

THE BASIC APPROACHES TO ECOLOGICAL CONFLICT DETERMINATION

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Ecological conflicts (EC) as a social phenomenon arise up during all the history of «society – environment – economics» system existence and it has such personal characteristics:

- on the one hand, EC has the same essence characteristics and development mechanism as any social conflict has;
- on the other hand, EC has specific features inherent only for EC: subject and object; origin process, EC development and solving; EC consequences.

As for EC its subject is the problem of natural resource (ecological value) possession or controlling it, that can cause certain benefits (not obligatory financial) to one or more individuals. EC object is a natural resource or ecological value which due to certain circumstances are on the interests crossing of different social or economical individuals which aspire to possession or controlling it. Thus, *ecological conflict* is opposition on governmental and/or intergovernmental levels, caused by incompatible or hostile interests of one or more individuals and by their fight for the natural resources ownership, use (distributing) or their controlling right, accompanied by possible using of violent methods for the aim achievement.

EC socio-economic nature, its subject, object and development dynamics research shows that: 1) both resource deficit and surplus can be potential EC sources; 2) EC can be provoked (or can be the result) by the unequal natural resource access possibilities, its distributing and quality. Process of EC origin and development, caused by a resource deficit (limitation), is presented on the figure 1.

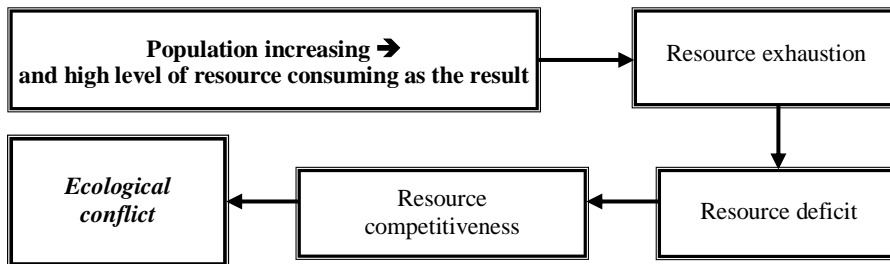


Figure 1. EC origin and development, caused by resource deficit

Capacity for EC solving, guided by resource deficit, is presented on the figure 2. As it is shown, due to the sustainable development (SD) achievement aim the basic role in the EC solving mechanism offered is given to the market instruments (using the market prices on resources) and innovations (technologies and using of resources substitutes).

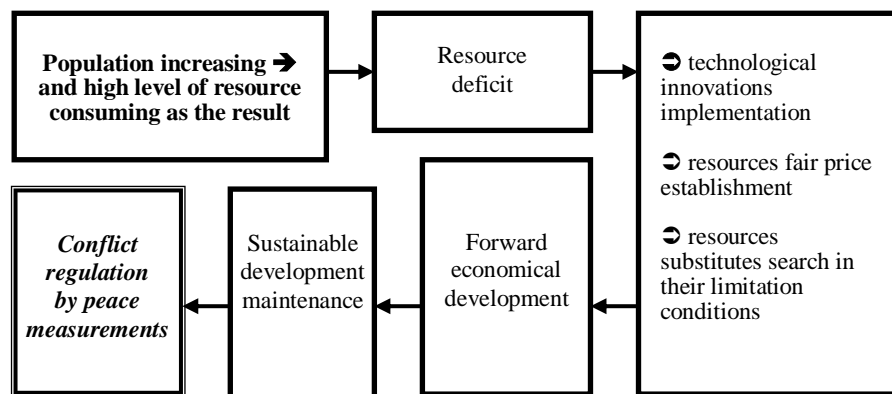


Figure 2. EC solving mechanism, guided by resources deficit, due to the SD achievement aim

Ecological and economical analysis guided by EC surplus allows to allocate such basic factors of its origin:

- *motivation* – aspiration due to the conflict to get complete (or partial) control on the payments for the natural resources sale or using;
- *financial means* – conflict financing due to the controlled payments for the natural resources using;
- *indirect effects* – natural resources surplus can provoke negative economic and political effects, for example, non-effective management, slow economy growth, political instability, weak state institutes, social inequality, etc.