

## THE PROBLEMS OF LITHUANIAN LANDSCAPE IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

The landscape of any country is the reflection of territorial expression of its socio-economical and ecological processes. Several problems regarding Lithuania's landscape could be distinguished: a) problems of land parcels; b) problems of forests; c) problems of protected territories and natural frameworks; d) problems of Curonian spit; e) problems of coastal sands. Self contained renaturalization of Lithuanian landscape, implementation of programs from the strategic documents of the government and active participation of local communities, could lead to at least partial restoration of the impoverished Lithuanian landscape and increase of its stability.

KEYWORDS: *landscape, sustainable development, forests, protected areas.*

JEL CODES: Q010, Q150, Q200, Q580

### Introduction

Densely populated character and the existence of few wilderness areas in Western Europe have contributed to the fact that cultural landscapes have become an important management category. Conservation effort in most Western European countries has therefore focused upon lived-in, working landscapes. These landscapes depend on human intervention (Jansen, 2009). The landscape is always changing and is always influenced by the human economic activity. We could say that there are almost no natural landscapes in Lithuania that are untouched by human hand. It is obvious that intense economic activity will continue to pose a threat to natural elements of landscapes, protected areas and recreational zones; the solution could be the orientation to sustainable development. According to Gražulevičiūtė-Vilenišké (2007) interconnections between landscape and sustainable development are not so widely analyzed, if we compare it to other scientific fields. Economic literature offers over 100 (Jacobs (1995) mentions as many as 386) definitions on sustainable development, mostly oriented towards separate sectors – e.g. environmental, economic, civilization – or emphasizing managerial, technical or philosophical/political decisions, and thus expressing rather different concepts of sustainable development (Munasinghe, 1993; Pearce et al, 1989; Pezzey, 1989; Pezzoli, 1997).

Considering the fact that not a single reference presented a feasible definition of sustainable development which could incorporate all aspects of the concept under investigation, we think it is appropriate to use the definition provided in Brundtland commission's report "Our Common Future" (1987), which discloses the

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idea of sustainable development best. It postulates that sustainable development is the kind of development, which satisfies the current needs without endangering the future generations to satisfy their own. This definition of sustainable development is the most frequently cited one and seems to be more exhaustive than the majority of others. The essence of Brundtland's statement is fair distribution of natural resources both among different generations and among the present generation of people from the first, the second, and the third world, and finding a positive consensus between the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of environment. In this paper we will use the concept of sustainable development defined as a certain compromise among environmental, economic, and social goals of community, allowing for wellbeing for the present and future generations (Čiegis et al., 2009). As Selman (2010) notes, the re-positioning of landscape within the sustainable development agenda, reflects the fact that landscape's systemic properties place it at the centre of actions regarding ecosystem services and environmental change. At a policy level, landscape has been seen to underpin 'natural capital', supplying non-market or public benefits (e.g. biodiversity, carbon sequestration, health benefits, property values, urban microclimate, regeneration and social cohesion), and supporting a range of ecosystem services.

The purpose of the article – to analyze the problems of Lithuanian landscape in the context of sustainable development.

The object of research – the problems of Lithuanian landscape.

The tasks of the article: a) to reveal the importance of landscape in the context of sustainable development; b) to analyze the main problems of Lithuanian landscape with the relation to sustainable development; c) to discuss the solutions to the problems of Lithuanian landscape in the context of sustainable development.

Research methods: theoretical analysis of scientific literature and legal documents.

## 1. The importance of landscape in the context of sustainable development

A landscape covers all of the territory of the country including cities, towns, rural areas, forests and waters, it greatly influences the life and activities of society, it is the foundation of national identity and part of quality of life. The landscape of any country is the reflection of territorial expression of its socio-economic and ecological processes. The geographical structure and architectural expression of the landscape, its functional and ecological quality is inseparable from the development of the country as a whole, mainly from the dominant regulations of land-use and environmental protection. Lithuanian landscape is not an exception, its future formation, use and protection is closely related to the development of the whole country.

According to Bučas (2001), a landscape – is a terrain perceived by humans, the character of which is defined by the interaction of natural and human activities. A landscape – is an entirety of relief, climate, air, water, soil, flora, fauna and culture. One of the main attributes of a landscape that determine its identity, is a territorial-spatial mosaic, formed by the interaction of human activities and natural processes. Jones and Stenseke (2011) also note, that the term "Landscape" is broader than that of a view of a scenic panorama and broader than "nature" and "environment". It is, rather, a place constituted through the tangible and intangible social and cultural practices that shape the land. That is why the prerogative of the state and society is to create and develop the variety of means for the protection, usage, formation and planning of landscape. These means should ensure that the landscape is formed according to the principles of sustainable development, to become the result of coexistence between humans and natural environment that would be fit for living, working and recreation. The environment protection strategy of Lithuania (Lietuvos aplinkos apsaugos strategija, 1996) set the main goal as to set the preconditions for sustainable development of the country by preserving clean and healthy environment, preserving biodiversity, diversity of landscape and optimizing use of nature; the management of landscape became one of the priorities of environmental policy of the EU.

Current Lithuanian landscape formed as the result of hundreds of years of human activity and is not homogenous. In various parts of the country the landscape has different levels of acculturation, it performs different social and economic functions, differs in structure, form, expression, cultural and social significance. Studies of landscape dynamics became especially relevant at the beginning of the 21st century. This was

mainly predetermined by political reasons: land restitution and privatization of forests, water bodies and farmlands (Bauža, Baužienė, 2008). During all historical periods industrial factors determined the change in the structure of the landscape structure and its distinction, natural conditions – territorial diversity, long process of formation and transition – compositional maturity. The most esthetically valuable landscapes in Lithuania are Curonian Spit, coastal dunes, hilly and lake Molėtai, Zarasai, Utena, Ignalina and Rokiškis districts (Daukšas, 2004).

In nature, every man seeks the direct satisfaction provided by the environment: admire the landscapes (hills of Žemaitija heights, the blueness of lakes of Aukštaitija, the blue pines of Dzūkija, or marvelous dunes of Curonian spit), to feel the esthetical charm and the comfort of soul. These services provided by nature often are intangible and can be “consumed” only directly, mostly unconsciously, but they are never the less very important. Anyone who experienced the exhilaration while boating in a lake, the serenity of hiking, or the beauty of sunset, will admit that environment can provide us with amenities that have no substitutes. But we should note that if we dump the amount of waste (W) to the environment, that is greater than the ability of the environment to assimilate (A), that is when  $W > A$ , we risk to break this economic function of the environment, as polluted rivers, lakes and wasted landscape cannot provide it (Čiegis, 2009).

## 2. The main problems of Lithuanian landscape in the context of sustainable development

Several problems regarding Lithuania’s landscape could be distinguished: a) the problems of land parcels; b) problems of forests; c) problems of protected territories and natural frameworks; d) problems of Curonian spit; e) problems of coastal sands.

The problems of land parcels. The landscape of Lithuania is always changing; part of this change can be attributed to the land reform, which is directly related to the urbanization of the landscape. The laws of economics state that the beauty of the landscape can increase the price of land more than several times, but when restituting property this was not taken into the account. The owners that recovered land parcels for agricultural activity in aesthetically attractive environments, sought to change the purpose of the parcel into residential. Therefore, picturesque and rural environments began to sprawl with urban quarters, which led to the change of the visual appearance of the environment into the urbanized one. The main features of Lithuanian landscape always were small visual spaces and small land-use, which is why the quality of the landscapes of small lakes and river valleys are greatly influenced even by a single settlement.

As it is noted in the National strategy of sustainable development (Nacionalinė darnaus vystymosi strategija, 2009), after the restitution of independence, part of infertile, but very important in the aspect of biodiversity, meadows and pastures were abandoned, sward by crummy trees and bushes. Abandoned land has negative impact on the development of agriculture and the image of Lithuania (Kuliešis, Šalengaitė, 2010). No mechanism of compensation for the restriction of economic activity in protected areas was created.

The creation of ownership of small parcels hindered the control of construction process, which led to the illegal construction in protected and recreational areas. Increased usage of the coastal area led to the denaturalization of coastal landscape. Abandoned, non-recultivated quarries and dumps, partially dismantled buildings that gradually became places of illegal dumping, scarred the landscape.

The land reform also changed the structure of the landscape: natural or semi-natural territories of the landscape diminished, changed gradually by urban territories or territories of intense agriculture.

Problems of forests. A forest is a living organism that could be rationally used, recreated and improved or it can be misused and aggravated. Forests are very important to life on Earth in general, by being an integral part of natural landscape they influence the surrounding fields, water bodies, climate and atmosphere; they protect the soil from erosion and increase the fertility of the fields (Čiegis, 2004). Since the eighties of the XX century, European countries faced a new forest problem – desiccation of regional forests due to pollution, acid rains and increased concentration of underground ozone (Juknys, 2002).

Forests are also harmed by illegal logging in private and state forests, especially in private forests this problem became a widely spread phenomenon. Illegal logging also harmed reserves, national and regional parks. Forest fires are another urgent problem, usually they are caused by the illegal burning of last year's grass in the fields, dry, hot summers and springs create conditions for rapid spread of such fires.

Problems of protected territories. Both cultural and natural landscapes are protected in Lithuania. Rapid change in economical and social conditions influenced the state of protected territories, raised new problems, especially related to private property in protected territories and illegal construction. According to the Agency of state protected territories, main problems of protected territories in Lithuania are: a) lack of documents for territorial planning; b) insufficient funding for activities in protected territories; c) regulation of land privatization process; d) unfulfilled regimen of protection and use of protected territories; e) insufficient recreational infrastructure in national and regional parks; f) negative image of protected territories; g) lack of compensation for restrictions.

When analyzing the problems of protected territories one must note that in the process of privatization part of public territories became private territories with restricted access. This means that some parts of the landscape became accessible only to the owners of a particular territory and restricted to everybody else. On the other hand, scenic landscape is not a property of a single owner, but of society as a whole, because what is provided by nature, such as air, comfortable landscape, recreation, various ecosystems – all of this are public goods that should be accessible to all of the society (Čiegis, 2009).

The problems of Curonian spit. Curonian spit is a peninsula that separates Curonian lagoon from the Baltic Sea, northern part of this peninsula belongs to the Republic of Lithuania, the rest of it – to Kaliningrad region of Russian Federation. The World Heritage List includes the Curonian Spit as a valuable cultural landscape – a unique harmony between the nature and human activities, a harmony that emerged through centuries. The Curonian Spit retains its cultural landscape, which is still evolving and keeps an active social part in the modern society through its traditions. It was ecological wisdom, enormous physical efforts and financial input of people that enabled, in the 19th century, to create a cultural landscape which later was managed and maintained with care. The problem of preservation and continuation of landscaping traditions, of their transfer to future generations, gained the momentum recently, after the notorious boom of unsanctioned building work in the National Park of the Curonian Spit (Šostak, Kutut, 2009).

One must note that, although recreational activities and tourism are the main source of income in Curonian spit, the government and local municipalities do not pay enough attention to the preservation of natural and cultural resources, the preservation of the landscape is not the upmost priority. The seashore of the peninsula is quite stable and its condition is thought to be satisfactory, but there are favorable conditions for the erosion of the shore near Juodkrantė and Preila that is why constant surveillance and upkeep is necessary.

There is a high risk of forest fires in Curonian spit, the fires destroy the forests and vegetation of coastal dunes, destroy the forest floor, turf of the dunes and uncover the subsoil, which increases the carry through of sand and leads to the degradation of dunes.

The problems of coastal sands. Over the last twenty years the condition of many seashores in Europe deteriorated. It is acknowledged that because of the climate change the level of the global ocean is rising, there are more storms and hurricanes, which leads to the increased erosion of shores and decline of beaches. The development of maritime industry had great influence on the evolution of Baltic Sea shore of Lithuania, its unbalanced nature negatively impacts the processes of the shore formation. The condition of the coastal sands is especially alarming near the town of Palanga, where each year the beach is declining more and more despite the efforts to preserve it. Bučas (2007) notes, that one of the biggest problems of Lithuania's coast is the diminishing of protective dune, which is being destroyed in some places not only by the natural forces, but also by the people that are using the beach and dunes for recreational purposes.

Some of the reasons for deteriorating state of landscape in Lithuania could be attributed to global issues (global warming and acid rains), and cannot be solved by Lithuania alone, the solution requires international cooperation on regional and global levels, on the other hand there is a lot to be done to improve the state of the landscape on national and local levels.

### 3. Possible solutions to the problems of Lithuanian landscape in the context of sustainable development

Up until now economic development did little to reverse its negative influence on the environment, but now the situation has to change drastically, people have to act so that it would not endanger the future existence of humanity. To do that we must understand that to solve the environmental problems is more than just pushing them aside – relocating the responsibility to people in other time or places (Čiegis, 2001). These principles could be attributed to the conservation of landscapes as well, because, as it is stated in the Convention of European landscape – landscape plays an important part in culture, ecology, environment and social spheres, and is also a useful resource for the economy, whose protection, cleaning and planning can create jobs. Landscape contributes to the formation of local culture and is one of the most important parts of European natural and cultural heritage, which increases the welfare of the people and determines European identity.

After the restoration on Lithuanian independence, more systematic approach to the preservation of the landscape can be seen. Due to self-contained renaturalization the amount of forests and other natural territories increased, as did biodiversity and diversity of landscape. During last 15 years barren lands were planted with forest, total amount of forests in Lithuania increased by 1 percent. The area of protected territories doubled since 1990, a system of protected territories was formed, and the network of protected territories is being integrated to the European ecological networks. Lithuania's natural framework continues to be developed, habitats are inventoried, dumps and quarries are being recultivated, projects for planting forest in barren lands are being prepared (Nacionalinė darnaus vystymosi strategija, 2009). In order to solve the problems of abandoned land Kuliešis and Šalengaitė (2010) propose to change the method of land tax calculation so that it would be calculated from the value of the land, implement compulsory declaration of crops even for those who do not get the direct payouts and use of the methodology for misused land by National Payment agency for all of the abandoned land. They also note gradual decline of abandoned land in Lithuania during recent years.

When talking about the preservation of the environment and landscapes in particular often two approaches are distinguished – “the fortress approach” and “the community approach” (Bučas, 2007; Daugstad, 2011). The first approach stresses the importance of fines and restrictions in the process of conservation, while the community approach leans on the participation of local communities in solving the problems of landscape and decision making. The second approach is closer to the concept of sustainable development as it stresses the balance of economic needs of the community and the environmental protection. We could take the community approach to solving the problems of Lithuanian landscape and the problems of Curonian Spit in particular. Armaitienė, Povilanskas, Vaškaitis (2009) provided arguments of the necessity to change functional zoning principles of the Curonian Spit and draw the functional zones according to the gradient boundaries of the strip seascapes – along the longitudinal axes of the strip seascapes of the Curonian Spit instead of the current functional divides along the perpendicular axes. As a consequent result of such changes should be a radical change towards regulation of the dune tourism on the Curonian Spit, which means to abolish any restrictions for tourists to enter and travel across the sandy plain. Kalvaliauskas (2009) also agrees, that sustainable and balanced development should be recognized as the only rational way of Curonian Spit management because any attempt to totally stop the natural processes of socioeconomic development would not be good. Namely this way of stable development lies at the basis of the new Master plan worked out by the Neringa Municipality.

One of the main goals of national strategy of sustainable development (Nacionalinė darnaus vystymosi strategija, 2009) is to increase the area covered by forests by 3–5 percent till 2020 and achieve that forest would cover 35 percent of the country by that time; this amount of forests would be optimal for Lithuania. In order to reach this goal the area of forest should increase by 240 000 ha. Each year around 4-5000 ha of former agricultural territories are reforested naturally, other areas are being reforested by the foresters. Because the development of agriculture in the areas of low fertility is not viable, most of the landowners plan on planting such territories with forest. Also, since 2005 support of ES structural funds for planting forest in private land is available, this further increased the rate of forest planting. All this lets us believe that the goals set in National strategy of sustainable development will be achieved, which will lead to a more concentrated

structure of ecological property and expansion of natural framework. Natural framework could be described as a uniform network of territories for natural ecological compensation that ensures ecological balance of a landscape, natural relations between protected territories, other territories important from environmental perspective or habitats, also ensures the migration of plants and animals between them. According to Buivydas, the main structural elements of natural framework are: a) geographical; b) topological; c) hydrological; d) geological; e) dendrological characters of a locality (Čiegis, Pareigis, 2010).

Natural framework is also important to urbanized territories. Natural framework of a city is a natural complex that influences the composition of city plan and volumetric, ecological stability and recreational comfort. Three main functions of the natural framework in the city can be distinguished: a) *compositional* (natural framework of the city emphasizes the architectural composition of a city, provides expression and distinction to the cityscape); b) *recreational* (natural territories are attractive to the citizens and are used for leisure activities); c) *ecological compensation* (in one way or another all of the green spaces of a city are carrying out this function. The system of green spaces should be designed so that the living space would be divided by stretches that are wider than 100 meters and territories that are not bigger than 250 ha) (Čiegis, Pareigis, 2010).

The optimization of the structure of the land-use would create the conditions for the preservation of the landscape of the country, biodiversity, ecological balance and would help regulate the process of urbanization. Now it is nationally recognized that protection of natural environment requires additional efforts from the government and society to ensure rational usage of natural resources and their protection. The usage of natural resources must be combined with environmental protection, because the solutions of the landscape problems are very expensive.

According to Daukšas (2004), in order to preserve and improve the landscape, one must plan and design it. We could not say that the landscape in Lithuania is neglected. After the restoration of independence, a lot of work has been done in order to improve the condition of the landscape: laws have been passed – Law of environmental protection, Law of protected territories, Law of land, Law of forest, Construction law (Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos apsaugos įstatymas, 1992; Lietuvos Respublikos saugomų teritorijų įstatymas, 1993; Lietuvos Respublikos žemės įstatymas 1994; Lietuvos Respublikos miškų įstatymas, 1994; Lietuvos Respublikos statybos įstatymas, 1996), each activity that is influencing the landscape is being regulated by territorial plans and norms. A wide system of protected territories was created in Lithuania – reserves, 10 types of sanctuaries (among them 47 for landscape, they cover 0,8 percent of country's territory), national and regional parks, where complexes, objects of nature and culture are preserved. The network of national parks in Lithuania was finally formed in 1991, in 1992 the system of regional parks was formed and the network of national reserves expanded, in 2002 the first reserve of biosphere was established. In 2004 the development of the network of territories NATURA has began, first territories for the protection of birds were approved, some territories for the protection of habitats were established.

In 2000 Lithuania joined the Florentine convention of landscape that became active since 2004. In this convention the importance of all landscapes is admitted, even those of “day to day”, where humans live their daily lives. The means for protecting, managing and planning European landscapes that should ensure the sustainable development, based on balanced and harmonic relation between social needs, economic activity and ecology, are laid out in this treaty.

Natural framework (strips of varied ecological importance, levels of protection and differential economic activity that divide the territory and are composed of forests, river valleys, recreational zones, protected territories and other elements) that was validated in the law of protected territories obligates to protect and optimize the structure of landscape (Daukšas, 2004). Understanding of landscape as a dynamically evolving phenomenon, its protection, management and formation to meet the economic, social, cultural, ecological and esthetical needs of society is one of the underlying goals of the state.

Previously implemented melioration projects greatly influenced the development of Lithuania's landscapes. Expansion of agriculture, use of more powerful machinery and expansion of farmlands led to the destruction of swamps and small forests. Because of these reasons the agro landscape has changed dra-

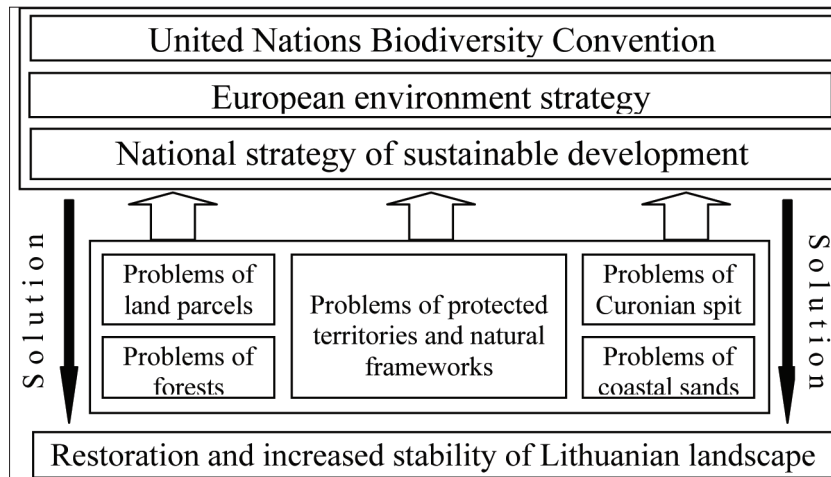


Figure 1. Integration of environmental strategies for solving problems of Lithuanian landscape

Source: created by authors

matically. After the restitution of independence the land reform had a positive influence on the development of the landscape. The steps planned by the state should ensure more active development of landscape protection and management in the context of European legal system, they help to form the policy in this field and address the attention of the society to the existing problems. It is very important to continue to support the integrated implementation of landscape protection and rational land-use principles in the projects of territory development.

When implementing the principles of sustainable development it is important to coordinate the goals of national landscape protection, the needs of municipalities and private initiative, while keeping the respect to private property and aiming that the preservation of landscape would be the goal determined by mutual respect and understanding in the society.

It is important to evaluate the opportunities for environment protection provided by the legal regulation and strategic planning of the European Union. In 1995 the strategy of European environment was formed, it was aimed at coordinating the activities, the use of technical and financial resources, scientific research, exchange of information for the protection and improvement of European biodiversity and diversity of the landscapes. The main goals of the strategy are: a) to significantly lessen the threats for European biodiversity and diversity of landscapes; b) increase the resistance of European biodiversity and diversity of landscapes; c) strengthen the ecological harmony of Europe; d) ensure the participation of the society in the activities of protection of European biodiversity and diversity of landscapes.

We should note that this strategy distinguishes itself with an innovatory perspective and essential direction for the achievement of goals – the protection of European biodiversity and diversity of landscape. This goal integrates the ecological principles to social and economic sectors and this corresponds very well to the essence of the philosophy of sustainable development. It is also notable that this strategy ensures the integration of various positions of states and regions, the unity of national and regional goals when implementing the United Nations Biodiversity Convention (Figure 1).

The European Landscape Convention sets the goal of stimulating the general public to participate actively in planning, forming, and developing the landscape they live in. Mobilization and empowerment of local community are important for sustainable regional development. This requires in depth knowledge of landscape's physical, historical and cultural features (Clemetsen, 2011, Larsson, 2011). Without a doubt, self contained renaturalization of Lithuanian landscape, increase in biodiversity, the implementation of programs from the strategic documents of the government and active participation of local communities, could lead to at least partial restoration of the impoverished Lithuanian landscape and increase of its stability. As it is

noted in the National strategy of sustainable development (Nacionalinė darnaus vystymosi strategija, 2009), further participation in the development of European ecological networks would present an opportunity to acquire the funds from international programs for the development of national system of protected territories and the formation of natural framework.

## Conclusions

The landscape of any country is the reflection of territorial expression of its socio-economical and ecological processes, it is a place constituted through the tangible and intangible social and cultural practices that shape the land. The geographical structure and architectural expression of the landscape, its functional and ecological quality is inseparable from the development of the country as a whole, mainly from the dominant regulations of land-use and environmental protection.

The prerogative of state and society is to create and to develop the variety of means for the protection, usage, formation and planning of landscape. These means should ensure that the landscape is formed according to the principles of sustainable development, to become the result of coexistence between humans and natural environment, which meets the quality requirements for living, work and recreation.

When talking about the preservation of the environment and landscapes in particular two approaches are distinguished – “the fortress approach” and “the community approach”. The first approach stresses the importance of fines and restrictions in the process of conservation, while the community approach leans on the participation of local communities in solving the problems of landscape and decision making. When implementing the principles of sustainable development it is important to coordinate the goals of national landscape protection, the needs of municipalities and private initiative, while keeping the respect to private property and aiming that the preservation of landscape would be the goal determined by mutual respect and understanding in the society.

Without a doubt, self contained renaturalization of Lithuanian landscape, increase in biodiversity, the implementation of programs from the strategic documents of the government and active participation of local communities, could lead to at least partial restoration of the impoverished Lithuanian landscape and increase of its stability.

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## LIETUVOS KRAŠTOVAIZDŽIO PROBLEMOS DARNAUS VYSTYMOŠI KONTEKSTE

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### Santrauka

Kraštovaizdis nuolat kinta, nes jam nuolatos daro poveikį žmonių ūkinė veikla. Galima teigti, kad Lietuvoje natūralių, žmogaus veiklos nepalietusių kraštovaizdžio vietų beveik nėra. Akivaizdu, kad intensyvi ūkinė veikla ir toliau kels pavojų gamtiniam kraštovaizdžio elementams, saugomoms ir rekreacinėms teritorijoms. Išėitis – orientavimasis į darnų vystymąsi, kuris gali būti apibūdintas kaip aplinkosauginių, ekonominių ir socialinių visuomenės tikslų, priemonių bei veiksmų dermė, sudaranti galimybes pasiekti visuotinę gerovę dabartinei ir būsimoms kartoms, neperžengiant leistinų poveikio aplinkai ribų.

Šio straipsnio tikslas – išanalizuoti Lietuvos kraštovaizdžio problemas darnaus vystymosi kontekste.

Tyrimo objektas – Lietuvos kraštovaizdžio problemos.

Straipsnyje keliami uždaviniai: a) atskleisti kraštovaizdžio reikšmę darnaus vystymosi kontekste; b) išanalizuoti pagrindines Lietuvos kraštovaizdžio problemas darnaus vystymosi kontekste; c) aptarti kraštovaizdžio problemų sprendimo galimybes darnaus vystymosi kontekste.

Bet kurios šalies kraštovaizdis yra joje vykstančių socialinių-ekonominių ir ekologinių procesų teritorinės raiškos atspindys. Jo geografinė struktūra ir architektūrinė išraiška, jo funkcinė bei ekologinė kokybė yra neatsiejamos nuo visos šalies raidos, pirmiausia nuo valstybėje priimtų ar įsigalėjusių politinių ir teisinių žemėnaudos bei aplinkosaugos nuostatų. Todėl valstybės ir visuomenės priedermė yra plėtoti kraštovaizdžio apsaugos, naudojimo, formavimo ir planavimo būdų įvairovę siekiant, kad visi kraštovaizdžiai būtų formuojami laikantis darnaus vystymosi principų ir taptų kokybišku žmogaus bei gamtinės aplinkos sambūvio rezultatu, kuris tenkintų gyvenamosios, darbo bei poilsio aplinkos kokybės reikalavimus. Galima skirti šias Lietuvos kraštovaizdžio problemas: a) žemės sklypų; b) miškų; c) saugomų teritorijų ir gamtinių karkasų; d) Kuršių nerijos; e) pajūrio juostos smėlynų. Įgyvendinant darnaus vystymosi principus, šiuo metu labai svarbu koordinuoti strateginius valstybės kraštovaizdžio apsaugos tikslus, savivaldybių poreikius ir privačią iniciatyvą, laikantis pagarbos privačiai nuosavybei ir siekiant, kad kraštovaizdžio išsaugojimas būtų uždavinys, nulemtas abipusio visuomenės supratimo ir pagarbos. Neabejotina, kad savaiminė Lietuvos kraštovaizdžio renatūralizacija, biologinės įvairovės didėjimas, kryptingas valstybiniuose strateginiuose dokumentuose numatytų programų įgyvendinimas ir vietinių bendruomenių dalyvavimas sprendžiant kraštovaizdžio problemas, leistų bent iš dalies atkurti nuskurdintą Lietuvos kraštovaizdį ir padidinti jo stabilumą.

PAGRINDINIAI ŽODŽIAI: *kraštovaizdis, darnus vystymasis, miškai, saugomos teritorijos.*

JEL KLASIFIKACIJA: Q010, Q150, Q200, Q580