

Article Summaries

Russia's Decisive Role in the Kyoto Protocol

William Chandler and Ilya Popov

This paper assesses the prospects for Russia's ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol can enter into force only when countries responsible for 55 per cent of developed nations' 1990 carbon dioxide emissions ratify the agreement. With countries representing 44 percent of that total having already ratified Kyoto, and with Russia and the United States representing 17 and 36 percent of that amount, respectively, approval by either nation would bring Kyoto into force. The current U.S. administration of President George Bush and the leadership of the Congress oppose Kyoto, leaving the future of the climate treaty to Russia's President Vladimir Putin and its parliament.

Social and Ecological Aspects of the Sustainable Development of Kazakhstan's Cities

Alexey Abilov

The author outlines two approaches: bio-ecological, referring to the social hygienic qualities of the city environment; and socio-ecological, including the basic characteristics of the social reproduction of the population. The author shows that these two factors are dominant in terms of city development. The physical and social health of the population is becoming a focus for researchers and professionals in urban development. Attention paid by municipalities to the health of the local population helps to foster social and economic growth of the region.

Changes in the time use and the health of the Russian population in the 1980s-1990s

Victor Artemov

The article is an attempt to answer the question about how changes in the time use and the health of the population relate to each other, and what connection exists between duration and character of work and the state of health. The last 20 years are a unique period in Russian modern history and are reflected in most different forms on all aspects of life, including time use, everyday activity and health of the population. The analysis of the relationship between time use and health was made at macro levels. Health is presented by life expectancy while time use is presented by aggregated structure of average time budget. The direction and degree of influence between these two factors depend on macro and micro life conditions, on the social-psychological well-being of the society and individual, and on the "initial" state of health of the individuals.

Elderly People and the Age Structure Dynamics of Kazakhstan's Population

Leonid Karp

The decrease in the working age population is becoming a common problem in most post-

Soviet countries. This is caused by many negative factors, such as the pollution, smoking, alcohol abuse, and passive way of life. More attention should be paid to elderly people, as research shows that their rate in the population will increase. Priorities in this respect include expanding their participation in the public life and satisfying their life needs, as well as training more social workers and increasing the role of gerontological services.

Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Protection in Kamchatka, Russia

Maria Tysiachniouk and Jonathan Reisman

The article analyzes the work of two international environmental organizations, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and their attempts to simultaneously protect Kamchatka's nature and revitalize its indigenous lifestyles. International environmental organizations are currently working with Russia's many indigenous communities. Environmental protection is intimately linked with the revitalization of indigenous cultures. Traditional subsistence lifestyles, with an introduced commercial element, offer sustainable alternatives to industrial development. The future of Kamchatka's natives depends on broad networks throughout the peninsula and those extending outward and abroad.

Russian Environmental Values and Strategies: Historical Development and Role of NGOs

Elena Emelianova and Mark Starik

This article describes the current state of the Russian natural environment, the historical development of Russian environmental values and strategies, and several factors, including the role of environmental non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of those environmental values and strategies. The specter of nuclear, oil, and gas pollution, contamination, and waste in Russia is alarming, with potential significant impacts on both global and Russian environmental issues, such as global warming, ozone depletion, industrial pollution, and impairments to human health. Reform can be achieved, but it must be planned and executed by strategically effective policymakers within Russia itself. Furthermore, more sustainability-oriented legal, economic, and bureaucratic structures need to be ingrained into the very fabric of Russian society in order to create the needed improvements from the current situation.

Conservation Restrictions in the USA: Methods for Protecting Nature and Historical Heritage and Potential Application in Russia

Vasyl Nepyivoda, Steven Hollenhorst, and David Ostergren

Introduction of private land ownership is a highly debatable issue in the contemporary Russian society. Russian legislators have a unique chance to avoid mistakes in this direction by taking into account the experience of the US legislative bodies and their efforts to make the use of private land both profitable and less harmful for the environment.

Conservation restrictions should be considered as an effective way to preserve the land resources of the country. Multiple examples show how the use of land can be regulated by the legislation.

Ecological Education via Formation of Network Communities

Evgeny Patarakin and Sergey Shustov

The article discusses effective models of ecological education. The authors see the main challenge in the lack of strategic way of thinking of educators. To change this situation, a teacher and his students need to be inside an ecosystem and feel themselves its elements. The article contains a description of pedagogic techniques that will help to make the process of learning personally relevant. Participation in network projects will help students to acquire an essential skill of living and behaving as community members.

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