

On the issue of perception - Assessment of geosystems

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Professor N. L. Beruchashvili left behind many useful ideas. One of these ideas is the perception of the landscape, the “fifth” dimension of the landscape.

Perception (from Latin perceptio, literally meaning representation, perception) is a cognitive process during which reality (given reality), a direct sensation (perception) of an object or its individual properties, is reflected in the psyche. In this case, the landscape is understood as an external manifestation of the geosystem, a set of physiognomic components of natural-territorial, natural-agrarian, residential and other territorial complexes. These components are: relief, vegetation, inland waters and the results of human activity (cities, industrial facilities, etc.).

In geography, perception means the perception of a natural-territorial complex (NTC) by a person or group of people, where the same natural objects can be perceived differently, depending on the personality and profession of the observer. Thus, the main necessary components of landscape perception also include the nature (character) of landscape perception and landscape assessment within the framework of a specific given culture, which is determined by ethnic and geographical affiliation, as well as by the historical era.

Each type of perception has its own methods of understanding and evaluating the existing world. The closest to them are the methods of landscape aesthetics. Landscape aesthetics is a special branch of landscape science that studies the beauty and picturesqueness of natural and natural-anthropogenic landscapes, as well as the features of their aesthetic perception and assessment.

Landscape perception has a significant impact on the main landscape-ecological and aesthetic indicators, the recreational assessment of the territory and the identification of unique landscapes. When assessing the aesthetic value of the landscape, all landscapes are divided into three groups: high (8-10 points); medium (4-7 points); low (less than 3 points).