



كلية الشريعة والقانون بدمنهور



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Enhancing Environmental Protection  
Within The Framework Of Saudi Laws

تعزيز حماية البيئة  
في إطار القوانين السعودية

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مجلة البحوث الفقهية والقانونية  
مجلة علمية عالمية متخصصة ومُحكّمة  
من السادة أعضاء اللجنة العلمية الدائمة والقارئة  
في كافة التخصصات والأقسام العلمية بجامعة الأزهر

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## تعزيز حماية البيئة في إطار القوانين السعودية

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### ملخص البحث:

من خلال التركيز على تعزيز حماية البيئة ضمن إطار القوانين السعودية، استعرضت الدراسة تأثير القضايا البيئية على النطاق العالمي، وتطبيق المملكة العربية السعودية سلسلة من القوانين وإنشاء الوزارات المختصة للحفاظ على البيئة ومواردها. يسلط المقال الضوء على الدور الحيوي لهذه القوانين في التخفيف من التلوث والحفاظ على البيئة، مع التركيز على تقليل الأنشطة الضارة بها. تركز مشكلة البحث على استكشاف دور قوانين البيئة في المملكة العربية السعودية في توفير الحماية القانونية للبيئة، مع التحقق من قدرتها على تحقيق أهداف الحماية البيئية. تبني منهج وصفي تحليلي، تستعرض الدراسة ثقافة المسؤولية البيئية وتقييم جهود الشركات في المسؤولية الاجتماعية تجاه البيئة. تؤكد النتائج التزام المملكة بحماية البيئة من خلال قوانينها المتقدمة وإنشاء الجهات المختصة. تتضمن التوصيات زيادة الوعي، ودعم الابتكارات في التقنيات النظيفة، وتعزيز المراقبة والرصد لحماية البيئة بشكل أكبر. وفي الختام، يؤكد المقال على أهمية الحفاظ على البيئة كجزء أساسي من التنمية المستدامة، وهو أحد أهداف رؤية المملكة، مع الدعوة لمواصلة الجهود لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة وتوفير بيئة صحية للأجيال القادمة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** حماية البيئة، التنمية المستدامة، تنمية السلوك البيئي، الوعي

البيئي.

## **Enhancing Environmental Protection Within The Framework Of Saudi Laws**

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### **Abstract:**

By focusing on enhancing environmental protection within the framework of Saudi laws, the article addresses the global impact of environmental issues and Saudi Arabia's implementation of a series of laws and the establishment of specialized ministries to preserve the environment and its resources. The article highlights the crucial role of these laws in mitigating pollution and preserving the environment, with a specific emphasis on reducing harmful activities. The article's focus is on exploring the role of environmental laws in Saudi Arabia in providing legal protection for the environment and assessing their effectiveness in achieving environmental protection objectives. Adopting a descriptive-analytical methodology, the study examines the culture of environmental responsibility and evaluates companies' efforts in environmental social responsibility. The results confirm the kingdom's strong commitment to environmental protection through its advanced laws and the establishment of specialized entities. Recommendations include increasing awareness, supporting innovations in clean technologies, and enhancing monitoring and surveillance for greater environmental protection. In conclusion, the article underscores the importance of preserving the environment as an essential part of sustainable development, aligned with the kingdom's Vision, and calls for continued efforts to achieve sustainable development and provide a healthy environment for future generations.

**Keywords:** Environmental Protection, Sustainable Development, Environmental Behavior Development, Environmental Awareness.

**Introduction:**

With the increasing environmental problems and their escalating global impact, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has realized the importance of preserving the environment, its resources, and safeguarding them from pollution and depletion. Consequently, it has swiftly enacted numerous laws aimed at protecting and preserving the environment, as well as establishing ministries or agencies responsible for environmental protection and resource conservation, thus achieving environmental balance.

**Significance of search:**

The significance of the study lies in elucidating the role of environmental laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in protecting the environment and reducing harmful activities, thereby mitigating the spread of environmental pollution and its wide-ranging impacts on life. Additionally, the study helps shed light on the responsibilities arising from environmental pollution.

**Search Problem:**

The research problem revolves around examining the relationship between Saudi Arabian environmental laws and the enhancement of environmental protection. Specifically, it aims to investigate the extent to which these laws contribute to safeguarding the environment and achieving environmental conservation objectives. The central question guiding this study is: What is the relationship between Saudi Arabian environmental laws and the promotion of environmental protection?

**Objectives:**

The research aims to highlight the culture of environmental responsibility and enhance it, with a focus on the importance of environmental conservation in achieving sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the research aims to identify the efforts made by companies in the field of environmental social responsibility by reviewing the measures they take to reduce pollution and promote environmental sustainability.



**Previous Studies:**

- Study by Moroccan, Taha Osman Abu Bakr (2020): "Elements of Environmental Pollution Crime and Legal Liability of Legal Entities."<sup>1</sup> The researcher highlights the increasing environmental challenges and serious threats facing living organisms due to continuous pollution. This prompted him to explore the extent of legal liability for legal entities in this context. The study indicates the legal jurisprudence's delay in dealing with this issue, especially after major disasters like the Chernobyl incident, shedding light on the clear fact that the environmental impact of any harm to the environment has global repercussions. The researcher also presents a realistic picture of the environmental deterioration we witness today, with an expected increase in the need for reporting on the criminal responsibility of legal entities in environmental pollution crimes. Furthermore, the study points to the trend of legislators in Egypt and Saudi Arabia towards accepting the concept of criminal responsibility for legal entities, reflecting developments in criminal laws to address increasing environmental challenges.
- Study by Al-Jaridli, Jamal Zaki Ismail (2015): "Legal Responsibility Arising from Environmental Pollution: A Comparative Study in the Egyptian and Saudi Systems and Islamic Law."<sup>2</sup> The study reviews the fundamental concepts related to environmental pollution, focusing on its definition and elements, as well as reviewing individual and societal responsibility for environmental conservation in Islamic law. Additionally, the

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<sup>1</sup> Moroccan, Taha Osman Abu Bakr. (2020). "Elements of Environmental Pollution Crime and Legal Liability of Legal Entities." *Journal of Islamic Legal Sciences*, Vol. 13, Issue 3, pp. 2246 - 2316.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Jaridli, Jamal Zaki Ismail. (2015). "Legal Responsibility Arising from Environmental Pollution: A Comparative Study in Egyptian and Saudi Law and Islamic Law." *Journal of Jurisprudential and Legal Research*, Vol. 30, Issue 3, pp. 1-50.

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research addresses the legal responsibility arising from environmental pollution in statutory laws, including defining environmental protection laws, their characteristics, sources, and how legal protection of the environment is regulated in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The study concludes that environmental problems are not limited to one country but represent a global challenge affecting the international community at large. It also suggests the necessity of harmonizing environmental legislation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, including defining criminal and civil liability for those committing environmentally harmful acts.

### **Methodology:**

The study adopts a descriptive-analytical methodology, describing and analyzing the actual situation to enhance environmental protection within the framework of environmental laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It relies on a diverse range of primary and secondary sources and scientific publications to support and document the research.

## 1. The Legal Basis for Environmental Protection.

The legal basis for environmental protection constitutes the legal framework that defines the laws and regulations governing and safeguarding the environment<sup>1</sup>. This framework consists of a set of laws that delineate the responsibilities and duties related to environmental protection<sup>2</sup>, specify penalties and preventive measures to prevent pollution, and mitigate the impacts of human activities on the environment<sup>3</sup>.

### 1.1 Building an Environmental Culture:

The Role of Education and Media in Environmental Protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Efforts to preserve the environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are focused on a comprehensive legal system aimed at conserving natural resources and maintaining environmental balance. However, educational and media aspects play a vital role in supporting these efforts and enhancing environmental awareness within the community.

Regarding educational aspects, the educational role lies in directing efforts towards building and enhancing environmental awareness among individuals by integrating environmental conservation concepts

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<sup>1</sup> Mahann, Sakan Mohammed, & Al-Sara, Abdul Razzaq Talal Jasim. (2022). "The Legal Basis for Environmental Protection at the National Level." *Journal of Legal and Political Sciences*, Vol. 11, Issue 2, pp. 791-810.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Otaibi, Ahmed Sulaiman. (2018). "The Legal Basis for the Individual's Right to a Clean Environment." *International Kuwait Law College Journal*, Vol. 6, Supplement, pp. 19-66.

<sup>3</sup> Safahi, Ismail. (2021). "Environmental Protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia According to Vision 2030." *Journal of Sharia and Law College at Taif University*, Vol. 23, Issue 7, pp. 2607-2652.

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into the curriculum and encouraging participation in environmental activities. Education in its various forms serves to shape positive environmental behaviors and increase responsibility towards the environment, which can lead to achieving sustainable development.

As for media aspects, the role of media lies in shedding light on environmental issues and raising public awareness about their importance and the necessity to address the challenges facing the environment. Through various media channels, powerful messages can be directed, and people can be inspired to participate in environmental conservation efforts and adopt sustainable behaviors.

Additionally, it is necessary to enhance cooperation between educational institutions, environmental organizations, and government entities to ensure the implementation of comprehensive and integrated educational programs targeting all segments of society. Workshops, lectures, and educational events involving all parties can be organized to transfer knowledge and exchange experiences in the field of environmental protection and enhance environmental awareness.

Furthermore, it is imperative for the government to support scientific research in the field of the environment and to encourage innovation and technological development to find sustainable solutions to the environmental challenges facing the Kingdom. Grants and financial assistance can be provided for research and technological projects aimed at preserving the environment and enhancing its sustainability.

Moreover, initiatives for environmental awareness at both individual and collective levels should be encouraged, such as raising awareness about the importance of waste sorting, energy conservation, and efficient resource utilization. Motivating the community to participate in local and global environmental campaigns and engage in voluntary work to preserve nature and clean affected environmental areas is also crucial.

By relying on these integrated and multi-level efforts, environmental awareness can be enhanced, and the community can be motivated to take effective actions to protect the environment in the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia and achieve sustainable development for current and future generations.

## **2.1 Legal Framework for Environmental Protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

The legal framework for environmental protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comprises a set of legislations, laws, and regulations enacted by the government aimed at conserving natural resources and preserving the environment. This legal framework aims to regulate human and industrial activities to maintain environmental balance and mitigate their negative impacts<sup>1</sup>.

The basis of environmental protection in the fundamental system of governance lies in conserving the environment, which includes preventing pollution, mitigating environmental degradation, and ensuring sustainable development. This is achieved through compliance with environmental standards, regulations, and preventive or remedial measures related to the environment in accordance with the provisions of the system and regulations.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has shown great concern for the environment<sup>2</sup> and emphasized the necessity of its protection in various laws. The legal basis for the environment in Saudi Arabia is embodied in Article 32 of the Basic Law of Governance, which mandates the state to conserve, protect, and develop the environment and prevent pollution.

Environmental protection in the general environmental system and its implementing regulations constitutes a fundamental essence in the

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Faleh, Qasim bin Musaad bin Qasim. (2016). Terrestrial Environmental Pollution in Saudi Law. Judiciary Magazine, Issue 7, 11-82.

<sup>2</sup> Hamza, Mahmoud Ahmed Helmy Mohamed. (2023). Legal and Judicial Guarantees for Environmental Protection from Pollution in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Tabuk University Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 3(1), 240-265.

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environmental policies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This system aims to achieve a set of objectives and principles, delineate rights and duties related to conserving and developing the environment, preventing pollution, and providing care for diverse natural resources in the Kingdom.

Through this system, the legal framework and shared responsibilities of governmental entities and environmental institutions are defined, providing mechanisms to activate environmental governance requirements. The specific obligations outlined in the system include conducting periodic reviews of the environmental status in the Kingdom, developing means to monitor and apply standards for environmental protection and documentation, as well as disseminating this information to the public.

These commitments are part of ongoing efforts to preserve the environment and work to prevent its degradation, while enhancing the balance between economic development and environmental conservation<sup>1</sup>. These laws and regulations reflect the Kingdom's commitment to promoting sustainable environmental management and achieving the goals of sustainable development.

Furthermore, the international basis for environmental protection reflects countries' commitment to preserving the environment and preventing any degradation that could affect its current and future functions. This commitment is embodied in the United Nations Charter, declarations, and international agreements related to environmental protection<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Abu Bakr, Taha Osman. (2020). "Elements of Environmental Pollution Crime and the Legal Liability of the Legal Entity Therefor." *Journal of Legal Sciences*, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 2246-2316.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Du'jani, Shouq bint Manahi. (2022). "International Responsibility for Environmental Crimes and Their Impact on Human Security: Clarifying the Efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Combating These Crimes." *Journal of Human Rights Generation*, No. 41, pp. 47-80.

Through principles like the Stockholm Declaration, countries pledge to improve and protect the environment for current and future generations. This declaration emphasizes the importance of taking necessary steps to prevent pollution of the seas and oceans with substances that threaten human health and marine life. Countries commit to protecting natural areas, marine reserves, and ensuring the sustainable and balanced use of the seas<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, the international legal framework for the environment serves as an important reference for countries to develop policies and national legislation that protect the environment and promote environmental sustainability.

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Sharif, Naif bin Sultan. (2015). Environmental Crimes and Their Penalties in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A Comparative Study. Journal of King Abdulaziz University - Economics and Administration, Vol. 29, Issue 1, pp. 215-272.

## **2. Formulating and Implementing Environmental Protection Regulations in Saudi Legislation.**

The Saudi legislator has established a set of preventive and deterrent measures to protect the environment and tasked the administration with regulating and implementing them in various aspects, whether related to protecting water resources, natural habitats, or the living environment, through legal measures aimed at environmental protection.

### **2.1 Administrative Protection of the Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.**

The efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reflect its steadfast commitment to protecting and preserving the environment from environmental degradation. This importance is evident in the various efforts and activities of government agencies and institutions. Additionally, the kingdom has issued numerous regulations to protect the environment and natural resources, aiming to mitigate the negative impacts that may result from environmental pollution and resource depletion.<sup>1</sup>

Administrative environmental regulation is an activity carried out by some administrative bodies through issuing orders and directives to restrict individual freedoms, with the aim of maintaining public order and ensuring environmental protection<sup>2</sup>. This is achieved through a set of administrative measures adopted to protect the environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which take two main forms:

First Image: Preventive and Precautionary Methods for Environmental Protection in the Kingdom: The efforts of the Saudi regulatory bodies

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Damkhi, A. M., Khuraibet, A. M., Abdul-Wahab, S. A., & Al-Attar, F. A. H. (2009). Commentary: toward defining the concept of environmental crime on the basis of sustainability. *Environmental Practice*, 11(2), 115-124.

<sup>2</sup> Ababneh, Mahmoud Ahmed. (2019). Administrative Protection against Noise Pollution: A Study in the Saudi Legal System. *Jordanian Journal of Law and Political Science*, Vol. 11, Issue 4, pp. 111-144.



to protect and preserve the environment are reflected in the use of various regulatory methods and the implementation of measures aimed at avoiding environmental risks and ensuring the integrity of the ecosystem<sup>1</sup>. The Saudi regulator has adopted a range of preventive measures to protect the environment and preserve its components, including:

A- Licensing or Permission: Licensing is a preventive method whereby individuals are required by law to inform the administration or public authority of their intended actions, allowing the administration to take necessary precautions to prevent and warn of potential disturbances.

B- Prohibition: The Saudi regulator often resorts to prohibiting certain activities that pose a danger and harm to the environment. This prohibition can be absolute or relative. Absolute prohibition involves banning specific actions outright without exception or permission. Relative prohibition involves prohibiting certain activities that may have harmful effects on the environment in any of its elements unless authorized by the competent authorities, in accordance with the conditions and regulations specified by environmental protection laws and regulations<sup>2</sup>.

C- Obligation: The system obliges individuals to perform certain actions to protect and preserve the environment from all threats. This includes positive actions equivalent to prohibiting negative actions. Obligation is the opposite of prohibition, as the latter is a legal measure to prevent certain activities, making it a negative action, whereas

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Zuhairi, Mahdi Hamdi Mahdi, Hamad, Hamad Karim, and Hamid, Hind Abdul Amir. (2022). Preventive Management Methods in Environmental Protection from Pollution: A Comparative Legal Study. *Journal of Legal and Political Sciences*, Vol. 11, Issue 2, pp. 183-222.

<sup>2</sup> Ben Mustafa, Abdullah. (2019). Preventive Regulatory Measures for Environmental Protection in Algerian Legislation. *Journal of Legal and Economic Research*, Issue 3, pp. 445-454.

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obligation entails the necessity of performing a specific action, making it a positive measure.

Second Image: Deterrent and Penal Measures for Environmental Protection in the Kingdom: These measures are taken after violations occur and involve methods to address environmental infringements, ensuring effective protection of the environment and its components.

Deterrent methods include:

1. Warning or Notice: Notification is among the measures available to the administration to alert and remind the violator of the need to rectify the situation and take measures to align their activities with applicable environmental standards. The purpose of the warning or notice is to provide initial legal protection before resorting to other punitive actions, making it a precursor to legal penalties<sup>1</sup>.
2. License Revocation: Revoking a license is one of the most significant administrative oversight mechanisms as it provides proactive protection against offenses. It is particularly relevant for projects with environmental significance and hazards. Revocation is considered one of the most severe administrative penalties, empowering the administration to withdraw licenses. Most reasons for license revocation or cancellation occur when the project poses imminent threats to public order, health, or tranquility or fails to meet legal requirements.
3. Temporary Suspension of Activities: Temporary suspension targets industrial entities with negative environmental impacts. It is employed by administrations to protect the environment due to industrial activities' adverse effects<sup>2</sup> when the operator fails to

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Badri, Ahmed Hamed. (2007). Criminal Protection of the Environment in Saudi Law. Al-Idara Al-Aamah Journal, Volume 47, Issue 2, 191 - 246.

<sup>2</sup> Bouzid, Fouad. (2018). Criminal Protection of the Environment. Moroccan Law Journal, Issue 38, 243 - 260.

implement necessary preventive measures after being warned by the competent authority.

## **2.2 Criminal Protection of the Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:**

Blatant environmental violations in the Kingdom prompted a shift from relying solely on administrative protection to adopting criminal measures. This involves imposing criminal penalties for violations of legal regulations outlined in various environmental protection laws. Specific procedures are established for this purpose<sup>1</sup> By examining the environmental crime<sup>2</sup>, and thus the dilemma that arises in this context revolves around the extent of success and effectiveness of the measures taken by the Saudi regulator in the framework of environmental protection?

**To address the issue of criminal environmental protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we will delve into it from both procedural and substantive perspectives:**

### **First: Procedural Criminal Environmental Protection in Saudi Arabia:**

Procedural criminal protection involves the responsible entities legally carrying out environmental monitoring activities and initiating and handling public prosecution,<sup>3</sup> as the sole means of enforcing the legal rules established for criminal protection<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Fadel, Ilham, and Wanoughi, Nabil. (2020). Preventive Administrative Control Mechanisms for Environmental Protection in Algeria. *Ramah Journal of Research and Studies*, Issue 49, 245 - 273.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Ajaji, Sulaiman bin Nasser. (2021). Criminal Liability for Improper Disposal of Hazardous Waste: An Analytical Study in Saudi Environmental Law. *Journal of Sharia Sciences*, Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 1168-1209.

<sup>3</sup> Boukadoum, Yahiaoui Salihah. (2023). Legal Protection of the Urban Environment. *Journal of Law and Humanities*, Vol. 16, Issue 1, pp. 431-446.

<sup>4</sup> Majahidi, Khadija. (2019). Criminal Protection of the Wilderness Environment in Comparative Law. *National Criminal Journal*, Vol. 62, Issue 1, pp. 23-71 .

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- Entities Responsible for Environmental Crime Inspection: Article 36 of the General Environmental Regulation and its executive regulations designate inspectors responsible for investigating environmental crimes according to specific regulations and standards.

A. Environmental Inspectors: Saudi regulations assign environmental inspection duties to environmental inspectors, considering them the primary force against environmental crimes. They document inspection sites, conditions, and the criminal nature of actions.

B. Security Forces: Environmental crime inspections extend beyond environmental inspectors to include security forces, established through agreements between the Ministry of Interior and the Authority, tasked with protecting protected areas. They document violations of this regulation and its provisions and implement decisions accordingly. If security forces discover any violations, they must prepare a report containing necessary information about the violator, their place of residence, and their identification number.

- Entities Responsible for Initiating and Handling Environmental Crimes: The General Environmental Regulation entrusts monitoring environmental crimes to the Public Prosecution, with an exception allowing other entities to perform this task, such as ministerial committees, under Article 39 of the General Environmental Regulation.

The Public Prosecution, in accordance with Article 42 of the General Environmental Regulation, investigates violations mentioned in Article 40, prosecutes before the competent court, and plays a prominent role in addressing environmental crimes. It retains the authority to initiate public prosecution or suspend the proceedings of the relevant parties against environmental law violators. The Public Prosecution exercises extensive powers.

Regarding the public prosecution, it is uniquely tasked with initiating proceedings, and the public prosecution cannot effectively perform its role without coordinating continuous cooperation and consultation

between it and the various administrative authorities responsible for investigating and inspecting environmental crimes, as they possess the expertise. Qualifying members of the public prosecution. The Attorney General of the Public Prosecution has issued a decision to establish a department specialized in investigating environmental crimes, with the aim of enhancing criminal protection of the environment and its natural components within the framework of modern regulations that focus on preventive and procedural aspects such as the Agriculture System, which includes delegating the authority to investigate and prosecute violations of Articles (28) and (29) to the public prosecution.

**Secondly: The substantive criminal protection of the environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia encompasses various acts that constitute offenses against the environment, aimed at providing substantive protection for it. Among these crimes are:**

- Crime of environmental pollution by hazardous and toxic waste: The Saudi Arabian law criminalizes this in the first paragraph of Article 14 of the General Environmental Law for the year 1422, which prohibits the introduction of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including its territorial waters or exclusive economic zone. Those involved in the production, transportation, storage, recycling, or processing of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive substances are required to dispose of them.
- Crime of hunting within cities, villages, and prohibited areas<sup>1</sup>: The text addressing this crime is found in Article 4 of the Wildlife Hunting Law, as confirmed by the General Environmental Law for the year 1441 AH under Article 27, which prohibits the hunting of live natural animal species, with certain exceptions permitted with a license.

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<sup>1</sup> Atta, Abu Al-Khair Nashat Ahmed. (2021). The Impact of Illegal Fishing on the Environment: A Study in the Light of Islamic Jurisprudence. Al-Zahra Magazine, Vol. 31, pp. 301-423.

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- Crime of using untreated sewage water or polluted water for irrigation or agriculture: Saudi regulations criminalize this act under Article 15 of the Sewage Treatment and Reuse Law.
- Crime of cutting trees or vegetation on the coasts of the Kingdom or its affiliated islands<sup>1</sup>: Due to the seriousness of these actions, the Fishing, Investment, and Protection of Water Resources Law in the territorial waters aims to protect the living water resources in Article 6. Criminal behavior in this crime takes various forms, including cutting trees or vegetation growing on the Saudi coasts.
- Crime of introducing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste into Saudi Arabia's territorial waters<sup>2</sup>: This conduct has been criminalized based on the first paragraph of Article 14 of the General Environmental Law, which prohibits the introduction of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including its territorial waters or exclusive economic zone.

**Thirdly: Penalties prescribed for environmental crimes in the General Environmental Law:** The Saudi legislator has imposed penalties for various environmental crimes in Articles 41 and 42 of the General Environmental Law.

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Sheikh, Hamad bin Mohammed bin Hamad. (2010). Sustainable Environmental Development of the Southwest Forest Region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 139, pp. 233.

<sup>2</sup>Al-Ramikhani, Walid bin Sulaiman. (2023). "The Crime of Introducing Hazardous Waste into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A Comparative Analytical Study." *Journal of Legal Sciences*, Vol. 16, No. 5, pp. 2511-2559.

## Conclusion

Protecting and preserving the environment are fundamental aspects of sustainable development and form one of the goals of Vision 2030. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has developed numerous strategies and plans to enhance the objectives of sustainable development, using the vision as a reference for making key decisions to ensure environmental protection and overcome the challenges it faces. Below are the research findings and recommendations on this topic.

**Results:**

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a strong commitment to environmental protection from pollution, having developed advanced environmental laws that align with international standards. Additionally, it has established a specialized agency responsible for environmental protection, namely the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (an example is the Saudi Environmental Protection Law issued in 2020).
- Environmental laws in the Kingdom focus on sustainable development and preserving natural resources, working towards providing legal protection for the environment.
- The Kingdom has employed administrative and criminal measures to protect the environment, including criminalizing polluting activities and imposing strict penalties on violators.

**Recommendations:**

- Enhanced Awareness and Education: Increase awareness of the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development by integrating environmental education into curricula at all levels, and organizing conferences and seminars. This will build a culture of environmental responsibility across different sectors of society.
- Support for Innovation and Clean Technologies: Encourage the development and adoption of innovative clean technologies that reduce pollution and enhance resource efficiency. Provide incentives for businesses to adopt such technologies and practices that contribute to environmental sustainability.
- Robust Monitoring and Enforcement: Strengthen monitoring and surveillance systems to detect and mitigate negative impacts on the environment due to human activities. Tighten penalties for violations to enforce compliance with environmental laws and regulations more rigorously.
- International Cooperation and Compliance: Promote cooperation with international environmental initiatives and ensure that domestic



environmental policies align with global standards. This approach will enhance the effectiveness of environmental protection efforts and ensure sustainable development goals are met.

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