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OCHRONA PRZYRODY – MIĘDZY UTOPIĄ A PRAGMATYZMEM

Nature conservation – between utopia and pragmatism

Abstract

Continued for over a century, the shaping of modern nature conservation as a science and a form of social activity is manifested in a great many new concepts and means to achieve thereof. Notwithstanding these processes, two main interpenetrating currents may be observed since the very beginning: the utopian one, based on deep ecology and focused on biocentrism, and the pragmatic one, closer to anthropocentrism and standing as a basis for classic theories of sustainable development. The so far practice seems to indicate that the utopian trends in nature conservation are characterized by inefficiency which very often raises from a failure to recognize the biological specificity of human nature as well as the social, economic and free market determinants. The pragmatic approach can more often warrant effectiveness, however it may be merely ostensible, resulting from a recognition of the primacy of socio-economic realities over natural ones. Greatly far-fetched, such compromises often verge on conformism. A real effectiveness of contemporary nature conservation seems to require a sustainable development of both trends – the radical-utopian one, capable of long-range visions and pointing out to the goals to be reached, and the pragmatic one, most effective in accomplishing the strategic, short-term objectives.

KEY WORDS: nature conservation philosophy, environmental ethics, deep ecology, ecotopia, pragmatism

Wstęp

Jesteśmy destrukcyjną częścią przyrody. Może nadejdzie taki dzień, gdy człowiek stanie się głęboko zaangażowanym obrońcą Ziemi. Może jednak potrzeba na to kolejnych milionów lat...

Arne Naess

Mówi się, że marzeniem każdego geografa jest stworzyć mapę świata w skali 1 : 1. A o czym marzą zajmujący się ochroną przyrody? Wśród najważniejszych celów ochrony przyrody (Pullin 2004, Symonides 2007, Pawlaczyk, Jermaczek 2009) wymienić moż-