Review of Public Environmental Interests in Ukrainian Contexts

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Abstract

The principles of implementing public interest within the realm of environmental protection in Ukraine and the EU member states have been analyzed. This analysis draws significantly from Poland’s legislative frameworks and scholarly contributions. The premise of the analysis is anchored in the recognition of the paramount importance of shaping social and environmental interests (public interests), the absence of which hampers the efficient implementation of contemporary environmental policies. Fundamental premise of this analysis underscores for a harmonious interrelation between society’s environmental and economic interests. This encompasses the integration of social and private ecological interests, which should be coupled with the assurance of appropriate protection for upholding human rights, ensuring a secure natural environment for the present and future generations. Thus, this article emphasizes on the necessity of devising an efficient mechanism for actualizing public environmental interests. This entails bestowing the relevant competence upon distinct State authorities to address matters within this domain. Importantly, this should be executed while upholding the safeguards of State sovereignty and adhering to the defined tenets of State environmental policy.

Keywords

Environmental interests; Public interests; Environmental policy

Introduction

A safe natural environment (land, water, subsoil, atmospheric air, flora and fauna, etc.) is a public need in general and every individual’s biological need in particular. This need inspires general public in preserving qualitative characteristics of the natural goods. Therefore, the fundamental right to a safe natural
The environment is enshrined as a legal possibility subject to people’s environmental interests, irrespective of its legal recognition and expression manifested in the system of environmental legislation (Moroz, 2019). Moreover, living in a clean and safe environment refers to the fundamental environmental human needs, determined by the very need of human existence (Kobetska, 1998).

At present, the environmental situation in Ukraine is very critical. Irreversible impacts on environment have occurred as a result of Russian military actions primarily. Additionally, the deforestation, inappropriate plowing of cultivable land with subsequent changes in its soil profile, improper drainage or inundation of agricultural lands have affected negatively the life and health of human society. People’s health is deteriorating unabated due to external factors, mainly the release of harmful toxic substances into the atmospheric air by mass-scale military actions, and also the other anthropogenic and technological activities. These and other factors generate environmental interests among general public. Without public interests, it is impossible to ensure effective implementation of present-day environmental policy.

Environmental policy in Ukraine is carried out within the framework, which is based on social and environmental interests. There is a need for taking into account the public interests by the State during the implementation of ecological functions. It is because the Ukrainian citizens have right to a safe natural environment. The primary environmental function of the State requires the use of natural resources in public interests and to orient citizens ensuring rational use of natural resources in order to avoid its depletion and degradation, as apart from protection of natural habitat, citizens’ rights and public interests. Such State’s functions also assume establishing balance between environmental needs and economic interests of society, and between the environmental interests of public and private individuals, guaranteeing an implementation and protection of human rights for a safe natural environment.

The fundamental principle securing environmental safety, maintaining ecological balance and preserving the gene pool of the Ukrainian people is enshrined in the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine (Art. 16). Besides, the Law of Ukraine “On Natural Environment Protection” stipulates a number of rights of the citizens. In essence, it denotes precisely the environmental interests, namely free access to information on the state of environment, the right to form public nature preservation forums, and the right to environment-related education. In addition to that, public interests are embodied in the Land Code of Ukraine, stating “Enjoying the ownership of land cannot inflict the rights and freedoms of citizens and interests of society or deteriorate environmental situation and the natural properties of land” (Art. 1, part 3).

Similarly, the Forest Code of Ukraine defines the notion of forest relationships, in particular, as “social relationships that refer to ownership, use, and control of forests and orienting at ensuring protection, restoration and sustainable use of forest resources integrating environmental, economic, social, and other public interests” (Art. 2). The

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3 The Land Code of Ukraine. Available online at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3768-14#Text
The goal of this article is to analyze the current legislation and coinciding scientific developments in Ukraine and the European Union in order to identify gaps in the field of implementation of environmental protection in public interest contexts.

**Criticality of Environmental Functions of the State**

Some prominent scholars from the EU have indirectly addressed issues of public environmental interests. For example, the scientific work "Parliaments in the Czech and Slovak Republics: Party Competition and Parliamentary Institutionalization" by Kopecký (2001) examines this subject. In addition, Campbell (2022)’s research on “Individual rights and the Environmental Public Interest: A Comparison of German and Chinese Approaches to Environmental Litigation provides valuable insights. Furthermore, Eva Maschietto’s work within EMLEX titled “Environmental Law and Practice in Italy: Overview (Maschietto, 2021) sheds light on situations in Italy. Lastly, the contributions of (Mouez et al. (2006) in ‘France and International Environmental Policy’ also enrich the discourse.

The study conducted by Krämer (2020) in his work 'Environmental Justice and European Union Law' holds importance. This study meticulously analyses different environmental legislative measures implemented by the EU. Its primary objective is to determine whether minorities have faced disparate treatment or have been granted permission to be treated differently from the wider population. The study concludes that the existing environmental injustice within the EU can be attributed not to the environmental legislation adopted by the EU, but rather due to its application in practice (Krämer, 2020). In his study of the public interest, the scholar noted that environmental organizations suffer from structural and financial limitations that hinder their capacity to effectively protect the overarching public interest of "environmental protection" over the long term. While there is a consensus regarding the environment needs of robust environmental preservation, the implementation of concrete, legally binding actions encounters challenges when it clashes with disparate competing interests - a scenario that frequently arises. Given its lack of a vocal representation, the environment tends to face a near-inevitable disadvantage in each particular conflict of interest (Krämer, 1996).

Casado offers a comprehensive analysis of the scope of environmental protection that can serve as a valid rationale for deviations from community freedoms within jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice. The study also examines the precise provisions concerning environmental protection set out in Directive 2006/123, which pertains to services in the internal market. Notably, the research determines the parameters of the environmental exemption as delineated within the provisions of this Directive. These provisions assert that environment preservation cab warrant particular deviations from the regulatory framework governing the freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services (Casado, 2015).

Social significance of environmental functions links the priority of regulating the State and society. System of national law and legislation considers the uniqueness, value, importance, use, reproduction, preservation and protection natural resources and common social interests in it (Krasnova, 2019). The distinction between the notions of the common good and public interest is undoubtedly unclear, potentially even
prompting the query of whether differentiation is required from the legal standpoint. Whether in everyday life or within political, legal or economic relationships, these concepts function as instruments for shaping “a personality situation”, aiming to streamline the realization of an individual’s interests (Boć, 2004). Environmental relations possess a public nature. It is evident that consumerism within society’s attitude towards nature can be mitigated or restrained solely through public and legal means, both imperative and subordinative. Consequently, environmental interest in this context cannot be considered as solely the concern of individual citizens. In all relevant instances, public authorities must carry out the obligations assigned to them: verifying the existence of this interest and its direction (Vasilieva, 1999).

One of the instruments for ensuring the precise implementation of both public (social) and public (State) environmental interests is the ecological function of the State. To make this instrument to be efficient, question should be raised regarding a formal definition of public and, certainly, other kinds of interests (Moroz, 2001). At the same time, the public interest is inseparable from interests of the State. There are certain areas in economic activity, e.g. the field of environment, where observation of public interest is impossible without intervening of the State. That is, observation of exclusively private interests may result in violation of social interests and those of the State, leading to a deterioration of economic production and social instability (Raimov and Pasichnyk, 2018).

**Debate on Public (Environmental) Interests**

Interest is a peculiar distinct precondition for emergence of a right and the intention to exercise the right. Furthermore, interest is such a unique juridical phenomenon that it transforms into a means of exercising subjective rights and legal duties (Venediktova, 2005).

The public environmental interest primarily reflects society’s stance on matters concerning a safe environment for both present and future generations. This is based on individual environmental interests and is taken into consideration. This results in the establishment of a balance among these legal categories through their interaction and rational interrelation (Karpova, 2014). In the broadest sense, public interest refers to the collective interest of society in the ownership and utilization of particular assets. Anything connected to assets and concerns of a community is deemed public, whereas anything linked to the assets and concerns of individual community member is considered private (Trofimova, 2009).

The European law is characterized by the concept of public interest, underpins the recognition and protection of rights fundamental to the existence of the European Convention on Human Rights and, in fact, fundamental human rights themselves. This notion implies that society as a whole benefits when individuals are shielded from excessive State power and can lead their lives as autonomous beings. Within the text of the European Convention on Human Rights, various public interests are defined to justify limitations of individual rights. The term “public interest” is

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explicitly employed only in Article 1 of the Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (pertaining to property rights). Nevertheless, the associated conditions extend to other sections that guarantee a range of rights (Raimov and Pasichnyk, 2018).

It should also be noted that the criterion of public interest prevailing is stipulated by the Article 34 in relation to the Natura 2000 zone. This pertains to economic activities that require obtaining a concession, as a crucial condition for granting it is the criterion of significant social interest, with due consideration for environment protection requirements in the specific territory in question. This situation allows for the assumption of State (or local authority) power’s supremacy over private interests (Stelmasiak, 2016). Nevertheless, the priority of this interest does not automatically imply the disregard of individual interests in this context. This determination relies on the “content” of this prevailing social interest. It some cases, it may permit for the implementation of a specific project that could have a notable impact on the environment in a particular, specialized area, but only under the condition of an adequate ecological compensation (Stelmasiak, 2016). Furthermore, the implementation of the aforementioned project, driven by the prevailing social interest, signifies the prevalence of economic and social values over environmental values in the broader national social interests, rather than just the local social interests advocating the development of a specific territory through enforcement of local laws. For this reason, the described scenario demands a comprehensive approach to the nuanced harmonization of the these values. In essence, legal individual interests must be balanced with the broader social interest (Stelmasiak, 2016).

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine has delineated the key features of a legally protected interest as a legal phenomenon, which:

a) extends beyond the scope of subject law;
b) constitutes an independent subject of judicial protection and other forms of legal protection;
c) aims to fulfill perceived individual and collective needs;
d) must not contravene the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, social interests, or widely acknowledged legal principles;
e) encompasses the aspiration (not just legal possibility) to utilize a particular material and/or immaterial asset, as stipulated by legal regulations;
f) is perceived as a straightforward legitimate permission, i.e. one that is not prohibited by law.

Therefore, an interest can be either lawfully protected, legally recognized, or unlawful – implying that it lacks legal protection or authorization. The latter category should not be satisfied due to its intention to encroach upon the rights and freedoms of other individuals and legal entities. It also encumbers societal interests, State interests, or interests safeguarded by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine for “all compatriots”. Moreover, it fails to align with the Constitution, laws of Ukraine, or universally accepted principles of justice.

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In line with the stipulations of the administrative law in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland, the approach to comprehending the public interest is established through a “general clause”. This norm is framed as a rather broad expression and involves administrative discretion during decision making. This discretion is rooted in the very nature of this administrative and legal concept and the potential existence of conflicts among diverse private interests in the process of determining it. In such instances, the elucidation of the essence of public interest is exclusively shaped by the prevailing circumstances. This characteristic imparts two predominant features to this phenomenon: the situational nature of its formation and the imperative for its fulfillment. These aspects allow for the administrative discretion in resolving contentious matters concerning the legal regulation of social relations (Zolotukhina, 2019).

Public interests should encompass the needs upon which the survival and overall advancement of society hinge. Meanwhile, private interests are recognized and safeguarded by the State. Striking a judicious equilibrium between these interests is imperative, ensuring that private interests are not entirely overshadowed by public interests. Allowing either of these interests to dominate would detrimentally impact the progress of a democratic State (Karmalita, 2019). To attain this balance of interests, their coordination is required - this involves active interaction of entities based on formal equality. Such interaction presupposes parity between these interests, guaranteeing equal opportunities for expressing and safeguarding their respective interests (Karmalita, 2019). This framework not only ensures the predictability and assurance of implementing mutually agreed-upon procedures but also fosters the optimality and equilibrium of the decisions made. This way, a system of well-defined legal possibilities is established, materialized in a consolidated agreement between parties that mirrors the harmony of interests (Karmalita, 2019). The foundation that establishes and defines the substance of public environmental interest is the environmental needs shared by society and recognized by the State as predominant. The State should adopt methods of exclusively legal nature in its activities to support public environmental interest (Karpova, 2014). Public environmental interest is an objectively defined attitude towards critically important assets of the Ukrainian people, fundamental societal and State necessities. This stance safeguards State sovereignty and shapes the core principles of the State’s environmental policy. The assurance and realization of this interest are achieved through the State’s effective fulfillment of its ecological functions (Karpova, 2014). Savchenko (2013) indicates that in its broader context, public interest serves the purpose of ensuring the well-being and steady functioning of society. Hence, it is distinguished by a distinct procedure for its realization. It is considered essential and is safeguarded by a range of governmental and authoritative institutions. It’s the execution of public interest consistently takes on institutionalized forms.

According to Shakhov (1995), environmental interest should be understood as an objectively determined attitude of legal subjects towards their environmental needs and living conditions. This understanding aims to facilitate appropriate living activities and ecological balance within their natural environment. The legal scholar stresses that environmental interests in social legal relations encompass not only environmental protection but also the sustainable and intensive use of natural resources for sustainable economic and social development. Wyrzykowski (1986)
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posits that “social interest should be understood as the collective interest of all individuals residing within a politically organized community. This community organizes the implementation of particular legal interests of the general public in a unique manner, wherein individual freedom is considered an integral component of the common good”. The concept of social (communal) interest also also extends to the protection of individual interests (Zimmermann, 2013).

Public environmental interest should always be lawful, as it is only such cases that it fosters further evolvement of ecological legislation, shaping its content and primary focus areas (Anisimova, 2019). Lawful environmental interests manifest as the embodiment of interests within the norms of environment legislation. In other words, for an environment interest to be recognized as legal, it has to be consistent with both the inherent and positive environmental rights, as well as legislative regulations. Through this process, the interest requires a universally binding nature, attaining legal permissibility and imperativeness, all of which are guaranteed by the State (Anisimova, 2019). Lawful environmental interests must be personalized, tailored to the concerned individual. Notably, defense of environmental interests as part of their legal protection only comes into play when these interests are violated. They remain protected throughout the entire duration of the existence of the environment interest. Public and private environmental interests, alongside environment rights (both natural and subjective) should be viewed as distinct legal categories. They are interconnected and serve as separate objects for judicial protection and other means of environmental and legal protection (Anisimova, 2019).

As an example, numerous instances of public legal disputes can be highlighted in the realm of safeguarding an individual’s right to a healthy environment (Shulga and Pushkina, 2022). These include:

1. Claims initiated by individuals or legal entities in response to actions, decisions, or inaction of authorities (officials). These claims, according to the private person’s perspective, are alleged to be unlawful and, thus, serve as grounds for appeal.
2. Legal disputes linked to the support and oversight rendered by government bodies and local authorities in the domain of natural resource utilization and environment protection.
3. Claims associated with defining the scope of delegated authority and the limits of discretionary influence.
4. Disputes pertaining to the negotiation, execution, termination, cancellation, or annulment of administrative agreements concerning the utilization of natural resources and environment protection.
5. Legal disputes arising in connection with appeals submitted to authorities, including those aimed at securing access to public information about the state of the natural resources usage.
6. Conflicts regarding the confiscation or enforcement of property for public needs or reasons of public necessity linked to the use of natural resources.
7. Disputes arising with the participation of authorities regarding the compliance with the requirements during the execution of public-private partnerships (Shulga and Pushkina, 2022).

Each of these scenarios exemplifies the multifaceted landscape of legal conflicts that can emerge within the context of upholding the right to a healthy environment.
The interest in environmental well-being (as a sub-type of the broader concept of public interest) is legally recognized as a subjective right for a safe environment. It also serves as a foundational element in shaping laws across all branches of public law (Moroz, 2019). The visibility of an interest is gauged by the collective of private interests. The private interests find their foundation in specific needs. Thus, when such needs emerge among a substantial number of parties, they become significant. In order for these notable needs to be deemed public, the backing of their fulfillment by the executive power is necessary (Raimov and Pasichnyk, 2018). Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that public interest possesses distinct attributes that differentiate it from private interest (Raimov and Pasichnyk, 2018):

1) Public interest is inseparable from State interests, but it does not necessarily align with private interests;
2) A shift in the direction of a private interest should be reflected by a corresponding change in public interest and vice versa;
3) Within certain sectors of economic activity, the support of public interest is impossible without intervention of the State;
4) The State’s obligation to uphold public interest encompasses ensuring not only constitutional rights and freedoms, but also, *inter alia*, the overall welfare of the populace;
5) In specific economic realms, entities engaged in economic activities directly cater to not just private but also public interest;
6) The visibility of an interest is determined by cumulative effect of private interests;
7) Public interest serves as a manifestation of a State interest, representing a distinct form of social organization primarily aimed at self-preservation;
8) Any private interest assumes the role of public interest when its pursuit involves certain rights and freedoms that the State is obliged to protect;
9) Under certain circumstances, human rights might come into conflict with public interest, rendering them neither foundational nor integral part of such interest.

Indeed, the concept of social interests cannot be isolated from individual interests but should be derived from the values associated with them. At the same time, it is incorrect to assume that a social interest, which is implemented through a designated ecological area, merely constitutes the collective sum of individual interests belonging to a particular group of recipients (Stelmasiak, 2016). The essence of social interest does not the opposite an individual interest within a democratic State governed by rule of law. Instead, it also guides the operations of pertinent State administration bodies, operating within standing legal boundaries and administrative discretion (Stelmasiak, 2016). This approach aims to enhance the alignment of individual interests with the interests of local groups, as well as the social interests of local self-governance with the overarching national interest, encompassing the social domain. Besides, these considerations should contribute to the optimal development of a particular environment, ensuring a rational correlation with the provisions of the local plan (Stelmasiak, 2016).

The content of social interest is not formulated to oppose the interests. Rather it arises from the recognition that, in addition to an individual’s legal interest (other other individual interests), there exist interests belonging to other individuals. The
implementation of these interests should be harmonized with specific individual interests (Zdyb, 2015). In this context, it is appropriate to perceive social interests as a supra-individual notion. This concept does not necessarily represent the sum total of individual interests; rather, it embodies their normative quintessence. However, it is crucial to prevent the misuse of social interest as a means to introduce intentionally constructed mechanisms into law (Zdyb, 2015). This misuse could potentially enable excessive and disproportionate suppression of citizens’ immediate interests by the “dominant” party, such as power bodies of a certain community or interest groups. These entities may justify their actions under the vague umbrella of social interests (Zdyb, 2015). This kind of manipulation should be avoided, safeguarding the principle of proportionality and preventing any undue infringement upon citizens’ rights under the guise of protecting the general public interest.

When analyzing the Polish legislation, legal scholars discern distinct attributes of public interests (Stelmasiak, 2016):

Firstly, the precedence of social interest over the individual interest during the establishment of a designated ecological area, unless otherwise specified by the legislator. Secondly, the legislator is prohibited from forming what is known as a “private” designated ecological area – one that caters exclusively to private interests and falls under general protection (e.g., a landscape park model). This prohibition as enforced and, if necessary, carries administrative responsibility. Thirdly, it should be noted that while legal protection of the environment primarily revolves around protecting social interests, evaluating the interests of participants utilizing the natural environment in such a specific area requires an assessment not solely from the point of view of general public, but also from the perspective of local interests. Moreover, it is crucial to evaluate whether their implementation correlates with the standards of environment protection in terms of legality, purposefulness, reliability, or efficiency within this specialized environmental realm. Besides, it is essential to adequately regulate the requirements pertaining to the use of the environment to encompass a comprehensive approach from relevant authorities in this field. This regulation is vital for monitoring activities of entities using the environment to serve their individual or group interests within a designated special territory formed in interests of the public. Fourthly, depending on the legislator’s intentions, norms within the realm of environmental protection sometimes deviate from the prohibitions enforced in other territories. Fifthly, there is a need to distinguish the matter of balancing authority between local public interest concerning environment protection and the in-situ management of a particular designated territory, as stipulated in the local development plan for the territory. It is worth exploring, whether this role could be performed by local governance bodies by carrying out a study of conditions and areas in development using the legal power of a local legal act, rather than solely relying on an internal management act (Stelmasiak, 2016).

According to Shevchenko (2013), it is crucial to emphasize that only a well-balanced and regulated process of environmental and economic development, within the context of globalization, can facilitate growth of well-being and equality among all nations globally. Furthermore, such a process can contribute to the establishment of a global order built upon the principles of the rule of law, inter-cultural dialogue, and
tolerance (Shevchenko, 2013). The contemporary idea of State policy is rooted in the principle of maintaining equilibrium among various interests such as environmental, social, economic, political, cultural, and more. Environmental interests are formed based on the need of satisfying environmental demands of the present and future generations (Anisimova, 2018). This involves attaining a delicate equilibrium between the economic growth and resources utilization, while concurrently aiming for their sustainable consumption (Anisimova, 2018). It also entails fostering a competitive non-carbon economy, identifying ecologically friendly sources of growth, nurturing environment-oriented industries, adopting ecofriendly technologies, safeguarding the environment, preserving the biodiversity, enhancing the business environment – especially for small and medium enterprises – and minimizing the detrimental impact on the environment arising from the societal consumption and production patterns. Undoubtedly, these issues should be regarded as the strategic compass of contemporary State environmental policy (Anisimova, 2018).

The principal need in maintaining the balance between public and private interests (and, therefore, harmonization of public and private property) is also ensured through practices established by international judicial institutions. Thus, the European Court on Human Rights ruling in the Case of Sporrong and Lonnroth v. Sweden of 23 September 1982 is a precedent. The Court decision underscores that the first clause of Article 1 of the Protocol No. 1 to the Convention for the Protection of Rights and Fundamental Freedoms contains the guarantee of the right on private property. This provision expressed in broad terms, shields individuals and private legal entities from undue infringement on their peaceful ownership of property. Nevertheless, contemporary States, guided by societal interests, bear the responsibility of regulating the use of private property across numerous dimensions. The property right and the use of property are invariably interlinked with the existing social needs and obligations.

### Conclusion

The foremost objective today is to ensure a safe natural environment that safeguards the needs of both present and future generations. This endeavor must be rooted in individual environmental interests, accounts for these interests, and achieving a harmonious equilibrium of legal principles through their interaction and thoughtful correlation. Public interest should be supported through the actions of relevant public bodies, operating within their standing legal framework and administrative discretion. This involves integrating individual interests with locally-focused group interests, as well as intertwining interests of local self-governance with national considerations. Besides, they should collectively serve the optimal enhancement of a particular environment while maintaining a rational equilibrium with the framework outlines in the local development plan.

Furthermore, it is necessary to develop a potent mechanism for effective implementation of public environmental interests. This entails delegating specific jurisdiction to individual State administrative bodies, enabling them to effectively...

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address matters within this domain while upholding the principles of State sovereignty and the established tenets of the State environmental policy. It is prudent to wholeheartedly concur with the presented perspectives. While acknowledging that the European legislation does not entirely evade certain significant shortcomings regarding the issues of implementation and endorsement of public interest in environmental concerns, it is evident that the foundational approach is essentially correct.

References


Authors’ Declarations and Essential Ethical Compliances

Authors’ Contributions (in accordance with ICMJE criteria for authorship)

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Research involving human bodies or organs or tissues (Helsinki Declaration)

The author(s) solemnly declare(s) that this research has not involved any human subject (body or organs) for experimentation. It was not a clinical research. The contexts of human population/participation were only indirectly covered through literature review. Therefore, an Ethical Clearance (from a Committee or Authority) or ethical obligation of Helsinki Declaration does not apply in cases of this study or written work.

Research involving animals (ARRIVE Checklist)

The author(s) solemnly declare(s) that this research has not involved any animal subject (body or organs) for experimentation. The research was not based on laboratory experiment involving any kind animal. The contexts of animals were only indirectly covered through literature review. Therefore, an Ethical Clearance (from a Committee or Authority) or ethical obligation of ARRIVE does not apply in cases of this study or written work.

Research on Indigenous Peoples and/or Traditional Knowledge

The author(s) solemnly declare(s) that this research has not involved any Indigenous Peoples as participants or respondents. The contexts of Indigenous Peoples or Indigenous Knowledge were only indirectly covered through literature review. Therefore, an Ethical Clearance (from a Committee or Authority) or prior informed consent (PIC) of the respondents or Self-Declaration in this regard does not apply in cases of this study or written work.
Research involving Plants

The author(s) solemnly declare(s) that this research has involved the plants for experiment and field studies. Some contexts of plants are also indirectly covered through literature review. Thus, during this research the author(s) obeyed the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Research Involving Local Community Participants (Non-Indigenous) or Children

The author(s) solemnly declare(s) that this research has not directly involved any local community participants or respondents belonging to non-Indigenous peoples. Neither this study involved any child in any form directly. The contexts of different humans, people, populations, men/women/children and ethnic people were only indirectly covered through literature review. Therefore, an Ethical Clearance (from a Committee or Authority) or prior informed consent (PIC) of the respondents or Self-Declaration in this regard does not apply in cases of this study or written work.

(Optional) PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses)

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