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ECOLOGICAL CAPITAL AS A STRUCTURAL ELEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The modern society is increasingly experiencing the aggravation of numerous environmental problems and ecological and economic contradictions. At the same time, the question of satisfying the ecological human needs comes to the fore. Its successful solution is directly related to the environmental safety and self-preservation of humans and the civilization as a whole.

The limited resources to meet the environmental needs of the society necessitates the use of the category of ecological capital and the development of the theoretical and methodological foundations of its reproduction in the system of sustainable development.

Attention should be paid to the interrelation of the categories of national, natural and ecological capital.

National capital is the backbone of reproduction of the life of the society, satisfaction of all the interrelated human needs. In this context, its value can be considered as one of the main criteria for sustainable development.

Natural capital as part of the national performs its specific functions related to the reproduction of natural resources, and is a valuation of all the categories of natural and ecological resources of a territory (country, society).

Ecological capital can be considered as a structural element of natural capital, which is necessary for the implementation of environment-making functions by ecological resources.

Ecological capital should be understood as the valuation of ecological resources (environment-making) necessary for functioning of ecological systems. An ecosystem is an integral system within which the productive capacity of the natural environment is realized. The value of ecological capital and the dynamics of its changes can serve as a criterion for assessing the level of sustainable development of the territory.