

# Environmental Governance And The Role Of The State In Environmental Management

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## **Abstract:**

*The objective of this article was to analyze the role of public management with regard to the environment and thus contribute to a reflection on the mechanisms used by environmental governance, as well as to demonstrate how the state participates in this process of environmental governance. The methodology used was qualitative, exploratory research based on bibliographic research in online databases, SCIELO and Google Scholar, using the descriptors: public management, environmental governance, environment, in articles published in the last 5 years, in Portuguese, within the scientific parameters, excluding those that did not meet the inclusion criteria.*

**Key Word:** Public Management; Environmental Governance; Environment.

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## **I. Introduction**

Currently, the Environment has become one of the most globalized themes, being the focus of attention in all countries in the world, involving several public managers in the search for solutions to reduce or eradicate the harm caused to the planet's natural resources, enabling the continuity of life and taking care of the inheritance for new generations.

In this sense, there is a growing need to understand which actions are to be developed and which actors and agents are involved in this process, which involves in a participatory manner both public management and the population, private institutions, civil organizations, among others. Public management, therefore, entails the duty of ensuring that state functions are created, implemented and maintained, and public managers must therefore have the qualifications to perform their functions, being an issue to be analyzed when it comes to management of environment by the state.

In this case we are talking about environmental governance which, according to Adams et. al. (2022), concerns the processes and institutions through which state and non-state authors organize themselves and make decisions regarding environmental issues. This governance is characterized by complexity and multifaceted socio-environmental problems that pose challenges in the Brazilian reality and in the world. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the role of public environmental management, listing as a guide the question: "How does the State act in environmental governance?"

The topic becomes relevant as it offers an understanding of how environmental policies and governance arrangements were constructed throughout history worldwide, highlighting environmental problems and how the Brazilian reality is configured. It also offers a reflection on environmental governance mechanisms and the advances that public management has achieved over time in relation to water, sanitation and other goods services.

In view of the above, this article aims to analyze the role of public management in relation to the Environment, contributing to a reflection on the mechanisms used by environmental governance, as well as demonstrating how the State's participation in this governance process occurs. environmental.

To achieve these objectives, qualitative, exploratory research was used based on bibliographical research, in online databases, Scielo and Google Scholar, using the descriptors: public management, environmental governance, environment, in articles published in the last 5 years, in Portuguese language, within scientific parameters, excluding those that did not meet the inclusion criteria, as described in the topic dealing with methodology.

After collecting and analyzing the data obtained, texts were produced that supported the theoretical framework that gave shape to the article, the first being the analysis of Environmental Governance, describing its

definition and how it was configured over the years and its relationship such as the Environment. Then the second topic deals with the role of the State, as public management, in Environmental Governance.

Finally, the final considerations were drawn up, culminating in the conclusion of the article, where the theoretical path followed was evaluated and observations were made, recording important points that were elucidated in the process of preparing the article on screen.

## **II. Methodology**

The study consists of a literature review on the analysis of Environmental Governance, using an exploratory methodology of a qualitative nature, through bibliographical and documentary research and data collection. The data were collected through a search in online databases such as Google Scholar and Scielo, as they offer extensive research, making it possible to establish the years 2018 to 2023 as a publication parameter, as well as articles in Portuguese, based on the descriptors: Environmental Governance, Environment and Public Management, excluding material that did not meet this criterion.

## **III. Results and discussions**

### **The Forerunner of Environmental Governance**

Seixas et. al. (2020) understands Environmental Governance as a process that involves multiple social actors with their respective values and interest in collaboration, decision-making and implementation of actions that aim to preserve the Environment. In this way, it is composed of a formal institutional structure, represented by public managers, by their informal institutional arrangements, that is, by civil society, also involving government organizations and the private sector, configuring itself as a multifaceted action.

Among its specificities is the fact that it is not an announcement or management by the State so that all processes involved in Environmental Governance act focused on the preservation and sustainability of the Environment, considering that decision-making is negotiable and must follow the relative participation of the actors involved, standardizing conservation actions and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as ecosystem systems.

It would, then, be the praxis of what is discussed with various entities and participants that, despite differences inherent in each one's reality, converge on the same focus and the same objective. The term Environmental Governance gained prominence at the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, according to Jacobi and Sinisgalli (2018), when the Global community was mobilized to participate in a global discussion about environmental reality and how each country's actions were processed, since the increase in the consequences of environmental degradation was worrying for the future of the planet and the future generations. It was an opportunity for participants to contribute, with the aim of seeking technological innovations and suggestions for ways of cooperation for global environmental governance. 193 countries participated in this moment with the same objective, that is, finding a way to defend the environment.

It is important to highlight that the Rio+20 event contributed to the acceptance of the more specific term Environmental Governance, since the word governance itself is a more generalized concept and its use took place in the field of political, economic and scientific ideas, reaching various dimensions and meanings. , limiting, after the discussions at the 2012 conference, public management of the environment with the active participation of civil and organizational representatives. Therefore, the following understanding can be accepted:

The concept of governance refers to the set of initiatives, rules, instances, and processes that allow people, through their communities and civil organizations, to exercise social, public and transparent control over state structures and public policies, through on the one hand, and market dynamics and institutions, on the other, aiming to achieve common objectives (JACOBI; SINISGALLI, 2018, p. 1475).

It would, therefore, be the involvement of all representations in the search for resolutions that benefit those represented, in an equal and representative way. Environmental Governance, following this line of reasoning, would be the search for the implementation of public policies, including various actors in society in a participatory manner to think about strategies for establishing the preservation, maintenance, and sustainability of the Environment. Thus, everyone involved becomes responsible for building a system of rules, norms and conduct that aims to guarantee life on the planet.

Matarazzo et. al. (2020) highlight that Environmental Governance can be understood as a strategy for contributing to processes of social, political, and economic change, not just environmental change, based on projects operating in each location. It would be to make practical what is discussed in theory, from the perspective of expanding local reality to a global one, since the reality of the planet involves global mechanisms.

With the basic explanation of the definition of Environmental Governance, it is necessary to discuss how public management operates in this context, as it is one of the participants with considerable responsibility, as well as having significant mechanisms and strategies in the Environmental issue.

### **Public Management and its Role in Environmental Governance**

The focus began to be directed towards the Environment, especially after World War II, being the subject of conferences promoted by the United Nations, treating the topic as a transversal and political issue. These meetings were responsible for drafting agreements and treaties with commitments to be carried out by Public Management entities in the participating countries.

Matarazzo et. al (2020) state that the actions signed by countries and their representatives demonstrated concern for nature conservation and effective strategies to reduce the pace of destruction of natural resources, which was occurring exponentially.

In Brazil, three important conferences were held in 1992, 2002 and 2012 to address issues related to the Environmental Environment, extracting concepts and consultative and normative apparatuses as a way of standardizing state action in order to follow a sustainable model, or what is understood as Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, that is, the concern was focused on reconciling multiple interests in order to use resources or common goods responsibly and in order to maintain and protect the diversity that exists in the Environment.

Contextualizing Environmental Governance in Brazil, Adams et. al (2020) state that the Federal Constitution of 1988 and the Rio-92 Conference carried out the process of creating political-institutional structures so that public environmental policies could gain momentum, since the 1930s there had already been a management perspective public policy for environmental issues, which involved topics related to environmental licensing, deforestation, fishing and water resources, conservation units and climate change.

However, the cited authors state that in recent decades a threatening movement has been observed that forms an agenda of deconstruction of the institutional marches that the country organized. The revocation of the Forest Code, the disaffection of Protected Areas in the Amazon, the proposals for a setback in Licensing and Environmental Impact Assessment and, more recently, the changes in the Brazilian Forest Service, FUNAI and IBAMA itself, in addition to the dismissal of staff competent technicians can be cited as members of this agenda and which is under public management.

In this sense, it is also the responsibility of the public managers of Brazil's federative entities to deal with environmental issues related to advances in the agricultural frontier, increased deforestation, intense conflicts in the countryside over land disputes, criminalization of social movements, increasing policies to induce exploitation of pre- salt, insecurity in mining areas and devastating projects in the Amazon.

On the other hand, some actions were implemented in 2020, aiming to reduce the impact on the Environment and promote the conservation of biodiversity and vegetation. Among these public management actions is the drafting of Decree No. 9,759, of April 2019, which promoted important changes in the Amazon Fund, which abolished a steering committee and enabled the support of projects aimed at local and indigenous communities in the region.

Amazon. In this way, the production of sustainable and forest conservation activities was stimulated using financial resources from various sources. Regarding public environmental management, Fioravanso and Nicolodi (2021) highlight as an example the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) established to protect the local biodiversity and offer some type of restriction on the use of natural resources in that location, including terrestrial areas. and islands that comprise the Intermars zone or below sea level, with their fauna and flora.

These areas are of great importance and their relevance lies in the fact that they contribute to the generation of mutual benefits between the environment and the economy in a sustainable way, following guidelines and regulations aimed at promoting the balance of nature, following the state management model, shared, private and community, being the most objective expression of Environmental Governance.

From this perspective, public management must reconcile strategies that establish the preservation of ecological and socioeconomic characteristics, maintaining balanced environmental systems, and:

Currently, there are 187 marine protected areas in Brazil (UCs), covering 26.5% of the marine biome (ICMBIO, 2020). As a way of analyzing management efficiency in UCs, static elements inherent to public management are considered, such as the existence of management plans, management councils and other participatory management tools (FIORAVANSO; NICOLODI, 2021, p. 757).

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### **IV. Conclusion**

Given the above, it can be understood that the initially proposed objectives were achieved, since it was possible to analyze the role of public management about the Environment, contributing to a reflection on the mechanisms used by environmental governance, as well as demonstrating how the State's participation in this environmental governance process occurs.

In this way, the present work offered a possibility for discussion about advances in the field of Environmental Governance and the need for its precepts to be incorporated into participatory processes that involve decision-making about the Environment and the preservation of life on the planet. It was also highlighted some problems that the country faces in the context of the Environment and in the way the State deals with these challenges, as in a previous moment it made positive progress in resolving conflicts and in another, more current moment, it seems to have lost focus the need to establish rules and strategies that guarantee life for future generations.

And Environmental Governance presents itself as a possibility of offering participatory management that converges with sustainability, including responsibility for all members of the management process, offering effective and accessible instruments. In this process, governments, whether local or national, civil organizations and financial institutions, representatives of the private sector are involved. All focused on promoting practices aimed at reducing environmental impacts, climate change, scarcity of water resources, encouraging sustainability.

With the arguments of this article, it is expected that other studies can be carried out to encourage scientific production on the subject and that can contribute to the discussion, creation, implementation, and implementation of urgent actions for environmental preservation based on public management that holds instruments and conditions to protect the life of the planet for its current inhabitants and for generations to come.

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