

The Role, Powers and Challenges of Environmental Protection Authorities in Poland

Abstract

This article analyses the environmental control system in Poland. It aims to present the key legal acts related to environmental protection, as well as the institutions, services, and bodies responsible for environmental control. Particular attention is paid to the Environmental Protection Inspectorate. The legal basis for its activities, institutional structure, competences, and rules of cooperation with other control entities are presented. The tools used by the Environmental Protection Inspectorate in the areas of administrative law, misdemeanour law, and criminal law are outlined. The main challenges facing this service and the prospects for its future functioning are also discussed. First and foremost, an assessment was made of the latest legal change, which granted the Environmental Protection Inspectorate the powers of a law enforcement agency. This amendment was intended to be a step in the right direction, but in practice the solutions therein do not work. The achievements of green criminology in environmental protection were also highlighted.

Keywords: Environmental control, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, criminal law, misdemeanour law, administrative law, green criminology

1. Introduction and legal background

This study examines the role, powers, and challenges of environmental protection which the authorities in Poland face. The study aims to present key legal acts related

* | Assistant professor, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland), Faculty of Law and Administration, Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, e-mail: joanna.narodowska@uwm.edu.pl, ORCID: 0000-0003-1154-5041.

** | Assistant professor, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland), Faculty of Law and Administration, Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, e-mail: maciej.duda@uwm.edu.pl, ORCID: 0000-0002-8206-3819.

Joanna NARODOWSKA – Maciej DUDA: The Role, Powers and Challenges of Environmental Protection Authorities in Poland. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Law* ISSN 1788-6171, 2026 Vol. XXI No. 40 pp. 435–460



to environmental protection, as well as the institutions, services, and authorities responsible for environmental control. The authors aim to determine whether the Polish model of environmental protection and control is effective and whether it can serve as a model for other V4.¹

The article presents the legal basis for environmental protection in Poland, the institutional structure of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, the scope of competences and control powers of this institution, interaction with administrative sanctions and compliance mechanisms, as well as challenges and shortcomings in the field of environmental control.

The following research methods were applied for the purposes of this study: literature analysis, which provided an overview of publications on the subject of the paper, dogmatic-legal analysis, which involved an analysis of legal regulations, and historical-legal analysis, which presented the background of evolving legal institutions and provisions.

Environmental protection is one of the most important challenges the state is facing.² The international community and the administrations of individual countries have demonstrated their concern and commitment to environmental protection by undertaking various initiatives. In Poland, these include the development of administrative and criminal law on environmental protection, as well as the establishment of an institutional system for environmental protection.³

In Art. 5, the Constitution of the Republic of Poland defines the main tasks of the state, which, in addition to safeguarding independence and territorial integrity, ensuring freedom and human and civil rights, and ensuring the safety of citizens, include safeguarding national heritage and ensuring environmental protection, guided by the principle of sustainable development. Therefore, environmental protection is a constitutional principle in Poland. It affects the activities of both the legislative branch (by establishing environmental protection laws) and the executive branch (by enforcing environmental protection regulations).⁴

Furthermore, Art. 74 of the Constitution specifies the principles of environmental protection by stating that 1) Public authorities shall pursue a policy ensuring ecological safety for present and future generations, 2) Environmental protection is the duty of public authorities. 3) Everyone has the right to information on the state and protection of the environment, 4) Public authorities shall support citizens' activities aimed at protecting and improving the state environment.

1 | Comparative analysis of environmental inspection solutions in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia is presented in: Danecka 2021, 53–68.

2 | Pływaczewski, Narodowska & Duda 2024, 58–75.

3 | Pływaczewski, Duda & Narodowska 2020, 281–298.

4 | Rakoczy 2013, 24–25.

Art. 68 of the Constitution, which states that public authorities are obliged to combat epidemic diseases and prevent the adverse health effects of environmental degradation, is equally important in terms of environmental protection.

The obligation to protect the environment is imposed not only on public authorities but also on citizens. Pursuant to Art. 86 of the Constitution, everyone is obliged to care for the environment and is responsible for any deterioration caused by them. The principles of this liability are specified in statutes.

With the above in mind, the Polish Constitution defines the state's obligations in the field of environmental protection quite 'loosely', imposing on the state the obligation to secure and organise such protection. It is only the statutes that specify the areas in which state authorities take an active role.⁵

The environment is a common subject to special protection. This issue also appears in the case law of Polish courts. An example of this is the ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal, which stated that the obligation to care for nature, as national heritage and wealth, rests with public administration bodies, legal entities (other organisational units), and natural persons.⁶

The literature indicates that there is a difference between the concepts of nature and the environment.⁷ According to Art. 5(20) of the Nature Conservation Act, nature is defined as the landscape together with inanimate natural features and natural and transformed natural habitats with their associated plants, animals, and fungi. On the other hand, according to Art. 3(39) of the Environmental Protection Act, the environment is the entirety of natural elements, including those transformed as a result of human activity, in particular the earth's surface, minerals, water, air, landscape, climate, and other elements of biological diversity, as well as the interactions between these elements. Consequently, environmental protection is a broader concept than nature conservation. Legal nature conservation is part of legal environmental protection. The distinction between these concepts affects the separate tasks and competencies of nature conservation authorities and environmental protection authorities.⁸ According to Art. 3(15) of the Environmental Protection Law Act, environmental protection authorities are administrative bodies established to perform public tasks related to environmental protection. Environmental protection primarily involves preventing environmental pollution, rationally shaping the environment, and managing its resources in accordance with the principle of sustainable development, as well as restoring natural elements to their proper condition.

In Poland, environmental law is a part of the most extensive branch of law, namely administrative law. It consists of statutory legal acts and their implementing

5 | Bojar-Fijałkowski 2017, 111.

6 | Judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal of 13 May 2009, reference number Kp 2/09, OTK ZU nr 5/A/2009, item 66.

7 | Pływaczewski, Żebek & Narodowska 2020, 137.

8 | Stelmasiak 2024, 717.

regulations. The vast majority of these were passed after the socio-political changes of 1989. The most important legal acts shaping Polish environmental law include the following statutes:

- | Act of 27 April 2001 on Environmental Protection Law⁹ – the basic legal act that defines the principles of environmental protection, liability for damage, environmental impact assessment procedures, and the system of environmental fees and penalties,
- | Act of 20 July 1991 on Environmental Protection Inspection¹⁰ – establishes an institution responsible for monitoring compliance with environmental protection regulations and for researching and assessing the state of the environment,
- | Act of 16 April 2004 on Nature Conservation¹¹ – regulates, among other things, national parks, nature reserves, natural monuments, protected species and Natura 2000 sites,
- | Act of 21 August 1997 on Animal Protection¹² – provides for liability for, among other things, cruelty to animals,¹³
- | Act of 18 April 1985 on Inland Fisheries¹⁴ – sets out the rules for fishing and angling in public inland waters,
- | Act of 13 October 1995 on Hunting Law¹⁵ – regulates the rules for hunting,
- | Act of 28 September 1991 on Forests¹⁶ – regulates the rules for the use of forests,
- | Act of 14 December 2012 on Waste¹⁷ – sets out the rules for waste management, recycling, storage and disposal,
- | Act of 20 July 2017 on Water Law¹⁸ – regulates water protection, water management and the competences of State Water Holding – Polish Waters,
- | Act of 13 September 1996 on Maintaining Cleanliness and Order in Municipalities¹⁹ – concerns, among other things, municipal waste management,
- | Act of 10 July 2007 on Fertilisers and Fertilisation²⁰ – contains provisions on the protection of soil and water against pollution,

9 | Journal of Laws of 2025, item 647.

10 | Journal of Laws of 2024, item 425.

11 | Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1478, item 1940; of 2025, item 884.

12 | Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1580.

13 | Animal protection is one of the competencies of the authorities responsible for environmental protection. Narodowska 2025, 185–199; Narodowska 2021, 295–308.

14 | Journal of Laws of 2022, item 883.

15 | Journal of Laws of 2025, item 539.

16 | Journal of Laws of 2025, item 567.

17 | Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1587, item 1597, item 1688, item 1852; item 2029; of 2024, item 1834, item 1911, item 1914.

18 | Journal of Laws of 2025, item 960.

19 | Journal of Laws of 2025, item 733.

20 | Journal of Laws of 2024, item 105.

- | The Act of 28 April 2011 on the Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowance Trading System²¹ – implements the EU ETS,
- | Act of 25 August 2006 on biocomponents and liquid biofuels²² – concerns regulations on the production and marketing of biocomponents and liquid biofuels,
- | Act of 3 October 2008 on Access to Information on the Environment and its Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and Environmental Impact Assessments²³ – concerns so-called environmental impact assessments and regulates the status of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection and the Provincial Directorates for Environmental Protection,
- | Act of 9 June 2011 on Mining Law²⁴ – concerns, among other things, the reclamation of areas after mining operations,
- | Act of 15 May 2015 on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and on Certain Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases²⁵ – dedicated to the control and reduction of emissions of ozone-depleting substances.

In Poland, environmental protection is based on administrative and criminal law instruments. It should be noted, however, that criminal law, as a tool of ultima ratio, is used for the most serious offences against the environment, in a repressive manner. Therefore, the primary role is played by administrative law instruments, which are preventive and restitutive in nature.²⁶

The public administration bodies responsible for environmental protection in Poland are:

- | Head of the local authority (Commune Administrator, Mayor or City President),
- | District Administrator,
- | Provincial Council,
- | Provincial Marshal,
- | Provincial Governor,
- | Minister of Climate and Environment,
- | Director General for Environmental Protection,
- | Regional Director for Environmental Protection,
- | authorities of Inspectorate for Environmental Protection Inspectorate.²⁷

The tasks of public administration in the field of environmental protection, due to their content, can be classified into the following groups: environmental management (indirect protection) and executive tasks (direct protection). The first group

21 | Journal of Laws of 2011, no 122, item 695; of 2013, item 1238.

22 | Journal of Laws of 2024, item 20, item 1946, item 834.

23 | Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1112, item 1881, item 1940.

24 | Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1290; of 2025, item 769, item 1023.

25 | Journal of Laws of 2020, item 2065.

26 | Łyżwa 2018, 377.

27 | Walas 2009, 42–43.

includes: organisational tasks, regulatory and binding tasks, as well as control and supervisory tasks. The second group includes: tasks performed on behalf of the local community and so-called substitute performance.²⁸ This study focuses primarily on control and supervisory tasks. These consist of examining the state of the environment and compliance with the protection obligations imposed by law on specific entities. These tasks are mainly performed by a special administrative body – the Environmental Protection Inspectorate. In addition, pursuant to Arts. 379 and 380 of the Environmental Protection Law, certain public administration bodies operating within the local government system are also obliged to monitor compliance with environmental protection regulations. Such competencies are granted to the Provincial Marshal in the province, the District Administrator in the district, and the Commune Administrator (rural commune), Mayor (urban commune), or President (city with county rights). They monitor compliance with and application of environmental protection provisions, within the scope of the local jurisdiction of these authorities.

In Poland, the government administration is divided into departments headed by ministers. One of the departments provided for in the Act on Government Administration Departments is 'environment'. Since 2020, Poland has had a Ministry of Climate and Environment responsible for matters related to environmental protection.²⁹ Both the General Directorate for Environmental Protection and the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection report to this Ministry.

The General Directorate for Environmental Protection and the Provincial Directorates for Environmental Protection are responsible for ensuring an effective and uniform environmental management system. At the same time, they are responsible for obtaining funds for environmental protection from the European Union. It is a central government administration body subordinate to the Ministry of Climate and Environment. It implements the government's environmental policy, conducts environmental impact assessments, and exercises control over liability for damage caused to the environment.³⁰

The leading institution responsible for environmental control in Poland is the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. It was established in 1991 by the Act on Environmental Protection Inspection, but its origins can be traced back to the invalid Act on Protection and Shaping of the Environment of 1980.³¹ Until 1998, when the country underwent its administrative reform, this service operated under the name of the State Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. Today, the

28 | Górski 2015, 13–14.

29 | Stelmasiak 2024, 717–724.

30 | Walas 2009, 49.

31 | As an aside, it should be added that the issue of establishing an effective and modern Inspectorate for Environmental Protection was discussed during the deliberations of one of the subgroups of the so-called 'Round Table Agreement', which led to democratic changes in Poland in 1989, which underlines the importance of environmental protection issues.

Inspectorate for Environmental Protection is the body responsible for monitoring compliance with environmental protection regulations and for researching and assessing the state of the environment.

2. Institutional structure

The legal framework for the activities of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection is defined by:

- | Act of 27 April 2001 on Environmental Protection Law,
- | Act of 20 July 1991 on Environmental Protection Inspection,
- | Regulation of the Prime Minister of 31 December 2018 on granting the statute of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.³²

The Environmental Protection Inspectorate is a two-tier service consisting of the Chief Environmental Protection Inspectorate based in Warsaw and sixteen Provincial Inspectorates for Environmental Protection, one in each province. The Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection is a central government administration body supervised by the minister responsible for climate issues. He/she is appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister from among candidates selected through an open and competitive recruitment process, at the request of the minister responsible for climate issues. Deputies to the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection are appointed by the minister responsible for climate from among persons short-listed by means of an open and competitive recruitment process, at the request of the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. Furthermore, the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection prepares, at least once every four years, a report on the state of the environment in Poland, taking into account, in particular, data from state environmental monitoring.

The Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection manages the activities of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection within the province. At the regional level, it is an institution operating within the framework of the joint government administration, subordinate to the provincial governor. The Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection is appointed and dismissed by the provincial governor, with the consent of the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. Besides the Provincial Inspectorates for Environmental Protection, located in provincial capitals, it is also possible to establish branch-offices in smaller towns.

The following Departments operate within the structure of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection:

- | Inspection,

³² | Amendments introduced by subsequent Regulations of the Prime Minister on Granting the statute of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection from 2020, 2022 and 2024.

- | Waste Control,
- | Transboundary Movement of Waste,
- | Environmental Monitoring,
- | Combating Environmental Crime,
- | Legal,
- | Administrative, Economic and Public Procurement,
- | Budget and Finance,
- | Information Technology,
- | International Cooperation.

In addition, the following teams and laboratories operate within the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection:

- | Central Research Laboratory,
- | National Reference Laboratory for Air Quality,
- | National Reference Laboratory for Surface Water Quality,
- | Director General's Office,
- | Control and Audit Team.

It is worth noticing that the costs of analyses and measurements, including the collection of samples, which constitute the evidence for infringement of environmental protection requirements, are borne by the organisational units or natural persons whose activities are the source of the violation. The amount of the cost is determined by the decision of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, which identifies the violation of environmental protection requirements or estimates the amount of emissions from the installation or aviation operations, which is a manifestation of the 'polluter pays' principle.

Inspection employees are divided into civil servants and non-civil servants. The first group is further divided into inspectors of Environmental Protection Inspection and persons employed in the central research laboratory.

In terms of electronic environmental protection tools, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection has developed the 'Ekoinfonet' IT system, which is used to collect, store, process, and share data on compliance with environmental protection regulations and environmental research and assessment. The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection also runs the publicly accessible Air Quality Portal.

It is worth noting that the Act on Environmental Protection Inspection has been amended over 70 times during its 24 years of existence. Most of the changes concerned the list of tasks performed by the Inspection.³³

- Currently, the tasks of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection include:
- | inspecting entities using the environment,

33 | Danecka & Radecki 2020, 35.

- | inspecting compliance with regulations on maintaining cleanliness and order in municipalities,
- | conducting state environmental monitoring,
- | conducting laboratory activities,
- | making decisions, suspending activities carried out in violation of environmental protection requirements or in violation of the conditions for using the environment,
- | preventing serious accidents and supervising the removal of their effects,
- | performing tasks related to the collection of data for the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) and maintaining the National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR),
- | performing tasks related to providing information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection, and environmental impact assessments,
- | participating in the commissioning of facilities or installations implemented as projects that may always have a significant or potentially significant impact on the environment,
- | performing tasks related to the prevention and repair of environmental damage,
- | performing tasks specified in the regulations on international waste shipments,
- | performing tasks related to mining waste,
- | performing tasks related to large-scale degraded areas,
- | inspecting products placed on the market or put into service, subject to conformity assessment in terms of their compliance with essential or other environmental protection requirements,
- | performing tasks related to the placing on the market of timber and timber products,
- | performing tasks related to monitoring compliance with regulations on greenhouse gas emissions covered by the system and estimating greenhouse gas emissions from installations or aviation operations,
- | checking the compliance of paints and varnishes containing volatile organic compounds,
- | measuring emissions and levels of substances or energy present in the environment,
- | cooperating in the field of environmental protection with other control authorities, law enforcement and judicial authorities, other state administration and local government authorities, civil defence authorities, as well as social organisations,
- | performing tasks related to water law,
- | performing tasks related to access to genetic resources,
- | performing tasks related to spatial information infrastructure,
- | performing tasks related to preventing food waste,

- | performing tasks related to EU type-approval systems and market surveillance of internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery,
- | performing tasks related to the release of gases or dust into the air by entrepreneurs,
- | performing other tasks specified in separate regulations,
- | prosecuting environmental crimes specified in the Criminal Code and offences specified in the Code of Misdemeanours and non-code laws, including bringing and supporting indictments.

An overview of the above catalogue indicates that the role and powers of the environmental control authority in Poland are extensive. The most controversial issue is the fact that the power to prosecute environmental crimes defined by the Criminal Code and environmental offences defined by the Code of Misdemeanours and non-coded laws is vested in the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. In theory, the Inspectorate has the powers of a law enforcement agency, but in practice, the exercise of these powers encounters difficulties, which will be discussed later in this study.³⁴

3. Scope of competencies and inspection powers

Undoubtedly, the main priority of the³⁵ is to ensure ecological safety. The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection conducts scheduled and unscheduled inspections. Scheduled inspections are planned to ensure a systematic assessment of threats to human life and health as well as to the environment, in particular those resulting from the activities of entities using the environment, and they are set out in inspection plans. Unscheduled inspections include those carried out at the request of public administration bodies or entities, provided that specific regulations permit such a request, and intervention inspections. Intervention inspections are understood as inspections carried out in the case of examination of complaints and interventions concerning environmental pollution or suspected pollution, the occurrence of serious accidents, or in order to prevent the commitment of a crime or petty offence.

Inspections are carried out by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, Provincial Inspectors of Environmental Protection, and inspectors authorised by them. Employees of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, while

34 | The key law enforcement agencies in Poland are the police and the prosecutors. The role of the public prosecutor's office is to conduct or supervise preliminary investigations into environmental crimes and to act as a public prosecutor in court. The role of the police is to conduct investigations and inquiries into environmental crimes under the supervision of the public prosecutor, as well as to refer cases of environmental petty offences to the courts and to act as a public prosecutor in such cases.

35 | Modrzejewski & Dobkowski 2024, 105-126.

performing their official duties and in connection with the performance of those duties, are subject to the protection provided for in the Criminal Code for public officials. When inspecting compliance with environmental protection requirements, the inspector is authorised to:

- | access, 24 hours a day, with the necessary equipment, the premises, facilities or parts thereof where economic activity is conducted; means of transport, areas not related to economic activity,
- | carry out necessary measurements or tests such as sampling or other control activities, involving the use of unmanned flying machines, in order to determine an object or a part thereof on the premises of the inspected property, or inspected means of transport, and to assess its condition in the light of environmental protection provisions, as well as to assess the conditions for carrying out activities affecting the environment, as specified in administrative decisions,
- | request the suspension of traffic or the operation of installations or equipment, including means of transport, and refrain from performing other activities to the extent necessary to carry out investigations, including taking samples and performing measurements,
- | assess the manner of operation of installations or equipment, including means of transport,
- | assess the technologies and technical solutions used,
- | request written or oral information and summon and question persons to the extent necessary to establish the facts, while informing them of the criminal liability for giving false testimony, as referred to in the Criminal Code,
- | request the presentation of documents, including financial documents, and access to all data related to the subject matter of the inspection,
- | establish the identity of persons and requesting the presentation of documents necessary to impose a fine by way of a penalty notice or to draw up a request for punishment,
- | impose fines in summary proceedings for offences against the environment specified in separate regulations,
- | assess the method of measuring emissions, the amount of water collected and wastewater discharged by the entity conducting the measurements, including the correctness of the method of sampling and analysis,³⁶
- | determine the morphological composition of waste based on expert knowledge.³⁷

36 | The literature argues that the powers of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate in the field of water protection were insufficient. In 2022, an ecological disaster occurred on the Oder River. The legislator responded by amending the Water Law in 2023 and establishing the Water Inspectorate (Arts. 251a–251i). Popławska 2024, 74–77.

37 | Hać 2024, 153–164; Haładaj 2018, 261–280.

The Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection may submit a request to the police or public administration bodies, including the National Revenue Administration, Road Transport Inspection, mining supervision offices, National Labour Inspectorate, Trade Inspection, State Sanitary Inspection, Veterinary Inspection, State Plant Protection and Seed Inspection, Border Guards, State Fire Service, for assistance if it is necessary to carry out control activities. Such assistance may consist, among other things, in: allowing the inspector to enter the inspected area, facility or means of transport; collecting and securing evidence of a crime or offence; establishing the identity of persons and questioning them in order to establish the facts relevant to the proceedings; ensuring the safety of the inspector.

Furthermore, in the case of the most serious acts harmful to the environment, i.e. crimes and petty offences against the environment, the Inspectorate has an even broader range of powers than when carrying out inspections. In the event of a reasonable suspicion that a crime or offence against the environment has been committed, the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection, or authorised inspectors of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection may take the following actions:

- | observing and recording, using technical means, including satellite technology and unmanned flying machines, images of events and the sound accompanying those events,
- | collecting and securing evidence of a crime or offence,
- | requesting written or oral information and questioning persons to the extent necessary to establish the facts, while informing them of their criminal liability for giving false testimony, as referred to in the Criminal Code,
- | establishing the identity of persons and requesting the presentation of documents necessary to impose a fine by means of a penalty notice or to draw up a request for punishment,
- | imposing fines in summary proceedings for offences specified in the procedure provided for in the provisions on proceedings in cases of petty offences,
- | inspecting premises and other places,
- | stopping or searching vehicles transporting goods and checking documents related to the transport of goods if there is a suspicion of waste being transported,
- | giving instructions, reprimanding, issuing warnings, or applying other educational measures.

4. Interaction with administrative sanctioning and compliance mechanisms

Considering the nature of the violation of environmental protection regulations, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection may apply measures under administrative law, misdemeanour law, or criminal law.³⁸ In terms of administrative law, relying on the findings of the inspection, the provincial environmental protection inspector may:

- | issue a post-inspection order to the manager of the inspected organisational unit or natural person,
- | issue post-inspection recommendations based on separate regulations,
- | issue an administrative decision based on separate regulations,
- | initiate execution if it is required by the law or an administrative decision.

Administrative penalties imposed for environmental violations appear to be the primary instrument of administrative sanctions. These penalties range from 10,000 PLN (2,500 EUR) to 1,000,000 PLN (250,000 EUR). It should be noted that this liability is not based on the principle of guilt, as in criminal law, but on objective damage. In the first instance, the decision is issued by the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection and in the second instance, by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. Administrative decisions and post-inspection orders issued by the Environmental Protection Inspectorate may be appealed to the Provincial Administrative Court and, subsequently, to the Supreme Administrative Court.³⁹

If the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection finds irregularities in the activities of public administration bodies in the field of environmental protection, it may request an explanation of the reasons for the irregularities or their removal, or initiate administrative proceedings, make a complaint to the administrative court, and participate in these proceedings having the same authority as a public prosecutor.

In terms of misdemeanours, inspectors of Environmental Protection have the power to impose fines in summary proceedings for petty offences specified in the provisions on proceedings in misdemeanour cases. Furthermore, in cases of offences against the environment, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection authorities have the power of a public prosecutor even if the request for punishment for the petty offence has been submitted by another authorised prosecutor.

38 | Recently, Polish law has exhibited a trend toward conversion, whereby the legislator reclassifies misdemeanours or crimes as administrative offenses punishable by financial penalties. Examples of such conversion in environmental law are discussed, *inter alia*, in Danecka 2028, 191–245.

39 | Niżnik-Dobosz 2018, 211–223; Czech 2011, 89–100; Klimek & Pieńczykowski 2014, 29–49.

In case of discovering that the action or failure to notify the manager of the controlled organisational unit, either its employee, or other natural person meets the criteria for an environmental crime, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection authorities shall refer the case to the authority appointed to prosecute crimes (police, prosecutor) with a report of the offence, attaching evidence proving the suspicion.

Within the scope of its control activities, including detection of environmental violations, combating petty offences and crimes against the environment, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection cooperates with other state authorities. In addition, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection authorities may request any public administration authority or the police to provide information or make documents and data related to environmental protection available for scrutiny. These authorities or the police are obliged to provide information, documents, and data immediately, but no later than within 14 days of the date of submission of the request. Environmental Protection Inspection authorities may also use criminal record prepared by the National Criminal Register.

The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection cooperates in carrying out control activities with other control bodies, state and government administration bodies, local government bodies, civil defence bodies, and social organisations. The institutions cooperating with the Inspectorate include:

- | State Sanitary Inspection (epidemiological and food hazards),
- | National Revenue Administration (importing goods into the country whose import is prohibited or restricted for environmental protection reasons),
- | Border Guard (carrying out inspections in the border zone),
- | State Fire Service (counteracting serious accidents),
- | Internal Security Agency (loss, disappearance, abandonment, or theft of waste containing biological or chemical agents that could be used to prepare or assist in the commission of a terrorist crimes).

Cooperation between the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and local government units is particularly close. For example, the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection, upon the consent of the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, may agree to allow the districts located within the province to resolve the matters belonging to the competence of the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection comprising the issuance of administrative decisions. At the same time, the Inspectorate has reporting obligations towards local government units. The Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection provides the Municipal Council, the County Council and the Provincial Council at their request, with information on the results of inspections of the strategic facilities which are of fundamental importance to the province. The County Council has the right to determine, by means of an ordinance/ a resolution, the activities of the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection ensuring efficient environmental protection in a given area. In the event of a direct threat to the environment, the head of

the local authority (Commune Administrator, Mayor, City President) may submit a request with justification to the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection for taking measures, being within his or her scope of duties and competences, to remove the threat. The Municipal Council, County Council and Provincial Council should review the information provided by the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection on the state of the environment in the province at least once a year. The Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection is also obliged to inform the head of the local authority (Commune Administrator, Mayor, City President), the County Board and the Provincial Board about the results of the inspections conducted at the facilities which are of fundamental importance for the area and to submit relevant reports issued by provincial inspectors and to provide the above authorities with instructions regarding the performance of inspections.

The Provincial Governor or the Provincial Inspector of Environmental Protection may order an inspection not included in the Environmental Protection Inspectorate's inspection plan. In addition, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection shall assist local government authorities in carrying out their environmental protection inspection tasks.

The greatest challenge for the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection constitutes the most serious category of illicit activities against the environment, i.e. crimes. Environmental crime is currently becoming one of the most profitable branches of crime.⁴⁰ At the same time, this crime is increasingly taking on organised forms.⁴¹ Therefore, detecting and combating it constitute key tasks for both law enforcement and environmental protection authorities.

As for the fight against environmental crime, cooperation between the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and the police is of utmost importance. It is based on an agreement signed on the 21 August 2021, between the Chief Commander of the Police and the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. The agreement regulates the scope of collaboration and exchange of information with the Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, in particular, the information concerning cooperation between the Police and the Department for Combating Environmental Crime at the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. One of the most important areas of cooperation is combating environmental crime through the mutual exchange of information in the course of their own investigative activities. To accomplish these goals, national and international initiatives are being organised. In Poland, these tasks are carried out primarily by the Police

40 | UNODC estimates that environmental crime is the fourth most significant source of income for organised crime groups after drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and human trafficking. Duda 2021, 67–83.

41 | In Poland, participation in an organised criminal group is punishable by 6 months to 8 years' imprisonment, and if the group is armed or terrorist in nature, by 1 year to 10 years' imprisonment. Establishing or leading such groups is punishable by 2 to 15 years' imprisonment or 3 to 20 years' imprisonment, respectively. Duda 2025a, 169–184.

and the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, with the participation of other services and institutions engaged in combating environmental crime. These undertakings aim to organise training courses and workshops for national and regional coordinators responsible for coordinating activities, combating environmental offences, and implementing preventive and control measures. These activities are also useful for the cooperation between Europol and Interpol with regard to environmental protection. Following the example of the cooperation agreement signed by the Chief Commander of the Police and the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, similar agreements have been signed by all Provincial Police Commanders and Provincial Inspectors of Environmental Protection.⁴²

It should be emphasised that the Environmental Protection Inspection Act also contains provisions criminalising one petty offence, one crime related to environmental protection, and one administrative offence.⁴³

A petty offence under Art. 31a consists of failing to discharge the obligation to report on the implementation of control orders or providing false information about their implementation. This offence is punishable by imprisonment, restriction of liberty, or a fine.

Pursuant to Art. 31b, crime consists in failing to collect, process, or disclose information for the purposes of state environmental monitoring. This act is punishable by a fine.⁴⁴

An administrative offence involving preventing or delaying the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in carrying out inspections. This offence is punishable by a fine of between 10,000 PLN and 100,000 PLN (2,500–25,000 EUR).⁴⁵

5. Challenges and shortcomings in environmental inspections

The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection faces the same problems as most institutions, services and state authorities in Poland. The main challenges and limitations related to the functioning of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection

42 | Zalewski 2023, 28.

43 | Environmental criminal law in Poland is semi-codified. Some of the provisions concerning environmental crimes are contained in the Criminal Code of 1997 (Chapter XXII entitled 'Crimes against the environment' containing Arts.181–188) and the Code of Misdemeanours of 1971 (provisions scattered across several chapters, e.g. Arts. 144, 145, 148–166), while some are found in non-code laws.

44 | There is some doubt as to whether this act constitutes a crime or a misdemeanour, as 'fines' are provided for in both criminal law and misdemeanour law, which should be considered a legislative shortcoming. Danecka & Radecki 2020, 45.

45 | An administrative offence is the third, mildest measure of repressive liability in the gradation: crime – misdemeanour – administrative offence. It is an institution of administrative law, not criminal law. The sanction for an administrative offence is a financial penalty. The essence of this third form of liability is that it is objective in nature (regardless of fault) and that the liable entity may be not only a natural person, but also a legal person or an organisational unit without legal personality. Szumiło-Kulczycka 2004, 29; Prusak 2013, 3–15.

include staff and financial shortages, as well as legal and procedural barriers, which significantly affect the effectiveness of the Inspectorate's activities.

One of the most severe obstacles is undoubtedly the shortage of personnel. The current number of inspectors is insufficient to meet the growing needs associated with the effective performance of the tasks assigned to the Environmental Protection Inspectorate by law. It should be emphasised that the execution of environmental protection activities requires inspectors to have specialised knowledge. Employees should therefore not only have legal background, but also knowledge related to, e.g. biology, ecology, chemistry. In addition, a diverse range of subjects covered by the inspections, including waste management, pollutant emissions, and cross-border waste shipments, requires interdisciplinary expertise and operational flexibility, which poses another organisational challenge. The consequences of a limited number of qualified inspectors include: extended waiting period for inspections and a reduced scope of inspections.

Staff shortages are primarily related to limited financial resources at the disposal of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.⁴⁶ As an employer, the state, is unable to offer salaries comparable to those offered by the private sector. This leads to a significant risk of inspectors leaving the profession. What is also worth mentioning is the fact that the inspectors are viewed by society as the so-called 'bad cops', which results in disrespect for this profession. As a result, the best employees decide to work for private companies. At the same time, these shortages cannot be filled by educated specialists from, for example, Ukraine, because according to Polish law, a civil servant must have Polish citizenship.⁴⁷

It is also worth emphasizing that employees who are not inspectors belong to the administrative personnel and work only during office hours (usually until 3:00/3:30 p.m.). Consequently, tasks such as laboratory analysis or intervention inspections involving measurements cannot be carried out outside these hours (in the afternoon and at night). Currently, Polish law excludes the possibility of shift work in this area, which significantly limits the effectiveness of control activities.

Poor funding for the Environmental Protection Inspectorate also affects the technical resources and equipment available to the service. The lack of investment in staff training, modern equipment, and new technologies makes it impossible to detect environmental violations quickly and accurately. The nature of environmental crime, characterised by a high degree of organisation and dynamism, significantly hinders the detection and effective prevention of infringements. Limited access to advanced analytical and technological tools, as well as lack of an integrated system for exchanging information between institutions, further affect the effectiveness of controls.

46 | For instance, the Polish police force is short of approximately 15,000 employees.

47 | It is estimated that Poland has taken in approximately 1,500,000 refugees from Ukraine.

Enforcement of environmental protection regulations in Poland is significantly hindered by several legal and procedural barriers that complicate and prolong administrative processes. Above all, the lengthy administrative procedures and appeal options generate significant delays in the implementation of control decisions, which creates the risk of repeated violations during the prolonged investigation procedures. Additionally, existing gaps and inconsistencies in the interpretation of regulations, particularly across different regions of the country, lead to inconsistencies in the application of the law and hinder the uniform enforcement of environmental standards. Furthermore, the complexity and constant changes in the legal system force supervisory authorities to continuously adapt to new regulations, which, in practice, generates additional interpretative and operational difficulties.

However, on the positive note, since 2018, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection has been authorised to conduct preliminary investigations into crimes and petty offences against the environment and to bring and support indictments. In fact, inspectors have significantly more experience, knowledge and competence in this area than, for example, police officers or prosecutors.

The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection has thus become a law enforcement agency with the powers to conduct preliminary investigations and carry out specific operational and procedural activities. This solution fulfils the postulate that in such special types of proceedings as environmental crimes, the Inspectorate authorities should be able to take full advantage of their specialist knowledge, skills and equipment.⁴⁸

The legislator's intention to grant new powers of prosecution was entirely justified, but in practice its application is limited. Practical problems arise from the fact that the legal measures adopted by the legislator have enabled the inspectorate to apply its new powers of prosecution only in relation to certain crimes committed against the environment. Hence, a postulate to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure in order to grant the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection the same powers as the Police in this area seems justified. The amendment will help avoid interpretation problems and enable the Inspectorate to act effectively in the field of environmental protection.⁴⁹

The environmental protection control system in Poland is fragmented across various services and authorities, often resulting in overlapping competencies between institutions. As far as the administrative sanctions are concerned, it should be noted that the penalties are too low. As a result, low effectiveness of the administrative penalties imposed and the difficulties in executing them, fail to have a preventive role. Companies may perceive violations of regulations as a calculated risk that is included in their business activities.

48 | Jasińska 2019, 119–135.

49 | Zalewski 2023, 23–29.

In terms of ensuring environmental protection under criminal law, it should be noted that the attempt made in 2018 to grant the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection law enforcement powers failed. According to experts, the legal solutions adopted by the legislator under this amendment proved to be misguided and insufficient to establish this inspection as a significant investigative body for combating environmental crime. An opportunity to fully and effectively use the capacity of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate to combat environmental crime has thus been foregone. An opportunity to fully and effectively use the capacity of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate to combat environmental crime has thus been foregone. Therefore, another amendment to the law in this area is necessary.⁵⁰

A significant barrier in providing a stable environmental protection policy also lies in frequent management changes, which are linked to political circumstances, at the position of Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. These changes also result in altering the priorities of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, which may destabilise long-term strategies. Finally, local economic conditions and social pressure constitute the external factors that influence decisions and the scope of inspections, which, in certain situations, may limit the objectivity and effectiveness of environmental protection enforcement.

Finally, it is also worth mentioning that the ongoing debate in Poland as to whether the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection should be a type of police enforcement agency with the powers of uniformed service as well as the right to use weapons and other means of direct coercion. Opinions on this issue are divided in legal doctrine. It seems that the current division of tasks between the Inspectorate and the Police is justified. It is expected that in the next few years, as Inspectors from the Environmental Protection Inspection gain experience, there will be a significant increase in the number of simple criminal cases they handle, while the Police will focus on investigating organized crime in this area.⁵¹

6. Future perspectives and conclusions

There are several control authorities in the Polish legal system responsible for environmental protection. It is essential to clearly and precisely define the competences and responsibilities of individual institutions involved in the environmental control system, which will reduce the risk of conflicts of competence and will facilitate the coordination of activities. The most important institution in this field is the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. It has the power to issue administrative decisions or declare administrative liability for infringements in the area

50 | Łyżwa 2023, 109–126.

51 | Mądrzejowski 2023, 69–104.

of environmental protection. In addition, the inspectorate has the power to hold persons liable for petty offences and crimes against the environment by referring cases to law enforcement authorities, conducting investigations into offences or preparatory proceedings in criminal cases, and then supporting indictments in these cases in court.

Although there exist guidelines issued by the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, they are not binding, and there are noticeable discrepancies in their application in different regions of the country. The standards for control activities should be harmonised throughout the country, which will ensure consistency and uniformity of the procedures applied and will facilitate the comparability of control results. The issue of diversifying the scope of competences and responsibilities in the area of environmental protection and control among various services in Poland is also discussed in foreign literature.⁵²

In view of the above, the doctrine postulates the creation of a single authority in the form of an Environmental Protection Agency, which will exercise all control powers in the environmental area.⁵³ However, the employees of environmental protection authorities are against such consolidation owing to the fact that it may reduce the number of jobs. This solution also gives rise to political disputes, as it is no secret that key director and management positions in such institutions are filled in by representatives and supporters of the currently ruling political parties. The liquidation of many existing institutions would result in fewer positions to be filled in according to the political affiliation.

Another concept currently promoted by the Ministry of Climate and Environment is the merger of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection with the Provincial Inspectorates for Environmental Protection. This idea emerged after a major fire at a waste disposal site in 2024, which covered 6.000 m² and caused enormous damage to the environment. This incident revealed the weakness of the regional structures of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate. Proponents of this concept argue that such merger aims to improve coordination of activities and to strengthen the structures of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.

At the same time, in practice, the state is gradually reducing its environmental protection activities. The claim is based on the fact that government and local government fundings for environmental protection are decreasing. Increasingly, investments in environmental protection in Poland are financed by private individuals and businesses. With the view of the above context, it is positive that the share of foreign funds, mainly from the European Union, remains high. In terms of monitoring the state of the environment and controlling its impact, the state has allowed non-governmental organisations and entrepreneurs to carry out such activities. What is more, the state encourages these entities to undertake

52 | Uhri & Nemes 2024, 235.

53 | Stelmasiak 2024, 724.

such activities through appropriate legislation and additional benefits, such as the implementation of the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme).⁵⁴

In order to improve the effectiveness of the Inspectorate's activities, it is necessary to invest in modern technologies, including the use of digital tools, artificial intelligence (AI) and remote monitoring systems. Digital data analysis systems enable automatic detection of irregularities by integrating and processing various sources of information, allowing faster and more accurate identification of potential infringements. Monitoring and the use of drones ensure continuous and detailed observation of areas prone to environmental degradation, enabling rapid response to detected threats. These technologies make it possible to target control measures more precisely by moving from traditional, reactive methods, toward proactive and preventive environmental management strategies.

De lege ferenda, consideration should also be given to aligning Polish environmental law with international environmental law.⁵⁵ In terms of criminal liability for the most serious crimes against the environment, there are also calls for the establishment of an International Environmental Court or an International Climate Court. Between 1993 and 2006, the International Court of Justice had a chamber for environmental matters, but no cases were filed, which led to its dissolution.⁵⁶ It is also problematic to define the very concept of 'environmental crime', 'ecocide'.⁵⁷

What is also worth emphasising is the importance of public participation in environmental protection.⁵⁸ Recently, a mobile application integrating various administrative services, called 'mObywatel' (mCitizen), has been launched in Poland. One of its features is the ability to report environmental infringements. Its users can describe an event that has a negative impact on the environment, add a photo, and mark the location. Reports can be made either with personal details or anonymously and are forwarded to the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.⁵⁹ According to the Department for Combating Environmental Crime at the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, there has been a significant increase in the number of intervention reports from citizens. In 2024, there were 7,324 reports, most of which concerned illegal waste storage. A similar option for reporting environmental violations is available via an electronic form on the website of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. Undoubtedly, the growing public awareness of environmental protection is a positive trend. At the same time, social acceptance of actions harmful to the natural environment is decreasing.⁶⁰

54 | Bojar-Fijałkowski 2017, 111–112.

55 | Provost 1999, 453.

56 | Stephens 2009, 56.

57 | Krzan 2023, 151–165.

58 | Pływaczewski, Narodowska & Duda 2021, 275–292.

59 | Kwiatek & Skóra 2025, 311–324.

60 | Duda 2025, 106–115.

The growing interest in environmental protection among legal scholars is also significant for the public perception of environmental threats and for raising legal awareness in this area. In recent years, there has been a dynamic development of a new subdiscipline of criminology known as green criminology. 'Green criminology' focuses on questions about the nature and dynamics of environmental crimes and harms (this provides a broader definition of crime), environmental laws (enforcement, prosecution, sentencing), environmental regulations (protection and conservation of the environment by administrative, civil, and criminal law measures), and eco-justice (valuing and respecting humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems).⁶¹ This trend is also noticeable throughout European criminology.⁶²

In order to combat environmental crime, it is essential to establish a coherent, integrated, and complementary system. It should be based on three principles: precisely defining the scope of tasks and powers of individual institutions and services, implementing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination of projects in specific areas, and defining the rules for information exchange and cooperation in the areas of prevention, control, procedural activities, and training.⁶³

Concluding, the most significant obstacles to ensuring effective fulfilment of tasks by the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection are the unclear legal basis for procedural competencies, insufficient financial, human and technical resources, as well as the lack of standardised practices and procedures for cooperation with law enforcement agencies and criminal courts.

61 | Banach-Gutierrez, Pływaczewski, Narodowska, Duda & Retkowski 2025, 5–25.

62 | Papers on green criminology now account for almost a quarter of the presentations given at the annual congresses of the European Society of Criminology. In addition, the European Society of Criminology has established a Green Criminology Working Group, of which the author of this study is a board member.

63 | Mądrzejowski 2023, 69–104.

Reference list

1. Banach-Gutierrez J B, Pływaczewski W, Narodowska J, Duda M & Retkowski P (2025) 'Green criminology' – a question about transnational environmental crime in Poland, *Studia Prawnoustrojowe* 68/2025, pp. 5–25, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31648/sp.10990>.
2. Bojar-Fijałkowski T (2017) O wycofywaniu się państwa z aktywności w sferze ochrony środowiska i gospodarki komunalnej, *Studia Prawnoustrojowe* 37/2017, pp. 101–114.
3. Czech T (2011) Zarządzenie pokontrolne organów Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska, *Zeszyty Naukowe Sądownictwa Administracyjnego* 7(3), pp. 89–100.
4. Danecka D & Radecki W (2020) *Inspekcja Ochrony Środowiska. Komentarz*, Wolters Kluwer, Warszawa.
5. Danecka D (2018) *Konwersja odpowiedzialności karnej w administracyjną w prawie polskim*, Wolters Kluwer, Warszawa.
6. Danecka D (2021) Organizacja inspekcji środowiska w Polsce, Czechach i Słowacji, in: Bukowski Z, Bojar-Fijałkowski T (eds.) *Kontrola przestrzegania przepisów o ochronie środowiska. W Czechach, Polsce i Słowacji*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego w Bydgoszczy, Bydgoszcz, pp. 53–68.
7. Duda M (2021) CITES crimes in Poland – causes, manifestation, counteracting, *Studia Prawnoustrojowe* 52/2021, pp. 67–83, DOI: [10.31648/sp.6566](https://doi.org/10.31648/sp.6566).
8. Duda M (2025a) Organised crime in the cross-border amber traffic, in: van Duyne P C, Banach-Gutierrez J B, Antonopoulos G A, von Lampe K, Larson P & Harvey J (eds.) *Green and Transnational Crime in Europe and Beyond*, Routledge, pp. 169–184, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003530824>.
9. Duda M (2025b) Ritual slaughter – legal and ecocriminological aspects, in: Dajnowicz-Piesiecka D (ed.) *Animal Protection in Poland as a Challenge for Criminal Law and Criminology*, Difin, Warszawa, pp. 105–116.
10. Górski M (2015) *Prawo ochrony środowiska*, Wolters Kluwer, Warszawa.
11. Hać H (2024) Uprawnienia wojewódzkich inspektorów ochrony środowiska w zakresie kontroli przedsiębiorców, *Roczniki Prawa i Administracji* 24/2024, pp. 153–164, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0054.9694>.
12. Haładaj A (2018) Uprawnienia kontrolne Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska a problem udatności jej struktury organizacyjnej, in: Federczyk W (ed.) *Stulecie polskiej administracji. Doświadczenia i perspektywy*, Krajowa Szkoła Administracji Publicznej, Warszawa, pp. 261–280.

13. Jasińska M (2019) Rola Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska w zakresie ścigania karnego, *Studia Prawnoustrojowe*, 45/2019, pp. 119–135, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31648/sp.5195>.
14. Klimek G & Pieńczykowski M (2014) Problematyka zaskarżania zarządzenia pokontrolnego organów Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska, *Przegląd Prawa Ochrony Środowiska* 2/2014, pp. 29–49.
15. Krzan B (2023) Ochrona środowiska naturalnego przez międzynarodowe prawo karne, *Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis* 45(3), pp. 151–167, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.19195/2300-7249.45.3.10>.
16. Kwiatek B & Skóra A (2025) *Aplikacja mObywatel. Komentarz*, Wolters Kluwer, Warszawa.
17. Łyżwa R (2018) Karnoprawne instrumenty ochrony środowiska, *Studia Prawnoustrojowe* 42/2019, pp. 377–388, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31648/sp.4824>.
18. Łyżwa R (2023) Kompetencje i zadania Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska w zwalczaniu przestępstw przeciwko środowisku, *Prawo i Klimat* 1/2023, pp. 109–126.
19. Mądrzejowski W (2023) Karnoprawna ochrona środowiska w Polsce – system instytucji, *Przegląd Policyjny*, 2(150), pp. 69–104, DOI: [10.5604/01.3001.0053.8543](https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0053.8543).
20. Modrzejewski AK & Dobkowski J (2024) Kontrola wojewódzkiego inspektora ochrony środowiska w zakresie gospodarki odpadami a zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa ekologicznego w polskim systemie prawnym, *Zeszyty Prawnicze* 1(81), pp. 105–126, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31268/ZPBAS.2024.06>.
21. Narodowska J (2021) Aggression towards animals and aggression towards people – report from research records, *Studia Prawnoustrojowe* 52/2021, pp. 295–308, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31648/sp.6618>.
22. Narodowska J (2025) Criminological and legal aspects of the illegal dog market in Poland, in: van Duyne P C, Banach-Gutierrez J B, Antonopoulos G A, von Lampe K, Larson P, Harvey J (eds.) *Green and Transnational Crime in Europe and Beyond*, Routledge, pp. 185–199, DOI: [10.4324/9781003530824-11](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003530824-11).
23. Niżnik-Dobosz I (2018) Sądowa kontrola aktów kontroli Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska wobec podmiotów zewnętrznych jako gwarancja przestrzegania prawa obiektywnego i praw podmiotowych kontrolowanych, *Przedsiębiorczość i Zarządzanie* 19(9), pp. 211–223.
24. Pływaczewski W, Duda M & Narodowska J (2020) Criminal Climatology – New Tool for Identification of Civilization Threats in the Environmental Protection Areas. National, Regional and Global Perspective, *Internal Security* 12(1), pp. 281–298, DOI: [10.5604/01.3001.0014.3204](https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0014.3204).

25. Pływaczewski W, Narodowska J & Duda M (2021) Assessing the Viability of Environmental Projects for a Crime Prevention-Inspired Culture of Lawfulness, in: Kury H & Redo S (eds.) *Crime Prevention and Justice in 2030. The UN and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Springer, Cham, pp. 275–292.
26. Pływaczewski W, Narodowska J & Duda M (2024) Some remarks on protection of cultural and natural heritage in the light of threats posed by tourism, in: Abubakar M, Szewczak M & Laki I (eds.) *Social Sciences and the Crises of the 21st Century*, WSGE University of Applied Sciences, Józefów, pp. 58–75, DOI: 10.13166/HR/QENN6035.
27. Pływaczewski W, Zębek E & Narodowska J (2020) *Odpowiedzialność za środowisko z perspektywy prawa, kryminologii i nauk przyrodniczych*, Difin, Warszawa.
28. Popławska A (2024) Kontrola Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska w branży wodno-ściekowej, *Forum Eksploatatora* 2(127), pp. 74–77.
29. Provost R (1999) International criminal environmental law, in: Goodwin-Gill G S, Talmon S (eds.) *The Reality of International Law: Essays in Honour of Ian Brownlie*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 453–468.
30. Prusak F (2013) Rozgraniczenie prerogatyw wykroczeniowych organów policji administracyjnej, *Studia Prawnicze i Administracyjne* 6(2), pp. 3–15.
31. Rakoczy B (2013) Komentarz do Konstytucji Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, in: Bukowski Z, Czech E, Karpus K, Rakoczy B (eds.) *Prawo ochrony środowiska. Komentarz*, Wolters Kluwer, Warszawa, pp. 12–21.
32. Stelmasiak J (2024) Model organizacyjno-prawny organów w zakresie ochrony przyrody: Zagadnienia podstawowe, in: Lisowski P, Kusiak-Winter R & Jakimowicz W (eds.), *Administracja publiczna wobec procesów zmian w XXI wieku: Księga jubileuszowa Profesora Jerzego Korczaka*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław, pp. 717–724.
33. Stephens T (2009) *International Courts and Environmental Protection*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
34. Szumiło-Kulczycka D (2004) *Prawo administracyjno-karne*, Wolters Kluwer, Kraków.
35. Uhri L & Nemes O (2024) Examination of environmental legislation (related administrative law and some criminal and civil law) and sanctions for illegal waste dumping in the V4+ countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia), *JAEL* 19(36), pp. 225–253, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21029/JAEL.2024.36.225>.

36. Walas M (2009) Organy ochrony środowiska w Polsce, *Przeгляд Prawa Ochrony Środowiska* 1/2009, pp. 41–49.
37. Zalewski P (2023) Inspekcja Ochrony Środowiska jako organ postępowania przygotowawczego w zakresie prawnokarnej ochrony środowiska, *Policja* 2/2023, pp. 22–29.