

**Ibro Skenderović<sup>1</sup>**  
**Elma Elfić<sup>2</sup>**  
**Azra Čatović<sup>3</sup>**  
*Internacionalni Univerzitet - NoviPazar*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TRADE, ENDANGERMENT AND PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

### Abstract

In this paper we will discuss the problem of trade's impact on the environment, protection and threats to the cultural property. Man and all the other living beings are mutually related with the entire inanimate and living nature that surrounds them from the beginning of their existence. This interaction of man-living environment is the basis of the whole modern law of environmental protection. With each new discovery (starting with the tools needed for working the land and the invention of the wheel all the way to the modern computer technology) man fulfills an increasing part of the eternal desire to reconcile his needs and nature.

In developing this work, we noticed the problem: "what is the impact that the trade has on the environment?".

Today, every citizen of the planet Earth is worried about environmental pollution because the consequences of it are seen daily, through the air we breathe, the water and the food that we consume and through pollution and radiation that we are exposed to, also the consequences of environmental problems are manifested through the shortage of natural resources, extinction of plant and animal species, and disturbance of the global ecosystem and biogeochemical processes.

**Keywords:** environment, trade, cultural property, human, environmental problem, ecosystems.

**JEL Classification:** Q5, Q50, Q56

## УТИЦАЈ ТРГОВИНЕ НА ЖИВОТНУ СРЕДИНУ, УГРОЖАВАЊЕ И ЗАШТИТА КУЛТУРНИХ ДОБАРА

### Апстракт

У овом раду пишемо о проблемима утицаја трговине на животну средину и на угрожавање и заштитити културних добара. Човек и сва друга жива бића од почетка свог постојања везани су тесном узајамном везом са целокупном неживом и живом природом која га окружује. Управо та интеракција човек–животно окружење, тј. животна средина представља основ читавог савременог права заштите животне средине. Са сваким новим проналаском (почев од оруђа за обраду земље и точка, па све до савремене компјутерске технологије) човек остварује све већи део вечите жеље да усклади природу и своје потребе.

<sup>1</sup> [ibro.skenderovic@os-mpecanin.edu.me](mailto:ibro.skenderovic@os-mpecanin.edu.me)

<sup>2</sup> [g.menadzer@uninp.edu.rs](mailto:g.menadzer@uninp.edu.rs)

<sup>3</sup> [m.phd@uninp.edu.rs](mailto:m.phd@uninp.edu.rs)

Приликом израде овог рада учили смо проблем: “колики утицај има трговина на животну средину?”.

Данас је сваки становник планете Земље забринут за загађење животне средине. Са последицама загађења се сусреће свакодневно, кроз ваздух који удише, водом и храном коју уноси у свој организам, кроз загађења и зрачења којима је изложен. Последице еколошких проблема манифестују се кроз све мању количину природних ресурса, изумирање биљних и животињских врста, и поремећаје у глобалном екосистему и биогеохемијском процесу.

**Кључне речи:** животна средина, трговина, културна добра, човек, еколошки проблем, екосистеми.

## Introduction

Most economists believe that the expansion of trade generally brings benefits, promoting increased efficiency and increases wealth of the countries that participate in it. But what if the expansion of trade harms the environment? At the national level, the standard economic policy response to the impact on the environment is to implement policies that internalize extreme hardship over nature. At the international level, however, the picture is not so clear.

The issue of relations between trade and environment has launched the expansion of world trade. The question is, whether the trade is good or bad for the environment? The answer is not so obvious. Production of goods for import and export, as well as other production, affects the nature and the environment. With the expansion of trade, the question remains whether these effects will increase or decrease? How will this affect the exporting country, the importing country or the world at large? Who is held responsible to solve the environmental problems associated with the trade? Such issues attracted increasing attention in recent years.

## Impact of trade on the environment

“International attention was first focused on these issues in 1991, when the Mexican government protested against the American act prohibiting the import of tuna from Mexico. The Marine mammal protection act prohibited the methods for catching tuna that endangers and kill a large number of dolphins and also prohibited import of tuna from countries that are using similar fishing methods. The Mexican government said that this act violates the rules of the International Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT - the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).” (Ćulahović, 2009, 135).

States cannot prohibit the import, except in special cases such as the protection of the health and safety of their citizens, according to the principles of free trade, which provided the basis for the establishment of GATT and the World Trade Organization (WTO - World Trade Organization). The GATT council concluded that the United States cannot use national legislation to protect dolphins outside their own territorial boundaries.

“Although Mexico did not insist on the implementation of this decision, the case of tuna and dolphins launched a major controversy on issues of trade and environment. A similar situation happened in 1999 when the World Trade Organization ruled that

the United States cannot prohibit the import of shrimp from countries that use fishing methods that kill endangered sea turtles. (Ćulahović, 2009, 136).

The implications of this and the previous decisions of tuna and dolphin case could affect many other international environmental issues and questions, including forest protection, ozone depletion, hazardous waste and global climate change. All these questions are related to the international trade. If individual countries can use trade measures to protect the global environment, is it possible to come up with effective policies to answer these questions? In order to know the answer, we need to examine the theory and practice of international trade.

“Developed countries are the ones that currently have the biggest impact on the environment due to their high demand for resources per capita, as well as for pollution. If developed countries fail to raise the standard of living for their increasing population – as China and other countries in East Asia have succeeded in doing so – that will increase their demand for food and resources per capita, but will increase and create more pollution also.” (Savić, Terezija, 2002, 113).

### **Endangerment and protection of biodiversity**

„For several decades, pollution and environmental protection represent a very important problem for humanity, regardless of the current level of development of society and of the productive forces in some parts of our planet. Science is imposed by the existing actual problem, and more clearly we come to the conclusion that a healthy environment is no longer in large areas, that many elements are threatened, that the degree of self-regulation of certain assets is no longer known, and that once disturbed ecological relationships can never be brought to their original state.” (Skenderović, Kalač & Bećirović, 2014, 107).

Biodiversity includes the entirety of genes, species and ecosystems on Earth, therefore, it represents the diversity of life on Earth.

Today biodiversity is threatened because of the loss of natural habitats, environmental pollution and climate change. All of these are consequences of human actions. Man keeps cutting down forests, drying up ponds and swamps to get agricultural land and facilities for his estates. The construction of roads on the natural habitats destroys them and thus prevents migration of organisms.

With its activities man pollutes water, air and land. Excessive hunting, fishing, collecting plants and introducing new species into ecosystems are directly threatening the survival of living beings.

“For biodiversity to be saved, the most important thing is to have in mind the current situation. Scientists with their research data come to the knowledge which species and areas are threatened and they are trying to find the factors of vulnerability.” (Ćulahović, 2009, 135).

The subject of particular interest is the so-called “hot spot” areas (focal points or hot spots) or areas which are the centers of biodiversity and at the same time are under anthropogenic influence. In our country and in our region, hot spots are identified as: Šar Mountain, Durmitor, Prokletije, Skadar Lake, Lake Ohrid, part of the Adriatic coast etc.

Based on these researches, new plan for their protection is created. First, certain species and areas need to be protected by law and then we need to carry out the activities for their protection.

“In our country there are laws that regulate the protection of biodiversity. Also, our country is a signatory to various global documents related to the protection of biodiversity. We will mention only a few: the Convention on Biological Diversity United Nations, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered wild fauna and flora, the Ramsar Convention on the conservation of wetlands and others. “ (Ćulahović, 2009, 137).

Environmental protection activities, areas and species and their implementation involve the application of law. In addition to the natural environment, protection of species is carried out at the botanical and zoological gardens also, where the endangered species are kept and bred.

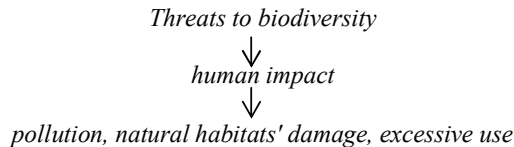
The botanical garden “Jevremovac” keeps endangered plants as the unique European forsythia, where scientists use different techniques for reproduction of it.

Also, in the laboratories, they are using different methods (e.g. tissue culture) trying to reproduce endangered species. The aim is to propagate the endangered species and return them to their natural habitats.

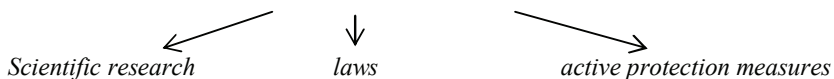
“Using the techniques of reduced plowing, hanging gardens, soil rest and plantation forestry (planting trees in cultivated fields and around them helps to reduce the erosion. Integrated pest management is carried out with the natural control of pests such as natural predators, rotation of crops grown and the removal of pests in the early stage thanks to human effort in order to the use the minimum of chemical pesticides. “ (Miljković, 2002, 60).

In addition to all the measures mentioned above, it is extremely important that when people develop the so-called environmental awareness, to act with awareness, according to the importance of biodiversity conservation and protection of nature.

### ENDANGERMENT OF BIODIVERSITY



### PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY



“This simplified diagram illustrates the essence of the problem. Since the damage is associated with accumulations, and not with the emission, impact on the environment is gradually becoming more and more serious and continues for many years after the control measures have been taken. Taking measures against cumulative pollutants requires urgent action and harsh policy. Even with such measures taken irreversible damage may occur. In our opinion, for the accumulation in the environment, many decades will need to pass and then, sixty years after, they may begin to decline at the safe level. “ (Miljković, 2002, 68).

„To protect the natural habitats and species living in it, certain areas are being declared as natural resources. Natural resource is a well protected area, characterized by cultural and historical values where human activities, which could endanger it, are prohibited.

By the act of protection and the surface they occupy, natural habitats in our country are classified into the following categories: national parks, nature parks, areas of outstanding features, nature reserves, special nature reserves, natural monuments, protected natural habitats and natural rarities (wild species).” (Ćulahović, 2009, 211).

National park represents a large area of a great natural, cultural and historical significance with preserved ecosystems. There are a lot of national parks with great biological diversity, such as: Fruška Gora, Đerdap, Tara, Kopaonik.

Dužans’ legal code from XIV century witnesses that of importance to protect the nature in Serbia is often thought about. The code defines the prohibition of excessive deforestation in Serbia

Fruška Gora is known for its well-preserved deciduous forests of sessile oak and preserved parts of steppe vegetation. In addition to the diversity of plant life, it is distinctive for its historical values also. There lives rare and endangered species – colorful salamander and viper – the only venomous snake in Fruška gora. The presence of a great number of birds of prey such as: eagle, booted eagle, saker falcon, black kite, Levant sparrow-hawk, buzzard and others is especially important.

Until now, in Fruška gora is registered more than 400 species of mushrooms.

“The neighboring Romania just as Serbia declared Đerdap as a national park in 1974. The main natural phenomenon of this area is the grandiose Đerdap gorge, through which flows the Danube River. Flora of Đerdap is characterized by diversity (over 1100 species) and a distinct relict character (hazel, hackberry, walnut, lilac, silver linden, montpellier maple). In this area you can encounter a bear, lynx, wolf, jackal, white-tailed eagle, black stork etc. With the construction of hydropower plant Đerdap, variety of not only plant species but also animal species has been changed, which endangered their survival in this area. For example, the river Dunav in Đerdap is not as rich as it was with the rare fish species such as beluga and sturgeon as they cannot pass through the dam due to the lack of fish ladders and lifts on it.” (Ćulahović, 2009, 225).

Tara was declared a national park in 1981. It is mainly the space of forest ecosystems, mixed forest primarily, spruce, fir and beech. It is important to point out that in this area unique forest of endemic and relict species appears - Serbian spruce. In addition to Serbian spruce important species are: turkish hazel, yew, European holly, Dafne blagayana, Derventa knapweed, peony and fern. 53 species of mammals are living here (brown bear, chamois, etc.). Of the 135 species of birds, particularly stand out the most endangered species such as eagle, falcon and other natures cleaners. In the forests of Tara grows more than 251 species of fungi, some of which are lethally poisonous.

“Kopaonik was declared a national park in 1981. It includes a mountain range in the central part of Serbia. It has evident vertical zoning of vegetation. The highest forest belt, over 1500 meters above sea level, is covered by dense forests of spruce. At higher altitudes (1750-1900m) spruce forests become less thick and there starts the community of low shrubs (juniper, blueberry). Three stenoendemic plant species exist on the territory of NP Kopaonik, which means that they can

only grow here and nowhere else, not in any other place in the world. These are, Кopaоникс' houseleek, Кopaоникс' violet and Cardamine pancicii. There are 30 protected species and some of them are: golden eagle, peregrine falcon, tawny owl, wild cat and live-lizard. “ (Ćulahović, 2009, 226).

Areas with preserved or slightly modified natural environment are special nature reserves. They usually express one or several elements of nature. Thus, for example, in botanical reserves, rare or endemic plant species can be found, and different valuable species in the forest communities also. Zoological reserves, which have a rich bird world or rare species of fish, are declared the ornithological or ichthyological reserves. Some of the well known are: Koviljski rit, ancient complex Bergej-Imperial pond, Obed Swamp and Zasavica.

Natural or partly cultivated vast areas with special environmental, educational and tourist values are the nature parks. Some of nature parks are: Old Mountain, Ludaš lake, Sićevač Gorge, Vršac mountains etc.

Devil's Town is a natural monument located in the heart of the mountain Radan, in southern Serbia. This is an erosive expansion, which makes more than 200 earthen pyramids, towers and steeples. These pyramids are the height of 2-15m and width of 3-5m. The whole complex is extraordinary, and it has scientific, educational and cultural significance. “ (Ćulahović, 2009, 227).

Certain natural resources being protected at the national level, could be protected at the international level also, under the protection of the UNESCO programme MAN and BIOSPHERE (MAB) is a space Golije with Studenica - nature park and biosphere reserve. In Serbia, 9 humid areas, marshes and wetlands, according to the Convention on the protection of wetland areas (Ramsar, 1971) designated as internationally important. In particular, Obeds' swamp is known for its beauty and various biodiversity. This area has many different species of birds as: spoonbill, stork, blue-duck, white-tailed eagles and many other species.

The special nature reserve is a protected natural asset of a great importance. It is located in southwest Serbia. This reserve is distinguished by the presence of 104 different species of birds. The most important ones are the griffon vulture, one of the two vulture species, which are now nesting in Serbia. Griffon vulture is a vulture species, with a wingspan of up to 3 meters. The role of these birds in the food chain of an ecosystem is unique and irreplaceable. They only feed on dead animals, thus preventing the spread of infection and in this way “natural recycling” is performed.

### **Endangerment and protection of cultural property**

“With the development of civilization and culture various creations of spiritual and material character were created. They are called cultural goods. They can have artistic, historical, scientific and technical character. Cultural goods are proof of identity and origin of the people, and therefore their conservation is of a great importance. Cultural goods of one country are called cultural heritage. “ (Miljković, 2002, 88).

Some cultural goods can be of a wider world value, and they are part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. Cultural heritage is divided into movable and immovable cultural heritage.

“The movable cultural heritage includes: books, archival documents, artistic and historical objects that can be found in museums, various natural history collections, archaeological sites, movies and so on.” (Miljković, 2002, 88).

“The immovable cultural heritage includes: various buildings, archaeological sites, parts of villages, etc. Buildings and monuments which by their architecture, artistic value and the historical significance are important for the country and the nation are called cultural monuments. Serbia has about 200 important cultural monuments.” (Miljković, 2002, 89).

On the list of world cultural heritage are 11 of the Serbian cultural monuments. These are: Monastery Studenica, Monastery Sopoćani, Monastery Đorđevi stupovi, the remains of the city Rasa, Church of St. Peter, the archaeological site Gamzigrad, Decani Monastery, The Patriarchate of Pec, Gračanica Monastery and the church of Our Lady of Ljeviš.

Cultural goods can be compromised in many ways. They can be threatened by natural disasters, wars, conflagration, impacts of climate and precipitation (acid rain), the impact of micro-organisms, as well as negligence and human carelessness.

A damaged cultural monument must be rebuilt (restored), and then preserved - protected from negative external influences. Movable cultural heritage must be kept in adequate conditions.

Protection of Cultural Property aims to preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

- MOVABLE

-IMMOVABLE

\* *the national cultural heritage*

\* *the world cultural heritage*

\* **UNESCO's list**

**ENDANGERMENT**

*natural disasters, wars, conflagration, acid rain, negligence*

**PROTECTION**

*laws, restauration, conservation*

### Conclusion

The man and his doings made a considerable impact on the natural ecosystems. Cities, roads, farms, rivers with bridges and river stopped by dams, open pit mines and quarries - all this is a part of human civilization, which affects natural ecosystems. Changes to natural and artificial ecosystem formation, leading to land degradation, pollution of water and air.

However, man in modern society realized that nature needs to be protected, restored and environment to be improved.

Ecosystem restoration means the return of the structure and species to the condition before the damage to the ecosystem was done, and the recovery of all natural processes to their previous state. Improvement of the environment means improving the structure of the habitat to species that are best adapted to the conditions of the ecosystem.

Natural regeneration of some ecosystems has been slow. Such is the case with the forest ecosystems. In these situations human activity is essential. Regeneration is done by planting appropriate plant species, so-called afforestation. This prevents soil erosion, moisture loss, creating the conditions within which the ecosystem can be restored.

The process of improving and restoring natural ecosystems includes reintroduction. Reintroduction is the process of returning native species to localities from which they have disappeared.

Options to improve the environment are particularly evident in urban ecosystems. By planting parks, lawns, rows of trees inside the village, man is preserving its environment and creates better living conditions. Besides the improvement of living conditions in the city, this also means conservation in the use of natural resources and the installation of air purifiers and waste water is also implied. In order to improve urban ecosystems in a timely manner, it is important to develop environmental awareness of all citizens.

Europe is a highly urbanized continent today. More than 70% of the population live in cities. Caring for life in the city and the preservation of the natural balance is best reflected in the example of Berlin - one of the purest and the cleanest cities of Europe.

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