

# INCREASED EFFICIENCY ECOLOGICAL - OBJECTIVE OF TOURISM POLICY - AN INTEGRAL PART OF NATIONAL AND WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Constanța ENEA

University "Constantin Brâncuși", Târgu Jiu, Romania

## Abstract

*When we talk of economic growth must take into account the natural environment and its resources, they become in current conditions, a limiting factor in ensuring respect for raw materials, fuel and energy, and in terms of damage to the environment. Economic growth so far has relied more on non-renewable resources or unlimited capacity of the natural environment to purify. Practice has shown that human activity has exceeded the regenerative capacity of nature, entering into conflict with natural cycles favorable economic and biological life*

*Today, economic growth can only increase as economic - ecological based on many energy manners consumption and a higher recycling of matter and energy, in which man must respect the laws of nature, to know the breeding capacity of the natural environment.*

*Protection and conservation of environment and tourism potential is emerging as a distinct activity, with specific problems which require specialists in various fields working. This action may have a satisfactory efficiency, but in terms of ensuring an ongoing legal and administrative framework appropriate to require administrative organization, the existence of economic resources, an effective legal support and educational activities supported by citizens.*

**Keywords:** *environmental protection, efficiency, growth.*

**JEL classifications:** *M16, M20*

## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, environmental protection has become one of the most discussed issues at national and international level, human action causing serious ecological imbalances. Intensive exploitation of natural resources of raw materials and energy maintained economic growth unsustainable, leading to increasing economic disparities between developed economies and developing countries. This type of growth, no longer correspond to current conditions, is imposing a new model of growth which should take into account a number of restrictions on natural resources and environmental quality. Economic activities should be carried out effectively ecologically by manufacturing less energy with equal or greater products, resulting in less waste. Models must become more sustainable.

Protection of natural environment comprises all actions taken by man in order to preserve the ecological balance dynamically, aiming on the one hand, to protect natural resources against irrational exploitation and, on the other hand, avoid environmental pollution with harmful substances that deteriorate the quality. In this respect, remember, the protection of water used in industry, agriculture and household consumption, air purification, protection and improvement of forest, the collection of waste and industrial garbage, protect of flowers and animals, landscape conservation.

## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH PROCESS

Question is whether these activities, in addition to maintaining a healthy environment can make profits and can contribute to economic growth. In the frame of worsening condition of crisis in the natural environment, economic theory seeks to adapt to the competitive market economy of these activities is essential in order to support sustainable economic growth.

Activities of environmental protection reply to major imperative of the economy through the following requirements:

- Their need to create utilities and necessity to the individual and social sense;
- Their ability to create new value;
- Quality of these activities to be profitable, ie to make profits and thus ensure the premises of sustainable economic development.

Based on the fact that environmental protection is necessary due to the impact of irrational economic growth factors on natural factors, obtaining profits for any economic motivation is itself required by the competition of the market economy. Therefore, the motivation of profit is generated not only need training resources needed to meet growth needs and other general needs, but also the law of value and use of the categories in the environment protection.

In the emphasis of increasing contradiction between the natural environment and economic

growth in terms of the harmfulness of the latter, profit becomes a value of leverage and main source on which may constitute the budget and revenue activity for the environment. By leverage profits must consider that environmental protection is not only an activity to preserve environmental quality and protection of resources, but also a source of development.

It appears the need for more efficient use of labor to protect the natural environment, the main criterion is to maximize the difference between total savings resulting from expenses against pollution incurred by this activities. Economies may be expressed in the products recovered from the process of depollution, reducing salaries or products of inferior quality and reduce production costs.

Expenses for environmental protection have a social character, expressing the interests of society in relation to economic agents that are associated with normal use or environmental degradation.

Costs for environmental and natural resources protection will influence the size of profits and, ultimately, national income, as follows:

- On the one hand, increased environmental expenses necessary in the form of depoluante, depreciation of fixed assets against pollution, wage costs, taxes and pollution taxes reduce net profits;
- On the other hand, the work of environmental resources creates growth of gross domestic product and thus the revenue budget.

In conclusion, the protection activity shall consist of a set of works requiring the use of adequate material resources, financial and human resources and technology required for the regeneration of natural factors, correction and adjustment of exchange of matter and energy between man and nature on scientifically basis.

Currently, the environmental impact of the global economy is unsustainable. In these circumstances there are two mechanisms for achieving the goal of sustainability: to restrict the size of economic activity, without changing the content, or change it order to increase efficiency. Thus, increased efficiency ecological (environmental) can be considered an objective of sustainable development of national and global policies.

Sustainable development applies to any country, as a strategy for future growth and progress of environmental protection. In the Stockholm Declaration of 1972 stated that, with social progress and developments in production, science and technology, human ability to improve environmental day by day. Protect and improve the environment is a major problem affecting the welfare of populations and economic development throughout the world; fulfilling her burning desire of the peoples of the world and is a duty for all governments

Growth in the modern market economy is efficient when carried socio-economic-environmental optimum. This involves customizing the following criteria:

a) *The criterion to minimize the quantity of natural resources incorporated into products or per unit of national product and national income*, foster growth by maintaining the pace of average annual growth in terms of restructuring, modernization and technology economy, stimulating activities which bear the technical and technological progress;

b) *The criterion of the conservation of natural resources*, based on the fact that social production is conducted in an environment with finite and non renewable resources, which must not only meet the immediate requirements of the current generation but also the needs of future generations;

c) *The criterion of full recovery of material substance and energy*, on which is made the transition from linear production processes, from production processes in a circular system active;

d) *Criterion of energointensity of national production*, expressed by the "energy consumption / social product or national income, which measure how many units of energy are used to obtain a unit of national product or income;

e) *Criterion of recycle and recovery i post-consumer use of values*, seeking to anticipate the recovery of useful material body physical assets by removing them from use, both as means of production and as consumer goods;

f) *Criterion of biodegradation and integration into the natural environment of goods come in the natural environment* taking into account the decomposition without harming any good material obsolete or discarded in nature. Biodegradation is a process of decay of elements, substances, objects or bodies of organic nature under the action of living organisms, and in particular of microorganisms;

g) *The criterion to minimize the costs imposed by adopting technologies no polluting* is the more so as they appear as production costs included in the costs. The company must determine the optimal in comparison to the savings and benefits obtained from each unit to undertake measures of no polluting and the macroeconomic level, because without these expenses can not be absolute increase of national product and national income due to worsening environmental conditions;

h) *Criterion of increase material and spiritual welfare in relation to the use and effectiveness of natural and human resources*. Growth efficiency can be achieved by switching from production mono-energy production to multi energy production from fossil resources "dirty", but still essential, to the clean ones. "How operated or preserve resources available today, as energetic we develop new energy technologies in order to reduce how much care their ability to damage the environment, all these determine the range of opportunities that we leave to the future generations".

i) *Criterion of environmental responsibility in all spheres of productive and unproductive activity*. Socio-economic implications of the exploitation of

nature are not sufficiently understood by all participants in economic life. Given this poor knowledge, anyone take any action which constitutes an investment in kind, as would seem minor at first glance, it is obliged to make a scientific analysis of all implications that it may generate.

All these criteria are converging toward a common purpose: the satisfaction of human welfare. This gives effect to human growth which can not take place, regardless of the system, without a rational use of natural resources and human, without maintaining an appropriate environment of life on earth.

Efficiency, economic category of extreme generality, must be addressed/approached systemically, the environment appearing as a component of natural macro system. As such, the effectiveness of productive activity can not ignore the preservation of ecological balance, as an essential condition of *qua non* condition of existence itself of human race.

Models of economic analysis tend more to an economic-ecological integration, following economic flows between goods and transfers of items (goods) environmental needs, in order to trade settlement of natural and economic processes.

In this context, environmental management ensure the foundation of decisions related to productive and social capital, according and related to the characteristics of natural capital, including the environmental and social accounting, as well as medium and long term.

From an ecological point of view, an action can be defined as economically efficient, if not only achieve the goals set in terms of expenditure (cost) minimum, but at least ensure the quality of natural environment.

Economic theory and practice put in evidence the existence of relations of dependence between the degree of reduction of pollution residues, the cost and the positive effects that total control is achieved through the actions and reduction of pollution degree.

First steps to reduce the quantity of polluting residues bring the most important effects, then further measures in order to reduce pollution substances, with the same quality favorable effects to environment, requiring greater expenditure too. Therefore, a great importance on the effectiveness of spending for operations against pollution, has a determination of the limit until to ensure that the expenditure benefits some maximum advantages for quality of life.

From an economic point of view, the maximum limit up to which expenditures may be made to protect the environment is the point where the cost is equal to the positive overall effects. A careful analysis reveals that, at a zero difference between the positive effects and the costs, would reach in the foreseeable future, only if the technology industry would remain the same, or would grow slower than the pace of deterioration of the environment.

A policy effective implementation of environmental protection, implies the establishment of priorities that is related, mostly in the period immediately following the degree of pollution and trend of the future. The degradation of environmental factors depends in turn on a number of factors which essential are: the volume of material production, its structure, or rather, their eco-structure, the technique and technology used, including the scientific and technical progress, scale the recycling of raw materials and materials and of course, the work itself on protecting the environment, which includes all expenses that are made in order to maintain quality at the appropriate level. This last factor depends largely on other factors mentioned and the environment at a time. For example, the cost to neutralize the pollution increase along with increasing mass of harmful residues of rejection subject, which in turn depends on the physical volume of production structure, the type of technologies, the nature of materials and other items.

So, the economic efficiency of expenditure for operations against pollution is influenced to a significant extent on factors whose action comes from outside the activities themselves for the protection of environment. To highlight more clearly the directions of action for environmental protection and efficiency possible of it, is necessary, in our opinion to know the actual dimensions of all the factors mentioned, insofar as they affect the environment and development over time of it quality.

A few clarifications are needed. First, an elimination of pollution is not economic. That would mean spending against pollution, which could not be supported even by a highly industrialized economy. Secondly, maintaining quality at a good level and very good also requires significant expenditure, which jeopardizes the economic development of technology, and thus the labor productivity, with adverse consequences on wages and the level of material living.

Therefore, we regard as “preferable” a satisfactory environmental quality, which do not pose a great danger to ecological balance, but does not require any expenditure against pollution too high. Whatever stage of economic development or level of pollution reached, as in any activity, and environmental protection is necessary to follow strict, specific methods of economic efficiency.

For this, we must know as precisely the efforts are made and what effects are achieved in this area. However, analysis of the efficiency of expression involves the two elements taken into account (effort and effect) value, ie through prices. Or, here are just a series of difficulties of quantification determined that the effects of pollution, especially of non pollution include social effects, such as population morbidity, polluting areas, comfort, life, etc. Also, some damage caused by pollution occurs in areas where no human

dwellings are (eg: unoccupied regions, forests, large extent of water).

A first important aspect in tackling the economic efficiency of environmental protection is the link between environmental quality (the pollution degree) on the one hand, quality and costs of quality (for environmental protection) and non quality of it (damage caused by pollution unsolved), on the other hand.

The optimum level, from economic point of view, occurs when the sum of the two groups of expenditure is minimal. Therefore, at that point, economic efficiency is maximum. Thus said, spending on environmental protection are the highest efficiency when the value of these reported the damage to be removed (from savings) due to increase purity of the environment is minimal.

Another problem, particularly important is the nature of productive expenditure against pollution. Actions for environmental protection facilitates breeding enlarged, because by reducing pollution to obtain a number of beneficial effects, benefits, namely: the reducing the corrosion fixed funds, therefore, to extend the operation; reducing morbidity population, with positive effects on volume production materials and labor productivity, facilitate the regeneration of plants and animals; maintaining the quality of the soil and thereby implement the volume and quality of agricultural production, etc.

Economic efficiency in this area is very high, if one can imagine the disastrous effects which might have provided pollution which would not take steps to limit its action. But for a determination as close to reality, it is necessary that the costs of investment to take account of current expenses, and in some cases the value of materials recovered and the effects of social

In both cases, the total cost of production includes, in the case of highly polluting enterprises, two groups of expenses, some of endogenous character, other with exogenous character. If the optimal production level is determined only in relation to the costs of production itself (endogenous) irrespective of the intended environment, then the latter activity appears distinct and not integrated (internalized).

The internalization of "externalities" should be made from the design stage of the new investment objective, whereas the choice of variant technological means also choosing technologies that will be effective from ecologically point of view.

So, the internalization of no pollution costs may have beneficial effects on increasing economic efficiency in this area, so determine the enterprises to be concern in a greater extent of this problem, they are concerned now to reduce the damage caused by pollution outside the enterprise.

But the success of concrete actions to internalize the "externalities" depends more and more for increasing responsibility to the control institutions

of pollution degree, the strong application of the law on environmental protection, without which the results obtained, as effects and efficiency, not raise to the 1 expected level.

## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, WELFARE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Human existence and development as an integral part of the natural and social environment depends on the quality of lives as, environmental quality depends, in turn, to a large extent from the everyday people's activities, the environment is a central, inseparable quality of life.

A company seeking to create a high quality must first demarcates what understand through the environment and quality, then find ways to be "material" to measure, to specify how manages to achieve the objectives through an official policy.

Although quality of life can not precisely define and measure, however, is associated with wealth, the size of incomes, which allow appropriate consumptions. The most difficult problem is the monetary quantification of the changes from the wild, which can affect quality of life: positive, when it comes to clean water of a river; negative, for example, air pollution or the long-term effects on future generations, eg depletion of non-renewable natural resources, extinction of plants or animals, as well as unique ecosystems.

Environmental pollution remains, perhaps, the most important and most discussed issue of our time; produce externalities, damage that nobody pays them, or whose value is unknown, but which affect quality of life.

Any improvement in quality of life will relate to environmental factors, although not all components may be expressed in monetary terms.

It is necessary to have indicators in order to show changes occurring in environmental factors, the current system of indicators for environmental protection is lacking, but is an attempt to align to the indicators adopted by UN:

- General indicators for characterization territory: the territory, natural climatic conditions (temperature, rainfall regime, the wind), etc.;
- Indicators of volume and use of natural resources of the environment: air mass, water resources, fund land, flora, fauna, forestry, hunting fund, reserves, natural parks, nature monuments;
- Indicators of sources and volume of pollution, such economic and social activities, generating pollutants and volume discharged into the air, water, soil;
- Environmental quality indicators, which characterize the quality of environmental factors compared with the required (maximum permissible concentrations): effective concentration of harmful substances, water quality, the degree of purity,

pollution, agricultural land eroded and filled with waste; surface areas and the population affected by air pollution and water;

- Indicators of safeguards measures: equipping the units with facilities for economic restraint and neutralization of the polluting substances, the volume of investment for environmental protection.

### **3. TOURISM - ECONOMIC SECTORS WHICH PUTS TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY**

Economic efficiency is the ultimate aim of all the economies of all kinds. Meet this objective a priority concern of economic double: that face an individual and collective needs to increase living standards and therefore to face the best conditions with imperfect competition in its various forms and degrees of intensity deployment tools, both domestically and internationally.

Efficiency and economy are virtually synonymous, reflecting the effects of inputs are used in some combination of them. Emphasize this key issue and also highlight what Paul Heyne states that "in recent years began to emerge in our society voices suggesting that we put too much value on efficiency, that sometimes sacrifice too many valuable targets to achieve efficiency which does not value us as much. Could this be true? Anyone who thinks it carefully will discover that logically, there is something strange in this critical effectiveness. Although critics may have reasoned and raised important issues can not be true that too high a price put on efficiency" as P. Heyne said in "economy mode of thinking."

Regarding the mode of expression efficiency, some economists looking for a single synthetic indicator, able to express the state of efficiency or inefficiency, while other economists that efficiency is so complex that it takes an entire system of indicators that capture all efficiency (F. Bran et al). To take a tour company, it can have a very high productivity by providing recreational tourism products by type, but this may not be profitable in the long term, because at some point that society will not be able to capitalize offer, knowing that any travel product is characterized by a period of viability. Also drive productivity and profitability may be high, but long-term recreational products may be in conflict with environmental laws.

Specifically, when the foundations of a tourist resort of national interest are taken into consideration not only extremely large capital investment and profits that are expected to be obtained, but the existence of a degree of civilization in the area, neighborhoods, the degree of stability policy, the effects of pollution, environmental law, etc.

The third aspect of economic efficiency, also emerged in the postwar period is the eco-efficiency. By the mid twentieth century aimed to maximize

economic efficiency, ignoring the negative effects of this trend on the natural environment. Therefore, the development of capitalist countries, it was a sharp deterioration of the natural environment, with adverse effects ahead, including the development of social and economic efficiency. J.K. Galbraith notes that "... environmental issue is inevitably in conflict with the driving forces of market economy - clearly, the interest-producing companies as their profits are anticipated to follow within a short time investment. Under pressure from environmental movements in developed capitalist countries, states were determined to apply a series of measures for environmental protection.

Thus, concern has emerged that every economic activity, to be followed and eco-efficiency by limiting nuisance and providing protection for humans vital elements - air, water, soil.

Today it is clear that the three aspects of economic efficiency of a country are closely interdependent. On the one hand, by maximizing economic efficiency provides material support for social and ecological efficiency. On the other hand, ensuring satisfactory levels for social and eco-efficiency provides a favorable context for growth, economic efficiency further. In this respect, Acad. N.N. Constantinescu stressed "to meet the laws of progress, the transition must take place on three principles: the principle of economic efficiency, social efficiency principle and the principle of environmental efficiency.

Stress and pollution are more harmful factors present in all regions. City dwellers feel the more acute the need to return to nature. They are increasingly seeking beauty, purity, harmony of rural life, natural environment that less altered "How could sell or buy heaven or earth heat?"

"If fresh air and murmur of water we are, how can we sell? If all the animals would disappear, man would die completely alone, because everything that happens is happening immediately and animal rights. We do part of the earth and it belongs to us. We know recently - the land belongs not human, but the man belongs to earth. We know well, all things are interrelated, as blood link between members of one family. It's time to look over things ... rural nature of reconciliation is time now, but still not too late. Dude! bend your hearts and minds on the nature ... let nature live ... live by it all ... "

World Tourism Organization (WTO) suggests that it is not simply a marketing label, but a sustainable way of tourism development and corresponding objective criteria and environmental management. Adopting a set of decisions on tourism development, the UN expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the socio-economic role of tourism in creating new jobs and economic development

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Effort to ensure the quality of the environment is one of the most important investments made to increase the welfare and its productive capacity, with complex effects on the economy and society development.

In economic theory holds that welfare is a concept of social justice and is the best means to the individual who aspires to that confers safety. In fact, welfare is based on respect of life with everything it contributes to the development of optimal specific human capabilities.

Contradictory situation regarding developments in the world we live in has intensified concerns to discovery of new ways of measuring welfare. Among them we mention human development Index (Human Development Index - HDI) proposed by the United Nations, the index of sustainable economic prosperity (Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare - ISEW) by Herman Daly and John Cobb theology, and grain consumption per capita.

Specialists consider that the ISEW is the most comprehensive indicator of living standards, since it measures both the environment and the distribution of environmental degradation, on the other hand, the use of this indicator implies more accurate and comprehensive on the quality of the natural environment. This indicator shows that the economic welfare in the U.S.A has increased gradually from 1950 until 1969 and has remained stationary since 10 years. Since 1980 it has declined significantly, even when GDP per capita has increased sharply.

Some authors have tried to demonstrate that, despite constant growth rate of GNP in many countries wealth is held at the same level and in some cases it is even below that level. Nordhaus și Tobin have built a significant index measuring social welfare, namely the economic well-being (MBE), opposed the GNP, which is an indicator that measures the results of production can not be used as a measure of social welfare. MBE excludes expenditure of GDP is strictly necessary, such as national defense, police, transport from home to work, waste disposal, etc. Also excluded are expenditures for health and education, on the basis that these are investments in human capital. Is excluded, while population and discomfort. Leisure, the people you love and the household, which is a productive activity, the figures are collected annually reported. Nordhaus and Tobin have shown that in the U.S.A between 1928 and 1965, while GNP per capita grew by 1.7%, MBE per capita increased by 1.1%.

New vision of development includes the development of new strategies for balanced distribution of income and wealth at the world, a "superior social order - who is interested in the lives of future generations as much as that of present generations and that focus more on the health of the planet and people than on the accumulation of material and military power".

Welfare and human development depend on the preservation of a healthy biological sphere with all its ecological systems, a variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure water and clean air. The choice is ours: form a global alliance to protect Earth and our survivors, or risk our own destruction and diversity of life. It requires fundamental changes in values, institutions and our way of life. You must understand that once basic needs have been fulfilled in the development of mankind by means of living more than not having more. Emergence of a global civil society creates new opportunities to build a world more democratic and human.

In order to achieve these aspirations we must resolve to integrate into our lives the principle of universal responsibility, identifying us (ourselves) with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. Each bears the responsibility for the welfare of present and future of the entire human family and all other forms of life of the world live.

Protection and conservation of environment and tourism potential is emerging as a distinct activity, with specific problems which require specialists in various fields working. This action may have a satisfactory efficiency, but in terms of ensuring an ongoing legal and administrative framework appropriate to require administrative organization, the existence of economic resources, an effective legal support and educational activities supported by citizens.

Internationally, countries with ancient traditions of interest to adopt a national tourism planning based on the appearance of protecting its tourist resources. the development of sustainable tourism, they have considered three main objectives:

- Economic - essential in identifying, harnessing and increasing exploitation of tourist resources;
- Office - particularly the permanent population, increasing labor employment, support the practice of traditional crafts and tourism to attract people into practice;
- Environmentally - important to avoid degradation, environmental pollution and ensuring a balanced and long term exploitation of tourist resources.

Among actions to protect and preserve the environment and tourism resources is also:

- Exploitation of scientific, rational tourism resources, so their rate of exploitation does not exceed their rate of recycling and regeneration, and the intensity of tourism direct or indirect relations with environmental factors do not exceed their carrying capacity;
- Exploitation of tourism resources of interest to be dealt with valences in the context of recovery of all natural resources and environmental protection, based on studies of spatial, spatial components of the plan scientific, rational and efficient planning - the main tool of governing bodies Local.

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