

# Theoretical Foundations of Environmental Protection in Morocco: An African Legal Framework Analysis, 2004

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K, h, a, d, i, j, a, E, l, A, m, r, a, n, i

## | Abstract

Background: In 2004, Morocco's environmental policy was developing amidst domestic pressures and evolving African legal frameworks. This

context created a need to analyse the theoretical alignment between national strategy and continental governance paradigms. Purpose and objectives: This article constructs a theoretical framework for analysing the foundations of Moroccan environmental protection law in 2004 through the lens of contemporary African legal instruments. It aims to delineate the conceptual interplay between Morocco's national policy and overarching African environmental law principles. Methodology: The study employs a comparative legal analysis and theoretical synthesis. It examines primary legal texts, including Morocco's 2004 Environmental Charter and pertinent African Union frameworks, to build a conceptual model of their interrelationship. Key insights: The analysis identifies a theme of strategic integration. Morocco's 2004 framework selectively incorporated pan-African principles such as sustainable development, while prioritising domestic water security and desertification control. This resulted in a distinct, hybrid legal character. Conclusion: The theoretical framework posits that Morocco's environmental protection foundations in 2004 were characterised by a deliberate, dualistic engagement with African legal norms, balancing continental solidarity with specific national ecological vulnerabilities. Recommendations: Future theoretical work should apply this framework to specific sectors like biodiversity. Policymakers should consider formalising the integration of relevant African Union environmental conventions into national law to enhance coherence. Key words: Environmental law, Morocco, African Union, theoretical framework, legal analysis, sustainable development, 2004 Contribution statement: This article provides a theoretical lens for situating Morocco's early 21st-century

environmental governance within African legal studies, offering an alternative to Eurocentric analyses.

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