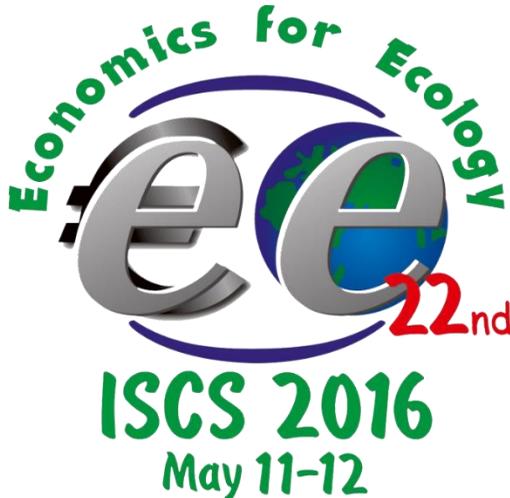


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INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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Humanity constantly faces a lot of problems which need to be solved as soon as possible. The growing impact of human activities causes environmental changes: air and water pollution as well as natural resource depletion on a global scale. These disturbances in ecosystem inflict considerable harm on all living creatures, including humans. Despite the rapid scientific and technological development, the role of natural and anthropogenic factors that cause emergencies and constitute a threat to the world ecological safety is constantly growing. Common environmental problems force countries to unite in order to protect the environment and conduct international environmental policy.

In the middle of the 20th century there was no country that would have well-defined environmental policy. The Stockholm Conference, held in 1972, can be considered as the beginning of the international cooperation in environmental issues. This conference has attracted public attention to environmental problems and affirmed the people's right to normal living conditions in the environment that would ensure their dignity and well-being.

International environmental policy has been formed, it consists of two levels:

1. International global environmental policy that includes development and implementation of international political, juridical and economic campaigns, taking into consideration ecological constraints in socio-economic development as well as natural resource stocks and their distribution among regions and countries. Its purpose is to preserve global integrated resource of the planet.

2. International regional environmental policy that unites the interests of countries of one continent, united by natural geographical environment, and sometimes – the same sea (the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea) or river (Dnieper, Danube, Rhine) [3].

Methods of conducting environmental policy are different in every country. There is a fair amount of organizations that deal with environmental issues. So, I find it necessary to consider the main objectives of some of these organizations such as NATO and the EU.

NATO environmental policy is aimed at achieving the following goals:

- to reduce the influence of military activities on the environment;
- to reduce air pollution with chemical and biological contaminants;
- to conduct regional researches, in particular cross-border ones;
- to prevent conflicts due to the lack of resources;
- to use landscape sciences for environmental assessment;
- to overcome risks that appear every year to the environment and society and, as a result, can continue economic, political and cultural instability;
- to counter non-traditional security threats [2].

So, NATO environmental policy is aimed at preventing and overcoming the risks that appear in the environment and can do great harm. In 1991 Ukraine and NATO started cooperation. This cooperation has been focused on the environmental problems in the field of defense as well as the IT development, cell biology, new materials and the efficient use of natural resources.

Let us also consider the main objectives of the European Union activities aimed at solving the environmental problems:

- to protect, preserve and improve the quality of the environment;
- to use natural resources efficiently;
- to protect human health;
- to contribute to the implementation of measures at the international level to deal with regional or global environmental problems as well as climate changes [1].

According to the association agreement, Ukraine and the EU entered into cooperation, the important point in this cooperation is the gradual approximation and compliance of the Ukrainian legislation with the EU one.

It is reasonable to consider what goals Ukraine has set for environmental conservation:

- to raise the level of public environmental awareness;
- to improve environmental situation and raise the level of environmental safety;
- to achieve a favorable state of the environment for the human health;
- to integrate environmental policy and improve a system of integrated environmental management;

- to contribute to stemming the loss of biological and landscape diversity and to the formation of ecological networks;
- to ensure environmentally balanced natural resources utilization;
- to improve regional environmental policy [4].

To improve its environmental policy, Ukraine should take into consideration the experience of foreign countries, however, the simple emulation of the principles of these countries will not give a good result and improve the efficiency of natural resources utilization, since every country should take into account its own peculiarities of formation and development of the environmental space.

In view of this, the evolution of international environmental policy has formed distinct approaches to setting and dealing with the environmental problems. As we go forward, international environmental policy will have to get focused on new environmental issues, but not to forget about long existing problems and to find optimal solutions to them, because each of these problems can cause irreversible environmental changes.

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