

NATURE REZERVES AS CORE AREAS OF ECO-NET IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS

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National networks of the reserves institutions are developing now in most of European countries. This is the “gold fund” which facilitates restoration of the ecological balance, refinement of air and water, increasing of number of animals and plants. National nature parks, nature and biosphere reserves are the main nature protection, cultural, educational, scientific research institutions, which make bright preciousness of natural acquirement, natural, historical and cultural inheritance of people. One of modern direction in creation of nature reserve objects is their multifunctionality, particularly of national parks, that allowed to combine nature conservation and prerequisites of sustainable use: bioresources, tourism, recreation/resort, aesthetic and eco-education. Establishment of new protected areas in Europe has been developed in line with recommendations of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) in respect of the issue of the development of Pan-European Eco-Net (PEEN) as a single spatial system of areas of European countries with the natural or partly altered condition of a landscape.

The principal objective of the above PEEN is to increase the area of lands under natural landscapes to the level sufficient for the preservation of their diversity close to their initial natural conditions and the development of their territorially integrated system built to ensure a possibility of using natural ways of the migration and propagation of plants' and animals' species. At that, the National Environmental Networks should meet the requirements to the operation thereof within the Pan-European Eco-Net and perform the leading functions in respect of the biodiversity conservation. Besides, establishment of protected areas (PAs) should contribute to the balanced and sustainable use of bioresources in the economy; this moment is a critically important on regional level. The role of Eco-Net for environmentally deeply degraded territories, ecological capacity of which to a great degree has been used up and extreme conditions are being formed, is of a great importance. For such territories it is the only possible way out of the crisis situation for the nearest period of time (Movchan, 1997).

The natural regions, natural corridors and buffer zones in their continuous integrity shall form a network, which unites natural landscape areas into a territorially integrated system. The PEEN also provides for the integration of the national environmental network with environmental networks of neighbouring countries, by means of setting up common trans-boundary elements of the network within natural regions and natural corridors, agreeing upon the land use projects in border areas. Organization of natural core areas, buffer zones and corridors is attended with integration of nature conservation activity into activity carried out in different sectors, agrarian and forestry (maintenance of traditional management mode), tourist (maintenance of village tourism with taking into account the interests of local population), transport (co-operation, i.a. in determination of transport corridors), fishery (is based on principles of ecologically-balanced development), territorial planning (establishing of zones of so-called “green lungs”, taking into account urbanization and also necessity of geographic disposition of eco-net), and at last into legal sphere (development of suitable normatively-legal guaranteeing) (Movchan, 1999). For Ukraine, as well as for the other countries in transition creation of Eco-Net will give an opportunity to stop negative changes of the living component of the environment and facilitate the implementation of the principles of sustainable development and balanced use of natural resources and supporting, first of all agrobiodiversity (Korzhniev et al., 2001). The common transboundary elements (Trans-Boundary Protected Areas, TBPAs) of the national Eco-Net will be set up in cooperation with Republic of Poland, Republic of Belarus, Russian Federation, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Slovak Republic. One of the way of such system implementation of ecological approach into social-

economic realities as well as EcoNet development is development of TBPAs. Particular attention is paid to proper organization of transboundary protected areas because national borders hamper the efficient conservation and management of natural areas crossing one or more borders, and ecosystems and species do not always confirm to political boundaries. TBPAs are valuable in that they can combine and coordinate biodiversity conservation efforts and the conservation of ecological services at a scale that is larger than what can be accomplished by the constituent protected areas in isolation. Some important benefits of TBPAs are:

- enhancing conservation of ecoregions, landscapes, ecosystems and species;
- promoting a holistic approach with respect to zones and biomes;
- facilitating the management of transboundary natural resources;
- promoting international cooperation at different levels and in different fora;
- attracting additional financing from international sources;
- enhancing commitment from partners on regional and global scales;
- facilitating more effective research;
- bringing economic benefits to local and national economies;
- and ensuring better cross-border control of problems such as fire, disease, biological invasion, poaching, marine pollution and smuggling.

There are many longstanding instances worldwide of cooperation between two or more adjoining protected areas divided by international boundaries. Foundation of the regional Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region (Carpathian convention) could serve as good example of a successful attempt to co-operate in solving common environmental problems at a regional level.

As evident from the previous experience, it could be quite difficult to implement the sustainable development policy even under the favorable conditions of a prosperous economy. In the countries in transition a problem is that the requirements of transition to sustainable development supposedly contradict striving of the majority of the population to have cheap goods and services. But just these countries have a good chance to restructurize and renew their obsolete economies with the orientation to sustainability via formation of Eco-Net, where are PAs are serving as a core areas.

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