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I. A. Kolodiychuk

The current state of the regional environmental policy of Ukraine

It was considered an issue of the information provision of the regional environmental policy of Ukraine. It was indicated the main factors that form the low quality of environmental information. In an extensive study of the environmental situation in the regions of Ukraine for 2006-2013 the analysis of environmental security in the region and forecast data on the current situation in future was conducted. It was justified the necessity of raising the question of improving regional environmental policy in Ukraine and mechanisms of its realization. It was investigated that today the vast majority of regional environmental programs are ineffective, except for regional programs on ecological network formation and development of the reserve management in the country. It was designated the regressive signs of the financial component of the regional environmental policy. It was proved that the poor performance of program activities can be explained not only by the lack of sufficient funds for their implementation, but also by the shortcomings in their elaboration. Factors that reduce the effectiveness of the regional environmental policy in Ukraine were designated.

Key words: regional environmental policy, environmental situation, environmental safety, environmental protection, environmental information.

The need to ensure environmental protection and more efficient use of natural resources has been declared as a priority in some official documents. However, focusing solely on the country's socio-economic reforms has led to the weakening of environmental policies and institutions, slowing the necessary changes in the legislation. Today we are observing a significant reduction in the effectiveness of the management of environmental protection at all levels, leading to further deterioration of the ecological situation in the region. In this regard, there is a need to develop a new national environmental policy, finding approaches to its modeling for the purpose of actively usage in the practice of regional development.

Theoretical and methodological bases of formation and implementation of regional environmental policy in Ukraine were studied in the works of many scientists, including: V. Kravtsiv, A. Bondar, V. Fedoryshcheva, V. Trehobchuk, T. Halushkina, V. Leksin, S. Dorohuntsov and others. Breaking in their scientific writings some ecological problems, mentioned scientists somehow reached consensus on the issue of the need to modernize regional environmental policy in Ukraine. With this in mind, the purpose of the article is to study the characteristics and fundamental problems in the formation and implementation of state regional environmental policy.

Effective management of ecological security requires reliable, timely and complete information about the main options of the current state of the natural environment components and man-made factors that affect them. To this end, it was established a system of environmental monitoring in accordance with the Resolution of Supreme Council of Ukraine «On Approval objectives of the National Informatization Program for 2006-2008». However, environmental information at this stage is not required by authorities at different levels for various reasons.

Firstly, with regard to regional centers of environmental monitoring, It should be indicated that they do not always provide the necessary amount of information according to their functions defined on them, including forecasting of the environment condition and assessing of the projected state.

Secondly, the list of accounting does not include a significant number of options that are needed to justify certain areas of the formation, implementation and monitoring of environmental policy. In our view, with the absence of reflection in statistics such indicators as the share of enterprises and business entities that implement an environmental management system according to ISO 14000; number of environmental small businesses; share of market portion of products that meets the environmental standards and licensing the right to use the mark environmental labeling; share of vehicles that meet European standards Euro 4 and Euro 5; total length of anti-noise structures (screens); the share of agricultural land on which the organic farming technology are used in the regions, etc., objective assessment measures to improve environmental safety or environmental policy integration is prevented.

Thirdly, environmental information is scattered on different information database that represent departmental systems of the environmental monitoring (Ministry of Environment, State Emergencies Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Residential and Public Household, State Water Agency, State Forestry Agency, State Land Agency). However, the modern special technologies of ESRI company supporting of the distributed geo-databases allow to enable data replication and synchronization of spatial ensuring data integrity. This will considerably increase the efficiency and information security of management decision-making.

During the 2006-2013 the level of environmental safety in Ukraine is characterized as incomplete, which the environmental situation in the regions certifies. Traditionally the high environmental impact occurs in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhya, Lviv, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions. Donetsk region occupies the leading positions, where for the definite period the emissions of air pollutants from all sources averaged 21%, the volume of contaminated wastewater – 15.3% of the national level, remained significant accumulation of waste (annual formation of industrial waste within 250-270 million tone). According to the degree of contamination almost the entire territory of Donbass and the third of industrial Prydniprovya are categorized as highly contaminated areas.

At the same time, the analysis showed that in Vinnytsya, Volyn, Zakarpattya, Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava, Ternopil, Chernivtsi regions the meaning of the most environmental indicators is much less than the average in the country. The highest level of environmental stability in Ukraine is observed in Zakarpattya. However, these regions are characterized by rather peculiar eco-problems of the local character whose solution is too stretched in time.

The remaining regions are characterized by moderate pollution with markedly pronounced tendency to increasing of anthropogenic load on it that are quite serious environmental problems in certain areas of environmental protection. So, in Volyn, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr and Sumy regions a high level of degradation and land pollution is observed. Kirovohrad region is featured by the significant waste pollution management. In Rivne region there is a radionuclide soil pollution caused by the discharge of radioactive dust after the accident at Chornobyl NPP (damage covered 31% of the region area). Odessa region belongs to the areas where the water sources are experiencing the greatest human pressure in the country (discharges of contaminated water for the set period averaged 137 million m^3).

At the same time, taking into account the fact that Ukraine's average level of key environmental indicators at times is inferior to European one, ecological situation in the country during the 2006-2013 remained consistently stable with a tendency to escalation in certain regions because of the absence of adequate response to its challenges.

Forecast confirms the likely increase in pollutant emissions from stationary (in Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Kyiv, Odesa, Rivne regions) and mobile sources, including road transport (in Zakarpattya, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv), namely, regions that

tend to the aforementioned problems. We should add to this the deterioration in air quality due to the emissions of carbon dioxide. Sources of odors in urban and rural areas stand out by sustainable stability (AIC recycling factories, food industry, housing and communal services, livestock farms, etc.). After all, the country has no industrial cities, where atmospheric concentrations of major pollutants do not exceed the maximum allowable. While in most regions of Ukraine due to a decrease in production or in the case of numerous activities within the regional energy efficiency programs, the impact of hostilities factor, etc., the tendency to decrease (stabilization) of air emissions (within 3-20% to the level of 2013) is expected, it will be only temporary.

More realistic it seems the stabilization in most regions of the polluted wastewaters volumes with the expected decrease in the next period in the implementation of the Directive № 91/271/EU on the urban waste water purification (as amended) and the schedule for its implementation under the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

Today the most effective regional programs are those on ecological network formation and development of the reserve management in the country, especially regarding the increase in the area of protected objects. This trend will continue to be traced. However, much attention will be given to improving the quality of them. Financing the environmental activities in Ukraine amounting to 14 million euro by Germany aims to strengthen the national parks, biosphere and natural reserves in the Carpathian region[1].

It will remain particularly acute the waste problem, covering all regions of the country, without exception. Only in Zakarpattya region in case of the targets performance under the EU project «Waste management – European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument», whereby the overall investment costs for 2013-2026 period amount to 1.261 million hryvnia it is possible the fundamental improvement of the environmental situation of waste [1]. Forecast shows the growth of the waste volumes from the increasing coal production, increasing the volume of coal preparation plants, negative trends for disposal and recycling.

In our opinion, according to the existing practice of the environmental protection financing, even under conditions of the implementation of a number of declared program activities in some regions, there will be only some easing of the situation.

Such points indicate the regressive features of the financial component of the regional environmental policy:

– negative trends in the system of accumulation and usage of funds for environmental purposes;
– systematic underperformance of the funding targets;
– diversion of funds for purposes other than environmental.

In addition, financial support for environmental measures in the framework of environmental programs is mainly focused on the use of state and local budgets but the other entities are poorly involved in the natural resource usage as the mechanisms for attracting extra-budgetary funding sources are not identified.

The main tools of regional environmental policy realization are:

– *Regional action plans for the protection of the environment*, the purpose of which is to develop the main areas of environmental protection, integrated environmental management at the regional level, identifying areas of conflict and prioritizing their implementation.

– *Environmental programs* aimed at the implementation of national environmental measures, environmental issues disaster prevention and the elimination of their

[1] According to the press service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. In addition, it is planned the funding amounts to 19 million euro measures to preserve valuable forest ecosystems and the construction of an international center for conservation of beech forests and its location in the village Kvasy of The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

consequences belong to the national target programs (Art. of the Law of Ukraine from 18.03.2004 «On the state targeted programs» [2]).

– *Regional development agreement* concluded between the Government of Ukraine and Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Kyiv and Sevastopol city councils for implementation of regional development strategies (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On the procedure of preparation, making and implementation of the agreement on regional development and related model agreement» from 23.05.2007 №751). So far, such agreement entered into only 6 regions.

The analysis shows that in some regions have been achieved tangible progress in improving the environmental situation at the expense of program activities, in particular:

- application of natural reserve fund development, and regional ecological networks formation (Volyn[2], Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne, Ternopil, Chernivtsi regions). As a result, the area of protected land per person in these regions, as of 1.01.2013, on average is 1531, 8 m^2 (in Ukraine – 347 m^2);
- program «Drinking Water of Zakarpattya» on 2006-2020 [3], for which implementation during 2006-2013 the reducing of polluted wastewaters was made almost six times and nearly four times their share in the total sewage – from 24.5% in 2006 to 6.4% in 2013 (in Ukraine – 18.8%);
- complex target program of water management development in the period to 2021 in Ivano-Frankivsk region [4], resulting in reduction of polluted wastewaters – almost 23 times against 2006;
- the regional target program of solid waste management in 2010-2014 in the Ternopil region [5].

However, we should note that for a definite period in Ukraine 29 regional and 78 local ecological programs were implemented. Therefore, the results achieved under the above programs, to say the least, is minimal on expectations. The low efficiency of program activities can be explained not only by the lack of sufficient funds for their implementation, but also by shortcomings in their elaboration. This implies that:

1. The degree of reflection of the environmental situation real condition is obviously incomplete, and in some respects even doubt. Malfunction in the monitoring services, lack of modern laboratories and laboratory equipment for determination of the chemical and physical characteristics of the natural resources state give reason to believe that the original position in the development of environmental protection measures is based on not objective and / or outdated data.

2. As a rule, there is no results and effectiveness analysis of the previous program implementation.

3. Environmental problems are usually presented in general terms and do not contain a specific solution settings or changes in future. There is a lack of specific areas environmental characteristics clarifying.

4. The overwhelming majority of environmental programs or plans have considerable extensive system of measures and performance trends that do not always meet the planned objectives, besides often are not identified at the time of implementation.

5. If the program activities are not provided with financial resources, it means the termination of their implementation. In this case it is necessary to determine the conditions and procedures for the process. There are also unresolved issues when in case of the implementation of a program obtained results do not meet the declared objectives. After all, there is usually no single and responsible program coordinator, no proper relationship with the subjects which it is addressed.

6. Expected results of program activities are submitted in the formal form that prevents proper monitoring of their implementation and does not contribute to reasonable spending and allocation of funds.

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[2] Regional Environmental Program «Environment 2011-2015 and Forecast till 2020» /

Problems such as non-compliance of the environmental management modern mechanism to the objective requirements of time, inadequate financing mechanism for natural resource character management, imperfect legislative support of natural resources potential efficient use, low environmental population awareness and lack of established system of informing on the environmental status of the region and so on form unfavorable situation against which we have to implement the regional environmental policies.

Among the factors that reduce the effectiveness of regional environmental policies, should be named the following:

– the lack of clear division of roles and responsibilities in the environmental protection management sphere between national, regional and local levels;
– a large number of programs that have priority and claiming to the urgent implementation does not match the possibilities of the simultaneous significant financial resources allocation from state and regional budgets;
– the adjustment disorder and use of financial resources and limited public funding and volatility of financial income from other sources;
– low potential of the local level on environmental management, preparation of environmental projects and their financial support;
– inadequacy of the organizational and economic mechanism of program activities implementation;
– lack of control, especially in the final stages of targeted programs implementation and the dissociation of territorial and branch management supervisory authorities.

The study showed that ecological safety management system needs the improvement of an effective system of the state political and legal decision-making. The basis for this conclusion is particularly inefficient planning and usage of the environmental protection investment, which makes it impossible to take account of local interests in eco-safety environment. The current state of the regional environmental policy can be described as unsatisfactory. The main reason for this is the inferiority of the environmental objectives versus the economic and social ones, the lack of an adequate response to the challenges of environmental problems, which in turn occupy not the last place in the group of problems of a given region. An important issue is an imperfect practice of the program-based management, lack of the institutional environment preparation to the market conditions.

It is clear that there is a need to review the conceptual approaches to the program activities development for the protection of the environment, the development of adequate mechanisms to modern requirements of environmental protection at the regional level, suspension of the degradation processes in the natural resources usage.

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Колодійчук І. А. Сучасний стан регіональної екологічної політики України.

Розглянуто питання інформаційного забезпечення регіональної екологічної політики України. Вказані головні причини, що формують низьку якість екологічної інформації. На основі всебічного дослідження екологічної ситуації в областях України протягом 2006-2013 рр. проведений аналіз рівня екологічної безпеки в регіонах і прогнозних даних щодо перебігу ситуації в майбутньому. Обґрунтовано необхідність постановки питання про удосконалення регіональної екологічної політики в Україні та механізмів її реалізації. Досліджено, що на сьогодні переважна більшість регіональних екологічних програм є малоефективними, за винятком регіональних програм щодо формування екологічної мережі та розвитку заповідної справи в країні. Визначені регресивні ознаки фінансової складової регіональної екологічної політики. Доведено, що низьку ефективність програмних заходів можна пояснити не лише відсутністю достатніх фінансових коштів на їх реалізацію, але й недоліками при їх розробці. Окреслені чинники, що знижують ефективність регіональної екологічної політики в Україні.

Ключові слова: регіональна екологічна політика, екологічна ситуація, екологічна безпека, природоохоронні заходи, екологічна інформація.

Колодійчук Ірина Анатоліївна – кандидат економічних наук, старший науковий співробітник, старший науковий співробітник відділу регіональної екологічної політики та природокористування ДУ «Інститут регіональних досліджень імені М.І. Долішнього НАН України» (e-mail: Ira1166@ukr.net).
Kolodiychuk Irina Anatoliyivna – Ph.D., Sen.Res., Senior Researcher of the Department of regional ecological policy and environmental management of the SI "Institute of Regional Research n.a. M.I. Dolishniy of the NAS of Ukraine".

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