

A CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE ECOLOGICAL SAFETY FOR THE STATES OF THE BALTIC SEA

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At the turn of the century, the problem of preserving the planet's living environment, rather than natural environment, holds a central position in the paradigm of the societal development. This promotes ecological integration at all levels and puts before mankind a new task of creating a system of collective ecological safety (SCES) as a state and inter-state regulation system.

Background

The Baltic region, with appropriate background and the spheres of agreement of cooperation available now, can be considered as a suitable model for realization of a concept of collective ecological safety.

Over the last 10-15 years, cooperation in the sphere of ecological safety in this region has become a key priority of foreign policy. It can be said that a unique universal regulator of socioeconomic development of the society is now making its appearance, which even now acts as one of the key factors governing socioeconomic transformations on international and national scales. The society oriented towards the future will inevitably come to realize the need in creation of a system of collective ecological safety (SCES), which will enable the change from bilateral and multilateral agreements to an integrated system of inter-state regulation of the economic activity based on the ecological safety criteria, with the aim to create a truly controlled ecological space.

At the inter-state level, creation of SCES will require co-ordinated actions in the field of ecological policy, which implies elaboration of unified approaches to:

- comparative assessment of the transboundary technogenic impact levels [1];
- calculation of inter-state compensation indices associated with the damage caused by transboundary technogenic impacts [2];
- prediction of the damage compensation costs and elaboration of economic incentives for the costs minimization [3];
- formation, in the end, of combined systems of national ecological accounts [4];
- elaboration of co-ordinated principles of ecological integration [5].

A Concept of SCES

A concept of SCES holds promise as a rigid alternative to the paradigm of the economic growth at the expense of exploitation of the biospheric wealth of the planet. The concept can be elaborated basing on the development of practical applications and formalization of the principles of ecological integration which can be summarized as follows:

- ecological systems are not separated by directive borders;
- the biospheric potentials form the main wealth of states;

- rational use of biospheric products is the key factor governing the national wealth accumulation;
- economic activity should not disturb the biological productivity and diversity of ecosystems;
- the use of natural resources is based on adequately compensating for non-disturbance of the biospheric potential;
- migrating biological species enjoy the protected right of free migration as governed by evolution of species and communities;
- international relations are based on the principles of ecological trust and mutual ecological assistance;
- every disturbance of the living environment of a state should be adequately compensated for.

Perspectives of Russia's Integration into SCES

As for Russia, its national wealth is represented primarily by the natural resources; therefore, Russia's change to socio-natural ecologically safe development seems the only correct choice [5, 6]. In the process of integration into the world economic system, the natural-resources component of Russia's exports will constitute the largest proportion for many years to come. Creation of the system of collective ecological safety will contribute to the development of an international ecological legal framework for the balanced rational use of natural resources based on adequately compensating for losses due to withdrawal of natural resources and ecological restoration of disturbed territories. This is especially important for Russia whose biospheric potential is a key factor of ecological stabilization in Europe.

There is appropriate background for Russia's integration into the system of collective ecological safety. The work at RAS SRCES under the Methodology of Socioeconomic Prediction of the Ecological Integration Processes project, which is supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, has yielded encouraging results. Among the ten major spheres (directions) of integration, which have been the subject of the study and chosen as indicators of the dynamics of societal consciousness, the rating of ecological integration was invariably one of the highest where Russia's integration into the world community was involved [7] (see the table as an example).

Ratings of the Various Spheres of Integration of Russia

Ratings	Integration of the Russia State	Integration with the CIS member countries	Integration into the international community
1	Territory	Technology	Economics
2	Technology	Economics	Ecology
3	Economics	Territory	Education
4	Education	Politics	Politics
5	Information	Education	Information
6	Ecology	Information	Science
7	Politics	Ecology	Culture
8	Spiritual life	Science	Territory
9	Science	Culture	Spiritual life
10	Culture	Spiritual life	Technology

Conclusion

As emphasized at the International Workshop on Long-Term World Development (Surprising Futures. Notes from an International Workshop on Long-Term World Development. Friberg Manor, Sweden, Jan. 1986// Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research. Ord. and Form AB, Uppsala. - 1987. - 128 pp.), the major challenge for the forthcoming decades is to learn to regulate long-term large-scale environment - development interactions so as to afford ecologically safe provision of the people's prosperity.

At that time (1987), few people believed that ecological safety would become a key priority of foreign policy. Now, in 1997, it can be suggested that in XXI century the doctrine of collective ecological safety will replace that of military parity and ecological blocs will take the place of military ones.

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