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Criminal acts related to poaching in Kazakhstan: a study of the offender's personality

This study presents a comprehensive criminological analysis of the personality of poachers who commit criminal offenses in the field of illegal nature management in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The purpose of the study is to identify a set of demographic, social, criminal-legal and psychological characteristics of offenders, as well as to determine the factors predisposing to the commission of poaching. The methodological basis of the study was statistical and substantive analysis, methods of interviewing, questionnaires, grouping and expert assessments. As a result of the conducted study, it was established that the main group of poachers consists of men of working age (30–39 years old), who do not have higher education and often do not have official employment. It was determined that the main motivational determinants of their criminal activity are economic necessity, lack of environmental awareness and social disorder. In addition, the analysis of empirical data allowed us to identify characteristic behavioral attitudes and the level of legal awareness of offenders. Special attention is paid to the comparative analysis of Kazakhstan and international practice, including the study of gender, age and educational differences among poachers. Conclusions are made about the need to introduce comprehensive preventive measures aimed at reducing the level of poaching, as well as the development of targeted programs for the formation of environmental culture and social responsibility of the population.

Keywords: poaching, criminal offense, environmental crime, personality of the offender, demographic factors, environmental legal consciousness, statistical analysis, legislation, crime prevention, illegal use of natural resources.

Introduction

The relevance of studying poaching as a form of environmental crime is due to the need to respond to the growing threats to biodiversity and sustainable nature management under anthropogenic pressure. In addition, one of the most urgent problems of our time is environmental protection and responsible use of natural resources, which is pointed out by researchers of the Republic of Kazakhstan [1; 30]. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the problem of illegal withdrawal of natural resources has acquired a stable criminological character, as evidenced by the data of legal statistics: for the period from 2017 to 2024, more than 7000 criminal offenses qualified as poaching were registered, while the detection rate of such crimes does not exceed 57 %. This situation exacerbates the need for a systematic analysis of the personality of the offender, since it is the individual characteristics of the subject that often predetermine the commission of a crime.

Despite the availability of theoretical works in the field of criminology and environmental protection, there is still methodological fragmentation in the scientific environment in approaches to the study of poaching. In some studies, the legal emphasis on the qualification of the corpus delicti prevails, in others — the environmental or sociological interpretation of the problem, while the integrative interdisciplinary approach is not applied often enough, which creates an internal methodological conflict: the lack of a unified conceptual apparatus and a consistent model of analysis leads to differences in the interpretation of the motivation of offenders, their social roles and psychological characteristics.

The studies of domestic specialists in the field of environmental law focus on the urgent need for in-depth scientific study of the mechanisms of environmental protection activities and prevention of environmentally dangerous acts [2–4; 14]. In this context, a comprehensive analysis of the factors determining the predisposition to commit environmental offenses, including criminogenic attitudes and social environmental conditions, is of high importance [5]. Particular attention should be paid to the study of individual-

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psychological characteristics of persons involved in poaching activities as a key aspect in the formation of an effective system for preventing such crimes.

In addition, this topic is insufficiently studied and there are not many studies by both Kazakh [6; 7] and foreign [8–10] authors concerning the selected problems. The analysis of current studies also reveals a significant gap in empirical data concerning the demographic, educational, labor and legal profile of persons committing environmental crimes. Foreign studies raise important issues related to the social structure of poachers, but their conclusions are often not directly confirmed in the Kazakhstani context. Domestic studies are mainly focused on law enforcement practice, while criminological aspects remain understudied.

Taking into account the identified gaps, we proceed from the need to form a comprehensive criminological portrait of poachers, including not only socio-demographic and legal parameters, but also motivational, psychological and cultural characteristics. At the same time, the author takes the position that the fight against poaching is impossible without taking into account socio-economic determinants such as employment, level of education and legal awareness. This research direction allows not only to identify determinants of criminal behavior, but also to develop science-based measures to prevent it, based on national realities and international experience.

In the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in Chapter 13 “Environmental criminal offences”, there are a number of norms characterized as facts of poaching: illegal extraction of fish resources, other aquatic animals or plants (Art. 335); illegal hunting (article 337 of the Criminal Code of the RK); illegal treatment of rare and endangered species of plants or animals, their parts or derivatives prohibited for use (article 339 of the Criminal Code of the RK); illegal cutting, destruction or damage to trees and shrubs (article 340 of the Criminal Code of the RK) [11].

The primary aim of the present academic inquiry is the criminological examination of the socio-legal characteristics and behavioral traits of an individual engaged in poaching within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In alignment with the stated objective, the research is structured around the following tasks:

1. To conduct an exhaustive examination of scholarly sources, encompassing a critical review of both domestic and international academic contributions concerning the phenomenon of poaching, with the intent to elucidate fundamental theoretical constructs and to identify existing lacunae within the prevailing body of knowledge.
2. Collection and systematization of statistical data to obtain information on demographic, social and personal characteristics of poachers.
3. Multidisciplinary analysis of the personality of poachers: application of methods of psychology, criminal law and criminology to analyze biophysiological, social, criminal-legal and moral-psychological aspects of the personality of criminals, which will allow a more complete assessment of the motives and conditions of committing crimes.
4. Development of proposals for the optimization of law enforcement practice and prevention of poaching: formulation of specific recommendations based on the study, aimed at improving the mechanisms of prevention of poaching facts.

Methods and materials

The study employs an interdisciplinary methodology combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to examine the socio-legal and psychological traits of individuals engaged in poaching in Kazakhstan. Statistical analysis of URPI data (2017–2024), structured interviews, surveys, and expert assessments were used to gather demographic, educational, and behavioral data. Special attention was paid to Articles 335, 337, 339, and 340 of the Criminal Code. Grouping, profiling, and comparative legal analysis ensured comprehensive offender characterization. The triangulation of statistical, empirical, and legal sources ensured analytical reliability and helped identify criminogenic factors and systemic gaps in poaching prevention mechanisms.

Results

The personality of an individual who commits a criminally punishable act is a key focus of analysis in legal science, psychology, criminal procedure, criminology, and forensic studies. Each discipline examines the offender through its own theoretical and methodological lens. The offender’s profile reflects stable behavioral, psychological, and social traits essential for understanding crime causation. This study aims to construct a criminological portrait of individuals engaged in illegal natural resource exploitation, based on official statistical data, domestic and international scientific findings, and the author’s own analysis, to reveal

factors influencing criminal behavior in the context of environmental offenses. The analysis and comprehensive accounting consideration of criminological characteristics of offender's personality contributes to a clear differentiation between persons prone to unlawful behavior and representatives of law-abiding population, as well as provides the identification of determining conditions and circumstances that affect the formation and implementation of criminal intentions [12; 156]. Thus, in the period from 2017 to 2024, a total of 10464 pre-trial investigations on poaching were initiated in the Republic, of which: 1350 under Article 335 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 913 under Article 337 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 1704 under Article 339 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 3087 under Article 340 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In total, 7054 criminal offenses in the field of poaching were committed during the study period (Table1) [13].

Table 1

The number of criminal offenses registered in the URPI from 2017 to 2024

Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
	Registered annually								
335	205	194	224	179	169	131	130	118	1350
337	135	134	117	160	107	101	83	76	913
339	299	236	208	230	228	148	190	165	1704
340	1183	908	688	45	51	61	87	64	3087
total by years	1822	1472	1237	614	555	441	490	423	7054

Over the same analyzed period, a total of 8,634 poaching incidents were under investigation, of which 4,879 were solved, representing 56.5 % (Table 2).

Table 2

Number of criminal cases in progress and criminal cases solved in the Republic of Kazakhstan from 2017 to 2024.

Article of the CC RK	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases	Total	opened cases
335	275	55	285	70	257	100	221	116	187	88	137	84	137	83	130	67
337	157	77	166	63	145	52	184	78	152	79	121	48	104	52	89	47
339	318	199	258	187	227	154	263	155	258	173	167	102	211	119	201	87
340	1431	1084	1244	790	816	595	110	8	83	16	88	15	120	18	92	18
total	2181	1415	1953	1110	1445	901	778	357	680	356	513	249	572	272	512	219

The above-mentioned results actualize the chosen topic of the research, emphasizing its importance in the conditions of biodiversity conservation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Within the framework of criminological knowledge there is a variety of theoretical positions regarding the structure and content of the concept of personality of an offender [14; 18]. Generalization of the provisions contained in a number of scientific sources allows us to conclude that the criminological portrait of the subject of crime includes a set of the following interrelated components: biophysical characteristics (including gender, age parameters and other physiological features); social parameters (educational level, position in the family system, professional status and other indicators of social status); juridical status indicators (presence or absence of a criminal record and facts of involvement in the crime). The analysis of statistical information for 2017–2024 on persons who committed the considered type of criminal offenses shows that poaching is predominantly a male type of crime (Table 3).

Table 3

Number of men and women who have committed poaching offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan from 2017 to 2024.

Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
335	127	1	166	0	139	0	141	4	134	1	122	0	122	0	111	0
337	133	0	125	0	93	0	92	0	97	0	79	0	78	0	70	0
339	192	26	195	17	140	19	170	13	291	22	117	15	143	11	108	3
340	1051	33	116	0	599	5	12	0	13	0	13	1	15	0	16	0

Empirical data concerning the gender composition of individuals implicated in poaching-related criminal behavior indicates a pronounced predominance of male subjects over their female counterparts. Simultaneously, females are occasionally identified as perpetrators of offenses associated with the unlawful circulation of flora and fauna specimens classified as rare, endangered, or prohibited, including their constituent parts or biological derivatives. In exceptional instances, women have been found culpable of unauthorized extraction of aquatic biological resources, including ichthyofauna and hydrophytic vegetation. However, no documented occurrences of illicit hunting activities committed by women have been recorded within the temporal scope spanning 2017 to 2024. This criminological trend is reasonably attributable to the nature of the unlawful conduct in question, which presupposes the exertion of significant physical effort, frequently necessitates specialized technical preparation, and demands proficiencies typically characteristic of the male demographic group [15]. Not an unimportant aspect in the study of the personality of poachers is the study of age composition. Thus, the analysis of the age composition of poaching offenders for the period from 2017 to 2024 allows us to identify key patterns and determine the distribution of offenders by age groups.

The study covers the following categories: 1) juveniles (16–17 years old); 2) young adults (18–20 years old); 3) young adults (21–29 years old); 4) middle-aged persons (30–39 years old); 5) older persons (40–49 years old); 6) persons of pre-retirement age (50–59 years old); 7) elderly (60 years and older).

The aggregate analysis of the empirical data covering the entire period of observation showed a marked heterogeneity in the distribution of offenders by age category. The least quantitative participation in the commission of unlawful acts was recorded among minors, whose number was limited to only 4 cases within the time period under consideration. The most substantial proportion of individuals implicated in unlawful acts is attributed to the cohort aged 30 to 39 years, the quantitative indicator of which reached 1,342 persons, thereby substantiating the classification of this demographic segment as the dominant category within the typological structure of poaching-related criminal offenses. Elevated incidence rates are likewise observed among individuals aged 40 to 49 years, accounting for 1,184 documented violations, as well as those in the 21 to 29 age bracket, with 931 recorded infractions. Within the near-retirement demographic group, encompassing persons between the ages of 50 and 59, law enforcement authorities registered 661 instances of criminal conduct. Among citizens exceeding the age threshold of 60 years, 213 criminal episodes of a poaching-related nature were identified. As for young adults aged 18 to 20, although their degree of involvement surpasses that of minors, this group remains among the least statistically represented, comprising 83 offenders within the specified period.

The revealed data indicate a stable trend, according to which the largest number of poaching offenses is committed by persons of working age, mainly from the categories of 30–39 and 40–49 years old. This may be related to their physical activity, professional activity in hunting or nature management-related areas, as well as economic motives. The participation of people of pre-retirement age, although noticeably decreasing, remains significant. At the same time, the involvement of youth and elderly people is much lower, which can be explained by physical and social limitations.

The structural distribution of poaching acts in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan is of scientific interest. The greatest concentration of registered facts of illegal behavior is associated with the norms of Article 340, which provides responsibility for the illegal removal of representatives of specially protected species of fauna. This category of crimes is especially characteristic of persons in the age groups of 30–39 and 40–49 years, which indicates the stable involvement of mature individuals in environmentally dangerous activities. A significant number of offenses are also recorded under

Article 339, concerning illegal hunting, with increased activity predominantly among young adult citizens between the ages of 21 and 29. Although the level of offenses under other articles is significantly lower, their distribution also shows a certain age correlation, indicating similar demographic trends.

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that effective prevention of poaching requires a focus on groups of able-bodied population, especially in the categories of 21–49 years old. It is proposed to develop measures that take into account the specifics of violations related to the characteristics of age categories, as well as to strengthen control in professional and economic spheres, where these groups are most active.

In our opinion, the educational level of an individual is also one of the essential parameters to be taken into account in the formation of a criminological portrait of a person committing illegal actions in the sphere of illegal use of natural resources. The received education has a significant impact both on the formation of attitudes and socially significant orientations, and on the development of cognitive abilities that determine behavioral strategies. The findings derived from the examination of official statistical data reveal that the overwhelming majority of individuals engaged in poaching lack credentials confirming the attainment of higher professional education. This circumstance may serve as an indicator of an underdeveloped legal awareness and a deficiency in cognitive-intellectual capacity, which, in aggregate, acts as criminogenic determinants reducing the propensity for normative, law-compliant behavioral patterns (Table 4).

Table 4

Information on the education of individuals who committed poaching between 2017 and 2024

Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Education															
	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education	higher education	Secondary and specialized sec. education
335	6	122	3	12	6	130	6	136	6	127	6	116	5	117	16	95
337	16	114	20	101	13	79	12	73	10	81	9	66	16	58	4	61
339	37	179	24	185	21	138	32	137	19	194	17	114	21	132	19	86
340	6	122	3	112	6	130	1	11	1	10	5	9	1	14	3	13

It should be noted that, as practice shows, persons who do not have higher education, are mostly executors of crime and choose rather primitive ways of committing acts that do not require the application of specialized professional knowledge.

When studying the criminological characteristic of the personality of a poacher, we should not miss the information about the commission of criminal offenses by him earlier. Thus, statistical data show that out of 100 % of all committed criminal offenses on the facts of poaching, in the period from 2017 to 2024, from 13–17 % are committed by previously convicted (Table 5).

Table 5

Information on criminal records of individuals who committed poaching between 2017 and 2024

Article	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	total	convicted	total	convicted	total	convicted	total	convicted	total	convicted	total	convicted	total	convicted	total	convicted
335	128	10	166	16	139	27	141	26	134	19	122	20	122	32	111	27
337	133	22	125	14	93	19	92	16	97	20	79	18	78	14	70	15
339	218	31	212	35	159	20	183	19	313	34	132	22	154	28	108	17
340	1084	278	1051	16	604	186	12	2	11	4	14	2	15	4	16	5

It seems reasonable to include in the analysis such a significant component as legal status in the context of a person's citizenship. The study of this characteristic allows us to identify possible migration, socio-cultural and legal factors that influence the involvement of individuals in illegal activities, including crimes in the field of environmental legislation (Table 6).

Table 6

Information about the citizenship of individuals who committed poaching between 2017 and 2024

Article	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	RK	other	RK	other	RK	other	RK	other	RK	other	RK	other	PK	other	RK	other
335	110	18	106	9	131	4	140	1	128	7	119	1	122	0	110	1
337	131	1	124	1	90	1	91	0	94	0	79	0	74	2	69	1
339	205	7	199	9	148	8	163	2	207	4	129	1	149	1	104	1
340	1071	7	793	4	588	1	12	0	10	0	122	0	14	1	15	1

Based on the data presented in the table, the analysis of the nationality of persons who committed poaching in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the period from 2017 to 2024 revealed the dominance of local citizens in the structure of the considered offenses. The predominant volume of unlawful acts classified as poaching was perpetrated by nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which may be attributed to their comparatively greater degree of territorial accessibility to indigenous natural assets, as well as their extensive familiarity with the regional ecosystem, including species — specific characteristics of local flora and fauna. At the same time, the number of cases registered against foreign nationals remains relatively low throughout the analyzed period, which indicates the effectiveness of control over compliance with environmental legislation at the borders and inside the country, as well as a high level of migration security in the context of preventing environmental crimes.

Thus, it is very important to continue the work on international cooperation and information exchange for effective control and prevention of poaching activities by both local and foreign citizens. It is recommended to develop educational programs aimed at raising public awareness of the seriousness and consequences of poaching, as well as strengthening administrative and criminal penalties for violators.

Notwithstanding the widespread scholarly position that incorporates ethical and psychosocial attributes into the criminological profile of the perpetrator; academic discourse also contains a number of specialized studies that place particular emphasis on the examination of psychological determinants inherent to individuals engaged in unlawful conduct within the sphere of environmental protection [16; 17]. In this regard, it should be emphasized that psychological and criminological approaches to the analysis of offender personality have a complementary nature and require comprehensive consideration within a single research paradigm.

An essential direction in the framework of analyzing the psychological portrait of the subject who carries out illegal activities in the field of illegal nature management is the interpretation of empirical data obtained through the use of questionnaire methods and targeted interviews with persons criminally prosecuted for relevant acts. Indicators of social functioning, including behavioral patterns and status roles of individuals in the community, are significant indicators in the study of the personality structure of poachers.

Let us consider the issue of their marital status. Empirical data suggest that approximately 60 % of surveyed individuals implicated in the unauthorized appropriation of natural assets are formally in marital or domestic partnerships, with 75 % of them identifying this form of illegal activity as their principal means of subsistence. This criminological peculiarity may be attributed to the circumstance that, in certain instances, poaching assumes a culturally entrenched and hereditary character, gradually evolving into a familial subsistence craft or an element of the informal shadow economy. Among the relevant parameters for assessing the social standing of an offender, particularly within the framework of criminological profiling, professional occupation and labor market participation are regarded as significant indicators, insofar as they reflect the extent of the individual's socio-economic integration [18]. Examination of employment-related information concerning this offender category reveals that a substantial proportion of individuals involved in poaching lack formal labor engagement, thereby evidencing the presence of adverse socio-economic conditions that serve as criminogenic catalysts for unlawful behavior (Table 7).

Table 7

Information on the employment activity of individuals who committed poaching between 2017 and 2024

Article	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	working	unemployed	working	unemployed	working	unemployed	working	unemployed	working	unemployed	working	unemployed	working	unemployed	working	unemployed
335	44	84	2	104	5	126	16	115	9	117	11	101	9	107	9	94
337	16	92	20	91	10	68	23	48	14	65	22	43	17	43	17	37
339	8	173	20	164	11	123	21	121	30	137	20	88	13	113	9	76
340	30	1001	2	104	5	126	1	11	3	8	2	10	1	10	3	11

In this regard, it seems reasonable to assert that there is a causal relationship between the social status of persons committing poaching offenses and their motivational attitudes that determine illegal behavior. The analysis of motivational factors influencing the commission of poaching offenses indicates that the motivational sphere is formed under the influence of a complex of external and internal conditions, including individual psychological characteristics of offenders. In the predominant majority of cases, the leading incentive for poaching is self-interest, which is confirmed by the results of the questionnaire survey, in which 80% of respondents cited material gain as the principal motive. This conclusion is confirmed by statistical data and sociological observations, since a significant proportion of poachers are socially vulnerable and economically disadvantaged citizens who do not have a permanent source of legal income.

It is necessary to underscore that within the framework of moral-psychological characteristics attributed to this category of individuals, a distinct pattern of pronounced egocentric orientation is observed, which is reflected in a predominantly instrumental and utilitarian perception of wildlife and natural ecosystems. According to empirical evidence derived from international scholarly research, the majority of subjects implicated in poaching-related criminal conduct exhibit a marked apathy toward the adverse ecological and legal repercussions resulting from their own unlawful behavior [19]. Such an attitudinal position may be interpreted as an indicator of an underdeveloped level of ecological legal awareness and an absence of internalized ethical restraints, which ordinarily function as regulatory mechanisms ensuring adherence to the provisions of environmental protection legislation.

The scientific novelty of the present research is reflected in the analytical and evaluative rethinking of the national strategic initiative “Taza Kazakhstan” for the period 2024–2029 [20], which for the first time officially articulated objectives directed at cultivating a sustainable ecological consciousness among the general population. Nevertheless, the program simultaneously revealed substantial content-related and methodological shortcomings — most notably, the absence of empirically grounded sociological inquiries dedicated to the study of mechanisms for safeguarding biodiversity, specifically in relation to fauna and flora. The study also underscores the limited scope and fragmented nature of pre-2009 environmental policy measures, during which the issue of preserving endangered species remained marginal and was infrequently integrated into systemic environmental governance agendas. Thus, the presented work fills the existing scientific gap, forming an analytical basis for further developments in the field of criminological study of poaching and a systematic approach to the formation of environmental responsibility. Scientific novelty of the chosen direction of research is also confirmed by the fact that in his last message to the people of Kazakhstan from September 2, 2024 [21], one of the directions of development of the Republic of Kazakhstan President of the country proclaimed the improvement of the environmental situation and cultivation of careful attitude to the environment.

Discussion

Our results show that poaching in Kazakhstan is predominantly a male crime committed by individuals without higher education, which is consistent with the research of other scientists [22; 23]. At the same time, our data on the age structure of criminals supplement and clarify previously obtained data: the majority of poachers fall into the 30–39 age group, which coincides with the conclusions of other researchers [13]. Also, our results that most poachers in Kazakhstan are middle-aged men without higher education are consistent with the findings of S.L. Eliason [24], who also notes similar behavioral patterns among poachers in the United States. Furthermore, the results of the conducted study align with the findings of similar works, which emphasize the multifaceted nature of poaching, highlighting the interconnectedness of socio-economic, cul-

tural, and environmental aspects [25]. Like other authors, we have concluded that poaching has a significant impact at the level of global regions, especially in countries with high biodiversity [26; 3-4].

Examining the similarities and differences between previous studies and the presented work, we note that our research confirms S.L. Eliason's findings that poachers often use illegal hunting methods. However, in contrast to his position, we have established that economic motivation plays a key role in the behavior of poachers in Kazakhstan. This circumstance gives the Kazakhstani poaching phenomenon a particular specificity, distinguishing it from the more complex socio-cultural and psycho-emotional determinants considered in other scientific studies dedicated to analyzing the behavioral characteristics of individuals involved in the illegal extraction of natural resources. The study revealed similarities in poaching methods across different countries, such as the use of modern hunting technologies, which is also mentioned in the analysis of poaching problems in Africa [27]. However, in our context, poaching is primarily linked to economic necessity, which differs from the motives described in some international studies. The results of the study indicate that poaching in Kazakhstan is closely linked to low levels of education and lack of stable employment. Based on the analysis, it can be argued that the fight against poaching in Kazakhstan should include educational programs and job creation to reduce the appeal of poaching as a source of income. Overall, a comprehensive approach is needed to reduce the level of poaching, including the improvement of socio-economic conditions and the strengthening of legislation. The study results can be explained through the lens of Edwin Sutherland's differential association theory [28], which emphasizes the influence of the social environment on criminal behavior, as well as through the rational choice theory, which suggests that criminal acts are the result of a conscious choice. This suggests that improving socio-economic conditions can reduce the level of poaching. In this study, we conducted a multifaceted comparison of existing data on this issue, with an emphasis on socio-economic, cultural, and environmental aspects, which signifies the importance of a comprehensive approach to the study of poaching. Our results correlate with the findings of international studies, particularly regarding the socio-economic motivations of poachers, and are largely based on legal statistics, which emphasizes their reliability. The results of this study not only confirm the significance of the analysis but also suggest ways to develop effective strategies to combat poaching, making its contribution to the scientific community particularly important and relevant.

Conclusions

This study presents a deep and multifaceted criminological analysis of the poacher's personality, operating in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The study focuses on the social, psychological, and criminal-legal characteristics of offenders, which allows us to paint a complex picture of the motivations and conditions leading to the commission of environmental offenses. These analyses undoubtedly contribute to the understanding of the problem of poaching, enriching the scientific community with new conclusions and proposals for optimizing law enforcement practices and preventing these crimes.

The study's findings emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to the problem, including strengthening criminal liability and improving state control mechanisms. The proposed measures for prevention and optimization of law enforcement activities can significantly enhance the effectiveness of combating poaching in Kazakhstan, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. In general, it seems reasonable to conclude that the profile of a poacher operating in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is formed on the basis of a comprehensive study of their social, demographic, criminal-legal, and psychological characteristics.

The results of the analysis allow us to assert that the majority of those committing offenses in the sphere of illegal environmental use are men in the age category of 30 to 39 years, predominantly without higher education, which, in turn, indicates an insufficient level of legal awareness and understanding of the environmental consequences of illegal activities. From the point of view of criminal-legal status, the majority of the subjects studied do not have criminal records, however, the presence among them of persons previously brought to criminal responsibility, including under similar articles, indicates the need to develop and implement targeted preventive strategies aimed at reducing the level of recidivism in this category of crimes.

The personality of a poacher in Kazakhstan is determined by a complex interaction of various factors, each of which contributes to a predisposition to commit environmental offenses. The research results offer important directions for developing effective strategies for preventing and controlling poaching, emphasizing a comprehensive approach to solving this problem. In addition, the results achieved have significant scientific novelty and relevance, providing valuable recommendations for law enforcement agencies and political figures, as well as for the general public interested in preserving ecological balance and sustainable development.

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Қазақстандағы браконьерлік саласындағы қылмыстық жазаланатын іс-әрекеттер: құқық бұзушының жеке басын зерттеу

Мақалада Қазақстан Республикасының аумағында табиғатты заңсыз пайдалану саласында қылмыстық жазаланатын іс-әрекеттер жасайтын браконьердің жеке басына жан-жақты криминологиялық талдау жасалған. Зерттеудің мақсаты табиғи ортаны қорғау саласында құқыққа қайшы әрекеттер жасайтын адамдардың демографиялық, әлеуметтік, криминалдық-құқықтық және психологиялық-мінез-құлық ерекшеліктерінің жиынтығын анықтау, сондай-ақ браконьерлік қызметті жүзеге асыруға бейімділіктің қалыптасуына ықпал ететін детерминистік жағдайларды анықтау. Зерттеудің әдіснамалық негізін статистикалық және мазмұнды талдау, сұхбат беру, сауалнама жүргізу, топтастыру және сараптамалық бағалау әдістері құрайды. Жүргізілген жұмыстың нәтижесінде браконьерлердің негізгі тобын жоғары білімі жоқ және көбінесе ресми жұмысқа орналаспаған еңбекке қабілетті жастағы (30–39 жас) ер адамдар құрайтыны анықталды. Олардың қылмыстық белсенділігінің негізгі мотивациялық детерминанттары экономикалық қажеттілік, экологиялық құқықтық сананың тапшылығы және әлеуметтік тұрақсыздық екені айқындалды. Сонымен қатар, эмпирикалық деректерді талдау құқық бұзушыларға тән мінез-құлық көзқарастары мен құқықтық хабардарлық деңгейін анықтауға мүмкіндік берді. Мақалада браконьерлер арасындағы гендерлік, жас және білім беру айырмашылықтарын зерттеуді қоса алғанда, қазақстандық және халықаралық тәжірибені салыстырмалы талдауға ерекше назар аударылды. Браконьерлік деңгейін төмендетуге бағытталған кешенді алдын алу шараларын енгізу, сондай-ақ экологиялық мәдениет пен халықтың әлеуметтік жауапкершілігін қалыптастыру жөніндегі нысаналы бағдарламаларды әзірлеу қажеттілігі туралы қорытындылар жасалды.

Кілт сөздер: браконьерлік, қылмыстық құқық бұзушылық, экологиялық қылмыс, құқық бұзушының жеке басы, демографиялық факторлар, экологиялық құқықтық сана, статистикалық талдау, заңнама, қылмыстың алдын алу, табиғатты заңсыз пайдалану.

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Уголовно-наказуемые деяния в сфере браконьерства в Казахстане: исследование личности правонарушителя

Статья представляет собой всесторонний криминологический анализ личности браконьера, совершающего уголовно-наказуемые деяния в сфере незаконного природопользования на территории Республики Казахстан. Целью настоящего исследования является установление комплекса демографических, социологических, криминально-правовых и психолого-поведенческих признаков лиц, совершающих противоправные деяния в сфере охраны природной среды, а также идентификация детерминирующих условий, способствующих формированию склонности к осуществлению браконьерской деятельности. В результате проведенной работы установлено, что основную группу браконьеров составляют мужчины трудоспособного возраста (30–39 лет), не имеющие высшего образования и зачастую не обладающие официальным трудоустройством. Определено, что основными мотивационными детерминантами их преступной активности выступают экономическая необходимость, дефицит экологического правосознания и социальная неустроенность. Кроме того, анализ эмпирических данных позволил выделить характерные поведенческие установки и уровень правовой информированности правонарушителей. В представленной статье акцентировано внимание на сопоставительном исследовании национального и зарубежного опыта, с учётом анализа гендерных, возрастных и образовательных различий среди лиц, привлекаемых к ответственности за незаконную деятельность в сфере природопользования. Сформулированы выводы о целесообразности реализации системных превентивных стратегий, ориентированных на снижение распространённости браконьерства, а также разработке специализированных инициатив, направленных на формирование устойчивых экологических установок и повышение уровня социальной ответственности в обществе.

Ключевые слова: браконьерство, уголовное правонарушение, экологическая преступность, личность правонарушителя, демографические факторы, экологическое правосознание, статистический анализ, законодательство, профилактика преступлений, незаконное природопользование.

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