

The Role of Philosophy in Developing Environmental Philosophy Concepts for Development Based on Ecological Justice



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KEY WORDS	ABSTRACT
Philosophy, Environmental Philosophy, Ecological Justice, Sustainable Development, Qualitative Research.	The role of philosophy in shaping environmental philosophy concepts for development grounded in ecological justice is an increasingly significant area of scholarly inquiry. This study employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing literature review and library research to analyze the foundational principles of philosophy and their contributions to environmental thought. The research explores how philosophical frameworks—such as ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology—inform the conceptualization of ecological justice, a principle advocating for the equitable treatment of all forms of life and ecosystems. By synthesizing diverse philosophical perspectives, the study identifies key elements that underpin sustainable development initiatives rooted in environmental justice. These include the moral obligation to respect biodiversity, the intrinsic value of nature, and the interconnectedness of human and ecological systems. The findings emphasize that philosophy provides a critical lens for rethinking human-nature relationships, encouraging policymakers and stakeholders to adopt an ecological justice paradigm that promotes sustainability and equity. This paradigm shifts the focus from anthropocentric approaches to a more holistic, inclusive vision of development. The study concludes that integrating philosophical insights into environmental discourse can lead to more robust frameworks for addressing global ecological challenges. These insights offer actionable pathways for fostering a harmonious coexistence between humanity and the environment, making philosophy an essential foundation for advancing sustainable development practices.

1. INTRODUCTION

The role of philosophy in shaping environmental concepts grounded in ecological justice has garnered increasing attention in contemporary discourse due to the pressing global ecological crisis (Klimczuk, Dovie, & Kanozia, 2024). While previous studies have extensively examined environmental justice, the

integration of philosophy as a foundational framework remains underexplored, creating a significant research gap (Norton, 2020). This study addresses the need to conceptualize ecological justice within the broader spectrum of philosophical thought, aiming to bridge the divide between theoretical principles and actionable frameworks.



Urgency in addressing this gap is underscored by the escalating environmental degradation and its disproportionate effects on marginalized communities (Panadés & Yuguero, 2025). Philosophical frameworks such as ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology provide a critical lens to interrogate and reshape anthropocentric paradigms that dominate environmental policies (Light & Rolston, 2021). Existing literature, however, rarely synthesizes these dimensions in the context of ecological justice, highlighting a missed opportunity for interdisciplinary exploration.

This research builds on earlier works, such as Schlosberg's (2019) analysis of distributive and recognitional justice in environmental contexts and Plumwood's (2020) critique of anthropocentrism, while offering a novel contribution by emphasizing the role of philosophical inquiry. The novelty lies in the development of an integrative framework that applies philosophical principles directly to ecological justice, providing actionable insights for sustainable development strategies.

The study's objectives are to (1) analyze philosophical contributions to environmental philosophy, (2) develop a conceptual framework for ecological justice, and (3) propose practical applications for sustainable development. The findings aim to benefit policymakers, scholars, and practitioners by offering a deeper understanding of ecological justice principles and their implications for equitable development.

Philosophy provides the theoretical foundation for addressing complex questions about human relationships with nature. Ethical considerations derived from philosophical traditions, such as deontology and virtue ethics, inform the principles of environmental

responsibility (Light & Rolston, 2021). As a subfield of philosophy, environmental philosophy explores moral and ethical obligations toward the environment. It critiques anthropocentric worldviews and promotes holistic perspectives that recognize the intrinsic value of nature (Schlosberg, 2019). This concept emphasizes the fair treatment of all living beings and ecosystems, advocating for the inclusion of environmental integrity as a central component of justice (Plumwood, 2020). It challenges traditional justice theories by integrating ecological sustainability into socio-political frameworks..

2. METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative research approach to explore the role of philosophy in developing environmental philosophy concepts for ecological justice-based development. The study employs a literature review as its primary research type, focusing on analyzing philosophical texts, journal articles, and previous research related to environmental justice, sustainable development, and philosophical foundations.

The data sources include primary and secondary literature derived from books, peer-reviewed journals, and credible online repositories. Relevant works published within the last five years were prioritized to ensure the research reflects contemporary insights and theories (Zeb, 2024; Kiakojouri, 2024). The philosophical perspectives of authors such as Plumwood and Schlosberg were integrated to provide a comprehensive analysis of ecological justice principles (Schlosberg, 2019; Plumwood, 2020).

Data collection was conducted through systematic identification and organization of academic materials using databases like Google Scholar, Scopus, and other digital libraries.

Textual data were extracted and coded into thematic categories using a conceptual analysis framework to identify recurring themes in philosophy and environmental justice (James, 2024; Pereira, 2024).

The data analysis method utilized in this study is thematic analysis. It involves the identification of patterns and themes across texts to generate insights into how philosophical concepts shape environmental justice. Critical reflection and comparative analysis were employed to evaluate differences and intersections among philosophical traditions (Wahyuni, 2024).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The table below presents the literature sources analyzed in this study, which were selected from various articles retrieved from Google Scholar. The selection criteria included relevance to the topic, publication within the last five years, and contributions to the understanding of philosophy, environmental philosophy, and ecological justice. A total of 10 articles were identified and analyzed as the key references for this literature review.

Table 1 Literature Review

No.	Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal/Publisher	Focus Area
1	Zeb, A.	2024	Devall's Deep Ecology: An Ecological Analysis	Migration Letters	Exploration of deep ecology and its relevance to environmental justice.
2	Kiakojour, D.	2024	Achieving Sustainable Development through Behaviors	Management Journal	Ideal behaviors in sustainability informed by philosophy.
3	Schlosberg, D.	2019	Defining Environmental Justice	Oxford University Press	Theories of distributive and recognitional justice in environmental contexts.
4	Plumwood, V.	2020	Environmental Culture	Routledge	Anthropocentrism critique and ecological justice frameworks.
5	Wahyuni, P. D.	2024	ESG-Based Investment Foundations	Semantics Scholar	Ethical and environmental investment through philosophical lenses.
6	Pereira, H.	2024	Forest Governance in Anticapitalism Contexts	TDX Catalog	Integrating critical environmental justice into governance models.
7	Panadés, R., &	2025	Cyber-bioethics:	Frontiers in Digital	Philosophical



	Yuguero, O.		Ethical Discipline for Digital Health	Health	perspectives on ethics in digital and ecological contexts.
8	Light, A., & Rolston, H.	2021	Environmental Ethics: An Anthology	Wiley-Blackwell Publishing	Collection of works on ethics and environmental responsibility.
9	James, A.	2024	Forests in Red	TDX	Philosophical critique of community forest governance and equity.
10	Norton, B.	2020	Sustainable Values and Ethics	Environmental Ethics Journal	Linking philosophical ethics to sustainable development practices.

The analysis reveals that philosophy significantly contributes to framing ecological justice through concepts such as intrinsic value, sustainability ethics, and anthropocentrism critique (Plumwood, 2020). These philosophical foundations provide a moral basis for addressing environmental challenges, emphasizing equity and intergenerational responsibility. The reviewed literature highlights the interdisciplinary nature of environmental justice. Articles by Schlosberg (2019) and Norton (2020) show how ethical principles align with legal, social, and political frameworks, bridging gaps between theoretical discourse and practical applications.

Recent works, such as Pereira (2024) and Panadés & Yuguero (2025), emphasize the growing importance of integrating technological and ecological considerations. Cyber-bioethics, for instance, merges digital ethics with environmental justice, offering innovative approaches to sustainability. Plumwood’s (2020) critique of anthropocentrism underscores the need to de-center human

interests in environmental governance. This aligns with Wahyuni’s (2024) emphasis on creating equitable investment strategies that consider environmental well-being.

Zeb’s (2024) work on deep ecology illustrates its relevance in fostering a holistic view of human-nature relationships. This philosophical tradition challenges traditional utilitarian approaches, advocating for intrinsic ecological value. The findings suggest actionable strategies for policymakers, including adopting equitable governance models (James, 2024) and embedding ethical principles in sustainability frameworks. These strategies resonate with global calls for transformative approaches to environmental justice.

The findings from the literature underscore the pivotal role of philosophy in shaping the discourse on environmental justice and sustainable development. This alignment is particularly significant in addressing contemporary ecological crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion. Philosophical perspectives provide a



foundational framework for interpreting these phenomena, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human and natural systems. For example, Plumwood's (2020) critique of anthropocentrism highlights the urgency of moving away from human-centered worldviews, which have historically contributed to ecological degradation.

The integration of ethical principles into environmental governance, as discussed by Norton (2020), resonates with current efforts to implement global sustainability goals, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus on equity, inclusivity, and intergenerational justice aligns with distributive and recognition justice theories outlined by Schlosberg (2019). These principles provide a roadmap for designing policies that not only address immediate ecological challenges but also promote long-term resilience.

Deep ecology, as explored by Zeb (2024), offers a transformative perspective that challenges utilitarian approaches to environmental management. By advocating for the intrinsic value of all forms of life, deep ecology complements emerging global movements advocating for the rights of nature, such as the legal recognition of rivers and forests as legal persons. This shift from an exploitative to a reverent relationship with nature mirrors a growing societal recognition of the need for systemic change in environmental governance. The works of Wahyuni (2024) and Pereira (2024) emphasize the critical intersection of philosophy with economic and governance systems. Wahyuni's exploration of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investment frameworks demonstrates how ethical principles can drive sustainable economic practices. This aligns with the

increasing emphasis on corporate responsibility and the integration of sustainability into business operations, a trend that has gained momentum in response to public and regulatory pressure.

Panadés and Yuguero's (2025) focus on cyber-bioethics introduces a novel dimension to the discourse, highlighting the ethical challenges posed by digital advancements in ecological and healthcare contexts. This reflects broader societal debates around the ethical implications of technology, particularly concerning data privacy, equitable access, and environmental sustainability. The intersection of digital ethics and environmental philosophy presents opportunities for innovation while cautioning against potential risks.

James's (2024) critique of forest governance models provides insights into the complex interplay between environmental justice and community empowerment. The emphasis on anticapitalist approaches to governance resonates with global movements advocating for community-led conservation efforts, such as the Amazon Rainforest Alliance. These models underscore the importance of inclusive governance in achieving equitable and sustainable outcomes.

The critique of anthropocentrism presented by Plumwood (2020) and reflected in other studies highlights the philosophical challenge of reimagining human-nature relationships. This reimagining is increasingly relevant in light of phenomena such as urban sprawl and habitat destruction, which prioritize human convenience over ecological integrity. These findings call for a shift toward biocentric or ecocentric paradigms in policymaking and development.

The literature also highlights the importance of ethical frameworks in fostering global cooperation on environmental issues. Theoretical contributions by Light and Rolston (2021) on environmental ethics provide a moral imperative for collaborative action, emphasizing the shared responsibility of nations and communities. These ethical underpinnings are essential for addressing transboundary challenges such as ocean conservation and air pollution.

In the context of current ecological crises, the findings suggest a pressing need to incorporate philosophical insights into education and public discourse. As Norton (2020) and Schlosberg (2019) argue, raising awareness of ethical and justice-oriented frameworks can empower individuals and communities to advocate for systemic change. This reflects the growing role of education in building a culture of sustainability.

From the author's perspective, the integration of philosophical principles into environmental justice discourse offers both theoretical richness and practical value. The findings affirm the relevance of philosophy as a critical lens for addressing the multifaceted challenges of the 21st century. However, further research is needed to operationalize these philosophical insights in concrete policy frameworks. The author advocates for interdisciplinary collaboration to bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that the transformative potential of philosophy is fully realized in the pursuit of ecological justice.

4. CONCLUSION

This study underscores the essential role of philosophy in shaping environmental philosophy concepts that promote development

based on ecological justice. The literature reveals that philosophical principles—such as intrinsic value, intergenerational justice, and critiques of anthropocentrism—are fundamental in rethinking the human-nature relationship. These principles inform ethical and equitable frameworks that address pressing ecological crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable resource consumption. By integrating these insights into governance and policymaking, society can move toward sustainable development paradigms that align with the principles of ecological justice.

The findings further highlight the interdisciplinary nature of environmental philosophy, emphasizing its convergence with economics, governance, and technology. Contributions such as Wahyuni's exploration of ESG frameworks and Panadés & Yuguero's cyber-bioethics illustrate the adaptability of philosophical principles in addressing contemporary challenges. These approaches offer innovative solutions, such as embedding sustainability into corporate practices and addressing ethical concerns in technological advancements, underscoring the continued relevance of philosophy in modern discourse. Philosophy not only provides theoretical insights but also serves as a practical tool for fostering global cooperation and community empowerment. The study reaffirms the need for holistic and inclusive governance models that prioritize ecological justice and social equity. As evidenced by James's and Plumwood's works, community-led initiatives and the rejection of anthropocentric paradigms are key to achieving sustainable outcomes. These findings call for continued emphasis on integrating ethical and philosophical perspectives into environmental policies at all levels.

Future research should explore the



operationalization of philosophical principles in specific policy contexts, such as urban planning, conservation, and corporate sustainability practices. Additionally, there is a need for empirical studies that evaluate the impact of ethical frameworks on environmental decision-making processes, particularly in diverse cultural and geopolitical settings. Exploring the intersection of philosophy with emerging fields, such as artificial intelligence and digital ethics, can provide further insights into addressing complex global challenges. Interdisciplinary collaboration remains crucial in ensuring that philosophical insights are effectively translated into actionable strategies for achieving ecological justice and sustainability.

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