

PROBLEMS LANDSCAPE ECOLOGICAL AND NATURAL ZONING

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Physiographic zoning is one of the main problems of physiography which has not only theoretical, but also great practical and application-oriented importance. Nature transformation, its conservation and rational use of natural resources requires detailed zoning of separate regions of any country for economic and practical purposes. The knowledge of natural processes and phenomena taking place in a particular region has a great significance for designing and building of cities, industrial centres, transportation services, etc. In modern understanding, physiographic zoning implies the separation of regional geological complexes of definite taxonomical rank, their mapping, as well as textual characterisation of specific peculiarities. The natural-territorial complexes (geosystems) are formed as a result of natural processes and (agricultural) economic activities of man. Consequently, the regions consist of both natural and anthropogenic subsystems

Among the sufficient amount of scientific works on physiographic zoning, the researches concerning sectoral-geographic (relief, climate), hydrological, soil-geographic, bio-geographic and zoo-geographic zoning are of particular importance.

The definition of the boundaries of natural territorial complexes (NTC) is one of the main issues for practical and theoretical handling of landscape differentiation and physiographic zoning. Natural border is defined as the lane line between two different neighbouring NTCs, in the space where various types of geographic processes and phenomena come in contact with each other.

Research works in field and cameral conditions are very important for the exploration of the nature of any territory.

Landscape exploration and characterization programs should include the following fundamental issues:

- The landscape development history – paleographic reconstructions;
- The study of vertical structures and horizontal connections of NTC;
- The analysis of conservative, relict and progressive elements and determination of their influence on the landscape development;
- The definition of the character and rate of anthropogenesis;
- The analysis of the forms and scale of anthropogenic influence on the landscape;
- The identification of the landscape function;
- The determination of the character and degree of anthropogenesis;
- The determination of the natural resources potential;
- The study of the landscape stability.