

FUNCTIONAL ZONING OF NATIONAL PARKS IN UKRAINE: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

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For the last 20-30 years, a number of international decisions, resolutions, conventions, agreements, programs, state agencies and public organizations at the highest level have been devoted to environmental conditions and, especially biodiversity. Such attention to this problem at meetings of the highest levels is an evidence of its world importance. Today biodiversity actually determines the future of the international community because it provides a dynamic equilibrium of the biosphere, its sustainable functioning and determines the state of main spheres of human activity. If we solve the problem of environmental stability, we will get an acceptable environmental condition of the Earth and sustainable development, and hence the future of world civilization.

Despite the attention of all social levels, the state of biodiversity is continuing to deteriorate. Humanity increases the anthropogenic pressure on the biosphere and thus the corresponding environmental pressure on themselves, when we destroying nature, violates the global climate, ecosystem balance, destroying protective structure of the biosphere (ozone layer), changes the physical and chemical state of the atmosphere and hydrosphere.

Such ecological situation should induce to radical changes in environmental activities, but these changes should include not only increasing the number of protected areas, but, first of all, to provide quality of their functioning. Therefore one of the trends in optimization protected areas networks is the organization protected areas that have multifunctional purposes, where combined protection of natural biodiversity, recreational activities and environmental educational work and so on. In Ukraine these categories of protected areas are national parks, their functioning is one of the ways to sustainable development of any region, including urban system of Kyiv.

National parks have two purposes (unlike nature reserves and sanctuaries): protection-ecological function of national parks is to promote biodiversity of the environment, conservation vegetation fund, and the preservation of recreational resources through optimal use or support.

Evidence-based organization of national parks is very important, it provides for zoning and determine regime of land use areas in each zone, which will combine in rational way the massive visiting the territory with protection of natural systems. Accordingly, the functional zoning of the territory is one of the main events in the optimization of landscapes in protected objects.

In general, territorial and functional organization of national parks is their territorial planning, the core of which is to analyze the set of landscape, ecological, socio-economic factors and this procedure intended to provide an effective environmental management and sustainable development in the region. However, there are a number of unresolved issues in this sector: first of all, significant problems occur when we develop specific zoning, they refer to combination of restoration biodiversity, protection of ecological integrity of the ecosystems and providing a basis for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and tourist services.

The main problems associated with polyfunctional zoning of national parks, are the following:

- there aren't standards to the selection of natural areas and their configurations, which provides creating the national parks;
- list of existing functional areas requires improvement;
- there is a need to develop regulatory and methodological database for functional zoning;
- there aren't scientific bases and practical recommendations for establish optimal area of the conservation area.

All of these disadvantages and problems that occur during the functional zoning are negative for the effectiveness of national parks. In Ukraine, functional zoning required by applicable law, but it has several disadvantages, because a need to improve the normative basis of this procedure and its practical application exists in our country.

The aim of the article is to identify deficiencies of functional zoning in national parks, to show the negative consequences of incorrectly separation zones in national parks, and systematization of general and methodological recommendations for functional zoning and providing suggestions for its optimization.

Information about landscape structure and bioecological characteristics of the region and European experience of territorial organization in NP, which are located in similar geographic and environmental conditions proposed to use for research of the optimization the spatial planning of national parks.

Theoretical basis of research is landscape-ecological approach (by M. Grodzinsky (1993)). Methodical basis of research are geographical (landscape) and bioecological approaches to planning of protected areas (Reimers, Shtylmark, 1978; Stojko, 1993, 1999; Brusak, 1997; Popovych, Shelyag-Sosonko, 2002; Andrienko, Onishchenko et al., 2001; Parchuk, 2004; Korzhyk, 2006) and geocological planning principles for protected geotechnical systems (Kavalyauskas, 1985; Isakov, Voropaev, Grosser, 1987, Preobrazhensky, 1989).

Therefore, national parks have many common problems that caused the specifics of their operation (a combination of conservation, recreation, commercial use). Therefore, separation of different activities, conducting evidence-based zoning of the territory is a necessary condition their normal functioning.

Absence of zoning schemes or disregard of natural boundaries during the selection of zones is a major cause of disability in national parks. NP without professionally trained functional zoning will not be able to perform tasks that assigned to it. The wide field of activities within this topic is a prerequisite for subsequent research in this topic.