

Green Economy for Nature conservation: New paradigm for the Future

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In recent years, national governments have increased their activities aimed at alleviating environmental problems; legislative, regulatory, economic and political measures are being taken and adequate environment policy tools are searched for by public authorities at different levels of governance. The global demand for such tools has given rise to a variety of environmental policy research projects on a wide range of related issues, especially those concerning nature conservation. The all-important question today is how to offset the damaging impact of economic growth on the nature of the planet. It is already clear that the existing protected areas and Aichi Target 11 are not enough to halt the decline in biodiversity and so there is a dire necessity to expand the system of nature conservation areas. To meet these challenges, we need a detailed investigation to determine reliably how economic, social, energy and environmental factors influence nature conservation and sustainable growth.

Over the past decade, the idea of sustainable economic growth was in the centre of both scholarly and political attention. Research was carried out to analyze transversal links between energy-economy-environmental and ecological factors. Systematic research into sustainable growth, however, is still on the agenda. There is no doubt that systemic thinking methods should be used in economic theory for nature conservation and sustainable growth. Another pertinent question concerns the processes through which environmental factors, including the spread of viruses, could influence social responsibility and sustainable financial growth of business organizations. The similar position is formulated in the materials of the G20 green

finance research group and in the UN documents, which emphasize the need to introduce environmental and social impact parameters into the assessment of financial growth sustainability.

Global civilization is sinking into social and economic turmoil; humanity is facing continuous deterioration of environment and uncontrollable declines in GDP; economic theory is advancing and yet it seems unable to predict the crises or provide adequate public policies to address them. It is now essential not only maximize profit, but also maintain the stability of the economy in order to preserve the Planet. The latest developments, including the emergence of viruses, have shown that if the humankind does not begin to think about the economy's influence on Nature, the Planet will be destroyed. It is necessary to conceive of a new economic system and find new tools and new integrating methods that will create an opportunity to follow both financial ratios and new sustainable ratios with non-financial factors inside. The Economy needs new approaches based on green technologies, system sciences and sustainable methods.

The Special Issue of the "BRICS Journal of Economics" "Green Economy for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Growth" suggests responses only to a limited number of questions; it nevertheless provides a platform for the sharing of research into the theory of green economy development with particular emphasis on the transversal links between economic, social, energy and environmental factors.

The first article discusses global targets on climate change in the economy where coal remains one of the most commonly used fuels accounting for over 25% of the total energy supply. The author (D. Medzhidova) analyzes coal markets in the new environment characterized by sanctions against exporters, high commodity prices, inflation and a slowdown in economic growth; they describe the major trends before 2020 and examine the current situation together with its implications for the future, given the tradeoff between economic development and energy transition.

The second article builds a DID model with two-way fixed effects to analyze the mechanism of environmental taxes' influence on financial performance of business organizations. The authors (X. Ding, M. Petrovskaya) have found that environmental taxes contribute directly and significantly to the improvement of financial performance and that technological innovation in some degree produces mediating effect. This paper contributes to the study of economic consequences of environmental tax levies from the perspective of property and regional heterogeneity. It provides empirical evidence in support of the applicability of Porter's hypothesis in China and makes suggestions for optimization of environmental policy and improvement of financial performance of enterprises.

The third article (B. Liu, O. Efimova, M. Vasiev, W. Qian) examines the prospects of cooperation between China and Russia in transport policy with regard to the environmental component through the study of the environment-oriented processes using the transregional theory and Kuznetsov' transregional model of interaction between Russia and China in the transport sector. The research findings indicated that China and Russia would continue to strengthen cooperation in the field of transportation

infrastructure, building and renovating roads, railways, ports, and border crossings to expand traffic capacity and improve efficiency - all this with a focus on new green technologies.

The fourth paper discusses the idea of a socialist ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics; based on the latest requirements of Marxist theory it is expected to improve China's ecological sustainability. The author (J. Yan, V. Bocharnikov) emphasizes that responsible attitude enhances people's awareness of the need for consistent protection of the environment, encouraging them to carry out more and more ecological activities, which conclusively shows that the idea of socialist ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics has very high theoretical and practical value.

The fifth paper focuses on the influence, which Russia's trade with China is having on carbon dioxide emissions in the Russian regions. The authors examine carbon dioxide emissions in the two countries in connection with trading and industrial activities and outline future tendencies. The authors (A. Steblyanskaya, A. Denisov, S. Bobylev, S. Razmanova) use complex forecasting models in Python to assess the prospects for trade collaboration between Russia and China till 2030.

The authors of this Special Issue point out a significant impact of the environmental sustainability process on ecological protection and green energy transition.

About the Theme Editors

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