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Introduction to the Special Issue

Wstęp do numeru specjalnego

Natural resources of the biosphere, as public goods serving the needs of the general public, are limited in terms of their quantity and availability. Both these factors determine the conditions for obtaining, marketing and using them, which may result in social inequality, exploitation of people and excessive resource use and overexploitation, destruction of the environment and climate crisis. The reports submitted by global, governmental and non-governmental organizations reveal gross disparities in access to natural resources, their exploitation and resulting gains earned. The growing public concern and dissatisfaction are expressed by mass social protests, especially among young people, taking place on all continents.

The high-tech boom, which has been going on for many years in developed countries, increases the strive towards exploration, the need to hire a cheap labour force and reduce mining costs. Particular threats are related to the resources of agricultural land and water, which are a guarantee for meeting human subsistence needs and for maintaining social order. Contemporary risks of an industrial nature are being extended by new ones, including particularly dangerous natural resources grabbing, based on various capital flows. These new risks require the implementation of previously unknown legal protection instruments.

The protection of access to natural resources forms also the basis for the effective implementation of the principle of sustainable development and for the guarantee of human well-being understood as a sustainable, multi-generational provision of optimal living conditions for people and harmonious economic and social development while respecting the conditions for the renewable character of environmental resources. The emerging climate crisis requires the identification of its sources and the development of coherent legal protection regulations, initiated and drafted in international, European, regional, and local organizations.

These circumstances were an inspiration to organize an international scientific conference entitled "Biosphere Resources Use Value Protection", and selected speeches delivered during the conference were compiled as scientific papers to

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make up this special issue of "Studia Iuridica Lublinensia". The aim is to present the main issues related to the use of natural resources, as well as to point out new problems and risks associated with their use, including in particular their agricultural use. The choice was made to enable the capture and presentation of the multifaceted use of biosphere resources.

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