

Environmental Security, Environmental Crime and National Security

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Abstract

In this paper we address environmental security, environmental crime and national security, which are important issues for the individual, society and the state. In this situation, we would be interested to look at the level of environmental security, environmental crime situation and the connection these two have with national security. Last decades have shown serious environmental damage and environmental security, despite the legal and criminal measures taken by the government and the state. This disturbing phenomenon remains a major problem for solution. Further we analyzed the legal framework for environmental protection, criminal offenses against the environment, the necessity of "insurance" environmental security. From the analysis results that environmental security and environmental crime threaten the national security of our country. The paper also presents some conclusions and recommendations for a more successful environmental security solution and respect for human rights and freedoms for the protection of the environment. Environmental protection through criminal legislation, criminal law and environmental law, required to be realized in accordance with international standards, resolutely fighting corruption and organized environmental crime.

Keywords: Environment, Environmental Security, Environmental Crime, Security, National Security.

INTRODUCTION

The protection of the environment is of great importance in human life and in the protection of the community, therefore it is of great importance to the individual, society, country and states of the world. This importance stems from the fact that environmental crime is related to illegal activities that harm the environment, causing damage in the field of economy, security and human lives. As Oskar Arias said: "Human security represents the degree of protection of human beings from ignorance, diseases, hunger, neglect and mistreatment. The standard gives dignity to human life ", while in a more humane treatment, it is a child who is saved, a disease that is cured, an ethnic tension that is alleviated, a dissident who manages to speak freely, a human soul that has hope." (Arias, 1998). Therefore, this is the reason why international organizations and states have ratified conventions, international agreements, constitutions, strategies, laws and special decisions for environmental protection. Environmental protection is part of the category of fundamental human rights and freedoms. Enhancing human rights for the environment has been a state duty for the environment, including the right to an environment of a certain quality, such as "healthy," safe ", " clean "or environmentally sound." The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in its 2009 decision, in which it effectively acknowledged the existence of a specific human right in a healthy environment (Cantillo, 2010) this decision, the ECHR has concluded that the state authorities had failed to take appropriate measures to protect the right to respect for private and family life, within the meaning of Article 8 of the ECHR, as well as in a more general sense " the right to enjoy a healthy and protected environment." (Cantillo, 2010). Currently, more than 100 constitutions worldwide recognize or accept the right to a clean and healthy environment. (Shelton, 2005). In the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, article 56 stipulates the right of every individual to be informed about the state of the environment and its protection, and in the chapter of article 59, "social objectives" provides that the Albanian state aims to achieve two objectives social "regarding the environment and its protection: - a healthy and ecologically suitable environment for present and future generations, as well as the rational use of forests, water, pastures and other natural resources based on the principle of development of stable. Environmental crime is

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one of the most serious crimes and a crime which affects the lives of all persons living in a given society. It poses a threat to daily life, the planet and to future generations and generations.

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative methodology has been applied in this paper, as the analysis and development of arguments of the existing literature using the deductive method have been used, attempts have been made to explain environmental safety, environmental crime and their connection and interdependence with national security. The hypothesis that the paper aims to explain is that: "Environmental damage severely damages human society and state and global interests. Meanwhile, the secondary literature is analyzed in the field of comparative analysis. The main question that arises in the paper is: "Does the environment harm human society and what is the purpose of environmental security and the prevention of environmental crime and the protection of national security in terms of the environment? To answer this question we need to understand what the environment is and environmental safety, what is environmental crime and what are the criminal offenses in the field of environment, what is the necessity of "ensuring" environmental safety, to identify whether environmental safety threatens the national security of the country. The used literature and comparative and interpretive analysis will try to prove the hypothesis raised at the beginning of the paper.

Legal Framework for Environmental Protection

The legal framework for environmental protection in the Republic of Albania consists of a variety of legal acts, such as: The Constitution; framework laws; sectoral laws; bylaws (DCMs, orders, instructions, etc.); penal Code; international environmental agreements, to which the Republic of Albania is a party. [France and Italy, have grouped the main laws in the field of environmental protection in an environmental code]. The basis of criminal legal protection of the human environment and nature is found in domestic and international legal sources. Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (1998) . Environmental issues are an important part of the agenda of the Council of Ministers, while disputes over environmental issues have been the subject of many decisions of the European Court of Justice. On November 4, 1998, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg adopted the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law. European Union legislation in the field of environment is already the most comprehensive modern set of standards in the world, which contains about 500 directives, regulations and decisions. Whereas, "the composition and principles of EU environmental legislation, obligations that come to us as a country are listed as follows: horizontal legislation (7 directives, 1 recommendation); air quality (6 directives); waste management (10 directives, 2 regulations); water quality (11 directives, 1 decision); nature protection (3 directives, 4 regulations); industrial pollution control (3 directives, 3 regulations); chemicals (2 directives, 5 regulations); noises (1 directive); climate change (4 directives, 5 regulations, 2 decisions). The legal framework for the environment is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and consists of laws and normative acts, such as decisions of the Council of Ministers, ministerial acts, regulations, guidelines, standards, conventions, etc. This is also the reason that the protection of the environment is sanctioned in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania in Article 56 which states: "Everyone has the right to be informed about the state of the environment and its protection." Whereas, on the basis and its implementation, is the law no. 8934 date 5.9.2002 "On the protection of the environment from pollution" with subsequent amendments and additions and the law no. 10431, date 9 June 2011 "On the Protection of the Environment", Law no.10440, date 7.7.2011 "On environmental impact assessment" and law no.12.2015, "On some changes", in law no. 10440, date 7.7.2011, "On impact assessment in the environment", law no.91/2013 "On strategic environmental assessment". Also, the amendments to the Criminal Code in July 2019 were very important because the Directive 2008/99 / EC of the European Parliament and Council, dated 19 November 2008 "On the protection of the environment through criminal legislation". This was the most important EU legislative act on the protection of the environment through criminal measures. Through these improvements and legal changes, our legislation was partially approximated. criminal offenses for environmental offenses by Directive 2008/99 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, dated 19 November 2008 "On the protection of the environment through criminal legislation".

What is the Environment and Environmental Safety

Understanding the environment, the components of the environment and environmental safety are of particular importance for the further continuation of the treatment of environmental crime and the link and interdependence with national security.

The meaning of the term "environment" and the components of the environment.

There are many terms, definitions and theoretical orientations related to the environment. To understand what 'environment' is, it is necessary to address some other terms such as: "' nature ', ' ecological justice ', citizenship ' ecological, ' ecological security, eco-human rights', 'eco-centric perspectives', 'environmental assessment', 'protected areas', 'environmental protection', 'environmental justice', 'environmental damage', 'environmental biosafety', 'crimes against nature' and so on are foreign to the disciplines of environmental science, geography and law; and while they have been used in sociology and criminology. The term 'environment' can describe a limited area or an almost infinite space and factors. According to Webster, the term 'environment' means "everything that surrounds and affects the development and survival of something", and the term 'environment' includes water, air, land, wildlife and flora, any interrelationship between them, as well as any relationship with living organisms." The environment is "the set of external conditions that condition the life, development and survival of an organization", and this definition includes the field of environmental protection and urban problems such as crime, traffic jams and noise. The legislation of European countries includes in the broad definition of the environment the part of the environment built by man. Meanwhile, the conventions and international legal acts regarding the definitions of the term 'environment', are not only comprehensive, but they also include issues of various kinds, such as nuclear power, industrial and domestic waste, air and water pollution, land use and urban sprawl, resource use, and the protection of nature or animals. According to the 2002 Law on Environmental Protection, 'Environment' is the set of interactions of biotic and nonbiotic compounds that promote and nourish living life on earth, including the natural biophysical environment of air, soil and water; the diversity of biological ecosystems; human health; cultural, scientific, religious and social values and heritages. Whereas, according to the law of 2011 "On environmental protection", "environment" are natural components: air, soil, water, climate, flora and fauna in the totality of interactions with each other, as well as cultural heritage, as part of the man-made environment. "Whereas," environmental damage "is the damage done to the environment or the loss of the natural function of the constituent parts of the environment, caused by the loss of any of its components, by human interference with the connections of the components of the environment and / or natural course of their development". However, environmental protection is done through measures taken for environmental safety.

Environmental Safety

The concept of "Environmental Security" was first introduced in the mid-1970s when the report for the Organization of African Unity on the Ogaden War between Ethiopia and Somalia was written. It was first used by UNDP in 1994, including major threats that could upset delicate balances on the ground. The UNDP report identifies: "Seven different areas of human security - environmental security (often in the form of consequences of environmental disasters) is one of them. Here, clearly, the security equation does not include military-related issues, but rather situations as difficult as they are equivalent to war. Environmental security emerged as a concept and at the same time as a result of a set of policies at the end of the Cold War. Environmental security quickly became one of the most popular issues in this new period of security studies. Although currently being sidelined by the 'war on terror', the potential link between global warming and security gives new impetus to the environmental security debate. In conditions when environmental safety presents its problems, it is very important that the realization of environmental protection is done through the necessity of "ensuring" environmental safety.

The Necessity of "Ensuring" Environmental Safety

In Albania, it is difficult to estimate the true extent or impact of environmental crime because complete data are lacking. Our country still does not have the correct reporting mechanisms and of course there are problems with identifying, reporting, prosecuting and prosecuting criminal cases that related to environmental crime.

Brzezinski considers climate manipulation as a weapon or as an intertwining with the war strategy of tomorrow. "Tomorrow has come and it is today."- he said in 1970. "Alternative climate modification techniques can be applied for extended periods of time causing drought or storms, thus weakening a nation's capacity and forcing it to accept competitor demands," predicted Gordon J.F. MacDonald, in 1968 in a book that gave the forecast of the world of 2018. Brzezinski quotes it, and in fact, this publication of the "Foreign Policy Association", surprisingly, has predicted many developments such as the Internet, social networks, etc. "Opportunities for military use of 'environmental weapons'... the possibility of climate control, could bring about greater change than those found in 1945, with the explosion of the first nuclear weapons." Through the study "The rise of environmental crime", researchers estimate that transnational environmental crime deprives the world economy of about \$ 91 billion to \$ 259 billion a year, which equates to 64% of organized crime finance. In fact, it is exactly that the risk that conventional geopolitical thinking on rivalries, state priorities for "security", territorial surveillance and the violence of spatial exclusion will be the criteria to be taken into account in relation to environmental change and possible catastrophes that stimulated some critical voices, early, of environmental safety arguments in the early 1990s (Deudney,1990). The global safety environment is changing rapidly and steadily. These features make it difficult to be predictable and give variety to the range of predominant risks. Over the next decade it is predicted that the risks will be mainly asymmetric and hybrid in nature generated by state, non-state actors or failed states. Warnings that environmental insecurities can lead to disaster, war, a homeless crowd of humanity endangering social order and bringing chaos and disruption to their awakening, unless it happens that the political elites of our time quickly change course (Welzer,2012). In the process, simplified assumptions about the efficiency of states, markets, civil societies, or ecological modernization projects to provide solutions to environmental difficulties are called into question (Muldavin,1997). Portrayal and presentation of environmental issues, ecological security, to individuals, human beings, certain entities and problem areas as existential threats to reference objects. Therefore, the issue of 'environmental security' should be secured as any specific issue, because "an issue is considered depoliticized when it does not require state action and is not involved in public debate."

Criminal Offenses Against the Environment

Before recognizing criminal offenses against the environment in Albania, it is of particular interest to know and understand environmental crime.

Understanding Environmental Crime

According to the dictionary of the Albanian language, by "crime", we mean an action that is committed in violation of applicable laws, which has harmful and dangerous consequences for the state, society or any of its members and which is punished according to the code It is a punishable misdemeanor that seriously harms someone or something and is contrary to sound reason. Environmental crime is a complex term for which there is no internationally accepted definition. in the field of environment, which are widely known as environmental crimes, can be defined as illegal acts that directly harm the environment, often, these are perceived as victimless crimes, of the moment and consequently, are listed as non-primary in the list of priorities. For this reason, the sanctions against them are more administrative. The European Commission has defined environmental crime as an act which is contrary to environmental legislation and may cause serious damage or danger to the environment, or to human life. Environmental crime covers acts that violate environmental legislation, causing significant damage or danger to the environment and human health. The most popular areas of environmental crime are the illegal naming or discharge of substances into the air, water or land, the illegal trade in wildlife, the illegal trade in ozone-causing substances and illegal shipments or dumping of waste. In the ordinary sense, environmental crime means all actions that cause harm to the environment. But in the legal sense the definition is deeper as here environmental crime is primarily treated as a formal concept and not just material. The legal definition of environmental crime is as "the set of provisions that establish criminal liability for certain conduct due to (potential) damage to the environment."

Environmental crime consists of illegal activities that harm the environment for the purpose of benefiting groups or individuals through the use and / or destruction of natural resources, water, air, land or damage to protected areas. Actions and omissions that violate environmental legislation and cause damage significant or

risk to the environment and human health are generally classified as administrative offenses, but in a good number of cases are genuine environmental crimes. Environmental problems constitute an important part of the agenda of the Council of Ministers, while Disputes over environmental issues have been the subject of many rulings by the European Court of Justice. Also relying on the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (1998). The EU has taken important steps in this direction through the adoption of the so-called Environmental Crime Directives, which oblige Member States to provide for criminal penalties. This obligation is provided only for criminal offenses committed by natural persons, while for legal persons, Member States remain free to decide whether or not criminal offenses committed by them will be punishable by a criminal sanction. Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the first resolution on the contribution of criminal law to environmental protection (Resolution (77) 28) "different aspects of life today, especially industrial development, necessarily bring with them particularly dangerous to the community" and that "the health of people, animals, plants, as well as the beauty of the landscape must be protected by all possible means". Serious environmental crime poses a threat to the environment, which requires a strong response and coordinated action between different states to protect the environment, through criminal law. According to the specialized literature in the field of environmental protection, crimes against the environment, as an increasingly lucrative criminal activity have reached the second place in the world in terms of the creation of illegal markets, immediately after the illegal drug markets, through illegal activities of hazardous waste disposal, trafficking in toxic toxic substances, smuggling of protected natural resources, as well as illegal trade in products extracted from rare endangered species. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its thematic program on action against transnational organized crime, environmental crime is one of the "new and evolving forms" in the context of organized crime, which has attracted the attention of this international organization in the framework of programming its work against organized crime for the years 2011-2013.

Types of Criminal Offenses Against the Environment

"Criminal law was born as a way and means for the protection of society from crime", and "The duties of criminal law are the fight and prevention of crime, protection of economic and social order from criminal offenses." In the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, in chapter IV "Criminal offenses against the environment", 22 special articles are provided: article 201 (air pollution); article 202 (transportation of toxic waste); article 203 (water pollution); article 204 (prohibited fishing); article 205 (illegal logging); article 206 (cutting of decorative and fruit trees); article 206 / a 'added by law no.110023, date 27.11.2008' (fire destruction of forests and forest environment); article 206/ added by law no. 10023, date 27.11.2008 '(destruction by fire negligence of forests); article 207 (violation of plant and animal quarantine). Whereas with the law no.44 /2019 "On some additions and amendments to the law no.7895, date 27.1.1995, "Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania", amended is partially approximated with the Directive 2008/99 / EC of European Parliament and of the Council, dated 19 November 2008 "On the protection of the environment through criminal legislation", "the first initiative, submitted to the Assembly, is a proposal of 37,527 Albanian citizens, and the second initiative comes with a proposal of a the group of deputies, and more specifically: article 6, article 201 is amended as follows: article 201 (air, water and land pollution); article 7, after article 201, articles 201 / a, 201 / b, 201 / c and 201 / ç are added with the following content: article 201 / a (waste management); article 201 / b (transportation of waste); article 201 / c (dangerous activities); article 201 / ç (nuclear materials and hazardous radioactive substances); article 8, article 202 is amended as follows: article 202 (damage to protected species of wild flora and fauna); article 9, after article 202 are added articles 202 / a and 202 / b with the following content: article 202 / a (trade of protected species of wild flora and fauna); article 202 / b (damage to habitats in environmentally protected areas); article 10, article 203 is amended as follows: article 203 (ozone depleting substances); article 11, after article 207 are added articles 207 / a, 207 / b, 207 / c and 207 / ç with the following content: article 207 / a (abandonment of the companion animal), article 207/ b (intentional killing of the animal of companionship); article 207 / c (animal cruelty) article 207 / ç (matches between animals). Thus, in Chapter IV of the current Criminal Code, together with the changes that entered into force on 08.10.2019, are provided concrete figures of criminal offenses against the environment, as well as the relevant sentences for the perpetrators of these criminal offenses, as follows:

Table 1: Summary of sentences for criminal offenses against the environment.

Nr.	Criminal offenses against the environment	Punitive measures depending on the danger
1	Article 201 / a; Waste management	Imprisonment for up to 15 years
2	Article 201 / b; Transportation of waste	Imprisonment for up to 15 years
3	Article 201 / c; Dangerous activities	Fine up to 5 years imprisonment
4	Article 201 / c; Nuclear materials and hazardous radioactive substances	Imprisonment for up to 15 years
5	Article 202; Damage to protected species of wild flora and fauna	Imprisonment for up to 20 years
6	Article 202 / a; Trade of protected species of wild flora and fauna	Fine up to 7 years in prison
7	Article 202 / b; Habitat damage in environmentally protected areas	Fine up to 3 years imprisonment
8	Article 203; Ozone depleting substances	Fine up to 5 years imprisonment
9	Article 204; Prohibited fishing	Prison from 1 to 7 years
10	Article 205; Illegal logging	Fine or imprisonment of up to 2 years
11	Article 206; Cutting ornamental and fruit trees	Fine or imprisonment of up to 1 year
12	Article 206 / a; Fire destruction of forests	Imprisonment for up to 3 months
13	Article 206 / b; Degradation by fire of forests and forest environment	Imprisonment for up to 20 years
14	Article 207- Violation of the quarantine of plants and animals	Imprisonment for up to 8 years
15	Article 201 / a; Waste management	FINES

The penalties provided for criminal offenses against the environment, or for environmental crimes, are important in achieving awareness of citizens and general prevention of this criminal activity that has significantly damaged the environment in our country, infrastructure, etc., and has consequences for lives human and great economic damage. But to the greatest extent possible, if those measures were fully implemented, a better environmental security would be achieved and an effective prevention of the occurrence of criminal offenses in the field of environment. An important step was taken in 2007 with the adoption of the special law "On criminal liability of legal persons". Also, the amendments of 2008 provided qualifying circumstances related to causing serious and prolonged damage to the environment or protected areas. With the legal changes in 2013, the legislator has toughened the punishment of the provision provided in the new added provision in 2008 on the crime of fire destruction of forests and forest environment. This crime figure committed in qualified circumstances, turns out to be, for the first time, the most serious environmental crime in Albania, and the highest maximum measure of the sentence provided for an environmental crime, after being sentenced to imprisonment of up to twenty years imprisonment.

Does Environmental Crime Endanger National Security?

Environmental security has become a central theme of international politics for the very importance and the role it plays in the standard and quality of human life but also for the growing conflict it carries. Environmental security has become part of national and international agendas. About 971 million people - who make up over 12% of the world's population - live in areas with high or very high exposure to climate risk, 41% live in countries with low levels of peace. Currently, about 33% of the world's population is exposed to floods and 414 million live near one of the 220 most dangerous volcanoes. The United Nations estimates that 40% of internal conflicts over the past 60 years have been over natural resources. Their spectrum and problems can be expanded if not addressed together. The United Nations Security Council is focused on developing how environmental stone and its attention is growing in relation to this issue. The diversification of threats and the

actors involved are generating new challenges for defense and security communities, as well as for society as a whole. Globalization, migration, geopolitical shifts, climate and environmental change, increasing individuals' access to resources technological and social, has made the world more fragile in some levels of security. Aleksandar R. Ivanović, (2010), in the study "Environmental crime as a risk factor for national security", states that: "We can conclude that the theory speaks of security as a state, as a function, security as needed, security as an interest, security as an organization and security as feelings." In the narrow sense of the perspective, security is considered a specific condition characterized by a lack of risk to people, individuals, social groups and communities. While, in a broader sense of observation, security covers the activities of certain entities taken in order to achieve this state, then the system of organizations and institutions that are responsible for undertaking these activities, as well as the feeling or perception by individuals and social groups. According to Professor Dr. Predrag in ilik view, the definition of security should include not only the desired situation, and what people or social groups, organizations and institutions undertake to achieve and also what impact, as well as positively and negatively on that situation. In this context, he defines that national security is "the set of objective and subjective factors (events, relations and processes, institutions and activities) on which depend the survival, stability and normal functioning of a country - its constitutional and legal order, territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty, human rights and freedoms of individuals and social groups and other essential values of the inhabitants of the state)." This means the definition of national security as its constituent elements include: Protection of a state from all military and non-military threats arising from its borders, from the international environment (external security); Protection of the constitutional and legal system of armed rebellion, separatism and other subversive activities of internal extremists (security Protection of human rights and property of citizens (individual security); Protection of individual identity and development of social groups (social security); Protection of economic order and standard of living of people (economic security); Protection of people and buildings from fire, flood, earthquakes, storms and other natural disasters (civil protection); Protection of human health (health insurance); Environmental protection (environmental safety). Environmental protection (environmental safety) is a fundamental part of national security. The question is what is meant by environmental safety? As a matter of security in general, and the issue of national security, and in this regard, there is much disagreement about what involves environmental security. Therefore, "Protection of the environment from pollution and damage, has been declared a national priority and a basic condition for ensuring the development of society." Currently in Albania, environmental protection is recognized as one of the national priorities and an obligation for all actors, be they state institutions, non-profit organizations, private companies or ordinary citizens." Meanwhile, the Constitution has defined important environmental principles as the principle of sustainable development. Environmental security has become a central theme of international politics for the very importance and role it plays in the standard and quality of human life, but also for the growing conflict it carries. Preventing environmental degradation and reducing the consequences of climate change, by effectively managing water basins, enhancing forest areas, treating urban waste in an integrated manner, and cooperating with civil society to raise public awareness of environmental protection, is listed as one of the objectives of the "National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania".

From the study of the national security strategy of the Republic of Albania, it is evident that, "Our country is exposed to dangers of natural origin of geological, hydrological, atmospheric and biophysical character, as well as those of human, technological and Industrial...Climate change is a global phenomenon, which negatively affects the natural balances of the Republic of Albania. Environmental degradation in the Republic of Albania is a very worrying phenomenon. It manifests itself in various forms such as chaotic expansion of urban centers, massive deforestation, damage to agricultural lands, high pollution of hydric basins and erosion of rivers. These phenomena have produced significant consequences in the territory, urban landscape, health and economy of the country...Albania is affected and endangered in the future by erosion." Through the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania is assessed, analyzed and the classification of risks which are presented in Annex B and C, where it results that: in the first level risks, the categories of risks have the highest priority for the security of the Republic of Albania and the likelihood of occurrence and their consequences for national security are considered high. Thus, "environmental degradation and natural disasters; "Environmental destruction, deforestation, river pollution and natural or man-made natural disasters" are ranked as the fifth most dangerous category that threaten national security. Whereas, in the third level risks, which constitute the

third level priority for the security of the country, the probabilities of occurrence are estimated to be lower than the first level and the second level, while the consequences for the national security are lower than the level. Thus, "the consequences of climate change in the natural balances of the Republic of Albania", are listed as the third most dangerous category after the categories: "subversive espionage activities against the interests of the Republic of Albania" and "global financial crisis or regional, which endangers the stability of the economy of the Republic of Albania. And, these conclusions have been reached by analyzing, among others, the structural and institutional weaknesses that most affect our ability to face these risks.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

In this paper "Environmental security, environmental crime and national security", we explained the legal framework for environment, environmental security, environmental crime, the necessity of "ensuring" environmental security, crimes against the environment, and their relationship and interdependence with national security. During this paper we aimed to test the hypothesis that environmental damage severely damages human society, the state and global interests. And the main question that arose at the beginning of the paper: "Does the environment harm human society, environmental safety and does the environmental crime affect the protection of national security in terms of the environment?" The hypothesis raised at the beginning of the paper that environmental safety and environmental crime have an impact and undermine the national security of the country was tested. Therefore, from this study, as the most successful solution for the future, it would be recommended that:

Damage to nature and the environment, civil and human illegality as well as incompetence, indifference, corruption, even negligence and non-performance of functional duties by state institutions and relevant structures at the local and central level have made possible the current state of affairs. Environmental security towards individuals, but not only, have become existential threats to nature, the environment, the state, society, individuals and human beings as a whole.

In the context of the approximation of the Albanian legislation with the EU environmental acquis, , , it is required that the legislation in the field of environmental protection and environmental safety, to group and create the 'Code Environmental 'in the Republic of Albania. We suggest that this should be done for three reasons. First, Albania adheres to become part of the EU. Second, European Union legislation in the field of environment, already constitutes the most comprehensive modern set of standards in the world, which contains about 500 directives, regulations and decisions, which should be adopted and implemented in practice, and thirdly, the experience of two countries that have good relations and cooperation in this regard, France and Italy, have grouped the main laws in the field of environmental protection in an environmental code, therefore, Albania is required to 'appropriate' and implement this positive experience.

Given that the damage to nature and the environment in our country in the last three decades has been catastrophic, it is proposed to establish the Environmental Police / Police Inspectorate of Environmental Security.

The Albanian Government to draft, approve and implement a long-term 10-year strategy 2022-2032, for the protection of the environment and the fierce fight against environmental crime, by "ensuring" environmental security.

Institutions responsible for environmental safety to make investments related to the assessment, measurement of the degree of damage to nature and the environment and their monitoring, as well as the recovery of damage done, respecting European standards of the level of clean and healthy preservation of the environment.

Protection of the environment through criminal legislation, criminal law and environmental law, is required to be carried out in accordance with international standards, resolutely fighting corruption and organized environmental crime. To this end, it is proposed to make necessary additions and changes to the criminal code, significantly increasing sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against the environment, as well as legal and natural persons who by their actions and inactions do not comply with the Constitution and laws on Environment protection. It is also proposed that with the adoption of the European Convention for the Protection of the Environment through the criminal law of the Council of Europe (PECL), Albania take

appropriate measures for the maximum protection of nature and the environment. To achieve full implementation of Directive 2008/99 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 "On the protection of the environment through criminal legislation", through further amendments to the Criminal Code on environmental protection, as the amendments made to the Criminal Code in July 2019 have brought only the partial approximation of our environmental criminal legislation with this directive of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

Greater awareness and education of citizens, community, society and law enforcement officials is required for the protection and protection of the environment by significantly encouraging citizens to inform and report perpetrators of crimes and perpetrators that harm the environment in law enforcement agencies.

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