

L. Kulikovskaya, V. Zhuk
Е. Р. Куликовская, В. М. Жук
БГЭУ (Минск)

Научный руководитель Г. Е. Казючич

LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Утрата биоразнообразия в Республике Беларусь

Biodiversity loss in the Republic of Belarus is a pressing environmental challenge that demands urgent action. The goal of this study is to analyze the current state of biodiversity in Belarus, identify key threats causing its decline, and evaluate ongoing conservation efforts and their effectiveness as of 2025. As of 2025, Belarus has designated over 9 % of its territory as protected areas, including reserves, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries, demonstrating the country's commitment to preserving its natural heritage. Nevertheless, biodiversity continues to decline due to a combination of climate change and human activities such as pollution, hydrological disruptions, overgrowth of natural meadows, and the spread of invasive species.

Among invasive species in Belarus, notable examples include Sosnowsky's hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*), Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), and Giant knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). These plants spread rapidly especially near populated areas and disturb native ecosystems by displacing indigenous plants and animals, while also posing risks to human health. This invasion leads to the simplification of natural habitats and challenges for agriculture and forestry. Unfortunately, some native animal species have already disappeared from Belarus. For example, the European mink (*Mustela lutreola*), once found within Belarusian territory, is now considered extinct locally, primarily due to habitat loss and competition with the invasive American mink (*Neovison vison*).

The National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan 2021–2025 in Belarus outlines comprehensive measures targeting the protection of endangered species, restoration of ecosystems, and raising public environmental awareness. The plan also includes updating the Red Data Book with information about species at risk and conservation efforts. Urban afforestation programs complement these efforts by improving ecological conditions and supporting urban biodiversity. Belarus also plays an active role in international environmental frameworks, having adopted the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework in 2022, which aims to achieve harmony between human society and nature by 2050. Despite ongoing challenges, Belarus continues to make responsible strides in biodiversity conservation, recognizing the vital importance of natural ecosystems for sustainable development and public health.

The research results indicate that while significant progress has been made in expanding protected areas and raising environmental awareness, key threats such as habitat degradation, pollution, and invasive species remain serious concerns. Continued

monitoring, adaptive management, and increased public engagement are essential for improving biodiversity outcomes in Belarus. Biodiversity loss in Belarus poses a critical challenge that requires coordinated efforts from government, scientists, and society. Only through the protection of ecosystems, scientific monitoring, habitat restoration, and climate adaptation can Belarus preserve its natural wealth for future generations. This ongoing commitment is essential to balancing human progress with ecological sustainability.

Z. Kurilov

З. С. Курилов

БГЭУ (Минск)

Научный руководитель Е. Ю. Белозерова

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Социально-экономическое и политическое развитие стран Центральной Азии в контексте глобальных трансформаций

The modern stage of development in Central Asian countries is characterized by dynamic socio-economic transformations, political reforms, and the formation of new models of interaction between the state, business, and society. Over the past three decades, the region has undergone a complex transformation aimed at building sustainable national models of governance and development. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, each state followed its own reform trajectory, yet all share common goals – sustainable growth, stronger national identity, and improved living standards.

Today, Central Asia is one of the key regions of Eurasia, where the interests of major global actors intersect. Under the challenges of globalization, energy transition, and digitalization, the region must rethink its development strategies and find a balance between economic growth, social justice, and political stability.

The purpose of the research is to identify the key trends and features of socio-political and socio-economic development in Central Asia during the post-Soviet period, and to determine the main factors influencing reform effectiveness and prospects for regional cooperation. To achieve this goal, the study applies methods of comparative and systemic analysis, as well as statistical data processing. The empirical base includes data from the World Bank, UNDP, national statistical agencies, and analytical centers covering 2010–2025.

The results show that Central Asian countries have achieved progress in stabilizing their macroeconomic systems, developing market institutions, and strengthening their global positions. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are pursuing economic diversification and