



Environmental Management and Justice System in Bangladesh: Issues and Legal Framework

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Abstract. This paper presents environmental justice in Bangladesh, which is connected with the human development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice is essential for human rights, which affects human lives as well as the sustainable development of the country. Environmental justice ensures all people's enjoyment of human rights, economic development, and health protection; above all, a healthy environment for life. Various environmental issues like global warming, overpopulation, waste disposal, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity, and deforestation are harmful to human lives. The environmental problems in Bangladesh are climate change, cyclones, floods, drought, earthquakes, riverbank erosion, air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution, etc.

Keywords: Environmental Justice System, Environmental Management, Legal Framework

Abstrak. Makalah ini menyajikan keadilan lingkungan di Bangladesh, yang berkaitan dengan pembangunan manusia, implementasi, dan penegakan hukum, peraturan, dan kebijakan lingkungan. Keadilan lingkungan sangat penting bagi hak asasi manusia, yang memengaruhi kehidupan manusia serta pembangunan berkelanjutan negara. Keadilan lingkungan menjamin pemenuhan hak asasi manusia, pembangunan ekonomi, dan perlindungan kesehatan bagi semua orang; terutama, lingkungan yang sehat untuk kehidupan. Berbagai isu lingkungan seperti pemanasan global, kelebihan populasi, pembuangan limbah, pengasaman laut, hilangnya keanekaragaman hayati, dan deforestasi berbahaya bagi kehidupan manusia. Permasalahan lingkungan di Bangladesh meliputi perubahan iklim, siklon, banjir, kekeringan, gempa bumi, erosi tepi sungai, polusi udara, polusi air, polusi tanah, polusi suara, dll.

Kata kunci: Sistem Keadilan Lingkungan, Pengelolaan Lingkungan, Kerangka Hukum

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1. Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency of United States explains that the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, concerning the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies is considered as environmental justice. It also includes that health should not suffer because of environmental pollution. The concept of environmental justice began as a movement in the 1980s due to the realization that a disproportionate number of polluting industries, power plants, and waste disposal areas were located near low-income or minority communities. They ensure a fair distribution of environmental burdens among all people, regardless of their background.¹ Environmental justice means legal protection from nuclear testing, production, and hazardous waste, which ensures the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food. The major environmental problems in Bangladesh are climate change, cyclones, floods, flash floods, drought, earthquakes, riverbank erosion, air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, and noise pollution. The development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice should ensure the legal aspect for all people. The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests, and wildlife for the present and future citizens.” Environmental justice shall ensure a healthy life, food, adequate transportation, clean air and pure water, and a safe environmental eco-system.² A Joint District Judge and a Special Magistrate’s Court have been formed in each district under the Environment Court Act 2010 in order to achieve environmental justice and to expedite the resolution of environmental matters.

Environmental Justice management is vital for conservation of the environment, improvement of environmental standards and control and mitigation of environmental pollution.³ Environmental law is very important for maintenance of healthy environment. The environmental justice aims to create a legal policy, judicial framework so that justice can be ensured for all stake holders. The environmental victims may seek justice in the court for environmental damage in

¹ Ingrid Yanet Sanchez Torres Bio, “Environmental Justice Definition, Principles & Examples” *Study.com*. Retrieved in July 23, 2025 from. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-environmental-justice-definition-principles-examples-issues.html>.

² Article 18A The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Available at <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367/section-41505.html>. Accessed on July 19, 2025.

³ Bangla text of the Act was published in the Bangladesh Gazette, extra-ordinary issue of 16-2-1995 and amended by Act Nos 12 of 2000 and 9 of 2002. Available at <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bgd42272.pdf>. Accessed on July 21, 2025.

the legal framework. The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 is the principal act which provide for conservation of the environment, improvement of environmental standards and control and mitigation of environmental.⁴ The Government is empowered to make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.⁵ The courts can exercise jurisdiction to take cognizance of an offense independently also can ensure sufficient punishment prescribed by the statutes. The victims may compensate and can resolve the dispute in alternative ways. The poor and disadvantaged people may seek environmental justice who are affected environmental pollution through legal aid. The public departments are rich of logistics support and human resources to control, coordinate with in decision-making of natural resource management. Special court ensures efficient environmental justice by the Environment Court Act 2010 for ordinary people though they cannot file a case directly.⁶ Anyone wishing to bring a lawsuit must first register a complaint with the Department of Environment (DOE). The court will only hear the matter after receiving a report from an inspector. If the inspector fails to take action within 60 days after receiving a request, and if the court finds the complaint reasonable, then the court may exercise its authority. As a result, most people aren't interested in pursuing environmental justice in the environmental court since it takes a long time and a lot of scientific and technical expertise to decide on environmental concerns. Cases involving environmental issues place a heavy load on the shoulders of judges.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) has arranged several press conferences to address the environmental problems and discuss solutions.⁷ 'Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)' is working to promote sustainable development of the environment, especially global warming, sea level rise, and natural disasters, which are the major problems in the world. Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK), Environment Council Bangladesh, Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative, Environment and Social Development Organization

⁴ The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995. Act No. 1 of 1995. Available at <https://file-chittagong.portal.gov.bd/uploads/abc95c96-c9cc-4254-a0f3-9aab70431229//68d/6e8/3a8/68d6e83a8debb936299869.pdf>. Accessed on July 18, 2025.

⁵ The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995.

⁶ The Environmental Court Act 2010. An Act to provide for the establishment of Environment Courts for speedy trail of offences relating to environment and for amending and consolidating the existing laws relating to the matter incidental thereto. Available at https://legislativeportal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/legislativeportal.gov.bd/page/5a6bca14_6a2e_44e4_b155_c8147d1edd65/20.%20The%20Environment%20Court%20Act%202010.pdf. Accessed on July 21, 2025.

⁷ Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, "Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), Waterkeepers Bangladesh and Khowai river waterkeeper jointly organized a protest at Khowai River bank on September 26 2020," *Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon*, December 1, 2020. Retrieved in July 12, 2025 from <http://www.bapa.org.bd/default.aspx>.

(ESDO), United Nations (UN), and SAARC are also concerned with environmental issues.

2. Research Methods

This study employs a normatif qualitative research approach, focusing on the analysis of legal texts, policies, and frameworks to examine the environmental justice and governance system in Bangladesh. This method was chosen because of its suitability for exploring complex legal and policy issues without requiring empirical data collection, allowing for in-depth interpretation of existing laws, court decisions, and international treaties. The normatif approach allows for a systematic review of legal principles and their application, which is particularly relevant for identifying gaps in enforcement and implementation. The primary objective of this study emphasis on ensuring environmental justice through equitable treatment and the protection of human rights, health, and sustainable development. Specifically, the study aims to highlight how environmental law addresses issues such as climate change, pollution, and resource conservation, while promoting equitable access to justice for all citizens, including vulnerable communities, to promote a healthy environment and mitigate the adverse impacts of global and local environmental challenges. The data for this study were sourced exclusively from primary materials, including national laws such as the Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Act 1995, the Environmental Court Act 2010, and the Environmental Pollution Control Ordinance 1977, international treaties such as the Rio Declaration and the Ramsar Convention, reports from organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), and the Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS), as well as scholarly articles and policy documents from government agencies such as the Department of Environment (DOE). The analytical technique involved thematic content analysis, where key themes such as legal barriers, judicial processes, and environmental challenges were identified and coded from the documents.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Environmental Challenges and Justice Issues in Bangladesh

Inequitable access to hazardous food, poor transportation, air and water pollution, dangerous housing, etc., which affect specific populations, especially lower-income individuals, are the key focal points of environmental justice

concerns.⁸ In this regard, climate change causes severe flooding, droughts, cyclones rising sea levels; the effects of climate change are loss of lives, endangered livelihoods, and displacement of people from their lands. Coastal areas are most vulnerable to the impact of global warming due to saline intrusion, causing steady destruction of crops and grain production. Deforestation, heavy rainfall, and subsequent flooding are also significant problems with climate change. Water salinity is hampering agricultural production, mangrove forests, Sundarbans, Sundari trees, biodiversity, and wildlife in the coastal location. Bangladesh is a developing country, but climate change is a significant threat to development and economic growth.⁹ Besides this, air pollution is also a major problem caused by the increasing population, burning of fossil fuels, industrialization, and associated motorization. The water pollution caused by industrialization and the underground water of Bangladesh has been polluted due to arsenic. Urbanization is also considered the main reason behind environmental pollution. Increasing vehicles, air conditioners, smoking, and gases are responsible for air pollution, which causes the ‘Green House Effect.’ Various machines or devices are also to blame for destroying the natural environment. In this regard, forests are essential to increasing environmental pollution.¹⁰

To guarantee environmental justice in Bangladesh, there are a lot of issues. Due to several significant legal obstacles, obtaining ecological justice in the judicial system is difficult for regular people. Ensuring environmental justice in Bangladesh presents numerous challenges.¹¹ Due to several significant legal barriers, obtaining environmental justice through the judicial system is difficult for the general public. There is no way for individuals to file a lawsuit themselves; plaintiffs must visit the Department of Environmental Protection (DOE) to file a complaint, which then submits a report to the court. The court can only take immediate action on an environmental issue if the inspector fails to take appropriate action within 60 days of the individual’s request. This process is complex and time-consuming, deterring many individuals from pursuing environmental justice in environmental courts. Because environmental crimes require scientific and technical understanding, a judge in Bangladesh must have specialized knowledge or expertise in environmental justice to make a decision. However, the penalty of 10 lakh Tk under the Environmental Conservation Act should be sufficient to deter

⁸ Jona Razzaque, “Access to environmental justice: Role of the judiciary in Bangladesh,” *Bangladesh Journal of law* 4, no. 1 (2000): 14.

⁹ Aatur Rahman “Climate justice,” *New Age*, August 10, 2020. Retrieved in July 13, 2025 from. <https://www.newagebd.net/article/113092/climate-justice>.

¹⁰ Jorge E. Viñuales, “Comparing environmental law systems,” *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* 73, no. 1 (2024): 256.

¹¹ Mohammad Ershadul Karim, *Environmental Law in Bangladesh* (Fiesole: Torrossa online digital bookstore, 2024), 228.

environmental violations. Often, communities are unable to protect their environmental rights due to threats from polluters and a lack of support from government and non-profit organizations to file lawsuits against polluters. The procedure for filing an environmental lawsuit is quite burdensome for most people harmed by environmental pollution due to the Environmental Court Act of 2010, which makes it inconvenient and inaccessible to the general public for environmental justice. The lack of explicit environmental laws, complicated procedures, public skepticism, politicized governance mechanisms, and a lack of environmental awareness all contribute to the lack of environmental justice in Bangladesh.¹² In addition to increasing urbanization and industrialization, these factors contribute to environmental pollution. Consequently, urbanization and industry have led to the dumping of solid waste and noise. Litigation processes for environmental issues are quite complex, and the enforcement of penalties and fines is left to the executive, while there is no oversight mechanism by the courts.¹³ Long-standing administrative procedures for identifying environmental crimes also pose a significant problem in environmental violations, and for this reason, the general public is reluctant to file environmental lawsuits. There is no way for an individual to bring a lawsuit on their own. The complainant must visit the Department of Environmental Protection (DOE) to file a complaint, which will then send a report to the court.¹⁴ A longtime administrative procedure to identify environmental crimes is also a significant problem for environmental breaches, and for this reason, common people are not interested in filing an environmental case. Environmental victims cannot sue directly, require administrative process and arbitrariness, and only focus on affected people, so environmental justice largely exists on paper.¹⁵

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is working to protect natural resources, an increasingly complex challenge. In the present world, every state is interconnected with economies and environmental threats that cross political borders, such as air pollution and biodiversity loss, affecting global, regional, national, and local responses involving a wide range of stakeholders. Environmental problems, governance, and justice are the main challenges to ensuring environmental justice. Environmental justice includes the rules, practices, policies, and institutions that shape how humans interact with the environment. Environmental justice takes into account all the stakeholders that impact the

¹² Manmeet Kaur Arora, Sahil Lal, and Bhupinder Singh, "A way forward to realm of environmental law in India: unveiling judicial activism and enforcement challenges," *National Journal of Environmental Law* 7, no. 1 (2024): 87.

¹³ Gitanjali Nain Gill, "The national green tribunal of India: a sustainable future through the principles of international environmental law," *Environmental Law Review* 16, no. 3 (2014): 189.

¹⁴ Abul Hasanat, "Environmental Courts in Enforcement: The Role of Law in Environmental Justice in Bangladesh," *Australian Journal of Asian Law* 21, no. 2 (2021): 94.

¹⁵ Hasanat, "Environmental Courts in Enforcement," 95.

environment. From governments to NGOs, the private sector, and civil society, cooperation is critical to achieving effective environmental justice that can help us move towards a more sustainable future. The Environment and Social Development Organization has been working to promote environmental justice and good governance.¹⁶ In particular, it is mentioned that the programs of the ecovillage, zero waste village, and community-based eco-tourism are various steps to ensure environmental justice and governance in Bangladesh.¹⁷

3.2. National Environmental Laws

The Environmental Pollution Control Ordinance, 1977 superseded the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, 1970 and extended the control, prevention, and reduction of pollution to the entire environment of Bangladesh and expanded the definition of “pollution” from that specifically relating to waters to “air, water or soil”.¹⁸ As a result, it also includes pollution of air and water, or the destructive usage of soil, plants, and living creatures in general. The Ordinance also reformed the Environmental Pollution Control Board, and the Board was given authority to create expert committees as appropriate. Member-in-charge of Physical Planning and Housing Sector, the Secretary of the Local Government, the Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock Division, and Ministry of Industries; the Secretaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Public Works, and Urban Development; the Chief, Flood Control and Water Reduction; and the Secretary, Flood Control and Reduction. Furthermore, the Board was given the authority to test any waste product, air, water, or soil to ensure that pollution was minimized across Bangladesh and to avoid it.

The 1977 Ordinance established that the Environmental Pollution Control Board be given the authority to create expert panels as needed. On the Board were the Planning Commission’s Members in Charge of Physical Planning and Housing, as well as Secretaries of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Agriculture, and Forestry.¹⁹ Also on the Board were representatives from industry,

¹⁶ Nur Insani, and Suud Sarim Karimullah, “Justice for nature: integrating environmental concerns into legal systems for adequate environmental protection,” *Jurnal Hukum Dan Peradilan* 12, no. 1 (2023): 133.

¹⁷ Sanja Bogojević, and Mimi Zou, “Making infrastructure ‘visible’in environmental law: the belt and road initiative and climate change friction,” *Transnational Environmental Law* 10, no. 1 (2021): 46.

¹⁸ The Environmental Pollution Control Ordinance, 1977, Ordinance No. XIII of 1977. An Ordinance to provide for the control, prevention and abatement of pollution of the environment of Bangladesh. Available at <https://pksf.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-environment-pollution-control-ordinance1977.pdf>. Accessed on July 21, 2025.

¹⁹ Abdullah Al Faruque, and Saiful Karim, “Environmental law of Bangladesh,” In *Comparative environmental law and regulation* (2016): 7.

housing, public works, and flood control ministries. The Board's Chief, F. Water Pollution Control Ordinance of 1970; National Environmental Policy of 1992; National Environmental Management Plan of 1995; Environment Conservation Act and Rules; Environmental Court Act of 2000; National Water Policy of The National Environment Policy was drafted to provide environmental protection and management in an environmentally sustainable manner. The objectives of the Policy include maintaining the ecological balance and overall development through protection and improvement of the environment; Identifying and regulate polluting and environmentally degrading activities; Ensuring environmentally sound development; Ensuring sustainable and environmentally sound use of all natural resources; and actively remain associated with all international environmental initiatives.²⁰ The National Environmental Management Plan, 1995. The National Environmental Management Plan was developed as the framework of programs and interventions aimed at implementing national environment policy. Its activities attempt to lead to better management of scarce resources, reducing the rate of environmental degradation, improving the natural and artificial environment, conserving habitats and biodiversity, promoting sustainable development, and improving quality indicators of human life (MoEF, 1994).²¹ National Environmental Management Plan's proposed actions and interventions are for government agencies, NGOs, and civil society, including activities relating to fisheries and agriculture.²² The Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Act passed in 1995 and the accompanying 1997 Rules are arguably the most critical legislative documents for industrial water pollution. The Act has ensured conservation, improvement of quality standards, and control through mitigation of pollution of the environment. The 1997 Environment Conservation Rules, in accordance with the 1995 Act, provide additional guidance for specific components of the Act. The Act is, in theory, enforced by the DoE, which has the responsibility to coordinate with other authorities or agencies that have relevance to the objectives of the Act adopting safety measures and determining abatement measures to prevent accidents that may cause environmental degradation advising people on environmentally sound use, storage, transportation, import and export of hazardous material or its components.²³ Various steps have been taken to conduct research and assist other authorities and agencies in conservation and

²⁰ Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Projects. Available at <https://nabet.qci.org.in/eiafile/NOTIFICATIONS/EIA%20Notification-%201994.pdf>. Accessed on July 21, 2025.

²¹ Risno Mina, "Desentralisasi perlindungan dan pengelolaan lingkungan hidup sebagai alternatif menyelesaikan permasalahan lingkungan hidup," *Arena Hukum* 9, no. 2 (2016): 154.

²² Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Projects.

²³ Brian J. Preston, "Characteristics of successful environmental courts and tribunals," *Journal of Environmental law* 26, no. 3 (2014): 374.

improvement of the environment through investigating locations, equipment, manufacturing or other processes, ingredients, or materials and ensuring improvement of the environment to control and mitigate pollution. To meet these goals, information on environmental pollution is collected, published, and disseminated. When it comes to enforcing this law, the Department of Environmental Protection (DoE) has the authority to search and seize industrial facilities, equipment, records, registers, and documents, as well as other relevant items, and to conduct investigations and investigations. Water, air, soil, or other substances may be collected by the DoE in the presence of occupants and in accordance with Act requirements. The Department of Energy (DoE) has the authority to close, ban, or regulate companies, projects, or procedures in accordance with the provisions of the 1995 Act. Any person or group of people harmed by environmental contamination may request a public hearing by submitting an application to the Department of Energy. “Environmental Clearance” from the DoE is required for all industrial units or projects. As a result, all industrial teams and projects have been split into four groups (Schedule 1 of the Rules) based on environmental effect or location. Several types of documents are required for companies in these categories to gain environmental clearance. For a period of three years after it is issued, Environmental Clearance is valid.²⁴ And establishment of environmental courts for the trial of offences relating to environmental pollution.²⁵ It includes protocols for the establishment of the court and defines the court’s jurisdiction, appropriate penalties, powers of search and entry, and procedures for investigation, trial, and appeal. Additionally, some automobiles have exhaust fans and other features aimed at increasing pollution levels in order to provide occupants with cleaner, fresher air.²⁶

3.3. Judicial Proceedings and functions of the Environmental Courts

The courts grant environmental remedies under the Bangladesh Environment Court Act 2010 and to ensure environmental justice there are three environmental courts namely the Special Magistrate Court for petty offence, Divisional Environmental Court for major violation of environmental laws, Environmental Appellate Court to hear appeal and review petition. But special Magistrate Court

²⁴The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995.

²⁵The Environmental Court Act 2000. See also, The Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997; Bangla text of the Rules was published in the Bangladesh Gazette, Extra-ordinary Issue of 28-8-1997 and amended by Notifications S.R.O 29-Law/2002, S.R.O 234-Law/2002 and S.R.O 88-Law/2003. Available at <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bgd19918.pdf>. Accessed on July 21, 2025.

²⁶The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995. See also, Bangla text of the Act was published in the Bangladesh Gazette, extra-ordinary issue of 16-2-1995 and amended by Act Nos 12 of 2000 and 9 of 2002; The Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997.

can take cognizance an offence without written report of an Inspector of the Department of Environment.²⁷ The jurisdiction of the environmental courts is merits review, judicial review, civil enforcement, criminal prosecution,²⁸ criminal appeals and civil claims about planning, environmental, land, mining and other legislation etc. An aggrieved person can file petitions for enforcement of fundamental rights.²⁹ PIL (Public Interest litigation) is a system to file a case to get a court order in favor of public interest or to protect the rights of public litigation filed into the higher court. In the Mohiuddin Farooque Bangladesh, the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court has relaxed locus standi on the ground of violation of environmental issues so that environmental justice can be ensured for common people.³⁰

The present Act is aimed to establish one or more Environment Courts in each district with a Joint District Judge and the said judge shall in addition to his ordinary function dispose of the cases that fall within the jurisdiction of an Environment Court.³¹ There are no separate or independent Environment Court but more Environment Court has not been established till now except the former three Courts and an Appellate Court. The establishment of one or more Special Magistrate Court with the Magistrates of the first class or Metropolitan Magistrates in each District to deal with offences punishable with less than 5 (five) years imprisonment or 5 (five) lac taka as fine or both.³² Except these two types of Courts there are Executive Magistrates functioning under the Mobile Court Act, 2009. They can take cognizance of some offences at spot and convict the accused on the basis of his confession and there are also has environmental laws to run Mobile Court so that environmental issues can be solved.³³

3.4. International Environmental Law and Legal System of Bangladesh

To achieve other policy objectives like inexpensive energy and economic development and job creation while also protecting the environment and conserving the country's natural resources, environmental policy in Bangladesh is very critical. Both Dhaka and Chattagram have two environmental agencies to deal with environmental violations. As part of the United Nations Conference on

²⁷ The Environmental Court Act 2010.

²⁸ Sayed Md. Shafayat, "Environmental Tort Regime Under the Environment Court Act 2010 in Bangladesh: A Critical Review," *Australian Journal of Asian Law* 25, no. 2, (2025): 97.

²⁹ The People's Republic of the Constitution of Bangladesh, Article-102. Available at <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367.html>. Accessed on July 21, 2025.

³⁰ The Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997.

³¹ Shafayat, "Environmental Tort Regime," 98.

³² The Environment Court Act 2010.

³³ Imtiaz Ahmed Sajal, "Common People's Access to the Environment Courts of Bangladesh: An Appraisal," *Bangladesh Law Digest*, July 16, 2015. Retrieved in July 12, 2025 from. <https://bdlawdigest.org/environment-court-act-2010.html>.

Environment and Development, Bangladesh signed the Rio Declaration as well as Agenda 21. Global collaboration on common interests, mutual needs, and shared duties is essential to combating environmental harm, poverty, and illness, and local governments should draft their own local Agenda 21s. Man's health and fundamental human rights, including the right to life, depend on the natural and man-made environments he lives in.³⁴ As man's life and his environment are interdependent so the environment is damaged beyond its recuperative power, man may not survive on earth. But improvement of the human environment is also a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world and the bounden duty of all governments. The international economic governance, trade, international cooperation, the role of corporations in the achievement of sustainable development, participation and access to justice, and the incorporation of long-term considerations in decision-making.³⁵ Bangladesh is committed for promoting environmental management and sustainable development as Bangladesh is a signatory state of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.³⁶ Bangladesh has prepared a National Phase out Plan of Ozone Depleting Substances and also a party state of Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 1985). Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (Moscow, 1963), currently being implemented with assistance from the Montreal Multilateral Fund.

To achieve effective environmental justice in Bangladesh, various strategic measures and integrated policies are needed to ensure fair and sustainable environmental protection. First, an established environmental court in each district will ensure environmental justice, which will increase the number of environmental cases or lawsuits and reduce the time and costs for environmentally affected communities. Each environmental court should exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction and handle environmental violations, as judges must be independent in adjudicating environmental violations. Environmental problems in the country can only be addressed through the implementation, prosecution, and ultimately the imposition of fines and/or imprisonment for those found guilty of environmental crimes. However, the penalties imposed may be inadequate because most polluters are and will not hesitate to commit the same violation again, even if the fine is high.

³⁴ United Nations, "United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 5-16 June 1972, Stockholm," In *Birleşmiş Milletlerin resmî sitesi*, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/Stockholm1972> (October 29, 2024).

³⁵ Antony LT. McCammon, "United nations conference on environment and development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during 3-14 June 1992, and the'92 Global Forum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1-14 June 1992," *Environmental Conservation* 19, no. 4 (1992): 372.

³⁶ Ramsar Secretariat, "Contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands," Retrieved in July 26, 2025 from. <http://www.ramsar.org>, 2011.

Judges must have specialized knowledge and skills to handle environmental violations and issues through adequate training programs related to ecological issues. To implement environmental law, the government, NGOs, and government leaders must play a crucial role in protecting and promoting a healthy environment. A single stakeholder alone is not enough to ensure environmental justice. To ensure environmental justice, direct access to litigation must also have sufficient autonomy to receive and adjudicate environmental cases and promote environmental justice. Alternative dispute resolution should be introduced among stakeholders to ensure environmental justice, which can save time, money, and additional harassment for affected individuals. Citizen awareness is one of the most important factors in achieving a healthy environment, which can be achieved through logistical support such as legal support.

4. Conclusion

Environmental justice must be ensured for the fundamental human right that impacts human lives. Without environmental justice, improving environmental standards and mitigating environmental pollution is impossible, so it is essential to save the environment and human life. Environmental justice shall ensure the safety standards for the presence of various environmental pollutants. It shall prohibit the use of hazardous materials unless prior permission of the government is obtained and also ensure environmental protection against World hunger, global warming, increasing natural disasters, polluted air, water, and soil, pesticide use in the fields, species extinction, crop failures, etc. To achieve the goal of environmental justice, environmental laws and their implementation is a fundamental need for every nation because some environmental pollution has no national boundaries, like global warming, and that will affect the Earth. To enhance environmental justice, existing environmental laws and environmental governance must be implemented among the stakeholders who are directly affected by environmental pollution. In this regard environmental justice system can play an essential role in the protection and promotion of a healthy environment.

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