ASPECTOS CONTÁBEIS E JURÍDICOS DA POLÍTICA AMBIENTAL NO CONTEXTO DA GLOBALIZAÇÃO

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The article aims to develop measures to coordinate key actors in the ecological economy, compare different approaches to environmental policy instruments, and identify unique characteristics of these approaches within the context of globalization.

Methods: The research employs economic and graphic methods to study changes in environmental parameters. The data is based on statistics from governmental agencies, legislative documents, and scientific research.

Results:

- The study highlights shortcomings in the current environmental accounting systems.
- It proposes the need for new environmental practices, universal strategies, and a modern global management system.
- The paper emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and legal frameworks in addressing the global environmental crisis.





Conclusion: International cooperation, legal frameworks, and better coordination between nations and corporate structures are crucial in addressing global environmental issues. There is a need for modernization of both national and international environmental policies to meet global ecological challenges effectively.

Keywords: Accounting; Law; Ecology; Territory; Nature; System.

RESUMO

Objetivo: O artigo tem como objetivo desenvolver medidas para coordenar os principais atores da economia ecológica, comparar diferentes abordagens de instrumentos de política ambiental e identificar as características exclusivas dessas abordagens no contexto da globalização.

Métodos: A pesquisa utiliza métodos econômicos e gráficos para estudar as mudanças nos parâmetros ambientais. A base de dados inclui estatísticas de agências governamentais, documentos legislativos e pesquisas científicas.

Resultados:

- O estudo destaca as deficiências nos sistemas atuais de contabilidade ambiental.
- Propõe-se a necessidade de novas práticas ambientais, estratégias universais e um sistema moderno de gestão global.
- O artigo enfatiza a importância da cooperação internacional e de marcos legais para enfrentar a crise ambiental global.

Conclusão: A cooperação internacional, os marcos legais e a melhor coordenação entre as nações e as estruturas corporativas são essenciais para resolver questões ambientais globais. É necessária a modernização das políticas ambientais nacionais e internacionais para enfrentar os desafios ecológicos globais de maneira eficaz.

Palavras-chave: Contabilidade; Direito; Ecologia; Território; Natureza; Sistema.

1 INTRODUCTION

In modern conditions of economic development, market aspects are replacing environmental issues. Thus, effective environmental management and audit systems are extremely important. However, their creation and operation are impossible without an effective information base, i.e., the environmental accounting system. Enterprises need to enter a new phase in the development of environmental auditing using environmental accounting data. This is due to the significant need for practice.

To enter international markets, enterprises must undergo an environmental audit procedure and receive the appropriate certificate. The latter is a certificate of compliance with ISO 14001 that ensures the competitiveness of an enterprise's





product on the world market. However, there are many barriers to sustainable development for businesses.

A significant problem is the waste of resources, which is ten times higher than the level of their use. This trend is observed in the Russian economy. In our opinion, the international environmental accounting system is equal to an accounting system that provides accurate information about environmental costs, revenues, liabilities, and the impact of business activities on the environment.

Issues related to environmental policy are considered by D. Bashinskii (2023), M.M. Mukhlynina (2023), M.N. Rudenko (2023), S.I. Chuzhmarova (2023), S. Chen (2023), A.N. Shcherbak (2024), etc. However, the accounting and legal aspects of environmental policy in the context of globalization remain insufficiently studied.

The study aims to develop measures to coordinate the activities of key actors in the ecological economy, compare different approaches to the use of environmental policy instruments, and identify the unique characteristics of these approaches in the context of globalization.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The theoretical and methodological basis included abstract logic, induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis, and systematization to substantiate approaches to the formation of environmental policy. Economic and graphic methods were used to study the levels and trends of changes in environmental parameters.

The information base of the article consisted of statistical data from government agencies, legislative and regulatory documents on environmental policy assessing the effectiveness of eco-friendly technologies in the activities of enterprises in the context of globalization, and results of scientific research (Agamirova et al., 2017; Dzhancharov et al., 2023; Nikolskaya et al., 2018a).

3 RESULTS

The environmental accounting system for enterprises should cover three main subsystems: accounting for environmental costs and incomes; accounting for environmental obligations; and environmental reporting. Both economic and environmental activities at an enterprise are associated with corresponding costs



directly related to economic performance. The amount of such costs in most enterprises is significant. However, accounting for environmental costs is unsystematic and is not separated from the total cost. This leads to a lack of reliable accounting data on the amounts, directions, and types of environmental costs of enterprises. According to many authors, it is necessary to consider environmental costs within production costs as a basis for analyzing the effectiveness of their use (Demkina et al., 2019; Dzhancharova et al., 2023; Mukhlynina et al., 2018).

Environmental expenses can include the totality of costs and losses in the sphere of environmental management and the production of material goods. The creation of an effective legislative framework in the field of environmental accounting will contribute to the conservation of natural resources and put an end to unfair competition. The environmental costs caused by unsustainable business practices should be included in the cost of production. The environmental costs of enterprises can be presented in the form of a system covering costs with the introduction of environmental technologies (Figure 1).

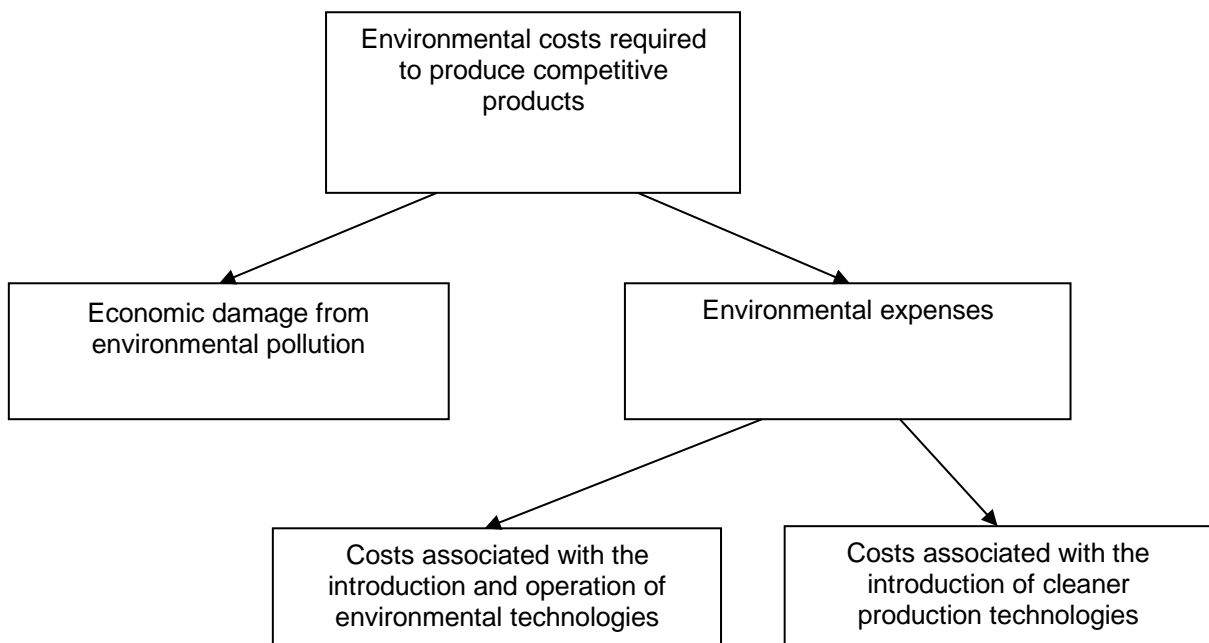


Figure 1. Environmental costs for the production of competitive goods

The amount of environmental income as an accounting object is less obvious than the amount of environmental costs at an enterprise. This is due to the probabilistic nature of such income, i.e., economic incomes (benefits) do not coincide in time with



environmental costs. In other words, there is a large time interval between these actions. This does not stimulate enterprises to conduct environmental protection activities.

Another reason is the insufficient environmental awareness of individual business owners and employees. When accounting for environmental revenues, it is almost impossible to reliably estimate them. Therefore, they are not reflected in the reporting. This corresponds to one of the basic principles of accounting and financial reporting, i.e., the principle of prudence. All cost elements (assets, liabilities, etc.) should be reflected in financial statements to prevent the understatement of liabilities and expenses or overestimation of assets and income.

Sources of environmental income include the introduction of waste-free production and the production of eco-friendly goods (through pricing). One should consider the main reasons that make it difficult to comprehensively analyze the environmental activities of enterprises. The basis for any analysis is information about the costs incurred and benefits received.

The traditional accounting system distinguishes between expenses and incomes. Income can be understood as an increase in economic benefits (assets) or a decrease in liabilities, leading to an increase in the equity capital of an enterprise. Income is traditionally defined in monetary or any other material form, which is fully consistent with one of the fundamental provisions of accounting, i.e., the monetary unit principle.

In the process of environmental activities, positive effects can arise that are difficult or impossible to measure using monetary units. Thus, we define environmental benefits as positive environmental outcomes that can be measured in monetary terms and those that cannot be measured using market prices (intangible environmental benefits). The main obstacle to adequate analysis of environmental activities is the imperfect accounting of environmental costs and benefits.

For many decades, the environmental policy as the activity of national governments in the field of conservation and expanded reproduction of nature, rationalization of resource consumption and effective solution of environmental problems, management of natural ecosystems, and ensuring environmental safety has been an integral part of national public administrations governing social and social-economic processes.

Before the introduction of a sustainable model of global development, environmental policy was prioritized by the state as the main subject and object of





relevant political activity. It expressed departmental and sectoral features of the current tools for solving environmental problems at the local level. In the long term, such a methodological basis determined the two-level nature of national environmental policies, distinguishing environmental and distribution levels in their structure with all their inherent attributes and characteristics.

These levels formed the basis of national environmental policies. The greatest attention has always been paid to their distribution function, primarily the ratio of costs and benefits of environmental measures implemented in different countries. Drastic transformations of the world economy with the dominance of global formats of its functioning bring up issues regarding the implementation of power in the sphere of economic development not only at the state but also at the international level.

The gap between existing mechanisms of national environmental policies and structural transformations in the international economic system is growing (Lebedev et al., 2018; Shakhmametev et al., 2018; Voskovskaya et al., 2022). The current charter and structure of the UN adopted in the mid-20th century demonstrated significant institutional flaws at the beginning of the 21st century. They slow down greening in the global economy during the aggravation of environmental and climate problems. Therefore, people are still seeking an effective model of global governance, even suggesting the creation of a world government and other institutions based on a modernized UN system.

Currently, there is a significant increase in the dependence of environmental decisions taken by national governments on the economic interests of corporate business structures, national economic protectionism, political parties, and public organizations. While developing their programs for solving the most pressing global problems, all of them reinvent environmental policies, integrating the tools of macroeconomic forecasting and regulation, state management of socio-economic processes, and other areas of political activity.

The selection of forms, methods, and mechanisms for implementing national environmental policies by these entities is conditioned not so much by the real problems in the green economy but by their political interests, which significantly complicates international cooperation in the environmental sphere. Environmental policy is moving from the sectoral to the global level, i.e., from local ecosystem management to their management at the global level.

There is also a rapid increase in the interrelations between environmental and



socio-economic policies, which results in their deep convergence within the globalization of socio-economic processes. The latter reflects the patterns and trends in the development of global environmental processes, in which all local processes should develop in the general direction of global environmental trends.

This refers to the deep convergence of local environmental conditions with the key parameters and requirements of the global strategy for sustainable development. We are convinced that the search by the world community for optimal solutions to global environmental and climate problems put on the agenda the development and implementation of global environmental policy with due regard to existing problems (Figure 2).

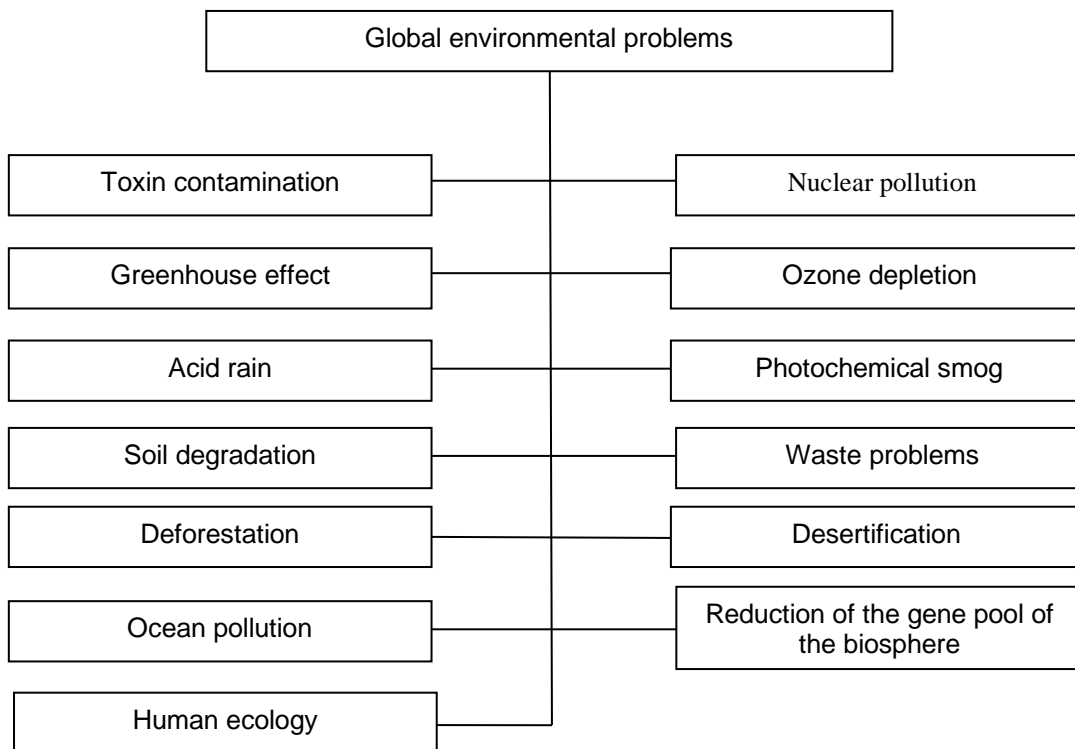


Figure 2. Global environmental problems

We are referring to a system of specific political, socio-economic, regulatory, organizational, administrative, and other activities implemented by states, international organizations, business structures, and public and non-governmental institutions at the corporate, national, regional, and supranational levels to manage environmental processes and ensure rational environmental management.

This process involves the introduction of new environmental political practices, universal strategies, and mechanisms and integrated approaches to the



implementation of national environmental policies and a deep structural and functional modernization of the current system of global environmental management.

In addition, the development and implementation of a global environmental policy (based on a set of national policies) can provide an effective solution to an important methodological issue. This is the universalization of various approaches to qualify the essence and structure of international environmental management, capable of covering both the sphere of resource consumption and the sphere of environmental protection. The genesis of the supranational environmental management system dates back to 1949.

Today key strategic decisions in the environmental sphere are made by global conferences held under the auspices of the UN, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its regional commissions, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. Specific political decisions in the environmental sphere are developed and implemented by such UN Specialized Agencies as the International Maritime Organization, UNIDO, UNDP, FAO, etc.

We should also pay attention to the Secretariats and Conventions. Their institutional structure is formed by, first, conventions adopted under the auspices of various organizations (whose implementation is the functional competence of the relevant institutions); second, the conventions adopted under the auspices of UNEP; third, conventions with independent status and secretariats.

4 DISCUSSION

The reliability of these approaches is confirmed by the fact that the formation and implementation of global environmental policy should be based on a system of principles, which together will determine its essence and have a decisive influence on the global regulatory system in environmental protection (Konovalova et al., 2018; Loseva et al., 2017; Nikolskaya et al., 2018b).

This system of principles should be implemented in the daily regulatory practice of states and the resolution of environmental disputes, thus ensuring an effective solution to the accumulated contradictions in the “nature-society” relations.

The structural dynamics of world economic development can be ensured through the maximum consideration of factors of anthropogenic load on the environment. The transboundary nature of environmental problems and intense competition of states in





world markets for goods and services lead to a significant weakening of the positions of those countries whose economic entities fully adhere to environmental standards in production, commercial, scientific, technical, and financial activities.

5 CONCLUSIONS

To summarize, the global environmental crisis (i.e., a possible environmental disaster) is increasingly recognized at the state and international levels. The human exploitation of nature and its resources can lead to the devastation of the Earth and its transformation into a desert. The need to solve global environmental problems entails the adoption of international legal acts, treaties, and agreements, which together create international environmental law. This law exists alongside national environmental legal systems.

The solution to modern environmental problems is possible only through broad and active international cooperation. The international cooperation of the Russian Federation is determined by the fundamental state environmental policy and international and interstate conventions, treaties, and agreements.

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