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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION'S ECOSYSTEM: ESSENCE AND SUPPORT PROBLEMS

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СТАЛИЙ РОЗВИТОК ЕКОСИСТЕМИ РЕГІОНУ: СУТНІСТЬ І ПРОБЛЕМИ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ

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The article examines the essence of the ecosystem of the region and the problems of its sustainable development support. In particular, different interpretations of the ecosystem are identified. The ecosystem approach is presented as the basis of the concept of sustainable development.

It is proposed to define the ecosystem of the region as a set of interdependent actors and factors coordinated to improve the social, ecological and economic condition of the region. The region's ecosystem has its own structure, which is defined in the paper. Each ecosystem is characterized by a specific set of characteristics, which determine the potential for ecosystem development, including resources, barriers and needs that distinguish ecosystems in different regions. The stakeholders within the ecosystem structure include public authorities and local governments, the private sector, the public sector, as well as educational institutions and research institutions. Each stakeholder has own functions, which contribute to sustainable development of the ecosystem. The components of the region's ecosystems meet the three dimensions of the sustainable development goals, the simultaneous implementation of which is of great importance.

There are a lot of factors, which influence the region's ecosystem development. The classification of these factors is presented in the article. The factors include internal and external, resource and regulatory, positive and negative impact etc. The possible manifestation of positive and negative impact of the factors on sustainable development of the region's ecosystem is examined. The factors specific to Luhansk oblast, which are connected with the negative impact of the armed conflict, are outlined.

The necessity to create the institutional support of sustainable development of region's ecosystem is defined. Such institutional support includes regulatory, organizational, managerial, financial, economic and information components. These components are realized within the legislative framework, organizational framework, civil society framework.

Key words: sustainable development, ecosystem, factor, institutional support, region.

Problem statement. The list of national tasks of the Sustainable Development Goals covers four areas. They include equitable social development; sustainable

economic growth and employment; good governance; ecological balance and of sustainability [1]. The implementation of these areas at the regional level is based on many factors, including interaction between all components of sustainable development of the region and ensuring the interaction of all relevant stakeholders. Unfortunately, the regions of Ukraine face significant difficulties in achieving sustainable development goals. In particular, for Luhansk oblast these difficulties include the armed conflict and temporary occupation of a part of Luhansk oblast territory; deepening demographic crisis; inefficient economy; deterioration of the human capital quality and the conditions of its development; inconsistency of infrastructure with modern human and economic needs; deteriorating security of the territory and poor democratic governance [2]. The need to apply the new approaches to sustainable development of the region is becoming obvious. Such an approach is an ecosystem approach that solves the problem of balancing the environmental, economic and social components of social development, and hence - positive changes in the environment and quality of life. This determines the relevance of research on sustainable development of ecosystems in a region.

Analysis of recent research and publications. "The theory of sustainability states that the key problem in achieving sustainability is the lack of recognition that ecosystems and social systems are dynamic and inextricably linked" [3]. While studying the sustainable ecosystem development, the concept of "ecosystem" itself deserves detailed consideration precisely because of the different understandings that are embedded in it. Etymologically, the term "ecosystem" consists of the Greek words "οἶκος" - "eco", meaning "home" - and "συστημα" - "system", meaning "complex" [4]. Often the term "ecosystem" was used in the field of biology as a designation of a "biological system", "grouping of plants, animals and microorganisms, as well as their inanimate environment, interacting as a single functional

whole" [5]. Later, in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to this Convention, the understanding of the ecosystem was enriched by the statement that "people with all their cultural diversity are an integral part of many ecosystems" [6]. An important clarification was that the components of the ecosystem "interact as a functional whole to support ecological structures, processes and functions" [7]. From the point of view of the systems theory, an ecosystem is "a complex, self-organized, self-regulating, self-developing system" [4]. That is, an ecosystem is understood not just as an "ecological system", but a complex system that combines natural and anthropogenic systems, and can be considered primarily from the standpoint of the sustainable development concept (as it contains environmental, social and economic components).

Today, the use of the term "ecosystem" can be found in various interpretations. Examples are such concepts as "business ecosystem", "innovation ecosystem", "startup ecosystem", etc. [8-11]. The reasons for such a wide application were understanding and defining the global trends - the transition to the concept of an ecosystem approach, which helps to solve the problems of balancing the environmental, economic and social components of sustainable development.

The goal of the article is to examine the essence of region's ecosystem and the problems its sustainable development support.

Research results. The ecosystem approach, as the basis of the sustainable development concept, was recognized in the United Nations Conference Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). The most complete definition of this approach was established by the relevant Decision of the 5th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2000, according to which "the ecosystem approach is a strategy for integrated management of land, water and living resources that ensures their conservation and sustainable use on an equitable basis" [6].

Among the main ideas of the ecosystem concept, represented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (2010), it is appropriate to name the following:

ecosystems operate in a wide range: from a very local dimension to a global one, which should be clearly distinguished;

ecosystems provide services that are essential to human activities, so it is important to ensure that the sustainable provision of these services is not disrupted by damage to ecosystem functions;

humanity is an integral part of ecosystems;

a man should be at the center of biodiversity management, which means the need for integrated collective approaches to identify important issues and their subsequent consideration in ecosystem management [12].

Considering entrepreneurship, scientists define an ecosystem as interaction of systemic and framework conditions, thus considering both the biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem. Moreover, under the entrepreneurial ecosystem, researchers understand "a set of interdependent entities and factors coordinated in

such a way that they enable productive entrepreneurship in a given area" [8]. Thus, just as the system of living organisms is considered as the basis of the ecosystem in biology, the systemic conditions in entrepreneurship such as entrepreneurial networks, leadership, finance, talent, knowledge and support services are considered to be the basis of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, while the framework conditions provide a social context, which enables or limits human interaction.

In like vein, some researchers [10, 11] use the terms "agents" and "microecosystem", respectively, when referring to the first as the biotic component, and the second as the institutional and macro-ecosystem for the abiotic component of the business ecosystem. Between biotic and abiotic components, which are considered as interconnected nutrient cycles and energy flows [11], a holistic and enhancing cycle can be created, while in the ecosystem such flows can be represented by local "successful" startups with a proven business model that scales around the world. Indeed, it is very likely that these "successful" startups will return the value – from the global to the local arena – in the form of, for example, financial resources that should be invested in other local and promising startups. Therefore, it is important to activate such cycles at the regional level and to enable these flows.

The ecosystem approach draws attention to the fact that entrepreneurship is carried out in a community of interdependent entities, individuals, legal entities and regulators within a certain geographical area [13]. Some research on ecosystems focused on the economic actors responsible for creation of these ecosystems, their interaction through formal and informal networks, environmental factors and the state of infrastructure in the region [14]. Thus, we can define an ecosystem of a region as a set of interdependent actors and factors, which are coordinated in order to improve the social, ecological and economic condition of a region through effective use of its internal capacity, advantages, resources and opportunities of the territory, and thus promoting sustainable development, which will create conditions for increasing the level of welfare and income of citizens together with achieving social cohesion and environmental stability.

In the modern economic dimension, there are many models of ecosystems, each of which has its own specifics, but a common key feature is the culture of interaction of all stakeholders of the ecosystem. Each ecosystem is characterized by a specific set of characteristics, which determine the potential for ecosystem development, including resources, barriers and needs that distinguish ecosystems in different regions. The structure of a region's ecosystem is presented in table.

The components of the region's ecosystems meet the three dimensions of the sustainable development goals. It is important to understand that only the simultaneous implementation of all components will promote sustainable development goals achievement. Thus, the stakeholders of the ecosystem include public authorities and local governments, the private sector, the public

Table

The structure of a region's ecosystem

Components of region's ecosystem	Stakeholders	Functions
Economic Social Environmental	Public authorities and local governments	Provision of support mechanisms (creating opportunities for employment and efficient work, promoting entrepreneurial initiative of economically active population - favorable financial and investment systems, availability of systemic support and growth programs, human resources support, R&D).
	Private sector	Realization of ecosystem capacity, socio-economic development of an ecosystem by supporting employment, meeting population needs through production of goods and services; scientific and technological progress and innovation.
	Educational and scientific institutions	Provision of human resources: education, retraining, work with youth; scientific and technological progress and innovation.
	Public sector	Providing advisory support, networking and hubs, introduction of non-formal education, cultivating culture and values of sustainable development, democracy. Provision of relevant services.

sector, as well as educational and research institutions. Each of the stakeholders performs its functions in the ecosystem, but the systemic interaction and communication between them are of great importance. Such interaction contributes to more efficient use of all types of resources and increase of economic, social and environmental effects.

The ecosystem of a region is a complex system of interacting objects and subjects (systems) of the regional economy. Together with other regional ecosystems, the ecosystem of Luhansk region is part of a more global ecosystem – the ecosystem of Ukraine. As part of the global ecosystem, regional ecosystems should be balanced. However, this is a very difficult task for ecosystems of both regional and state-level ecosystems, due to the fact that the level of ecosystem development depends not only on internal, but also external factors.

The ecosystem development factors represent a set of arguments that determine the peculiarities of the development of certain processes in a particular ecosystem. Factors determine the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of economic activities, affect the size and direction of economic activity, determine social and environmental priorities, and are a practical tool for solving socio-environmental and economic problems. The ecosystem development strategy is formed on the basis of the factors.

External factors of development are understood as causal relations caused by external environment impact. These include national economic and demographic factors that directly influence formation of regional policies. This can be the legal framework, the quality of the components of the natural environment of the ecosystem, the availability of natural resources, political, legal, economic, social, technological and other forces of external systems impact.

The most important internal factors of a regional ecosystem include:

- ability to accumulate, consolidate and use information;
- the degree of development of different levels of society;

- the level of technological development;
- social conditions of society (including moral education, relations between groups and generations);
- innovation, investment, resource, production, human resources of a region [15].

The set of internal factors of ecosystem development can be combined into two groups: resource and regulatory. Resource factors determine the potential of the ecosystem in relation to available resources and, accordingly, the possible degree of its development. Regulatory factors determine the possibility of influencing the development of the ecosystem in terms of management. That is, these are causal links due to the internal state of society and the development of the ecosystem.

The state and development of the ecosystem are also influenced by objective and subjective factors:

objective factors are formed under the influence of historical preconditions and market conditions. These include: natural, production, financial, labor resources; economic and geographical location; natural conditions; market conditions.

For Luhansk region such objective factors include, first of all, the military conflict in the East of Ukraine and occupation of the part of its territory. Among others are the low density of population, high unemployment and lower salaries compared to some other regions of Ukraine, prevailing agricultural sector over the industrial one, considerable distance to the European borders and proximity to the border with Russian Federation, introduction of civil-military administrations instead of city-councils, and support of international organizations provided to various regional stakeholders and aimed at sustainable regional development.

Subjective factors are formed under the influence of economic entities, public organizations, regional development institutions, state and municipal authorities. This group of factors includes: regulatory and legislative framework, environmental state, governmental policy aimed at socio-economic development, and domestic policy of the region itself [16].

The impact of subjective factors on the development of the ecosystem can outweigh the objective ones.

This is due to the fact that in addition to the resource base, natural conditions and other internal development factors, the main "regulator" of these actions is government, including regional policy, which includes regulatory framework and ensures the relationship of external and internal, objective and subjective factors of development of each region's ecosystem.

The specific for Luhansk region subjective factors are the introduction of "bottom-up" approach and taking sustainable development goals into account during the strategic planning processes, activism of civil society and dialogue between regional stakeholders.

In addition to the mentioned above factors, attention should be paid to those that negatively affect the development indicators. Such factors include threat factors and unpredictable factors. The manifestation of the negative impact factors is as follows:

first, the negative factors are usually broad in nature and affect a significant part of the subsystems, elements and connections of the social, ecological and economic system of the region;

secondly, violations of the existing situation affect the structure of economic potential, directing its resources to overcome negative factors;

third, the impact of negative factors reduces the rate of ecosystem development, leading to an even greater disparity in the mechanism of sustainability.

In Ukraine, it is possible to observe how the structure of regional ecosystem development differs significantly in various geographical locations. Thus, the ecosystems of the western regions have a positive development trend compared to the ecosystems of the eastern regions. The development of such events began in 2012 due to the decline of industrial areas and the loss of own potential. Of course, an even greater recession in the development of eastern regions ecosystems was caused by the armed conflict in Donbass. Negative consequences of the conflict, which significantly affected the development of ecosystems of the eastern regions, include occupation of part of the territory of the regions; suspension of movement of goods across the contact line within the regions; internal labor migration, etc.

To promote the sustainable development of the region's ecosystem, it is advisable to create the appropriate institutional support, which includes regulatory, organizational, managerial, financial, economic and information components. These components are realized within the legislative framework, organizational framework, civil society framework (figure) and are implemented at different administration levels.

Legislative framework for institutional support of ecosystem sustainable development includes laws and other normative legal documents. However, the study of the National Institute for Strategic Studies "Current state and problems of forming approaches to sustainable development of Ukraine" [17] noted that "currently the state has not formed a single holistic view (concept) of sustainable development of Ukraine, and the main focus of the adopted documents is mainly on the analysis of the current situation and the statement of problems ". However, "the effective model of government regulation that would ensure the integration of efforts for economic growth, the pursuit of social justice and environmental management" and the simultaneous improvement of all indicators in the real negative impact of internal and external factors (which, in fact, should promote sustainable development), has not yet been created in Ukraine" [17].

The organizational framework foresees the development of the institutional framework of public policy, which should lead to improvement of the public authorities efficiency in certain spheres of public life, improvement of the effectiveness of state control and creation of transparent mechanisms for state regulation of certain spheres of public life. The institutions of state regulation of sustainable development provide "rules of the game" for the subjects of social, environmental and economic relations within the relevant ecosystem. Thus, the network of organizational support for sustainable development of the ecosystem includes the highest legislative and executive authorities, state committees, commissions and other organizations. In particular, such subjects of regulation include: the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, state executive bodies of various levels, the National Bank of Ukraine and others.

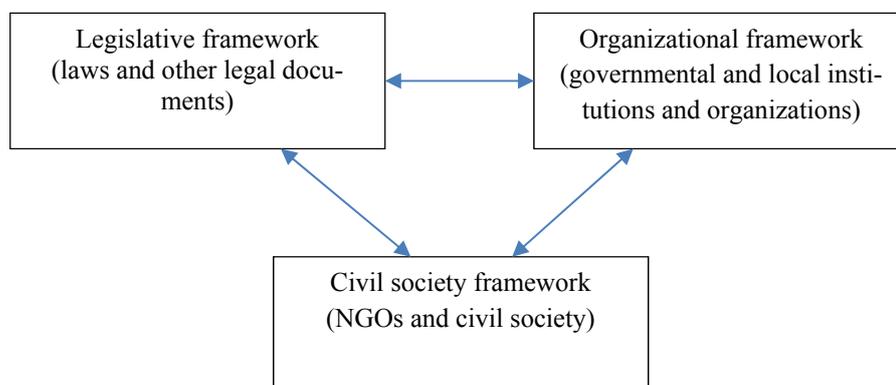


Fig. Elements of institutional support for sustainable development of the region's ecosystem

The civil society framework of institutional support for ecosystem sustainable development foresees building up appropriate communication, which should be represented by civic initiatives of the population and the work of local governments on ecosystem development. In turn, this is the basis for the manifestation of decentralization functions and competencies of local governments. Thus, the competences of village, settlement, city councils include the decision, in accordance with the law, on the issuance of a permit for the special use of natural resources of local importance, as well as the abolition of such a permit.

Conclusions. Thus, the management of sustainable development of the ecosystem in general is a continuous management process, which includes: defining goals and objectives, assessing the situation, development and implementation of decisions, monitoring and analysis of implementation and adjustment of decisions, and which lasts until the planned result is achieved. The stakeholders of the region's ecosystem are public authorities and local governments, the private and public sectors, as well as educational and research institutions. Each of the stakeholders performs its functions in the ecosystem, but the systemic interaction and communication between them is of great importance, thanks to which more efficient use of all types of resources is achieved and economic, social and environmental effects are increased. It is important to understand that only the simultaneous implementation of all the components will promote and support sustainable development of region's ecosystems.

The system of institutional support for sustainable development of the ecosystem includes a set of management entities in the form of government and local authorities, economic entities, non-governmental organizations and the population, and the relationships between them. It requires organizational and legal modification based on the sustainable development strategy, to meet the goals of the social state, as well as to meet the objective requirements of increasing the competitiveness of the ecosystem as a whole.

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Семененко І.М., Галгаш Р.А., Литовка Я.О., Борова Г.О. Сталий розвиток екосистеми регіону: сутність і проблеми забезпечення

В статті розглянуто сутність екосистеми регіону та проблеми забезпечення її сталого розвитку. Зокрема, визначено різні інтерпретації екосистеми, встановлено екосистемний підхід як основу концепції сталого розвитку. Запропоновано визначати екосистему регіону, як сукупність взаємозалежних суб'єктів та чинників, скоординованих задля поліпшення соціо-еколого-економічного стану регіону. Визначено структуру екосистеми регіону, зокрема, її стейкхолдерів, які включають органи державної влади і органи місцевого самоврядування, приватний сектор, громадський сектор, а також заклади освіти і наукові установи. Досліджено чинники розвитку екосистеми регіону та їх класифікацію. Розглянуто можливий прояв позитивного і негативного впливу чинників на сталий розвиток екосистеми регіону. Окреслено чинники, специфічні саме для Луганської області, що пов'язано з негативним впливом збройного конфлікту. Встановлено необхідність створення інституційного забезпечення сталого розвитку екосистеми регіону, визначено його складові та елементи.

Ключові слова: сталий розвиток, екосистема, чинник, інституційне забезпечення, регіон.

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