

Environmental Crimes and Their Consequences

Abdiqodirov Husnitdin Shokirovich

Director of Shakhrisabz military-academic lyceum "Temurbeklar maktabi" under
Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Qosimov Jurabek Sodiqovich

First Deputy of the Director at Shakhrisabz military-academic lyceum under
Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Boymirzaev Abdusattor Egamshukurovich

Associate Professor of the Institute of Civil Protection at the Academy of the Ministry of Emergency
Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article describes the environmental crimes that are currently leading to global consequences, their consequences and the measures to be taken in this area.

Keywords: ecological education, ecological culture, ecological thinking, environmental crimes, ecological offenses.

In order to improve and reorganize public administration in the field of ecology and nature protection, the State Committee for Nature Protection was reorganized into the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection by the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The main goals and objectives of this committee are the organization of state-level management, coordination and interdepartmental relations on ecology, environmental protection, rational use of natural resources. Therefore, there is a need for citizens to form environmental education. Therefore, environmental education is one of the most pressing issues today.

An integral part of environmental education is the formation of such qualities as protecting houses, streets, neighborhoods, villages and cities from pollution as well as maintaining its beautification, landscaping, preservation and efficient use of natural habitats, protection of nature. Improving the ecological culture of the population, a rational attitude to the environment, the formation of a sense of preservation of natural resources for future generations are key factors in preventing anthropogenic impacts. The importance of environmental education is also very high. After all, environmental education is important in ensuring the integration of nature and society and maintaining natural stability. Environmental education also helps young people to use nature consciously and to instill in them a love for nature and thrift.

In the current era of globalization, the anthropogenic impact of humans on nature is increasing dramatically. The filling of water bodies with polyethylene waste, the burning of forests under the influence of man, the pollution of the soil with various pesticides, the release of toxic gases into the atmosphere by enterprises are leading to an increase in environmental crime by humans.

Environmental crimes are the most serious crimes in the system of environmental offenses, which cause serious consequences, serious damage to nature and society, and pose a high social risk. Environmental crimes are a complex set of crimes of non-compliance with the requirements of environmental legislation, they are socially dangerous acts that harm the environment and human health, including encroachment on social relations to ensure environmental security, sustainable development of the individual, society, nation and state.

According to M.N. Kopylov, the concept of environmental crimes is based on two groups. The first group includes the danger of anthropogenic impact on the environment, its interference with the conditions of human existence as a biological species, the disruption of the healthy life of human society, the cause of genetic changes, and so on.

The second group is the origin and application of criminal liability established by law. Environmental crimes are a group of crimes enshrined in the Criminal Code, which represent socially and environmentally hazardous behavior and include the provisions of the Criminal Code on general crime and special environmental legislation.

Environmental crime is the unlawful use of natural objects that endanger the environment and its individual elements, as well as the ecological security of the population and the territory, the rational use and protection of which is provided for in criminal law and prohibited by the threat of punishment, socially dangerous act (behavior or inaction) that results in negative changes in the state of the environment as a result.

In terms of the severity of the negative consequences of environmental crime, it remains a very serious threat in terms of the fact that it poses a real threat to the security of nations in terms of its demographic, environmental and social characteristics. It also leads to a decrease in life expectancy, an increase in various diseases, deaths, depletion of the population's gene pool, the emergence of ecological catastrophes and ecologically bad zones and the degradation of natural resources (soil, forests, etc.).

The most common crimes in the field of ecology usually include soil, pollution of flora, and illegal cutting or destruction of trees in the forest. Recently, there has been an increase in new types of environmental crimes, which have more serious consequences. Such crimes include irreversible looting of natural resources, use of illegally obtained raw materials, import of food and other consumer goods which are harmful to humans, such as foreign technology and production in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan that are harmful to the environment. One of the most serious types of legal liability for environmental offenses is criminal liability, which applies to a person who has committed an act provided for in the rules of criminal law. Because crime is a serious offense, sanctions are more severe than other types of legal liability.

Section 4 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes liability for "crimes in the field of ecology."

At a time when environmental catastrophe is on the rise and the amount of non-renewable natural resources is declining, criminal law and criminology do not pay enough attention to the fact that environmental crimes are more serious than other crimes and lead to irreparable consequences. Liability for environmental offenses can literally be seen as a means of preserving and protecting humanity. Therefore, the fight against environmental crimes through criminal and criminological measures has become a requirement of the times. In particular, the fight against environmental crimes is one of the urgent tasks facing our state and criminal law, which should become a priority and rise to the level of public policy. After all, it is easier and more expedient to preserve and prevent the destruction of nature than to restore it.

Environmental crimes are socially dangerous acts provided for in the Criminal Code, which are summarized in the ecological legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the provisions on the concept of crime provided for in Part 4 of the Special Part and Chapter 14 of the General Part of the Criminal Code. We can distinguish the characteristics of environmental crimes, such as aggression against environmental relations, illegality, guilt and social danger.

In general, the responsibility for environmental crimes is defined in the criminal law of most foreign countries, which is also explained by the current environmental situation, the attitude of people and society to nature. Switzerland, one of the most developed Western countries, adopted in 1937, the current eighth section of the Criminal Code, entitled "Crimes and Acts against Public Health," also provides for liability for environmental crimes. This section covers the spread of disease (art. 231), the spread of epizootics (art. 232), the spread of pests (art. 233), the contamination of drinking water (art. 234), and the development of feeds that are harmful to animal health. 235). This is reflected not only in the Swiss Penal Code, but also in Section 6 of the Thai Criminal Code, which provides for liability for "crimes against public safety" (for example, Article 228 of the Criminal Code - "contamination of drinking water resources").

As it stated above, it is clear that in some foreign countries, environmental crimes are included in the category of crimes against public safety. In particular, from the name of these sections, we can see that it establishes liability for acts that directly harm society, members of society, but not the environment and nature. It follows from the content of the criminal laws of these states that environmental crimes should be prosecuted for aggression against the health of the population, not nature. However, in our opinion, such a policy is unreasonable, because only if we preserve and protect nature, humanity can continue its vital activity as a biological being.

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides for the following criminal penalties for environmental crimes: fines, deprivation of certain rights, correctional labor, imprisonment, deprivation of freedom.

A fine is a measure of criminal liability imposed by a court on a person found guilty of a crime and limiting his property interests to a certain extent.

Deprivation of a certain right – it means the prohibition of the guilty person to hold a position or engage in any activity in enterprises, institutions or organizations during the period determined by the court. Such a position or type of activity shall be specified by the court in the indictment.

Correctional work is the forcible recruitment of a person with ten to thirty percent of his salary at the expense of state revenue, and the sentence is served in accordance with the court's decision at the convict's place of work or in other places determined by the penitentiary authorities.

Imprisonment is the detention of a person under completely isolated conditions for a period of one to six months.

Deprivation of freedom is the separation of a convict from society and his placement in a penal colony or prison.

In addition to the above, it would be appropriate to define environmental crimes as “socially dangerous acts (actions or omissions) under criminal law that encroach on social relations aimed at protecting the environment, rational use of natural resources and ensuring environmental security”.

In short, cultivating a love of nature, the ability to use it correctly and consciously, is the foundation of ecological education and ecological culture, creating in people a sense of responsibility to nature. It can be said that the highest stage of human thinking is ecological thinking. After all, human self-awareness and a positive attitude to the environment, that is, to anticipate the consequences of any action that may adversely affect nature in our daily lives and act accordingly, to have the appropriate knowledge and skills, each of us is an integral part of nature. We must not forget that we are a part of it and its savior. Therefore, the development of ecological thinking of listeners and students at all stages of education should remain a sacred duty of each of us to nature.

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