

# On the implementation of the state environmental policy in law-making and law-enforcement activities in Russia

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**Abstract.** The article considers a number of issues of the state environmental policy of the Russian Federation based on the analysis of new laws of the Russian legislation and the current socio-economic situation in the country. The author notes the state strategic documents and programs developed by the Ministry of natural resources of the Russian Federation, presents some data on environmental legislation in the country, and makes judgments that a successful environmental policy is possible only with an integrated approach to the implementation of environmental legislation.

## 1 Introduction

President V.V. Putin has set an ambitious goal - Russia should become one of the five largest economies in the world in the next few years with economic growth rates exceeding the world ones (according to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of May 7, 2018 No. 204 "On national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period until the year 2024") Achieving this goal requires the creation of a highly productive export-oriented sector, primarily in two industries - manufacturing and agriculture, which will undoubtedly influence the country's ecology. Twelve key directions in which national projects have been developed in accordance with the Decree relate to all the main areas of life, and one of them is ecology [1]. The sector of the economy that will be involved in this process first of all is the forest industry.

The state environmental policy issues of the Russian Federation are reflected in the works of E.V. Vinogradova [2], B.A. Molchanova [3], L.V. Rashchupkina [4], G. Dieterle and A. Kushlin [6], A.P. Anisimov [8] and others. However, the issues of a comprehensive analysis of the state environmental policy of the Russian Federation remain insufficiently studied.

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## 2 Methods

The methodological basis of the study was the following general scientific methods: analysis, synthesis and deduction. The factor analysis method was used to determine the influence of various factors on the level of implementation of the state environmental policy of the Russian Federation and the degree of satisfaction of citizens with its results.

## 3 Results and discussion

Considering public policy in relation to ecology, we turn to a theoretical understanding of the concept of “public policy”, which, for example, is defined by administrative law as an interconnected set of public authority decisions, drawn up into a set of legal acts implemented by all branches of government through certain tools [2]. The concept of "environmental policy", according to researchers B. Molchanov and others, was used for the first time in the 70s - 80s of the twentieth century, which was justified by the interdependence and interrelation with the socio-economic problems of society [3]. According to L. Rashchupkina, today experts in the field of agrarian, land and ecological law are mainly involved in the scientific and theoretical understanding of the legal regulation of environmental problems. Whereas, the activities of executive authorities in organizing public administration in the field of nature management and environmental protection are studied by specialists in the field of administrative law, etc. [4].

The need for a scientific analysis of state environmental policy is dictated by the fact that there are still contradictions between the process of modernization of the Russian economy and the lack of generalized theoretical models for assessing the state, dynamics of mechanisms and trends in its development.

One of the priorities of state policy in the environmental sphere is the development of forestry relations, which are important from an environmental point of view both for domestic consumption and global environmental one, as an environment-forming and protective natural object. The development and enhancement of the competitiveness of the Russian forest industry for the long term is considered by researchers as a result of the increased contribution of the forest sector to the country's socio-economic development. However, despite the huge concentration of forest resources on the territory of the Russian Federation on a global scale (25 percent of the global reserves, according to official data), Russia's share in the global production of wood and paper-based products is only 2 percent [5].

Let us dwell on one of the directions of the state environmental policy - the policy on the regulation and protection of forests. At present, the state forest policy is being implemented in accordance with a rather impressive number of adopted regulatory legal acts, such as *the Forest Code of the Russian Federation*, the *Federal Law On Industrial Policy in the Russian Federation* and a number of regulatory legal acts that determine the state's policy in relation to the forest sector: *Innovation Development Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2020*, approved by order of the Government of the Russian Federation on 8 December 2011, No. 2227-r, *Forecast of scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030*, approved by the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, *Strategy for scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation*, approved by *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation* dated December 1, 2016 No. 642, *the Fundamentals of the state policy in the field of use, conservation, protection and reproduction of forests in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030*, approved by *the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation* of September 26, 2013 No. 1724-r., *Order of the Government of the Russian*

*Federation of September 20, 2018 No. 1989-r On the Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Complex of the Russian Federation until 2030 and etc.*

The set of issues related to the state environmental policy needs scientific analysis and assessment in different planes, so we will trace such a development in forest relations.

Russia, like many countries of the world aimed at rapid development, is on the path to digitalization of the economy. Back in 2017, the national program *Digital Economy of the Russian Federation* was approved, and as a result of which 30 projects should be implemented by 2025, including innovative digitalization projects in the forest industry. One of the tasks that should be solved now is to establish an accurate accounting of timber stocks, its movement at all stages, starting from the harvesting, transportation, storage and sale of wood raw materials with a minimal influence of the human factor.

G. Diterle and A. Kushlin, relying on the views of World Bank experts, as early as 2004 highlighted several primary indicators of the Russian timber industry compared with other countries of the world: 1. The presence of a large-scale domestic market, protected from competition; 2. The world's largest stocks of coniferous wood; 3. Stable sales to Europe and China; 4. Low cost-price of wood; 5. The attractiveness of the domestic forestry industry for investment by international industrial and financial companies [6]. Unfortunately, over time, some factors began to play a negative rather than a positive role in forestry relations, and the forestry sector of the economy turned into a very criminalized industry.

Currently, the state and the environmental ministry of the Russian Federation, has begun preparing *the Forest Industry Development Strategy*. The goal of the future Strategy is to create a closed-loop economy on renewable resources, that is, a full-fledged, cost-effective forestry. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation approaches the solution of a new large task in an integrated manner. Effective management of the industry requires complete reliable and constantly updated information on the forest resources available in the country, for which purpose the Unified Information System *Forests of Russia* is being created. It is connected with the databases of the Federal Register of Regions, the Federal Tax Service, the Federal Customs Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and other government bodies. The information coming to the *Forest of Russia* UIS will be taken from the state forest register in electronic form and updated forest inventory materials. First of all, according to Minister D. Kobylkin, forest inventory should be carried out in priority areas for use, which has already been reflected in the prepared amendments to the legislation of the Russian Federation. Another direction for the development of the forest industry will be the creation of conditions for the financial self-sufficiency of regional institutions – so called leshozes (forestry). They are supposed to be provided with additional economic functions, and their field of activity is vast - this is 70 percent of all the country's forest fund areas that are not currently leased [7].

Researchers, in particular A.P. Anisimov, estimate positively the increasing work of environmental authorities on the possibility of any interested subject in obtaining environmental and legal information in the public domain, for example, documents accepted by the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, statistical data, etc. Keeping an interactive map allows citizens to receive environmental information, for example, on objects of environmental control, on water, forest, biological resources, within the framework of any subject of the Russian Federation [8]. This openness and accessibility of information contributes to a positive image of public authorities for the population.

## 4 Conclusion

To sum up, it can be noted that the achievement of the strategic goals of the state environmental policy and environmental management in law-making and law enforcement in Russia is carried out through the formation and implementation of a long-term state

policy aimed at protecting and reproducing the natural and environmental potential of our country, increasing the level of environmental education and environmental culture of citizens.

As a result of a review of the problem, we note that the measures taken by the state are multidimensional and set a high level of planned changes in the field of ecology. However, I would like to ask another question, which is more difficult to answer than to give an overview of legal and scientific literature, as well as legislative changes: do we have effective mechanisms that can implement all those tasks that are determined by the state environmental policy? There is no definite answer to this question. The specificity of environmental problems is that many efforts may not give the desired result, not because of unwillingness to act, but because of the unreality, to immediately change the situation for the better, or even over the next five to ten years. It is impossible to pollute, for example, the Volga River for decades, deplete its fish stocks, not take measures aimed at protecting the waters and the entire ecosystem of the river, and then fix it in a few years. There is an understanding that technical and industrial progress cannot be stopped by the forces of either ecologists or governments; society is not ready to abandon the usual benefits of civilization. Humanity is moving at an increasing rate along the path of increasing use of all types of natural resources, and as a natural effect of such activities - pollution of nature, the exhaustion of natural resources, and irreversible processes in different parts of the world.

The latest and most environmentally friendly technologies in all spheres of life and production, both already used and only being developed, are not able to quickly and comprehensively change the situation for the better, this requires organizational, financial resource and time. The ecological "trap" into which a man drove himself is still surmountable, but only by the joint efforts of countries around the world, since environmental problems are transboundary. We believe that it is necessary to create such a body as the environmental police, with the help of which it would be possible to implement both preventive and oversight measures related to environmental violations at the national and international levels. As for Russia, there was the experience of the functioning of the environmental police since the early 1990s until the beginning of the 2000s, and it was very successful. We note that *the Ecological Police* was a special unit existing in the Ministry of Internal Affairs system ... Employees fought against illegal actions of people over animals, landfills, waste and pollutants, etc. A strong Russian state is unthinkable without an effective national security system, and its functioning directly depends on the optimal operation of all elements, including the police system.

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