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## AMAZONIA: CASE OF FOREST POLITICS AS AN EXAMPLE OF CHALLENGES IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

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This paper aims to explain the challenges of global environmental politics on the example of forest politics and Amazon region in particular. Amazonian case has been chosen due to its vital importance, and attention that was drawn to it summer 2019 because of extensive forest fires caused by economic activity in the area.

The ecology issues in International Relations traditionally were not a popular topic for discussion. Initially, environment and natural resources were considered mostly as object of competition between states, or as a constant, that was not usually considered changeable [1]. Even though, ecological problems do not respect boundaries and jurisdictions, and it was quite known for a long time: first international agreements regarding environment date back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For instance, the Treaty for the Preservation and Protection of Fur Seals was signed in 1911 by the USA, UK, Empire of Japan, and Russian Empire. After the WWII some international agreements on whaling (1946), oil pollution (1954), and fishing (1958) were adopted [2]. Nevertheless, till the 1970-80s environmental issues were not considered problems of first importance by many governments and were not discussed globally. By 1970s humanity's annual demand on natural resources has surpassed what the planet can renew in a year [3]. In 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (UN) was held, it became a



milestone event for the global environmental politics as it finally put the environmental issues on the international agenda [3].

The consequences of poor environmental policies have influence on everyone on our planet, no matter what the problem is – climate change, pollution of the oceans, the disappearance of another species of fish, or the fires in the Amazon. Despite the urgency of environmental issues for all players of the international arena, the motivation of states to participate in environmental issues may vary, depending on how severely they affect a particular state at a given moment. Often, governments and businesses turn a blind eye to the long-term effects of their environmental policies when they are relatively safe and bring economic benefits in the short term. Also, a typical situation is when some environmental issues well-known to the scientific community remain invisible to politicians and businessmen until their interests are affected.

Consensus and veto are extremely important for international environmental policy - so, stronger and more economically developed countries cannot impose their agreements and legal decisions on economically weaker states. During the negotiations on environmental policy usually veto coalitions of states are formed, often they protect their economic interests that may be influenced by the new adopted document. For example, in the area of forest policy, the opposing coalition often includes Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, and the Amazonian pact (an organization initiated by Brazil in 1998, includes Bolivia, Venezuela, Suriname, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, and Peru) - that is, countries covered with rainforests. Also, despite some of Brazil's environmental policy initiatives, when it comes to rainforest issues (deforestation, mostly), Brazil often opposes initiatives that at least in some way would limit its sovereign right to control forests under Brazilian jurisdiction. Brazil generally has a long tradition of treating the Amazon as an "unused land", that should be developed. This was typical of both the times of the military dictatorship and the present government of Jair Bolsonaro. So, due to need of consensus, environmental negotiations usually take a long time and often end up creating a new format for another round of negotiations.

Global environmental policy is characterized by central role of international law - specific international regimes are formed around various issues during multilateral negotiations. This paper will further address the international regime that is forming around forest issues.

The main feature of forest politics is the absence of a single convention that would control international relations in this area – this regime is still developing. So, there are several organizations that work on international forest policy. The global dialogue on forest policy has started in 1980s (1983 – International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1985 – the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, 1986 – establishment of International Tropical Timber Organization), but more significant for forest governance event was held in 1992 in Rio (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development). As a result of this Conference two major documents were adopted – Convention on Biological Diversity and Framework Convention on Climate Change – because those conventions were not directly related to the forests, it was proposed that the third specific forest-related convention should be created, that would have as an goal to conserve forests, prevent further deforestation and impose sustainable forest management [4]. Nevertheless, this attempt to create a forest convention failed – states agreed only on a non-legally binding instrument called Forest Principles. As it was earlier mentioned for any negotiations on environmental policy consensus is essential, in case of forests international community divided into two groups – developed North and developing South. The first group (included the EU, USA, Canada, and Japan) argued in favor of forest convention, and the second (G77) was against. Basically, the main stumbling block was the concept of sovereignty – the North suggested to consider forests as common heritage of humanity that should be managed for the common good of the whole world; the South, on other hand, saw in this position threat to their sovereignty and attempt to slower their economic development. The South argued in favor of “common but differentiated responsibilities” rather than “common responsibility” pointing out



that developed countries contributed to deforestation even more than developing world. Also, this opposing coalition introduced concept of “compensation for opportunity cost foregone” – basically, it is financial compensation of revenues that deforestation normally brings for the states that would agree to preserve their forests. So, the G77 stated that any forest convention that would aim to preserve forests would be tied with increased financial assistance and debt relief [4]. Nevertheless, UNCED (1992) was not the last attempt to reach an agreement on international forest governance – but since that time a number of different negotiation formats and platforms were created (1995 – 1999 – World Commission on Forests and Sustainable development, 1995 – 1997 – Intergovernmental Panel on Forests which evolved into Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, 1997 – 2000 – United Nations Forum on Forests, where in 2007 a Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests was agreed, in 2015 it was renamed as UN Forest Instrument).

To sum up what was mentioned earlier, environmental politics is a complex and multidimensional issue in general, but what makes in particular forest problems so complicated? It becomes clear on an example of the Amazon river basin.

The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world, and with it a huge carbon deposit. This forest plays an important role in regulating the global climate: it absorbs carbon dioxide and produces oxygen, which is almost literally the lungs of the planet. Also, the Amazon is one of the most biodiverse places on the planet: it has about 3 million species of animals and plants (about 20% of all species of flora and fauna of the planet). The region occupies approximately 40% of South American territory, and the Amazon basin holds approximately 20% of the world's freshwater volume. Also, about 38 million people live here.

Major problem of Amazonian rainforest is deforestation. Last year, the attention of people around the world was focused on the Amazon rainforest - forest fires raged there. Forest fires are common for the Amazon, especially during the dry season (July to October). They can be caused by natural phenomena (thunderstorms, etc.), but in 2019 most fires were the result of agricultural activities. The size, intensity, and concentration of the centers of ignition mainly along the main roads of the central Brazilian Amazon, were noticed by Douglas Morton, chief of the Biospheric Sciences Laboratory at the Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA). The increase in forest fires in the Amazon that year was rather the result of deforestation, than of an extremely dry season, according to the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Ipam). Between August 2018 and July 2019, deforestation in Brazilian Amazon increased by 30% in comparison with previous year, according to the National Space Research Institute. In 2019, the level of deforestation was the highest since 2008.

Political analyst Oran Young proposed his classification of international environmental problems, dividing them into four types:

1. commons - for example, the ozone layer, Antarctica, or the global climate system,
2. shared natural resources - those that are under the jurisdiction of several states, such as oil or river basins (for example, Amazon river basin),
3. transboundary externalities - the result of activities within one country, the effects of which extend to other states, such as the Chernobyl accident, for instance,
4. linked issues - this category describes cases where solving environmental problems affects other areas (usually the economy) [3].

So, according to Oran Young classification Amazon rainforest is a shared natural resource – it is under jurisdiction of several South American states that formed an Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (has already been mentioned as Amazonian pact) in 1998 on the basis of Amazon Cooperation Treaty (1978). Basically, Amazonian rainforest is controlled by this organization, there are only few bilateral agreements regarding this region. What is interesting, according to the website of the Itamaraty (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil), one of the aims of this organization is to strengthen the sovereignty of countries over their Amazonian territories.



Returning to Young classification of environmental problems, even though the Amazonian rainforest is a shared natural resource, its state affects the commons as it plays major role in climate regulation. Also, when poor forest policy in Amazon area by Jair Bolsonaro led to extensive forest fires, it also became a transboundary externality, as political decision made within the borders of one state influenced environmental situation in most neighbor-states of Brazil. At the same time this political decision was made because it is directly linked to the economic profits for Brazilian economy, and was approved by some Brazilian businesses – so, Amazonian case can be a linked issue too, as decision to preserve rainforest in this area will affect the economic development of the extensive region.

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## РОЗВИТОК ЕКОЛОГО-ВАЛЕОЛОГІЧНОЇ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТІ У СТУДЕНТСЬКОЇ МОЛОДІ

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Глобальна екологічна криза, яка загрожує існуванню людства, стосується України не менше, ніж інші країни світу. Докорінна зміна ставлення до природного середовища може відвернути цю катастрофу. Зусилля науковців усього світу спрямовані не тільки на пошуки нових виробничих технологій, але й на розробку психологічних засобів та технологій формування екологічно орієнтованої свідомості та світогляду, ціннісних настанов і відповідних форм життєдіяльності [1]. За цих умов важливого значення набувають еколого-валеологічне виховання та освіта.

Завдання сучасної вищої школи – домогтися формування правильних, міцних, усвідомлених життєвих компетентностей. Серед яких важливою постає еколого-валеологічна компетентність. Розвиток цієї компетенції дозволяє виховати у особистості сукупність орієнтацій, знань, діяльності стосовно збереження, відновлення й розвитку власного здоров'я та навколишнього середовища в умовах напруженої екологічної ситуації [2].

Під час проведення екологічної освітньо-виховної роботи у нашому освітньому закладі, особливу увагу звертаємо на залучення студентської молоді Кременецького