Publication Arrival Date: 20.11.2019 **Publication Approval Date:** 28.06.2020 **DOI No:** 10.35343/kosbed.649027 Ali YEŞİLDAL [•]

Political Economy of Environment and Sustainable Development; Local Governments and Multilevel Governance

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Summary

In recent years, local governments in many countries have been given great powers in environmental issues. This situation can be considered as a result of the multi-level governance approach. Especially with the multi-level governance approach adopted by the European Union and decided to be disseminated in member countries, local governments can be effective in environmental problems. Because local governments are successful in both organization and efficient use of resources. It is argued that a sound and effective approach and policy for environmental protection and restoration of natural resources should include key features that reflect the alignment of national and global strategies expected for a sustainable society. Hence, the main claim of this study is that the achievement of good governance in all its dimensions can initiate a rapid development process from local to national level.

Keywords; Environment, Local Development, Local Governments, Multilevel Governance

Gel Codes: H75, F64, O16.

Abstract

In recent years, local governments have been given great powers on the environment in many countries. This situation can be considered as a result of multi-level governance understanding. Local governments can be active in environmental issues, especially with the multi-level governance approach adopted by the European Union and decided to be disseminated in the member states. Because they are successful in both the organization and the efficient use of resources. It is argued that a sound and effective approach and policy for the protection of the environment and the restoration of natural resources should include the basic characteristics that reflect the alignment of the expected national and global strategies for a sustainable society. From this point of view, the main claim of this study is that attempting to provide good governance with all dimensions, a rapid development process can be initiated from local to national.

Keywords; Environment, Local Development, Local Governments, Multilevel Governance

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Introduction

Growing environmental awareness worldwide is pushing countries around the world to adjust their environmental policies. Developing countries are home to some of the world's most pressing environmental and natural resource problems, including air and water pollution, which adversely affect the lives of millions of people every year, and deforestation, which causes biodiversity loss and climate change. Inadequate political, financial and institutional resources make it unlikely that these problems can be addressed using traditional regulatory tools. Overcoming these constraints requires both well-trained policy analysts and rigorous, objective research to guide policymaking.

In recent years, local governments in many countries have been given great powers in environmental issues. This situation can be considered as a result of the multi-level governance approach. Especially with the multi-level governance approach adopted by the European Union and decided to be disseminated in member countries, local governments can be effective in environmental problems. Because local governments are successful in both organization and efficient use of resources. It is argued that a sound and effective approach and policy for the protection of the environment and restoration of natural resources should include key features that reflect the alignment of national and global strategies expected for a sustainable society.

The growing awareness of governments and international organizations has resulted in several initiatives aimed at systematically confronting the overwhelming problems faced in establishing a global policy for environmental management. This takes into account environmental changes, patterns of economic development and socio-cultural factors. A sustainable society supports the attainment of basic needs with extensive opportunity to aspire satisfactorily for a better life now and in the future. It is emphasized that for economic sustainability to be realized, development measures must be supported by available resources within society. It is argued that the resource base in a sustainable society can be strengthened through the effective, efficient and equitable use of unwanted pollutants, available resources and economic growth.

1. Globalization, Environment and Sustainable Development

The concept of 'sustainable development' has a long history. The concept of sustainable development and sustainability is generally related to the ideas put forward by economists, philosophers, scientists and writers since the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Lumley and Armstrong, 2004:368). In this respect, "sustainable development", a development model that can meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, entered the world agenda towards the end of the 20th century and became a global implementation plan with international agreements signed in the 1990s.[1] Introduced by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, the term was adopted by politicians and civil society.

[1] http://www.surdurulebilirkalkinma.gov.tr/temel-tanimlar/

organizations. It soon became a key concept on the national and international policy agenda, in international negotiations and in political and popular discourse. The appeal of a concept that promises to reconcile environmental sustainability, social welfare and economic development is easily understood (Stevenson, 2015:3). Although the literature on sustainable development is a distinct genre in itself, the concept is better understood in terms of transboundary international issues, including energy security, water and climate change (Vivekanandan, 2009:47).

On the other hand, in the process of globalization, there has been a significant growth in the volume and value of global trade, investment and finance. This important implications for the natural environment, as international economic relations have been found to have a link with environmental quality. The extent to which international economic relations contribute to environmental problems or solutions to environmental problems is the subject of extensive debate (Newell and Paterson 1998:680). Some that the relationships are largely positive, with environmental benefits dependent on the economic growth that global economic transactions seek to facilitate. For these thinkers, environmental policies should be able to address negative consequences in ways that do not impede global economic activity. Others, however, can see negative environmental impacts arising primarily from global economic relations and the economic growth associated with it. For them, it is important that environmental policies constrain global economic transactions. A third view is gaining prominence, arguing that while there are some negative aspects of global economic relations for the environment, a balanced management of the global economy can bring both economic and environmental benefits. Here we see mainly the negative environmental impacts resulting from global economic relations and associated economic growth (Clapp and Helleiner, 2012:491).

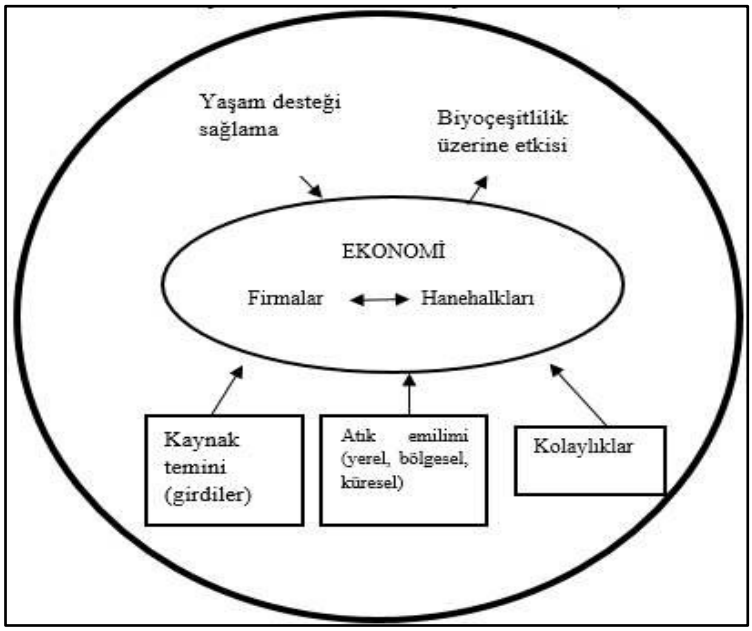
Sustainable development is an integrative concept that emphasizes the links between environmental, economic and social aspects of development (George, 2007:110). Sustainable development is in favor of supporting economic growth on the one hand and biodiversity and the fight against poverty on the other, without using a short-term strategy that would destroy natural resources. The concept of sustainable development is increasingly becoming part of human habitats and development decisions. This trend also affects local areas due to its environmental, social and economic impacts. The success of introducing sustainable development depends in part on the support and participation of the parties involved in local areas. Not all stakeholders need to be equally involved in the decision-making process related to sustainable development, but all their interests need to be identified and understood (Kapera, 2018:584).

2. Environment and Economic Development

Today, environmental problems experienced in every country have come to the agenda as common problems of all humanity. Environment is one of the conditions that constitute the development pillar of countries. The extent of environmental problems and how to find a solution to them one of the most important agenda items of all countries. Developing countries

For countries, the increase in sensitivity to the environment has gained validity in terms of rapid development of the economy. The key to the environmental problematic that has taken its place on the world's agenda is the concept of sustainable development (Tutar, 2011:2). Over the past few years, many studies have significantly changed our understanding of the local level in contemporary climate policy making. In recent years, economists have been contributing to the literature, often using different techniques from those used by environmental historians and emphasizing the different contributions of their work (Hickmann and Stehle, 2018:16). Dense populations and centralized social and economic activities are causing increasingly complex and serious urban environmental problems. In this process, it is essential to implement effective and integrated urban environmental management. Moreover, a developed urban economy provides favorable conditions for the implementation of rich cultural and economic methods. Based on the above-mentioned requirements and possibilities, urban an environment-economic management system development of is considered necessary. This system combines economic methods with other methods in urban and environmental management (Yang et al., 2006:31).

Figure 1: System of Relations between Economy and Environment



Source: Yang et al, 2006

Environmental organizations and participants in ecosystems often have a more dispersed and diverse mix. These range from biological degradation in systems seen as natural environments (air, water and agriculture) to recreational or aesthetic interests. In general, this interest is not directly linked to the activity of these movements in economic markets. Research shows how natural resource revenues in a developing country can quickly create problems of dependence and vulnerability to fluctuations in global prices and climate change. Policy interventions to address such problems could be provided by financial stabilization funds.

from the creation of a legal framework for water supply to the establishment of regional redistribution policies for water. It also emphasizes the importance of adapting to the specific characteristics of the natural resources and the country in question, outlining appropriate policies for managing newly found natural resources to avoid the negative impacts that resources can create. In such a case, the proposed policy interventions include counter-policies (Cockburn, et al. 2018:520).

Table 1. Evolution of Economic Dependence on Natural Resources in the Economy of Various Countries

	Percentage of natural resource rents in GDP						
	1970	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**
World Regions							
High income countries	0,7	4,5	1,3	1,3	1,8	1,9	1,1
East Asia & Pacific	1,8	19,1	8,8	3,5	5,6	6,2	1,5
Europe & Central Asia	0,7	1,04	9,6	9,9	11,0	9,3	6,2
Latin America & Caribbean	1,1	8,2	4,9	3,7	6,4	5,2	2,7
Middle East & North Africa	0,4	25,3	14,4	16,7	27,4	20,6	9,5
Sub-Saharan Africa	4,7	19,1	14,8	13,3	16,8	14,8	8,0
Case Studies							
Burkina Faso- Gold	6,8	8,3	6,8	6,0	7,2	14,9	21,0
Chad - Oil	4,0	10,1	7,5	10,6	38,6	24,5	13,1
Mongolia- Coal, Copper	ND	ND	8,7	7,9	21,6	38,6	16,5
Niger - Oil, Uranium	2,2	3,4	5,4	9,1	9,6	10,1	14,8
Guatemala- Su	1,2	2,1	1,8	1,5	1,5	2,6	2,3

Source: World Bank (2017) Total Natural Resources Rents (% of GDP). World Bank data. Available at http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.TOTL.RT.ZS

3. Political Economy of the Environment

In recent years there has been a growing concern about the degradation and pollution of the environment and climate change affecting the future development of both developing and developed countries. In 1992, representatives of more than 150 countries gathered in Rio, Brazil to discuss environmental issues and their impact on the future development of the world. This meeting in Rio is called the '*Earth Summit*' or the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, sustainable development become the main policy response to tackle global environmental degradation, from climate change to biodiversity loss and deforestation. Market instruments such as emissions trading, payments for ecosystem services and wood certificates have become the main mechanisms for financing the sustainable management of the world's natural resources (Cadman et al. 2015:17). Against this backdrop, over the past two decades, international political economy and environment (IPEE) scholars have been increasingly focusing on economic and environmental challenges in the wake of the 1987 Brundtland Report and the 1992 Rio Conference (Cadman et al., 2015:17).

of the various international cooperative initiatives that seek to link them together. This important work has advanced our understanding of issues such as the economic dimensions of international environmental governance, the environmental activities of international economic institutions and regimes, and new types of private international regimes regulating the environment. However, IPEE's focus has diverted attention away from larger structural trends in the international political economy (Clapp and Helleiner, 2012:488).

Their environmental impacts are not explicitly addressed by explicit international governance arrangements. Among these three trends that deserve more attention from IPEE experts are: globalization of financial markets; the rise of newly powerful states such as China and India in the global economy; and the recent emergence of high and volatile commodity prices. The close study of each of these structural trends has important environmental implications that enhance our understanding of the relationship between international political economy and the environment. Their work also encourages researchers to focus beyond treaties, institutions and regimes to examine broader global economic structures and processes and the power relations within them (Clapp and Helleiner, 2012:489).

The literature on the political economy of the global environment states that it is a mix of economics, international relations and international environmental politics, depending on the formal and informal institutional factors that lead to unsustainable habits. The physical environment has long been the subject of social scientists who recognize that patterns of social activity can contribute to environmental degradation. One of the most common formulations of environmental problems as a collective action is the metaphor of the Tragedy of the Commons, which argues that worldwide overpopulation will undoubtedly contribute to large-scale resource depletion. Following the establishment of the key features of environmental issues as lying in the ranges of various human activities, the implications for research on international environmental politics have followed. The realist and neorealist traditions in international relations emphasize the role of power in addressing environmental issues. Neoliberal institutionalists look at the role of formal institutional features in influencing states' willingness to address cross-border and global environmental threats. On the other hand, the constructivist movement in international relations focuses on the role of new ecological doctrines in how states choose to address environmental problems and act collectively. Ultimately, decades of mainstream politics, environmentally-oriented activities, sustainable development doctrines, free trade and the political economy of domestic development on environmental issues (Haas, 2013:42).

Sociological theories of the political economy of the environment have emerged in two waves. The first wave has a productivist orientation, showing how the normal workings of industrial production damage the environment. A second wave of theory focuses on social movements that challenge environmental destruction. To address popular unrest over environmental declines, states have typically created corporatist policy-making circles that include long-established, moderate environmental NGOs and exclude disadvantaged and unorganized populations. Advocates of environmental justice and sustainable consumption have sought to mobilize the marginalized by articulating a just theory of sustainability that addresses both concerns. Existing debates in the field are characterized by the first and second

wave theories power focuses. This one Theoretical focus climate may shift towards the political economy of disasters as change intensifies (Rudel, et al. 2011:224).

The Role of Political Economy in the Global Environment

Modern economics is not only concerned with financial matters, but also with the various services and resources that the natural environment provides us. How does economic activity and policy in environmental economics affect the environment we live in, and how does the environment support economic activity? It is very important to explain how the economy and the environment are interconnected. The environment supports economic activity by humans in four ways - it provides life support, provides natural resources for production and consumption, absorbs waste products and provides maintenance services. The economy works from within the environmental system and its activities affect the environment, the latter in turn affecting the economy.[2]

The continued destruction of the global environment by human activities in the pursuit of developmental goals has manifested over the years in the form of many natural disasters: severe flooding, famine, deforestation, earthquakes, ozone depletion, global warming and other related social and economic woes. In an effort to reduce carbon emissions from technological and chemical development processes in developed and developing countries, world leaders - at different times through multilateral and bilateral forums - have sought ways to initiate and adopt resolutions, conventions and agreements to guide policy. The aim is to ensure that the environment is protected and managed by the governments of both developed and developing countries of the world (Cadman, 2015:45). Over the past two decades, more attention has been paid in Western societies to the physical-biotic basis of social functioning than at any other time in industrial history.

Socioeconomic Impacts of Environmental Crises

Given the importance of time-varying environmental phenomena such as weather, climate change and natural disasters with implications for exogenous changes, several studies have assessed the importance of environmental shocks in economic history. Environmental history is a mature field and the environmental subfield of economic history is well developed, but the integration of these literatures is still far from ideal. The natural environment has played an important role in the development of societies. Findings, data sources and methods from the environmental economic history literature are expected to further enrich environmental historiography. Moreover, the dynamic relationship between some important themes in the environmental history literature has received limited attention from welfare reflections and economists (Gadgil and Guha, 1993:25). Some studies have examined the economic impacts of events such as droughts, floods and the spread of new diseases. Much of this literature has focused on the US. For example, using weather-induced changes in 19th century cotton crops to create a causal effect on non-farm business cycles, they found that more cotton exports increased the supply of high strong money in the economy (Davis, et al,2009

[2] http://www.economicsdiscussion.net/economic-development/environment-and-economic-development-economics/30299

:1678). Fishback et al. (2011) similarly investigated whether climate or weather affected mortality rates during the Great Depression (Fishback et al. 2011:137).

It is not understood that the relative ease with which events such as conflicts and political transitions can be recorded in a historical context, and their importance in influencing the course of history, has focused a considerable volume of work on them. The literature on this topic offers an extensive bibliography of various historical examples. Christian and Fenske (2015) and Papaioannou and de Haas (2015) linked adverse weather conditions to unrest and crime respectively during the colonial period in Africa. Chaney (2013) found that years of Nile River flooding reduced the likelihood of replacing the top religious authority in Muslim Egypt (Chaney, 2013:2035). Other studies have the longer-run effects of environmental disasters by comparing places or individuals affected by these events with reasonable comparison groups that have not been treated similarly. Cutler et al. (2007) geocoded maps of soil erosion to examine the long-term health effects of America's dust bowl era on individuals, while Hornbeck (2012) tracked the effects on land values, population and agricultural development (Hornbeck, 2012:1478). The negative effects of droughts on the eve of the Mexican Revolution and the floods in Mississippi show that these effects continue to this day (Hornbeck and Naidu, 2014:966).

Public concern about environmental degradation is growing worldwide. Increased environmental awareness has led to the need to further mainstream environmental policies. For example, despite a global awareness of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, many developed countries and major coal exporting countries still maintain coal production (Weng et al., 2019:208).

To understand the origins of modern environmental problems, one must appreciate how the environmental interests of the above-mentioned actors are related to the physical-biotic organization of ecological systems. The history of expanding industrial production has provided data outlining a dialectical conflict between social and ecological organization in advanced industrial societies (Schnaiberg, 1992:17)

Dialectical conflicts arise in social systems whenever there are two or more goals that cannot be realized simultaneously. Basically, the dialectical tension in the relations between modern societies and their environment arises from two axioms: (1) most elements of ecological systems cannot satisfy both exchange-value needs and use-value needs, and (2) the production treadmill prioritizes exchange-value uses of ecosystems, while ecological uses are a biological and social necessity for all classes (Groves, 1992:43).

The lack of institutional stability, capacity and funding for climate change has prevented Johannesburg's climate unit from effectively measuring, collecting and reporting data on greenhouse gas emissions. This has hampered long-term strategic efforts and affected the implementation of existing strategies. According to local authorities, considerable budget constraints limited the success of both *the* 2008 *Climate Change Strategy and Action* Plan and the 2009 *Climate Change Adaptation Plan.* So far, with the help of external actors, including international city networks, only two greenhouse gas inventories have been created for 2007 and 2014. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions

The lack of comparable data on the actual impact of climate actions leads to information gaps and delays the prioritization of carbon-intensive areas. However, international financing programs have been used to initiate climate-related projects in some sectors (Hickmann and Stehle, 2018:16).

4. Environment and Local Governments

Decentralization has been an important strategy for achieving development goals, delivering public services and sustaining environmental protection and has become a dominant theme in environmental policy debates (Wittayapak and Vandergeest, 2010:14). In the last two decades, decentralization has become an important strategy for achieving development goals , delivering public services and sustaining environmental protection, and has become a dominant theme in environmental policy debates (Panya, 2018:38). In this respect, good reasons to draw attention to local governments. Every environmental problem is also a local and global environmental problem. Local governments are the organizations closest to people and the environment. For this reason, in many countries, the environmental expenditures of local governments outweigh those of others. Local governments have established many strategic, long-term environmental policies, especially in the area of land use planning. In addition, small decisions and actions are taken every day in cumulative response to changes in the regional environment and heritage values (Thomas, 2010:121).

In parallel with the decentralization process, environmental management has become a core function of local governments. Local government management performance significantly affects the quality of life (QOL) of those for whom local governments are responsible for basic public services, including urban planning, provision of social and health services, education, water supply, business development and environmental management. This is particularly important today as the world is becoming urbanized. Rapid economic development leads to environmental degradation and pollution, as well as global warming, and therefore, local government's environmental management is of high value for improving people's QOL with good environmental quality.[3] Therefore, while local governments used to act under central control within the framework set by the center, under the new procedure, local governments have the initiative to directly determine the scope of action. Finally, while it operates with the principle of top-down devolution, in the new procedure it acts with the bottom-up federal principle (Dede, 2011:71).

Environmental Problems and Local Governments

Local governments seem to play an increasingly important role in environmental and sustainability practices. Over the last two decades, authors have put forward various views on the role of cities in climate policymaking. For example, Dodman (2009) assessed the opportunities and limits of local governments to contribute to climate change mitigation. In particular, he emphasized the importance of institutional capacities to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change at the local level (Dodman, 2009:188).

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[3] For more information on this issue see; United Cities and Local Governments, ***Decentralization and local democracy in the World*****,** Washington, DC, 2008

Urban Environment and Economic Management

By establishing a multifaceted network of administration, enterprises and public administration, it is hoped that the economic management system of the urban environment can ensure effective management. The administrative management sector acts as a decision maker, formulates laws, regulations and standards, and realizes uniform supervision and management. Objects managed according to the principles of environmental-economic management, enterprises must comply with the regulations of the government and realize. Meanwhile, public participation and monitoring are crucial for positive practices (Yang et al, 2006:35).

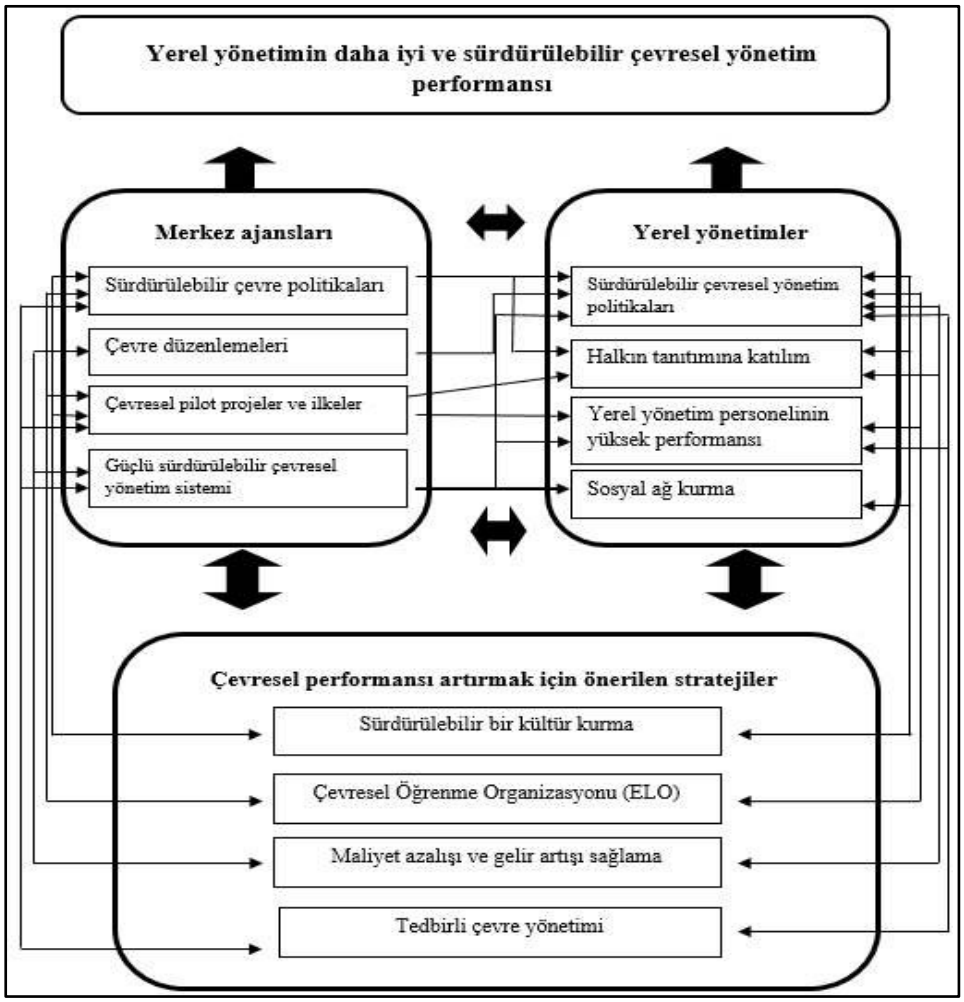
5. Environmental Management Strategies of Local Governments

Environmental management systems (EMS) are also used to guide environmental activity and can directly contribute to sustainability (Emilsson and Hjelm, 2007:76). The United Nations has developed a system for economic and environmental accounting that identifies four relevant areas for local governments. These include environmental protection, natural resource management, activities related to environmental damage, environmental balance sheet, and changes in the quality and quantity of environmental assets (Heycox et al, 1997:6). Environmental management system (EMS) is to develop an international standard specifying the requirements for an environmental management system and to provide an environment for realizing policies and objectives, taking into account the legal requirements of important environmental aspects (Panya et al, 2018:36). The aim is to achieve sustainable waste management practices by balancing global and regional environmental impacts, social impacts at the local community level and economic impacts. The framework combines life cycle assessment with other environmental, social and economic tools (Kijak and Moy, 2004:33).

Although many local governments try to improve their environmental management systems, they face problems that affect their environmental management performance, such as clarity of objectives, inadequate management structure, access to information, and conditions specific to developing countries (Emilsson and Hjelm, 2002:446). However, some local governments face environmental problems that cause various types of pollution, waste and land use issues, which in turn affect people's QOL (Panya, et al., 2018:36).

Environmental management assessment is an important measure to monitor, analyze and evaluate the local government's environmental management system (EMS). This evaluation helps to check the degree of success or value of any action taken in relation to its purpose, objectives and results. In addition, the results of the evaluation help in decision-making to reduce problems and improve environmental management (Panya, et al., 2018:36).

Figure.2: Suggested Strategies and Recommendations for Driving Strategies



Source: Panya Napawan, Poboon Chamlong, Phoochinda Wisakha, Teungfung Ratiporn.(2018), The performance of the environmental management of local governments in Thailand, ***Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences,*** Volume 39, Issue 1, January-April, p.40

Multilevel governance is a process of negotiation between legitimate, deliberative, institutional structures and public, private, individual and non-governmental actors. It refers to both decision-making, implementation and dispute resolution (Piattoni, 2010:20). Central agencies should adopt the vision of better and sustainable local government environmental management as important policies that local governments should follow in their environmental management and make clear environmental regulations, because clear regulations supporting local governments' environmental management can improve the effectiveness of their activities. Central agencies should create a competitive environment among local governments to persuade local managers and employees to enact the proposed policies. Pilot projects supported by central agencies should be implemented with local governments.

can be a way to promote cooperation in improving environmental management. In addition, central institutions can provide local governments, especially small local governments, with management resources such as human resources and budgets for environmental management. However, central agencies need to support local governments in establishing a strong and sustainable environmental management system that can be operated in the long term without central government assistance. In addition, the unity of central agencies is crucial in implementing the proposed strategies because it provides a clear unity of understanding for local governments.

Sustainable environmental management should be the main policy for local governments. Local governments should move towards environmentally friendly planning and management and encourage the participation of the public and stakeholders in environmental management by providing information and raising public awareness, rather than focusing only on problems that are already occurring or the construction of infrastructure. Furthermore, improving performance and raising the awareness of local government staff and the public to ensure sustainable management is crucial to improve their performance and the quality of the local environment. Finally, creating an appropriate social network for the local context can help local governments to make their tasks more effective and sustainable.

Building a Sustainable Culture

A sustainable culture should be the most important goal when determining environmental management strategies. Therefore, the first strategy proposes to build a sustainable culture by increasing people's environmental knowledge and awareness, changing people's behavior to be environmentally friendly, and building social networks to support environmental activities. LGs are therefore involved in the management of conservation and environmental issues through land use planning, especially through legislation on land use planning. In addition this approach, LGs have played a greater role in determining future directions using strategic planning approaches (Thomas, 2010:121).

Environmental Learning

Environmental learning is an important method that local governments should pay attention to. This strategy aims to support and facilitate local staff in learning how to improve their performance in the long term (Panya et al, 2018:39).

Reducing Costs and Increasing Revenues

Reducing costs is one of the most important functions of environmental policy and environmental management. Because local governments have limited tools and equipment. Therefore, the proposed strategy is to reduce costs and increase revenue through three main concepts. These concepts are: green economy, command and control and using a voluntary approach.

Waste management, resource efficiency and recycling

As noted earlier, one of the traditional roles of the LG has been in the provision of basic services such as garbage collection. With increasing concern over pollution from landfills or incinerators and the consumption of resources, "garbage" is now managed as "garbage" rather than simply disposed of, and management approaches have become relatively complex (Kijak and Moy, 2004:38).

Environmental Management

Environmental management is an active issue in environmental protection. Therefore, this strategy was proposed to counter environmental problems in order to reduce the impact on human beings and mitigate damages to the environment. Safety measures or precautions should be planned in advance, before problems arise. Therefore, at every stage of the environmental management cycle, local governments should adopt environmental risk assessment to reduce environmental problems in their areas to improve people's quality of life.

It shows the relationship between the strategies proposed to improve environmental performance and the recommendations to implement the proposed strategies for both central institutions and local governments (Panya et al., 2019:37).

6. Urban Environmental Policies and Multilevel Governance: New Development Paradigm

The complex and multi-scale nature of environmental climate change has attracted increasing interest in governance approaches that can span governance levels (Gupta, 2007:134). Urban governance and institutional capacity have been emphasized as necessary conditions for addressing key challenges for urban sustainability. Governance refers to the process by which government fulfills its mandate through the involvement of non-governmental actors (Jones and Evans, 2006:1495).

The term multilevel governance was initially used by scholars focusing on the European Union to explain the vertical and horizontal interaction between local, national and European levels of decision-making (Bache and Flinders, 2004:34). Subsequent studies have developed various concepts to emphasize the broad distribution of decision-making capacities and policy-making responsibilities in different areas of global affairs (Hickman and Stehle, 2018:16).

The growing importance of actors outside the formal hierarchy of state structures, along with their increasing interconnectedness, points to the emergence of multilevel governance mechanisms in world politics today. Multilevel governance refers to the various layers of overlapping influence that characterize policy-making processes in the current global order. States find themselves having to share the policy-making function with many civil society actors whose participation in policy processes is increasing, redefining the role of the state from policy control to policy coordination. This form of governance provides a broad framework within which the roles of the various state-state and non-state actors involved in decision-making on a given issue can be better understood. Therefore, given the nature of the issues at risk, there is a need to revisit various interpretations of governance. Sustainable development issues that affect both human security and state security transcend political boundaries, and their complexity requires different actors working at multiple levels to negotiate and create issue-based linkages. This distribution of decision-making at different political levels has signaled the emergence of a multilevel politics (Vivekanandan, 2009:45).

Multi-level policy networks approaches focus on governance levels as well as the interactions within them. Both national and sub-national climate and land use

The policy space includes governmental, non-governmental and international actors operating at the relevant jurisdictional level (Gregorio, 2019:65). Specific solutions are required that exploit new institutions with existing and open-level cross-functionalities across governance structures organized in jurisdictions with a broader scale of climate change as an environmental challenge. As noted in the literature, a move towards a polycentric and more coherent governance system can help overcome existing barriers in cross-level interactions (Gregorio, 2019:67).

7. Environment and Multilevel Governance; Conceptual Framework

Multilevel governance refers to a pluralistic structure consisting of the state, private sector and civil society organizations in the decision-making process in public policies on the one hand, and the removal of hierarchy between supranational, national and subnational levels on the other. Multilevel governance is, by definition, a process of continuous negotiation between decision-making actors through networks temporarily created for specific purposes (Dede, 2011:245). In studies of cohesion, interaction and scale, Orang Young (2002) identifies five driving forces that shape the interaction between levels of governance. These include: the level and type of decentralization, differences in authority and power between jurisdictions, preventing policy coalitions, discourses of construal, and cognitive shifts. Policy approaches emphasize the relational characteristics of policy processes (Young, 2002:25).

complexity and multilevel nature of climate change requires governance systems that can manage and resolve conflicts of interest at various scales and among various policy actors. In the Global South, this is more important because priorities can be influenced by powerful international interests. Comparative analyses on land use have found evidence of barriers to cross-fertilization due to institutional and policy constraints. In this sense, improved integration of mitigation, adaptation and development objectives can help reduce the divergence of interests of actors at different governance levels with respect to climate change responses.

As efforts to tackle environmental challenges are organized across governance structures in regions with a large scale of climate change as an environmental problem, solutions are required that affect new institutions with existing and open cross-level functions. As noted in the literature, a move towards a polycentric and more coherent governance system can help overcome existing barriers in cross-level interactions. It is also argued that such innovative institutions should be specifically designed and dedicated to integrate weaker interests at the local level into policy processes centrally. Climate change actors at the international and national level have an important responsibility in this regard (Gregorio, 2019:66).

On the other hand, governance solutions that organize governance functions at different spatial levels are common. For example, co-management of natural resources such as forests in developing countries is based on the relative advantages of undertaking some governance functions, such as funding and collective decision-making at the national level, and other governance functions, such as monitoring and provision, at the local level. Decision-making and fundraising at the national level requires lower costs than at the local level,

because there are economies of scale in these activities for a large number of forest parcels. It is also less costly to develop expertise and experience in fundraising and potentially to interact centrally between resources and local areas. In contrast, local monitoring of natural resource use and supply may entail lower costs than centralized monitoring and supply due to proximity to the resources involved and co-production, among other activities. Co-management also allows states with limited capacity and resources to distribute monitoring and procurement costs more widely.[4]

Important aspects from a multi-level governance perspective are (i)

competence and coordination between vertical levels of government

(ii) horizontal levels of governance in terms of both inter- and intra-city linkages and governance patterns between different local governments.

(iii) Power relations between different public, private and civil actors decision-making and policy-making at local and metropolitan levels (McGuirk, 2000:654).

These practices are crucial for ensuring effective urban governance. For example, metropolitan governance institutions in Europe in the 1990s can be seen not only as instruments of regional competitiveness, but also to provide a comprehensive response to mitigate the negative side effects of reducing local urban entrepreneurship and local regulation. On the other hand, they are critical for ensuring an inclusive and accountable governance process that is not only important for social activities, but can also have direct positive effects to improve the economic and environmental impacts of urban development (Keivani, 2010:5).

Any discussion of governance must take into account the impact of strategic planning to respond to uncertain urban futures, especially in the context of economic globalization and climate change. This approach has been adopted in many cities since the early 1980s in the context of reinventing themselves in the face of severe economic crisis and the loss of traditional industries. This has led to a proliferation of various medium and long-term economic and development strategies at both metropolitan and district level. Partly based on this experience and recognition of the multifaceted economic and physical growth challenges in cities, the World Bank has advocated for the adoption of City Development Strategies (CDS) in developing countries as a way to provide a holistic strategic approach to address perceived challenges. The objectives required for an effective CDS;

Increasing the efficiency of the city

economy, Reducing poverty,

Protecting the environment,

[4] https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eet.1698

Improving local revenue raising capacity and city financial management (McGuirk, 2000).

By 2009, more than 200 CDSs had been formulated and implemented with varying degrees of success in different cities around the world. Some commentators have argued that CDSs and strategic planning aimed at strengthening economic competitiveness are *the* neoliberal growth paradigm of *the* "*Washington consensus*" that will reinforce local practices and patterns of historical and social exclusion. On the contrary, a more positive and pragmatic perspective argues that unless local leaders have a strategic understanding of their cities' weaknesses, strengths and potentials, and where they fit into the wider national and regional economies, they cannot take effective action to address their shortcomings (Keivani, 2010:5).

Conclusion

The growth of the world economy is changing the world's environment. However, there is sharp disagreement about the nature of this transformation. For example, the question of whether the globalization of capitalism is a force for progress and environmental solutions or a cause of our current global environmental crisis remains unanswered. These questions are examined by considering debates on the most contentious issues at the heart of economic globalization and the environment. In particular, these debates center on economic growth, production and consumption, trade and international investment. After providing an overview of the general debate about how the global political economy affects the global environment, the discussion traces the history of global environmentalism, in particular the emergence of international environmental organizations with the norm of sustainable development.

On the other hand, multilevel governance offers great potential for realizing the scope of sustainable development. However, different stakeholders are likely to make competing demands on the governance system. Powerful lobbies have vested rights to stop attempts to impose restrictions on unregulated resource use, while they will want their rights to resources located in local environments to be protected. The degree to which sustainable development issues are addressed depends on the nature of a country's political system and the inherent power of the affected constituencies. This power therefore requires limited government, resources and policies in the face of national, local and transnational challenges.

ecological economists have not yet fully embraced the study of environmental governance solutions, there is clearly potential for further research. Complex governance arrangements are a fertile object of research that asks us to understand their economic rationale, functioning and impact. There are different visions for a sustainable economy and these involve different social and political values. Assumptions about different discourses can be challenged or invalidated, but not in a way that creates a true and legitimate discourse.

the relationship between local governments and environmental problems, it is clear how much they can contribute to the reduction of environmental problems. Local governments much more effective in this process. , local governments have a much more effective position in this process.

The role of local government management has expanded beyond road construction and garbage collection. Local government management performance significantly affects the quality of life (QOL) of those for whom local governments are responsible for essential public services, including urban planning, social and health service delivery, education, water supply, business development and environmental management.

Progress needs to be made in the beliefideal solutions or institutional arrangements waiting to be implemented. Approaches to them (such as the notion of multi-level governance) involve processes fraught with conflicts and contradictions and are by no means easy. When such arrangements are put in place, they are likely to require a variety of solutions to address many aspects of sustainable development. Intervening, managing and implementing these different solutions will involve multiple stakeholders with overlapping imperatives, resulting in a fragmented arrangement, but a strategy that responds to the simultaneous needs of society and the environment. This is because the complexity and multilevel nature of environmental changes requires management systems that can manage and resolve conflicts of interest at various scales and among various policy actors.

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