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## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN CIS COUNTRIES

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*Abstract: Ecosystem services are the benefits that humans derive from nature. These services include the provision of clean air and water, food, timber, medicine, and other resources, as well as the regulation of climate, floods, and disease. Ecosystem services are essential for human well-being and economic development, yet they are often taken for granted or undervalued.*

*Keywords: Key words: Ecosystem services, biodiversity, classification of ecosystem services.*

### **Introduction.**

Global ecosystem services concerns have grown quickly over the past ten years. Ecosystem services refer to the benefits that humans derive from natural ecosystems, such as clean air and water, food production, climate regulation, pollination, and cultural and recreational opportunities. These services are essential for human well-being and are taken for granted, but they are threatened by human activities such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change. Understanding and valuing ecosystem services is important for sustainable development and conservation efforts. In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, which include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, ecosystem services are particularly important. These countries are home to vast forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and mountains that provide a wide range of services to their populations. Forests are one of the most valuable ecosystems in the CIS countries. They provide timber for construction and fuel, as well as non-timber forest products such as berries, mushrooms, and medicinal plants. Forests also play a crucial role in regulating the climate by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In addition, forests provide habitat for wildlife and support biodiversity.

Wetlands are another important ecosystem in the CIS countries. They provide essential services such as water filtration, flood control, and nutrient cycling. Wetlands also support a wide variety of plant and animal species, many of which are endangered or threatened.

### **The Genesis of the Ecosystem Services Concept**

The 1990s saw the beginning of useful economic research on ecosystem services; here, we can emphasize the contributions of R. de Groot et al. [2002], R. Costanza et al. [1997], and G. Daily [1997]. This method was connected to an understanding of the need to in numerous ways to stop the deterioration of the environment and so help to increase the biosphere's sustainability, human well-being, and economic growth. At the close of the 20th century, the idea of "ecosystem services" started to take shape in a larger framework (for examples, see E. Gymez-Baggethun et al. [2010] and R.B. Norgaard [2010]).

### **Types of ecosystem services:**

1. Provisioning services: These are the direct benefits that humans obtain from ecosystems, such as food, water, timber, and fiber.

2. Regulating services: These are the benefits that ecosystems provide by regulating natural processes, such as climate regulation, water purification, and erosion control.
3. Supporting services: These are the services that ecosystems provide to maintain other ecosystem services, such as nutrient cycling, soil formation, and pollination.
4. Cultural services: These are the non-material benefits that humans derive from ecosystems, such as spiritual and recreational values, aesthetic appreciation, and cultural heritage.

#### Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services

The condition of ecosystems and their services has a huge impact on human wellbeing.

Currently, ecosystem services largely act as public goods and are seen to be free. But because of the latent nature of many ecosystem services benefits and their diffusion between consumers/beneficiaries, their importance is greatly underestimated. This leads to the degradation of ecosystem services. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in ecosystem services in CIS countries, particularly in the areas of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, and natural resource management. Many research institutions, universities, and non-governmental organizations in these countries are actively involved in studying and promoting ecosystem services. For example, in Russia, the government has launched several initiatives to promote the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, including the creation of protected areas and the development of sustainable forestry practices. Kazakhstan has also made significant progress in promoting ecosystem services, with the establishment of a national network of protected areas and the development of sustainable agriculture practices. In Kazakhstan, the government has established a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which includes measures to protect and restore key ecosystems. In addition, many universities and research institutions in Kazakhstan are conducting research on ecosystem services, including the role of wetlands in flood control and the economic benefits of ecosystem services. Overall, while there is still much work to be done to fully realize the potential of ecosystem services in CIS countries, there is growing recognition of their importance and increasing efforts to promote their sustainable use and conservation.

#### Conclusion

Global and largescale degradation of ecosystems and their services causes significant damage to human wellbeing. Currently, international organizations and scientific experts have already amassed considerable experience in the field of identification of ecosystem services and their economic evaluation. Identification of the economic value of ecosystems and their services is the most difficult and urgent task for economics. The completion of this task will increase the sustainability of the world economy and the economies of individual countries on based on a comprehensive accounting of economic, social and environmental factors. There are at least three tasks in the field of ecosystem services that CIS countries face: economic identification and assessment of the benefits of monetarization from Eco services at the global, national and regional levels; "ccapitalization" of ecosystem contributions based on various payment mechanisms for ecosystem services; and the formation of financial mechanisms to support regions with large ecosystem capital.

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