THE NECESSITY OF AN ETHNOECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO NATURE CONSERVATION

НЕОБХОДИМОСТЬ ПРИМЕНЕНИЯ ЭТНОЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОГО ПОДХОДА В ОХРАНЕ ПРИРОДЫ

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the causes and consequences of changes in the types and principles of territorial organization of nature use across various historical periods, and presents a comprehensive account thereof.*

Аннотация: *В статье проанализированы причины и последствия изменения видов и принципов территориальной организации природопользования в различные исторические периоды, а также представлено их комплексное рассмотрение.*

Key words: *natural environment, integrated approach, natural-historical type, commodity target type, program-target type, landscape, ethnos.*

Ключевые слова: *природная среда, комплексный подход, природно-исторический тип, товарно-целевой тип, программно-целевой тип, ландшафт, этнос.*

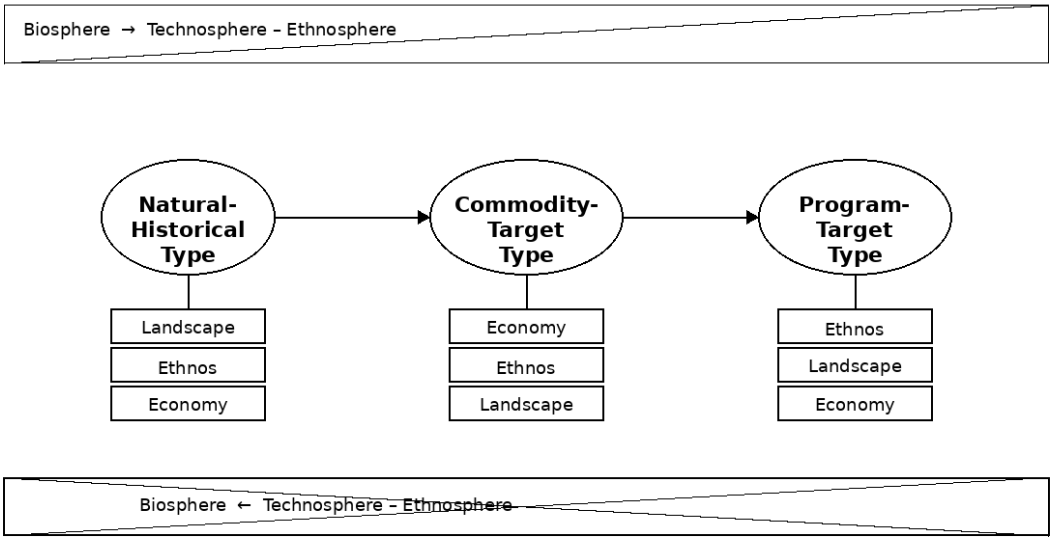
The concept of transitioning to a sustainable path of development and eliminating ecological threats facing human society has been continuously evolving over several millennia. This constitutes one of the core indicators of the scientific field of geoecology. The need to monitor, across space and time, the changes in indicators such as the volume of nature use and production output, population size, the scale of natural resource utilization, the year-on-year increase in anthropogenic pressure on nature, and the balance of ecological and ethnoecological landscapes has become ever more urgent. This, in turn, highlights the necessity of an integrated approach alongside innovative perspectives on maintaining ecological balance.

In economic and social geography, it has been scientifically established that the principles, types, and forms of territorial organization of productive forces, human settlements, and human society in general may change under the influence of various factors. This phenomenon is observed even more clearly in the process of utilizing nature, and in particular land and water resources, as evidenced by international experience [5]. Based on these methodological foundations, three types of territorial organization of land and water resource use can be distinguished in regional conditions. These types may be conditionally named — based on the purpose of nature use — the natural-historical type, the commodity-target type, and the program-target type.

The natural-historical type of nature use, based on utilizing the natural potential of the territory, existed in the Fergana Valley until the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In this type of territorial organization of nature use, the relief, climate, soil characteristics, the enclosed geographical position of the valley, as well as the national-ethnic characteristics, habits, skills, and customs of the population were taken into account. This type is generally formed over a long historical period, during which accumulated skills, abilities, and experiences are based on a harmonious and proportional relationship with nature. Consequently, from an ecological standpoint, this type is the most stable and is therefore worthy of study.

If the interrelationships of the triad "Ethnos–Landscape–Economy" in this type are arranged in the form of "geotriads," it becomes apparent that the main burden falls on the economy, and that the territorial organization of the economy is conducted in accordance with and adapted to landscape indicators. One can observe that only those economic indicators that correspond to the landscape requirements of the ethnos are preserved as "skills–abilities–traditions." As the "Ethnos–Landscape–Economy" relationships evolve, the amount of natural landscape (biosphere) in any region decreases, while economic (technosphere) indicators begin to take its place (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Changes in the "Landscape–Ethnos–Economy" System in Nature Use



As the "Ethnos–Landscape–Economy" relationships develop further — as in ethnology [4] — the place of the first type is taken by the next type of territorial organization of nature use: the commodity-target type. In this type, alongside the natural potential of the region, subjective factors are also taken into account (for example, increasing demand for commodity crops, the

intrusion of foreign ethnic groups into the landscape). As a result, the natural landscape characteristics of the territory are more extensively altered, and the achievements of scientific and technological progress are widely utilized. Although economic efficiency is high, the conditions for the emergence of geoecological problems are thereby laid.

In this type, examining the "geotriads" representing the interrelationships of "Ethnos–Landscape–Economy," one can observe that the main burden falls on the landscape. Forced adaptation of the landscape to economic indicators, excessive intensification of drainage and irrigation works, and alteration of river regimes and courses are observed. In our context, irrigation works are carried out with the help of machinery (pumps), and areas absolutely prohibited from water extraction (e.g., foothills) are being irrigated. From an ecological standpoint, such an approach is characterized as "surgical intervention in nature" and causes chain-reaction ecological problems. In this type, the most important aspect for the present study is that local ethnic groups and the "advanced" ethnic groups that have entered (or occupied) their territory enter into contact. The advanced ethnic groups teach local ethnic groups their technically superior methods of nature use applied in their own landscapes and begin to apply them in the local landscapes. This can lead to catastrophic ecological consequences, as occurred with the city of Babylon.

The third type of "Ethnos–Landscape–Economy" relationships — the "program-target type" — is characteristic of advanced, developed states that conduct their economic activities based on the principles of sustainable development. In the "geotriads" reflecting the interrelationships of "Ethnos–Landscape–Economy," one can see that an equal burden falls on each component. However, even in this type, the diagram shows that the biosphere is increasingly being replaced by the technosphere and ethnosphere.

In this type, landscape planning and innovative ecological projects that ensure sustainable development are implemented in practice. To this end, both of the above types are thoroughly analyzed, and the achievements of the first type in the socio-ecological direction and of the second type in the economic-technological direction are selectively incorporated into the program-target type.

Conclusion. The study showed that the principles of territorial nature management have changed significantly throughout different historical periods. Ethnoecological culture reflects the long-term interaction between local communities and the natural environment. Traditional ecological knowledge can serve as an important basis for sustainable territorial development. The classification of landscape-ecological planning principles helps to identify effective approaches to nature conservation and resource use. Integrating ethnocultural values into planning processes

contributes to ecological stability and social well-being. Therefore, the ethnoecological approach should be considered an important component of modern landscape-ecological planning.

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