



INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF INTERACTION BETWEEN THE STATE AND  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN: CURRENT  
STATE AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the institutional mechanisms of interaction between state institutions and non-governmental non-profit organizations in the implementation of environmental policy in Uzbekistan. The study emphasizes that contemporary environmental policy is no longer limited to administrative regulation of nature management, but increasingly represents a complex system of public governance involving the state, civil society, expert communities, local actors, and international partners. Special attention is paid to the role of NGOs in environmental education, public monitoring, local initiatives, and the formation of environmental responsibility among citizens. The article examines the current state of cooperation between the state and NGOs in the context of the “green” economy, the “Yashil Makon” nationwide project, public oversight, and international cooperation. It also identifies key institutional challenges, including insufficient systematization of NGO participation, limited resources, uneven regional development, and restricted access to environmental information. The author concludes that the further development of environmental policy in Uzbekistan requires a sustainable model of partnership based on openness, coordination, public participation, and shared responsibility for sustainable development.

**Keywords:** environmental policy; Uzbekistan; state institutions; non-governmental non-profit organizations; NGOs; civil society; public participation; environmental governance; public oversight; green economy; sustainable development; Yashil Makon; environmental monitoring; institutional mechanisms.

In contemporary conditions, environmental policy is becoming one of the key areas of public administration, since climate change, water scarcity, land degradation, environmental pollution, and the need for a transition to sustainable development go beyond purely environmental issues. These challenges affect socio-economic stability, the quality of life of the population, the institutional effectiveness of the state, and the level of public participation. Therefore, environmental policy can no longer be viewed solely as administrative regulation of nature management; rather, it represents a complex system of interaction among the state, society, the expert community, and international partners.

For Uzbekistan, this issue is of particular importance due to the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis, the growing pressure on natural resources, urbanization, and the tasks related to the transition to a “green” economy. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Nature Protection” establishes the legal and organizational foundations for environmental protection and rational nature management [1]. At the same time, modern environmental policy requires not only regulatory measures but also sustainable mechanisms of public participation, feedback, and public oversight.

In this context, the role of non-governmental non-profit organizations acquires special significance. NGOs do not act as an alternative to state institutions, but rather as an important partnership element of environmental governance. They are able to identify local environmental problems, promote environmental education, participate in public monitoring, advance initiatives of local communities, and foster environmentally responsible behavior among citizens.

Uzbekistan is gradually developing a model of environmental governance in which the state preserves its strategic and regulatory function, while civil society institutions strengthen the social basis of environmental reforms. The adoption of the Strategy for the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “Green” Economy for the period 2019–2030 reflects the state’s intention to integrate environmental priorities into the country’s economic and social development [2]. However, the implementation of such strategies is impossible without the participation of NGOs, local communities, educational institutions, expert structures, and international organizations.

Consequently, the analysis of institutional mechanisms of interaction between the state and NGOs has significant scientific and practical importance. It makes it possible to identify the actual forms of civil society participation in environmental policy, reveal existing limitations, and outline prospects for improving partnership. The purpose of this article is to analyze the current state of institutional mechanisms of interaction between state bodies and NGOs in the field of environmental policy in Uzbekistan, as well as to identify directions for their further development.

The methodological basis of the study is the institutional approach, which makes it possible to consider environmental policy not only as a set of legal acts and state programs, but also as a system of stable rules, procedures, organizations, and practices of interaction between the state and society. Within this approach, special attention is paid to how effectively institutions distribute powers, ensure coordination, accountability, and the participation of non-state actors in the adoption and implementation of environmental decisions.

In this study, environmental policy is understood as the purposeful activity of the state and public actors aimed at protecting the environment, ensuring the rational use of natural resources, reducing environmental risks, and achieving sustainable development. State institutions perform the functions of strategic planning, rule-making, control, and implementation of environmental programs. However, the increasing complexity of environmental problems requires additional mechanisms of public expertise, social mobilization, and feedback.

In this system, NGOs act as civil society institutions capable of representing the interests of various social groups, accumulating public initiatives, and participating in the assessment of the effectiveness of environmental protection measures. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Public Oversight” creates a legal basis for the participation of citizens, citizens’ self-government bodies, NGOs, and other civil society institutions in monitoring the activities of state bodies [3]. This is especially important for the environmental sphere, since the quality of environmental policy directly depends on data openness, procedural transparency, and consideration of the interests of the population.

Institutional mechanisms of interaction between the state and NGOs can be defined as a set of legal, organizational, consultative, financial, informational, and monitoring instruments that ensure civil society participation in the development, implementation, and evaluation of environmental policy. Their effectiveness depends on the clarity of legal regulation, the openness of state bodies, the resource capacity of NGOs, the quality of intersectoral coordination, and the level of environmental culture in society.

Several key mechanisms can be identified within this system of interaction. The legal and regulatory mechanism establishes the legal conditions for the participation of NGOs in environmental processes and public oversight. The consultative mechanism ensures the

involvement of NGOs in public councils, expert discussions, and public consultations. The project-grant mechanism makes it possible to implement environmental initiatives with the support of the state, international organizations, and donor programs. The informational and educational mechanism is aimed at developing environmental culture and disseminating knowledge about sustainable development. The monitoring mechanism ensures the participation of NGOs in observing the implementation of environmental programs, identifying local problems, and preparing proposals for state bodies.

The current environmental policy of Uzbekistan is developing in the direction of transition from predominantly administrative environmental regulation to a more complex model of environmental governance. This model involves not only the activities of state bodies, but also the expanded participation of civil society institutions, local communities, expert structures, and international partners. Increased attention to sustainable development, the “green” economy, climate adaptation, and territorial greening indicates the gradual integration of the environmental agenda into the broader strategy of socio-economic reforms [4].

The implementation of national environmental programs, particularly the nationwide project “Yashil Makon,” is of special importance in this process. Its significance goes beyond practical greening, as it contributes to the formation of environmental responsibility and the involvement of the population in environmental protection activities. In this area, NGOs can perform educational, mobilizing, and monitoring functions, helping to strengthen the connection between state programs and public initiatives [5].

Another important direction is the transition to a “green” economy. The Strategy for the Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “Green” Economy for the period 2019–2030 is aimed at combining economic development with the rational use of resources, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability [4]. However, the practical implementation of this strategy requires not only state decisions, but also changes in the everyday behavioral patterns of citizens, businesses, and local communities. In this regard, NGOs are capable of acting as intermediaries between the strategic goals of the state and social practice.

International cooperation is also of particular importance. Projects implemented by UNDP, UNEP, OSCE, and other international organizations create additional opportunities for the institutional and resource strengthening of environmental NGOs. Through such mechanisms, public organizations can participate in the implementation of local initiatives, receive expert and methodological support, and contribute to the adaptation of international environmental approaches to national conditions [7].

Despite positive dynamics, interaction between state institutions and NGOs in the environmental sphere has not yet acquired a fully systemic character. The main problem lies in the insufficient institutionalization of NGO participation in the development, implementation, and evaluation of environmental programs. In practice, their participation often remains consultative or episodic, which limits the influence of civil society at the early stages of decision-making.

A significant limitation is also the shortage of financial, human, and organizational resources among many NGOs. Environmental activity requires long-term planning, professional expertise, and sustainable funding. In the absence of these resources, the participation of public organizations is often reduced to short-term actions, whereas environmental policy requires permanent and institutionally consolidated forms of partnership.

Another problem is the territorial unevenness in the development of NGOs. In large cities, civil society opportunities are generally stronger, whereas in rural areas and environmentally vulnerable territories, the potential of public organizations remains limited. At the same time, it is precisely at the local level that problems related to water use, land degradation, waste, greening, and the environmental culture of the population are most acute.

Insufficient openness and accessibility of environmental data also remain an important obstacle. Effective public monitoring is impossible without systematized information on the state of the environment, the progress of program implementation, and the results of adopted measures. Limited access to data reduces the quality of public participation and complicates the formation of trust between the state and civil society. In legal terms, this direction is connected with the development of the institution of public oversight established in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan [6].

The prospects for developing interaction between the state and NGOs in Uzbekistan's environmental policy are associated with the transition from fragmented forms of participation to a sustainable model of institutional partnership. Such a model should be based on legal certainty, openness of environmental information, development of public oversight, and expansion of the project capacities of civil society.

The first direction is the expansion of public consultations. The involvement of NGOs in discussions of environmental laws, strategies, state programs, and local development plans will make it possible to take into account the interests of various social groups, improve the quality of adopted decisions, and strengthen the public legitimacy of environmental policy.

The second direction is the development of public environmental monitoring. The participation of NGOs in monitoring the implementation of the "Yashil Makon" program, waste management, protection of water and land resources, and the state of the environment can become an important instrument for improving the effectiveness of public administration. Such monitoring should not be regarded as a form of opposition to the state, but rather as a mechanism of feedback and prevention of managerial shortcomings [6].

The third direction is support for the project activities of environmental NGOs. The expansion of state grants, social contracting, international partnership programs, and co-financing mechanisms will make it possible to transform civil society participation from isolated initiatives into sustainable project-based activity. Projects in the fields of environmental education, youth engagement, climate adaptation, energy efficiency, and the development of local environmental practices are especially important [7].

The fourth direction is the improvement of environmental information openness. Access to data on the state of the environment, environmental risks, and the results of state programs is a basic condition for public oversight. The more transparent environmental information is, the more effective NGO participation becomes and the higher the level of public trust in environmental policy.

The interaction between state institutions and NGOs in Uzbekistan's environmental policy is at the stage of gradual institutional development. The state retains a key role in shaping strategic goals, the legal framework, and managerial decisions; however, the effectiveness of environmental policy increasingly depends on the degree of civil society involvement.

NGOs have the potential to perform consultative, educational, project-based, monitoring, and advocacy functions. Their participation makes it possible to broaden the social basis of environmental reforms, improve the environmental culture of the population, strengthen public oversight, and bring state programs closer to the real needs of local communities.

At the same time, the further development of such interaction requires strengthening the legal mechanisms of NGO participation, expanding public consultations, increasing the openness of environmental information, supporting project activities, and improving intersectoral coordination. These directions can ensure the transition from separate forms of cooperation to a sustainable model of partnership between the state and civil society.

Therefore, the prospects for Uzbekistan's environmental policy are connected not only with the modernization of state institutions, but also with the formation of a mature system of public



participation based on openness, coordination, trust, and shared responsibility for sustainable development.

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