LEGAL ACTS SYSTEM FORMATTING PECULIARITIES OF KARST REGION ECONOMIES MANAGEMENT

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North Lithuania karst region is one of the most conflicting from interest compatibility in ecological, economic and social point-of-views; i.e. from the point-of-view of sustainable development.

All European Union State members, including Lithuania have committed themselves to implement the principles of sustainable development. Moving to such kind of development coordination of political-legal activities, such as regulation methods to solve environmental problems and other methods to eliminate economic activities' influence on environment are inevitable. The state through different legal laws has to ensure the best karst region resource protection, its use effectiveness as well as their careful and timely check. Research aims at offering karst region economies management legal acts system improvement as well as formatting directions.

The article presents economy management legal acts system in karst region. During the period of 1977–2009 over thirty legal acts present both chronological as well as sustainable development points-of-view. The research results are relevant and also significant in reformatting legal acts management system. The research also defined regional legal acts improvement directions and formatting peculiarities.

Key words: sustainable development, karst region, legal acts system.

Introduction

Sustainable development is legalized as societal basic and long-term development ideology and understood as a compromise among environmental, economic and social goals, which enable to strive for the society well-being at present as well as for the future generations. Such long-term society development ideology in Lithuania is relevant in both areas, such as preparing development strategies and programmes of every economy as well as in adoption and implementation of concrete laws. One of the main provided principles in National sustainable development strategy is the principle of prudence. Every economy has to be planned prudently in order to harm the environment and people’s health as little as possible. Having those two aspects in mind, it is worthwhile to evaluate the effects of planned and executed economic activities, developmental programmes, and territorial plans implementation influence on environment, also to anticipate the prevention, consequence reduction and liquidation means of extreme situations.

In order to define to which extent karst region activity is stimulated by economic activities, where and how either to maintain or limit them, more and more significant the karst problem, as Northern Lithuanian ecologic situation determining factor, was rising. It became obvious that it is impossible to protect the underwater from pollution and avoid possible ecologic problems, even epidemic crisis without managing economic activities in karst region. An opinion was formed...
regarding the pollution prevention possibilities and in 1977, June 30 the Board of Ministers adopted the resolution No. 224 “Regarding protective means of karst region and underwater against pollution in Northern part of the Republic“. This first state resolution regulated economy and its coordination in all karst region, which covers the greater part of Lithuania: from Rokiskis up to Naujoji Akmene, south from Panevezys, up to Upyte and Krekenava. That was one of the benefits of the resolution, however, it is hardly possible to stricter limit and differentiate all activities in such a big area (Narbutas, 2001). So, since 1977 the framing and application of legal acts defining economic activities have been in process. After restoration of Independence and joining the European Union these processes became more intense.

Three decades later, after the earlier mentioned resolution had been adopted, the regional legal acts system was formed, however, still deepening environmental problems of the region challenge to consider economy legal acts system once again in following aspects: chronological and both beneficial for the karst region sustainable development and friendly for environment.

Karst region is specific, so in order to manage economic activities it is necessary to adapt adequate and well-propotioned legal finetuning system.


**Research aims at** offering karst region economies’ management legal acts system improvement as well as formatting directions.

**Research objectives:**
1) To conduct karst region economy management legal acts system analysis from chronological point-of-view and set the priorities of the present times;
2) To conduct karst region economy management legal acts system analysis from the point-of-view of sustainable development;
3) To prepare formatting scheme of legal acts, defining economic activities in karst region.

**Research methodology:** in the period of 1977–2009 over thirty legal acts, defining economic activities in karst region were adopted. Karst region economy management legal acts system was analysed in two aspects: chronological by analyzing legal acts development stages in karst region economic activities management and by setting the present-moment priorities and also by analyzing legal acts, regulating economic activities in karst region according to the areas of sustainable development (environment, social and economic).
Research Results

Legal acts system chronological analysis

While chronologically analysing legal acts, defining economic activities in North Lithuania karst region, they can be divided into the following stages of development:

- Those adopted up to the Restoration of Independence;
- Those adopted from the Restoration of Independence until 1999;
- Those adopted from January 1, 2000 up to May 1, 2004;
- Those adopted since May 1, 2004.

Noteworthy that the first period, covering the preindependence period, is being excluded because up to 1977 there were no legal acts meant for regulating karst region and its economic activities; karst region problems were only theoretically solved. So this period is highly significant for then first two normative legal acts were adopted; then legal acts system, defining and regulating economic activities in karst region, took its beginning.

9 individual and normative legal acts belong to the second period. In 1987 Geology Board Manager ordered to form a special committee to conduct some research. With reference to special committee conclusions and additional analyses, the first legal act after the Restoration of Independence was adopted; it aimed at defining economic activities in North Lithuania karst region. In December 24, 1991 Lithuanian Government issued the resolution No. 589 “Regarding North Lithuania karst region ecological situation improvement“. Other acts from that period are also as important. One more outstanding one, for its significance and issued by Lithuania Government in September 17, 1993 is No. 719 “Regarding the target programme to protect underwater from pollution and to develop ecologically pure economic activities in intensive karst zone“; the resolution No. I-1550, issued in September 25, 1996 by Lithuania Seimas is “Regarding the confirmation of the State environment protection strategy“. Legal acts from this period are oriented towards improvement of regional environmental situation and aim at reducing negative influence on the environment, protecting region’s underwater and also at halting disappearance of karst and marshy countryside.

During the third period 5 legal acts were issued. All of them aim at restricting economic activities in North Lithuania karst region: 2 strategic documents (State’s long-time development strategy and National sustainable development strategy), development programme (Ecological farming development programme), technical regulation of building (Art. 1.04.02:2004, adopted in December 24, 2003, inured only in May 1, 2004) and Integrated means for Pasvalys region Municipality social and economic problems solutions, confirmed by the State resolution.

The fourth period, differently from the third, is outstanding not only for the significance of legal acts, regulating economic activities in North Lithuania karst region, but also for its abundance (total 14 legal acts). After the ratification of the EU joining contract (May 1, 2004) and Lithuania’s membership in the EU, the Republic of Lithuania obliged to coordinate its right with the EU acquis requirements. This obligation did influence the abundance of legal acts, issued in that pe-
In these legal acts the greatest attention is being paid to regional peculiarities, dangerous geologic phenomena, and means able to help and avoid negative consequences in karst region.

After having done chronological legal acts analysis it could be stated that the most viable method able to solve not only regional ecologic problems but also to increase management effectiveness is implementation of technologies able to save resources. Activities of national, regional and self – governing institutions should be oriented towards actions stimulating sparing usage of local resources, so it is purposeful to adopt a program of sparing farming spread management in the karst region. Vthe implementation of state programmes cannot be successful without the society consciousness, relevance of sustainable development provisions, general understanding and necessity. The provisions of sustainable development are inevitable not to bring harm to environment; so the above mentioned concept is oriented towards information of society and raise of its consciousness; thus, the preparation and implementation of society education programme in karst region is inevitable.

**Legal Acts System Analysis in Regard to Sustainable Development**

The coordinated and well-balanced solutions to environmental, economic and social problems stimulate sustainable development, which is especially acute in North Lithuania karst region. Legal acts, regulating economic activities in North Lithuania karst region, during analysis were divided into three categories according to the areas of sustainable development: environmental, social, and economic. (See tabl.). Though the research covers the period of 1977–2009, the table presents only part of legal acts, regulating economic activities in karst region, i.e. those adopted since 2004 May 1, after Lithuania joined the EU.

Systematic analysis of legal acts for the time period of 1977–2009 (based on spheres of sustainable development) helped to fully determine these acts compatible with spheres of sustainable development: environment protection sphere – 27 legal acts, social sphere – 11 legal acts, and economic sphere – 10 legal acts; partially compatible with spheres of sustainable development, such as: environment protection sphere – 6 legal acts, social sphere – 13 legal acts and economic sphere – 7 legal acts; incompatible with spheres of sustainable development: environment protection sphere – 1 legal act, social sphere – 10 legal acts and economic sphere – 17 legal acts.

In karst region economic activities management legal acts system two-stage research methodology proved to be right: The first stage was devoted to chronological analysis of legal acts; the second – legal acts analysis from the point-of-view of sustainable development.
Tabl. Legal acts, regulating economic activities in North Lithuania karst region, in accordance with areas of sustainable development in time-period of 2004 05 01–2009 05 01

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<td>Government of the Republic of Lithuania 17 October 2006 Resolution No. 1020 „Regarding validation of measures for the implementation of the action programme designed by the Government of the Republic</td>
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<td>of Lithuania for the time-period of 2006–2008“ (Žin., 2006, No. 112-4273)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania and Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania 30 October 2006 Order No. 3D-416/D1-499 issued by the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Agriculture “Regarding adjustment of the 29 March 2004 Order No. 3D-130/D1-144 „Regarding afforestation in non-forest soil” “issued by the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Agriculture“</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Fund distribution method schedule of the negative outcome prevention and loss compensation in Northern Lithuania’s karst region programme for the time period of 2007–2011, affirmed by Regional expansion council of Panevėžys 15 June 2007 decree No. R2-3 and modified by 10 June 2008 decree No. R2-7</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Strategic programme of regional expansion of Pasvalys (valid till the year 2014) validated by the Municipality council 19 January 2005 Decision No. T1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Strategic programme (valid till the year 2015) of regional expansion of Biržai validated by the Municipality council 25 January 2005 Decision No. T-1</td>
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Bearing in mind the need for legal acts improvement in the context of sustainable development, the author proposes the following legal acts formatting system for North Lithuanian karst region (Fig.).

**Fig. Formatting scheme of legal acts, regulating farming in karst region**

Regulation essence and goals: usage of natural resources of karst region and environment protection. The basic regulation generating factor is sustainable development. The usage rules define what is allowed and what is banned; balanced indicators and parameters, adequate to sustainable development are applied.

**Conclusions**

1. Legal acts system in North Lithuania karst region took its beginning in the period before the Restoration of Independence, however the first acts, outstanding for their significance were adopted right after the Restoration of Independence. After having done chronological legal acts analysis it could be stated that it was impossible to avoid changes in legal acts due to certain objectives reasons, such as
development needs, change of public relations, as well as subjective ones, such as political, economic and social interests of publishers.

2. Majority of acts, regulating economic activities in North Lithuania karst region belongs to the field of environment protection, so bearing in mind sustainable development and striving for more effective development of the region it is worthwhile either to compliment or change corresponding legal acts; formatting new ones the priority should lie with environment, matching with components of economic as well as social areas.

3. With regard to the need for legal acts improvement in the context of sustainable development, the formatting scheme, regulating economic activities in North Lithuania karst region, the general reglamantation factor being sustainable development.

Literature

Šiaurės Lietuvos karstinis regionas – vienas konfliktiškiausių pagal ekologinių, ekonominių ir socialinių interesų suderinamumą, t. y. darnaus vystymosi požiūriu.

Pereinant prie darnaus vystymosi neišvengiamai turi būti koordinuojami politinių-teisiniai veiksniai – derinamos reguliavimo priemonės, sprendžiant įvairias aplinkos problemas, bei kitos priemonės, šalinant ūkinės veiklos poveikį aplinkai. Valstybė teisinėmis priemonėmis turi užtikrinti kuo geresnę karstinio regiono aplinkos išteklių apsaugą, efektyvesnį jų panaudojimą bei kontrolę.


Raktiniai žodžiai: darnus vystymasis, karstinis regionas, teisės aktų sistema.