OPEN PEER REVIEW



The Intersection of Trade Law and Environmental Policy: Conflicts and Synergies

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Received: 2023-05-03 **Revised:** 2023-05-29 **Accepted:** 2023-06-10 **Published:** 2023-07-01

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript aims to explore the intersection of trade law and environmental policy, yet it seems to cover a broad range of topics without clear demarcation. It would be beneficial to more precisely define the scope of the research to ensure a focused and in-depth analysis. For instance, specifying particular aspects of trade law or environmental policy that the study concentrates on could help sharpen its contributions.

The "Methods and Materials" section outlines the literature search strategy and selection criteria but lacks detailed information on the analytical methods used to synthesize the selected literature. Providing more specifics on how the literature was analyzed (e.g., thematic analysis, meta-analysis) would enhance the methodological rigor of the study.

While the manuscript discusses conflicts and synergies between trade law and environmental policy, it could benefit from a more balanced presentation by addressing potential counterarguments or criticisms. For example, exploring critiques of the WTO's handling of environmental issues or discussing the limitations of using trade measures to achieve environmental goals would add depth to the analysis.

The review is primarily theoretical, drawing on existing literature. Incorporating empirical data, such as case studies or quantitative analyses, could strengthen the argument by providing concrete examples of how trade law and environmental policy intersect in practice.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of both trade law and environmental policy, ensure that the literature review includes the most recent and relevant studies. Including works published after 2023, if available, would make the review more current and valuable.

The manuscript could be enriched by a more detailed exploration of how the intersection of trade law and environmental policy varies across different regions and economic blocs. This could highlight the diversity of approaches and challenges faced by various countries, offering a more nuanced understanding of the global context.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The manuscript touches on sustainable development but could further elaborate on how trade law and environmental policy can be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A more detailed analysis of specific SDGs related to trade and environment would strengthen this section.

Some sections of the manuscript use technical jargon that may not be accessible to all readers. Simplifying the language where possible, or providing clear definitions of key terms, could improve the manuscript's readability and appeal to a broader audience.

The conclusion summarizes the manuscript well but could be enhanced by more directly linking the findings to practical implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. Offering concise and actionable takeaways would make the conclusion more impactful.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.

