NEWS

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN SERIES OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

ISSN 2224-5294 Volume 6, Number 322 (2018), 165 – 175 https://doi.org/10.32014/2018.2224-5294.50

УДК 330

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NATIONAL RESOURCES AND NATIONAL WEALTH

Abstract. Wealth of a nation is one of theme discussed often in last years but less estimated. Wealth is impossible without resources: wealth of a nation is a result of activity with national resources. Researches on resources are mainly about natural resources focus on what is often reinforced due to problems of human dependence on ecosystem. Human resources, used to define an unemployment rate, are often mentioned now within discussion of inequality issue. The terms "financial resources", "information resources", etc. may be met in publications, official documents, textbooks and so on. The article is attempting to ground a definition of national resources, to clarify use and meaning of the terms "capital" and "assets". The latter is "monetization" of the result of activity with resources and helps to value the wealth. The article reflects the issues of the national wealth estimation of the Republic of Kazakhstan what is attempedapplying the existing definition per the System of National Accounts with a brief highlevel analysis of the national economy indicators of the country. The work includes comparison of some economic performance indicators of the nation with similar indicators of other countries.

Keywords: national resources, natural resources, human resources, national wealth, capital, assets, investments.

The problem of wealth was an issue that has been analyzed by scientists and philosophers in old times. When it comes to the wealth of each country, a historical, geographic, natural and climatic (and other features) are discussed [1]. Analysis of the last decades does usually separate developed and developing countries and includes discussions on dynamically developing countries. Information on resources of a country is investigated for better understanding the factors of its current and future development. The development is measured through different indicators capture altogether economic, social and environmental impacts of policies. The concept of sustainable growth is the main core for almost all the development strategies while an implementation of projects and programs followed from those strategies are not always satisfactory.

Income inequality is considered as one of main challenges of the century and "reducing inequality within and among countries" is included in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)adopted in 2015 [2]. Resource-rich countries development is sometimes considered from the point of view if it is an advantage or the issue for a country to be rich in resources. Some researchers list "the resource-rich, resource-dependant" countries and pays attention to the fact that "growing number of newly resource-rich countries are low-income and lower-middle income countries" [3]. Some authors study a correlation between "economic growth per capita" and "natural resource dependence as measured by the share of natural capital in national wealth" and make point that "natural abundance may... blunt incentives to save and invest and thereby reduce economic growth" [4].

Study of inequality in wealth allocation demonstrated that "In 2014, the richest 1% of people in the world owned 48% of global wealth, leaving just 52% to be shared between the other 99% of adults on the planet" [5]. Natural resource management may be studied from the point of view of benefits for local communities [6]. Wealth research and analysis do often discussthe country's (if it is a case) so called Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF)or Natural Resource Fund(NRF)foundation, size and management for

various reasons [7,8]. The matter is of persistent interest of researchers keeping in mind the use of natural resources what mostly is the main source of formation of the funds and the meaning of sustainable development: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Sovereign Wealth Fund or Natural Resource Fund is a monetary indicator accumulating the result of the use of natural resources and may be treated as a source of the benefits of future generation if properly invested and managed by the present generation.

National Resource Governance Institute's definition of NRF states: "A natural resource fund—a type of sovereign wealth fund—is a special-purpose investment vehicle owned by a government whose principal source of financing is revenue derived from oil, gas or mineral sales. Natural resource funds serve at least one of the following macroeconomic or governance objectives: saving for future generations, covering unexpected budget deficits, sterilizing capital inflows, earmarking resource revenues for specific expenditure items, and ring-fencing resource revenues. They employ a set of investment strategies that includes investing in foreign financial assets" [9]. International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) annual review refers to the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in 2008, when representatives from the founder members of IFSWF formulated the following definition of sovereign wealth funds: "Special-purpose investment funds or arrangements that are owned by the general government. Created by the general government for macroeconomic purposes, SWFs hold, manage, or administer assets to achieve financial objectives, and employ a set of investment strategies that include investing in foreign financial assets" and clarifies that "this definition excludes foreign currency reserves held by central banks for balance of payments or monetary policy purposes. It also excludes stateowned enterprises, government-employee pension funds and assets managed for the benefit of individuals". But the following pages of the report discusses on "the more recently established sovereign wealth funds are strategic funds, such as Kazakhstan's Samruk-Kazyna..." [10]. Definitions of those funds might wash away the boundaries of these funds but one thing is clear: these funds are a part of a national wealth.

Analysis of the staff of the World Bank presented in "The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018" shows that "global wealth grew significantly between 1995 and 2014". One of key findings made in this analysis states that "A country's level of economic development is strongly related to the composition of its national wealth" [11].

Studies may mention the terms "resources", "capital", "assets", "wealth" interchangeably sometimes confusing due to different names of the same things what can be traced through the article. This paper intends to define and line up use of each term for their scope of application butapproximately equal to different sciences. "Resources" are mainly used for things what exist but not valued from the point of future benefits. "Capital" is used in economics meaning "assets" in accounting terms and may be used in accounting ("share capital") meaning "equity". Then "wealth" is the measure of assets after clearing all the liabilities at a specific moment of time.

All "capital", "assets", "wealth" is originated from "resources". National wealth is created in the result of the actions with and participation of the national resources: labor force applied to develop or process natural resources can be transformed into the different types of assets – financial; property, plant and equipment or long-term assets; inventory/commodities/stock, etc. – what, in its turn, may be used as resources in further processes of developing or producing final goods and services.

Two main resources – human resources and natural resources – generally may be defined as those resources what are existing in or caused by nature and deservedly called national:

- both are resources as their value cannot be easily defined and depends on many factors mainly including a high degree of uncertainty,
- both pertain to the land identified by the territory of the nation (country) and are under the jurisdiction of the nation.

The size of a national wealth may be interest of citizens, government, scientists and researchers but the difficulty is in "monetizing" the result of estimation where estimation, in its turn, is complicated due to the methodology issues and a poor quality of data. The article is the first ever attempt of estimation of the national wealth of the Republic of Kazakhstan based on publicly available data. The causal analysis and the factors analysis are not a subject and beyond of the topic of this work. Results of analysis provided in

the article might differ from similar analysis results due to the discrepancies in the data used. All the data with regard to GDP, export amount and volume, investments into assets, budget income and expenditures may be referred to the official statistical site while the financial sector data and external debt are in accordance with the National Bank's reportif otherwise is not stated. Data on other countries' economic indicators may be referred respectively. All the tables and pictures in the article are created by the authors using the relevant data of the references, except Table 5 what is identical to the one provided in the source.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is one of the "top 3" countries with regard to the land plot per capita being the third in the whole list of world countries after Australia and Canada. Moreover, its 272,5mln ha land is rich for natural resources and the country manages itself this wealth for the last 26 years.

"National wealth" or "wealth of a nation" is the result of economic activity including production, consumption, domestic and international trade, borrowing, investments and savings as of a specific date, such as the end of the calendar year. According to the System of Nations Accounts (SNA), wealth of a nation is defined as financial assets plus non-financial assets minus liabilities where the terms should be treated as commonly used in accounting [12]. Financial assets include those as it is treated in accounting terms (securities, shares, receivables, etc.) and the reserves (gold and currency, pension, etc)while the non-financial relate to the assets used in production and/or other activity ("produced assets") and includes so called, in accordance with the SNA classification, "non-produced assets" (land, subsoil assets, biological resources, water resources and intangible non-produced assets). Thus,

National wealth= financial assets + nonfinancial assets - liabilities.

The result of annual economic activity of a nation, called as an output, may be used between the economy sectors (intermediate consumption) and the remaining part, i.e. output – intermediate consumption) is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Despite of its limitations, economic analysis refers to this indicator as the one easy to understand. Thus, GDP per a specific year is an income of a nation earned that year and may be consumed, traded, saved and invested, i.e. represents an economic performance of a nation for a specific year. Accordingly, total GDP for a specific period may be treated as a total income for that period and may be used for an analysis of (consumption, trading, savings, investments) performance of a nation for that period.

Per the official statistical data of the Ministry of National Economy, from the date of its sovereignty, 1991, to 2017including,the nation produced almost 390 trillion tenge ("tenge" is the national currency) or slightly more than 2,2 trillion USD:

	1991	1992	1993	1994	 2015	2016	2017	1991-2017
GDP								100%
mlntenge	85,9	1217,7	29 423	423 469	 40 884 134	46 193 381	53 101 282	389 056 975
mln USD	-	-	11 404	11 882	 184 387	135 005	162 887	2 241 939

Table 1 - Kazakhstan: GDP, annually and total for the period of sovereignty

The period 1991-2017 was full of different events in the economy of the world, of the neighbor countries and business partners of the country. More than 80% of the GDP in tenge (70% in USD) was produced by the nation in the 2009-2017 period despite of a slowdown in economic growth and the national currency devaluation (the influence of the latter is reflected in the indicators expressed in USD).

	1991-2017	1997-2017	2002-2017	2009-2017
TotalGDP	100%	99,3%	96,4%	80,4%
mlntenge	389 056 975	386172839	374 900482	313935057
mln USD	2 241 939	2 180977	2079360	1 604 319

Table 2 - The nation's total income (GDP) for different periods

Kazakhstan is often referred as one of natural resources rich countries what is supported by considerable mineral reserves. With regard to some of minerals the country is in the front row of the resorce-rich countries list: chrome (1st), uranium (2nd), silver (5th), zinc (7th), coal (8th), crude oil (12th), copper (13th) [13].

Table 3 - Kazakhstan, Australia and Canada in reserves by country list [14-16]

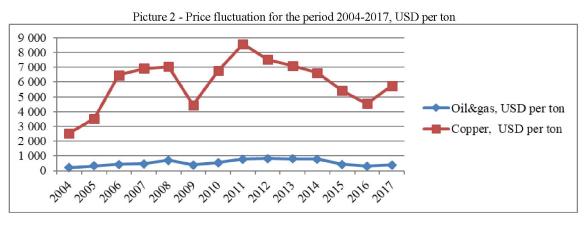
Minerals	Kazakhstan	Australia	Canada
chrome	1		
uranium	2	1	4
silver	5	2	9
zinc	7	2	4
coal	8	5	15
crudeoil	12	36	3
copper	13	2	11

The tables above show the amount of the nation's production and the mineral resource base of the national economy. One of local scholar mentions an estimation of the gross value of the mineral resource baseof the country being to be equal to 3 trillion USD [17], the value might be less or more due to disputes in estimation. This work is focused on the results of the resources' use comparing some indicators given by the overall review and analysis of the country's macroeconomic time series data. Calculation of the wealth of the nation is attempted based on the data from publicly available sources with comments on possible discrepancies due to terms used and/or data sources. The work includes comparison of "the wealth per adult" with the GDP per capita what may indicate the trend of transformation of resources into wealth. Few performance indicators – gross capital formation, GDP per capita and "the wealth per adult" – are considered for all three nations mentioned above.

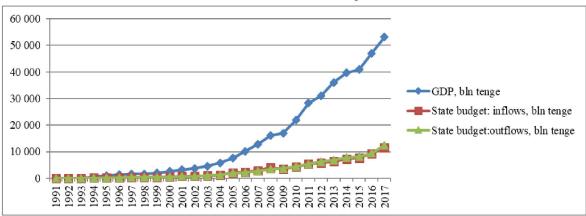
Export of goods and servicescomposedaround of 40% of the country's GDP during the first decade of 2000th but the trend is declining being around of 30% the last 5-6 years, mostly because of the significant price fluctuations of minerals.

Picture 1 - GDPandexport, mln USD

The country earns about 70% of the total export from trade of two minerals – crude oil (including gas condensate)and copper – 66-67% and 4%, respectively, during the period considered. Annual volume of oil fluctuated between 57 mln and 69 mln ton in the period 2004-2017 while copper exported annually in the range 259-408 thousand ton. Fluctuation of prices of these minerals is presented in the picture below.



The government maintained the 20% of GDP level for public expenditure more than 50% of which is expensed for education (7-8%), health care (9-10%), transport (6-7%), police and related services(7-9%), social security (21-22%).



Picture 3 - GDP and the budget

But the support of public expenditure is significantly (more than 30%) relied to the transfer from the National Fund (Sovereign Wealth Fund) of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the matter is one of questions from the public onperformance result of the government spending.

Per the official statistical data about 20% of GDP is invested into the "main capital" (the term used in the official statistics of the country and refers to only the fixed assets) what is a type of non-financial assets ("produced assets" per the SNA classification).

			200	<u> </u>				4		
l		1991	1992	1993	1994		2015	2016	2017	1991-2017
	mlntenge	47	601	7 266	113 224		7 024 709	7 762 303	8 770 572	75 783 423
ſ	mln USD	-	_	1 381	3 177	40000	31 681	22,686	26 904	447 117

Table 4 - Investments into "main capital"

"Gross capital formation", per the World Bank data, (formerly "gross domestic investment") "consists of outlays on additions to the fixed assets of the economy plus net changes in the level of inventories". Thus there is a difference between "main capital" and "gross capital formation": in calculation of the wealth the latter should be used whatapproximates to 600 bln USD. Fixed assets include land improvements (fences, ditches, drains, and so on); plant, machinery, and equipment purchases; and the construction of roads, railways, and the like, including schools, offices, hospitals, private residential dwellings, and commercial and industrial buildings. Inventories are stocks of goods held by firms to meet temporary or unexpected fluctuations in production or sales, and "work in progress." According to the 1993 SNA, net acquisitions of valuables are also considered capital formation.

The current value of the "produced assets" could be calculated as follows:

The produced assets as of today

- = opening, (i.e.1991 year in this case) balance of the produced assets
- + additions (investments: purchase, construction, improvement, i.e. capital expenditures)
- disposals (amortization&depreciation, impairment, write-off due to damage, etc.).

If to assume that 1) the opening balance is insignificant, 2) long-term assets are depreciated at 4% annually in average and 3) the data above is reliable and complete then the estimated value of produced assets is slightly more than 500 bln USD.

As the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan states, as of the end of 2017the external debt was equal to 167 485mln USD and the financial assets, what is assumed tocomprise the National (Resources) Fund and other reserves gives the number equal to 127 707 mln USD [18].

The further analysis is impossible due to lack of the data in order to estimate the national wealth, for example on "intangibles" or "households' non-financial assets". If to assume their balance insignificant, putting the numbers above into the formula of the national wealth gives about 3,5trillion USD. The most

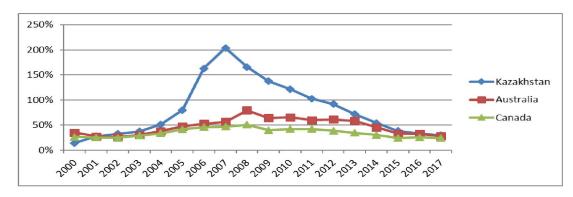
reliable estimation of the national wealth and conclusion on if the result is good or not or what factors may strengthen the nation's sustainable growth may be made based on additional detailed analysis of all components of the national wealth.

Some of indicators discussed below are the result of analysis of the additional data gathered from various sources depending on availability of time series data used and may differ from the results of other studies: for example, the external debt of countries.

externaldebt/GDP, %	Kazakhstan	Australia	Canada
Year 2015 estimation	83%		
Year 2016 estimation	119%	127%	91%
Year 2017 estimation	105%	134%	89%

Table 5 - External debt to GDP (external debt/GDP), %

High level of external debt might be explained by a trend of share of investments in GDP calculated as gross capital formation to GDP.



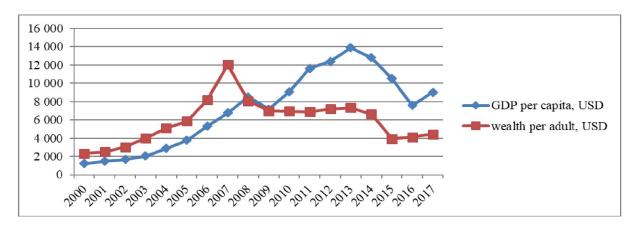
Picture 4 - Gross capital formation/USD, %

Kazakhstan is defined as a country with "upper middle income" with GNI per capita in a range \$4,036-\$12,475according to World Bank estimates [19]. Different indicators may be calculated and analyzed in order to estimate an increase in quality of life style and a sustainable development. Within the article subject "the wealth per adult", defined as the marketable value of financial assets + nonfinancial assets - debt where "nonfinancial assets" principally comprise housing and land, was learnt [20]. Per theCredit Suisse Global Wealth databook 2017,debt of the adult («individuals aged 20 or above») of the country is increasing and exceed 20% of the total - financial and nonfinancial - assets during last 5-6 years.

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 USD 12036wealthperadult 2667 4 669 2336 784 2 501 2 771 2771 financial 9 003 6316 6 450 6 461 non-financial 1 636 891 963 910 363 920 Debt

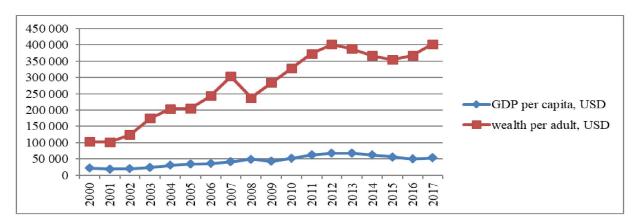
Table 4 - Wealthperadult, 2004-2017

The data given above shows a decrease of the wealth per adult for the last years. Credit Suisse Global Wealth databookstates on limitations in accurate picture provision and dependence of the indicator on the data used in estimation referring, for example, "poorness" of "wealth data quality" in Kazakhstan. Comparison of "GDP per capita" and "wealth per adult" is shown in the following picture.



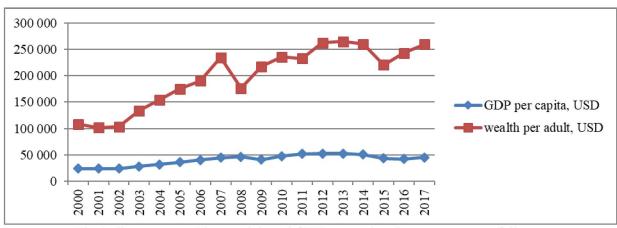
Picture 5 - Kazakhstan: GDP per capitaand "wealth per adult"

Wealth per adult and GDP per capita of the two other nations mentioned above are given below.

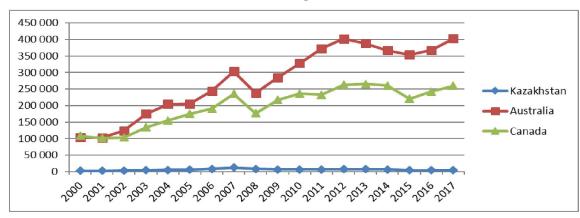


Picture 6 - Australia: GDP per capita and "wealth per adult", USD



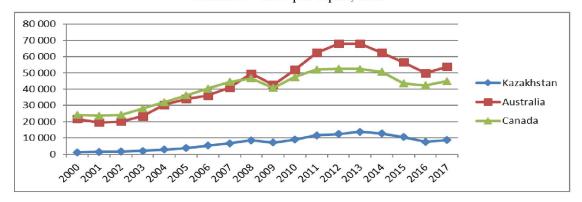


The indicators - wealth per adult and GDP per capita -by country are asfollows.



Picture 8 - Wealth per adult, USD

Picture 9 - GDP per capita, USD



"Transformation" of the national resources to the national wealth may be measured as a sum of "produced capital", "natural capital", "human capital" and "net foreign assets". This way of estimation requires a through study and analysis of additional areas, such as human resources, what deserve a separate discussion.

The World Bank Group measured for the first time human capital wealth in the work "The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018" what accounts 64% of total wealth and expects the rising trend of the share of human capitalin total wealth as "a skilled labor force appears to be the key to future development in an increasingly globalized economy". The work concludes on significant growth of global wealth between 1995 and 2014: 66% or from 690 trillion to 1,143 trillion USD while per capita wealth did not. The authors draw attention to renewable resources – agricultural land and forests – what can produce benefits in perpetuity if managed sustainably and note challenges for carbon-rich nations what arise from the future uncertainty of the carbon wealth – oil, gas, and coal.

World Bank calculations of global wealth by type of assets is presented below.

	1995	1995		
	billion USD	%	billion USD	%
Producedcapital	164 781	24%	303 548	27%
Naturalcapital	52 458	8%	107 428	9%
Forestsandprotectedareas	14 515	2%	18 290	2%
Agriculturalland	25 859	4%	39 890	3%
Energyresources	11 087	2%	39 094	3%
Metalsandminerals	997	0%	10 154	1%
Humancapital	475 594	69%	736 854	64%
Netforeignassets	-2 890	<1%	-4 581	<1%
Totalwealth	689 943	100%	1 143 249	100%

Table 5 - Global Wealth (in constant 2014 USD at market exchange rates), by type of asset, 1995 and 2014

The authors believe that the SNA measure of wealth is much narrower than what is presented in their report mainly due to human capital. In the meantime, the World Bank Group warns on sensible caution, what the wealth interpretation must be madewith, due to limitations in natural capital presentation, undervaluation of important ecosystem services, great uncertainties with regard to changes in natural systems, etc. Despite of a great progress made in estimating wealth much work remains to be done and the methodology can be improved in future for assessing economic performance and sustainability.

12th edition (2018) of The Wealth Report points on Professor Niall Ferguson's (Senior Fellow of Hoover Institution at Stanford University, "who accurately predicted the 2008 global financial crisis") concern on unsustainable level of government debt, among others, in his exclusive interview: "it is very, very hard to get out from under the nasty, fiscal arithmetic debt...This is extraordinarily difficult question in political economy, because it's about generational imbalances...The real issue now is, who pays? Is it going to be granded, dad or the kid? The solution is clearly to try to strike a balance between the interests of generations, but that must involve some elements of increased taxation, and some elements of wealth reform. These are two difficult things." [21]

International Debt Statictics 2018 of the World Bank Group, "designed to respond to user demand for timely, comprehensive data on trends in external debt in low- and middle-income countries" states on 4.1% rise in 2016 of the total external debt outstanding and the composition of external long-term debt stock with public and publicly guaranteed debt accounting for 51% and private non-guaranteed debt 49%, a consistent pattern over the past five years. [22]

Thrifty and smart approach to use and development of resources is crucial in any society today. Methods and indicators used globally or in other countries may also have aspects that are not consistent with the country's development policy, economic structure, or developmental stages of different economic sectors. The study allows to make the following conclusions and recommendations what are relevant and consistent with the nation's strategy set with regard to natural resources and human capital.

- 1.All-round research to discuss the methods of national wealth assessment and the results will be justified to determine the comprehensive indicators of economic, social and environmental issues for the purpose of improving the living standards of the modern society and the next generation. Economic development analysis would not be exhaustive without adequate estimation of the national wealth.
- 2. National resources, as resources being a property and/or right of a nation and as a base of a national wealth, are recommended to be accounted and monitored in the official reports of the government in compliance with transparency and accountability principles of public administration. The data and the sources, the reporting system and the privacy principles could be widely discussed and applied to ensure thrifty consumption, rational use and effective management of twokey resources highlighted in the article in purpose of overall sustainabledevelopment.
- 3.As a significant part of the national wealth base, human resources should be investigated not only from economic performance, labour cost and labour productivity, but from the long-term perspective in alignment with social, cultural and other aspects of the nation's development.
- 4. "Wealth per adult" analysis may indicate to income inequality issue as well as the monetary policy what reflect the national currency fluctuation, consequently, influencing the wealth of citizens. Regular analysis of those influences separating external factors' risks and the measures taken to mitigate those risks are necessary in order to perform a course of reforms and/or policy.
- 5. Trend in external debt and in investments can be further investigated for understanding of the effect of additional borrowing to the nation's economy. One more note with regard to the external debtconcerns the measure what is often used by the representatives of business and government. The measure compares this indicator with the GDP: the measure may not be indicative due to the character and nature of the factors applied in calculation, for example, «external debt» is «the balance sheet» item being the result of borrowing during the several previous years, while the annual GDP is the change in particular year and is "income" per nature.

The terms used in economics, accounting and other related sciences are suggested to be reviewed and standardized for a purpose of their harmonization. In addition to discussed above, the term "investment" is widely used but may mean "asset" being a balance sheet item or "cash inflow or outflow" being a cash flow statement item. The quality and terms of investment is another aspect of future analysis what could be carried out in the context of programs/projects financing, economic growth and impact evaluation.

Investments are vital within a sustainable development strategy but the performance depends on investment management. The result of investment management should be communicated as a part of public administration in order to strengthen a trustof a society to the government policy and motivate businesses and households to invest more. Decision on investment should be based on the national wealth estimation focusing separately on current and long-term needs of the society development with a thorough investigation of key factors what requires an extensive reliable database. Estimation of the national wealth may facilitate to eliminate irregularities in both terms and approaches being an exercise to monitor interrelation of assets, income and cash flows.

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ҰЛТТЫҚ РЕСУРСТАР ЖӘНЕ ҰЛТ БАЙЛЫҒЫ

Аннотация. Ұлт байлығы соңғы жылдары жиі сөз болады, дегенмен бағалануы баяу болып жүрген мәселелердің бірі. Байлық ресурссыз мүмкін емес: ұлт байлығы сол елдің ресурстары әрекетінің жемісі.

Ресурстар туралы зерттеулер көбіне табиғи ресурстарды талдап, адамзаттың экосистемамен байланысына көңіл бөліну тұрғысынан қарастырумен шектеледі. Еңбек ресурстары жұмыссыздық деңгейін есептеу үшін қолданылуымен қатар, соңғы жылдары белең алған теңсіздік мәселесі тұрғысында еске алынады. «Қаржылық ресурстар», «ақпараттық ресурстар», т.б. тіркестер окулықтарда, басылымдарда кездесіп қалады. Осы мақала арқылы авторлар «ұлттық ресурстар» туралы ойын оларды анықтаумен түйіндейді және кең қолданылып жүрген «капитал», «актив» деген ұғымдардан айырмашылығын атап өтеді. Соңғысы ресурстарға қатысты әрекеттердің нәтижесін «ақшалай» межелеу болғандықтан байлықты өлшеуде қолданылады. Авторлар Қазақстан Республикасының ұлт байлығын мөлшерлеуде бірінші қадам жасап, оның әдістеріне және әр әдістің ерекшеліктеріне тоқталады. Әдістерді қолдану мен ұлт байлығын есептеудегі мәселелерді қозғайды. Экономикалық көрсеткіштер басқа жер байлығы жағынан ұқсас елдермен салыстылыра беріледі.

Түйін сөздер:ұлттық ресурстар, табиғи ресурстар, еңбек ресурстары, ұлттық байлық, капитал, активтер, инвестиция

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НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ РЕСУРСЫ И БОГАТСТВО НАЦИИ

Аннотация. Национальное богатство является одной из часто обсуждаемыхтемв последние годы, но его оценка вызывает много вопросов. Богатство невозможно без ресурсов: богатство нации является результатом действий, совершенных с национальными ресурсами. Исследования ресурсов в основном касаются использования природных ресурсов, что часто рассматривается из-за проблем человеческой зависимости от экосистемы. Человеческие ресурсы, используемые для определения уровня безработицы, часто упоминаются в настоящее время в рамках обсуждения проблемы неравенства. Термины «финансовые ресурсы», «информационные ресурсы» и другиемогут встречаться в публикациях, официальных документах, учебниках и т. д. В статье делается попытка обосновать определение национальных ресурсов, уточнить использованием ресурсов и помогает оценить богатство. В статье отражены вопросы оценки национального богатства Республики Казахстан, в которой используется существующее определение в соответствии с Системой национальных счетов с кратким анализом показателей национальной экономики страны. Работа включает сравнение некоторых экономическихпоказателей Республики Казахстан с аналогичными показателями других стран.

Ключевые слова: национальные ресурсы, природные ресурсы, человеческие ресурсы, национальное богатство, капитал, активы, инвестиции.

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