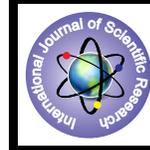


Socio-Economic and Environmental Aspects of Nature



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

This article on a topic "socio-economic and environmental aspects of natural recourse use" addresses the environmental and socio-economic issues of natural resource use as the possibility to meet the needs of sectors of the national economy in the required primary resources of society - in food products, material benefits, maintaining a clean environment, the creation of normal conditions for behavior of natural biological resources reproduction as sources to meet those needs.

INTRODUCTION

The maximum possible satisfaction of the needs of economy sectors in the necessary raw materials is the task of nature resources: needs of society - in food, material goods, maintaining of clean environment, the creation of normal conditions for the occurrence of natural reproduction of biological resources as sources to meet those needs. Natural resources are an important element of the productive forces because they are the means of human existence. In modern conditions growth of scientific and technical progress, the development and distribution of productive forces, human impact on nature inevitably change the nature environment. Each year the process of anthropogenic impact on the nature increases. These changes should not be harmful for nature. Today this basic position has not lost its relevance. Moreover, the continuous involvement of additional sources into economic turnover changes nature. We must remember that the nature has laws under which the violation of one of the ecological elements can lead to a rupture of the whole chain, and by that cause irreparable damage to the natural system. Rational use of natural resources is required, integrated approach to all natural resources, strict account of the special environmental development at all levels of planning and management in order to achieve the most efficient use of material and technical, financial, labor and natural resources. Rational use of natural resources, reproduction of natural resources, creating conditions for the normal development of the ecological balance – all of these occurs in a certain system of social and economic relations. The society provides planned development of national income and gross national product and on this basis meets material, social, recreational and aesthetic needs of the workers.

Bio-economic system is a combination of two subsystems: the "economy" and "natural environment", they are presented as a common goal (processes): nature - ecological environment - natural resources - management - production - consumption - residuals - recycling are indicators of environmental conditions.

Natural elements which are used in the economy are defined as natural resources, and they are also the means of the existence of human society: soil cover, useful plants, animals and minerals, water (for water supply, irrigation, industry, energy, transport and reproduction of biological resources, the organization of the resort and recreational complexes), favorable climatic conditions, wind energy, underground thermal water. Mineral and raw materials extracted from the subsoil are products that require further processing by the transformation.

Rational development which is based on an integrated approach, use and reproduction of natural resources, the removal of particular parts of the land within the geographical areas (territory) from the field of the use and also systematic and purposeful, science-based transformation of nature in order to improve the productivity of its biological systems are the natu-

ral resources. In any social production conversion of natural resources is carried out into the consumer goods for the people. Meeting the needs of the national economy in minerals, water, power is unconscionable without respect to the nature of the ecological balance, rational use of natural resources.

Modern society, with powerful technique and energy, is able to multiply the forces of nature, aimed for the benefit of mankind, to ensure the reproduction of natural resources for the foreseeable period and on reaching the optimal balance between production and consumption the society can multiply these forces of nature even forever. But by unreasonable approach to nature and its resources a man can disturb the balance in the biosphere, in the natural reproduction of its resources.

In modern conditions, with intensive land use, mechanization, agricultural work, mechanization of agriculture artificial irrigation, deep land plowing, exclusion of huge land sections under various non-agricultural uses, there is increased pollution, erosion, clogging of suitable land. Today there is degradation of land sections and forests, surface and ground water is intensively polluted. But we should remember that for the formation of alluvial sediments and topsoil hundreds of thousands of years are required, while their demolition from the surface by water and wind erosion occurs in a short time.

In process of development of the productive forces, the concentration of production and urbanization of the population in industrialized countries, growing number of cars and other means of transport which is running on fossil fuels, the air is polluted by the concentration of dust, gas, waste heat in the lower atmosphere.

Water pollution by waste industry causes huge damage to the environment. It was found that oil pumping and petroleum products during transportation of oil waterway are 18-20 million tons a year. It is enough to cover the entire surface of the World's water by oil film during 4-5 years. During the intensive construction of hydraulic structures on the rivers, as well as pollution of the seas, inland lakes and reservoirs, in the last period fish resources were reduced by more than half.

The world's forests are significantly reduced. For example, against the annual growth of forest resources of about 2.0 billion of cubic meters, felling of forests is more than 3.0 billion of cubic meters. Reducing of forests, especially in the tropics, causes the soil erosion, drying up of springs and drought of breeds, chalking rivers and other undesirable effects.

Throughout the history of mankind impact of society on nature was systematically increased. But more important qualitative and quantitative changes are also observed in the scientific and technological revolution. In our time the scope and depth of human impact on nature become comparable with the geological

processes of nature, and sometimes even higher than the natural changes that violates the interacting processes of development in environmental and bio-ecological balance.

Reasonable people practice creates conditions and opportunities for the performance of wealth through the rational use of resources, their reproduction, elimination of negative processes in environmental management based on private ownership and operation.

Despite its modest resources and capabilities there is 1 billion of people on the planet undernourished, where 400 million people are starving and rest 600 billion of people eat so little that the average age of their life is reduced doubly. In order to reduce hunger in the earth, it is required to double production by rational use of natural resources, especially agricultural and arable lands. The correct proportional distribution of wealth between people and countries is important. The possibilities for this are enormous but they are not used.

In the coming time, the development of energy and technical improvements will occur much faster than population growth that will increase the ability of society to influence nature. If in the past for the production of material goods people sent their efforts on wildlife, but now they are working on it with the help of modern tools, and the impact of this on the living world is growing. The organic and inorganic world around us is in constant motion, changes and develops.

It should be noted that in the first perception of the problem of "man and nature" on a global scale has arisen in connection with the advent of the atomic bomb, its explosive force testing in August 1945 over Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the threat of global nuclear war. As for the environmental aspects of the problem, it is the result of the violation of the equilibrium under intense environmental pollution on a global scale.

Building of military arsenals threatens the development of a peaceful life on earth pollution of nature. A person can live only in equilibrium with nature, which cannot be ensured if the natural environment is subjected to radiation poisoning. The development of material goods is impossible without establishing normal relations "man and nature". Regulation of this relationship is due to the following issues and major global challenges: a) preventing, slowing of premature depletion of a number of vital natural especially mineral and fuel - energy resources; b) adoption of radical measures on a global scale to address the causes of environmental pollution, disequilibrium in the system "man and wildlife"; c) regulation of socio-economic and socio-political relations by efforts of many countries, regardless of their socio-economic structure; d) increase in living standards on the basis of rational use of natural resources.

Nature is generous, but its resources are not limitless.

Decay and transformation occur in nature, but the human carries out "secondary" transformation of resources through integrated and repeated use. Industrial emissions in the form of solid and gaseous waste, municipal and household and human waste water have its consequences retardation of the development of flora and fauna. In the course of natural processes huge amounts of elements of the crust washed, weathered, transported by water or air currents. Each year in the World's water cleared 18 thousand of natural origin waste and 9 thousand are residuals. At this rate of pollution the nature in the future may be deprived of reserves to counter abuses. Great geological transforming force is "digging" of the land. Moreover, now the creation of man-made chemical compounds previously not encountered in nature has begun. Some of these compounds are perceived painlessly by nature, others are unacceptable for it. All these processes pose a serious public prob-

lem - environmental management, protection of the environment, promotes normal reproduction in the natural environment of its riches.

Each year the production and consumption of natural resources are growing, and especially main mineral resources of the development of industry and growth of technological progress. Over the lifetime of one generation the production of electricity increased more than in 1000, over 80% of electricity is generated by thermal power plants by burning fossil fuels - coal, oil, natural gas, hard coal, peat, and representing a valuable chemical feedstock. Immeasurably large proportion of the produced fuel is used in heat engines, as well as to provide heat in different industries and at home.

The reason of serious concern is that fact that in many countries, and primarily in industrialized, densely populated areas in South-east Asia, North America, Western Europe, in the European part of the CIS pollution of water, land, soil resources, and atmospheric air is increasing, whereby constrained reproduction of the biological world, especially fish, reduced crop yields and perennial plants.

A serious trouble currently is the pollution of industrially developed areas, occupation of large land area with landfills, waste production and daily life. The process of land littering with industrial and domestic is widespread. However, all these negative aspects do not take place as a result of the use of technology, but in the case of violation of the mining technology of mineral raw materials, their working, non-compliance with the agro technical rules in the processing of land, watering of agricultural crops. All this leads to very undesirable consequences, "justification of the theory of depletion of natural resources." In the book "Closing Circle" B. Commoner, researching the reasons of the sharp aggravating of environmental problems in the United States in the postwar years, comes to the conclusion that in most cases this progress is due not only much population growth and the rise of standard of living, but a change in production technology. He considers that the rapid growth of pollution and environmental degradation associated with environmental violations in nature, due to the failure of modern technological methods, proving that "the growth of the national economy, i.e. the increase of the gross national product itself does not mean of any consequences for environment. For this purpose we need to know how to achieve economic growth. In the process of intensive natural resource use and ecological balance disruption in some regions, in most cases, measures to prevent or mitigate implications are taken. However, after the facts of increased air pollution, land and water resources, destruction of forests, violations of the processes of reproduction of biological resources it is difficult, almost impossible to restore the balance of nature in these or other regions (natural objects). Overcoming of negative environmental impacts is carried out in two ways: in purification of harmful emissions of industrial, agricultural enterprises, consumer services and the development of ecologically oriented technologies and gradual environmentalization of production.

Modern science considers that biologic species are survived, improve, adapt to a particular natural environment. Obviously, if suitable methods and ways for rational natural resource use, change and improve of individual resources have not been taken, some species do not have time to adapt to the changes that occur in nature under the conditions of intensive growth of scientific and technological revolution.

All natural, in particular mineral-raw resources at this level of technology development and chemical science should be subject to rational, complex use by deep processing. Loss of any consumer component of natural, especially mineral-raw mate-

rial should be considered as damage of nature, and therefore of society, and ultimately - of ecological balance. Prevention of anthropogenic impact of man on nature, removal or maximum reduction of production wastes require the establishment of organizational and economical principles fixed in the legislation, according to which this damage using their own revenues (premiums and salaries) in most cases would be removed by violator. Of course, in the presence of such economic sanctions, in the articles of production prime costs for increasing of "environmental compatibility" of production must be provided. These costs will increase the cost of production, but in the future they will be compensated by preventing environmental damage. Such measures will allow to enterprises and industries efficiently organize their economic activity both from an economic and environmental point of view. Economical and caring attitude to nature creates all prerequisites for harmonious interaction with

society, and society has to eliminate ecological damage and in many cases to correct deficiencies of natural environment in order to make it more favorable to the existence of all life on the Earth. In order to harmonize our relationship with nature it is necessary to learn to think ecologically with the aim not to spend a short time limited resources of the Earth, the genesis of which is millions of years old.

We cannot give up the impact on nature and the use of its resources, as well as it cannot be arbitrarily slow down their own development. In the process of wildlife the impact of society should be limited so that it does not destroy its complicated mechanisms of functioning, self-regulation and self-reproduction. But this transformation should be strictly focused and scientifically sound, in other words it should take into account the actions of its objective laws, but not in spite of them.

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