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ON UNDERSTANDING AND DETERMINATION OF THE CONCEPT “ANIMAL WORLD”

In the Law of Ukraine “On the Animal World” the general list of objects of animal world is established (which is detailed in other normative-legal acts), as well as the list of objects subjected to protection, along with the objects of wildlife and their signs, namely: their belonging to wild fauna; stay of wild animals in natural freedom (natural environment which is the wild nature), their hold in semi-free conditions or in captivity; permanent or temporary residence on the territory of Ukraine or belonging to the natural resources of its continental shelf and exclusive (marine) economic zone.

However, in scientific works there are two different points of view on understanding the content of the term “animal world”.

Today in legal scientific and educational literature dominates the position, the gist of which in general is identification of objects of the animal world and the concept of “wild animal” in the first place. In most works devoted to different problems of legal regulation of the animal world the attention is focused on the signs attributing animals to wildlife: biological, environmental, territorial.

According to the second approach, the concept of “animal world” includes all animals, not just wild animals.

In our opinion, the concept of “animal world” should be given somewhat different meaning than the totality of all species of animals, both wild, domestic, livestock etc.

For generalized definition of the latter there is the concept of “animal” in Ukrainian legislation.

In our opinion, the use of a systematic approach for understanding the concept of “animal world” allows to reveal the last as a whole system, including all living organisms of all kinds of wild animals (the elements of the system), in which each element of the system is in complex causal relationships with others. This understanding of the concept of “animal world” is based on the following aspects:

– integrity – sufficiency of the animal world towards the human world, due to the ability of self-regulation (recreation of basic properties after natural or anthropogenic changes) determined by the totality of complex and diverse causal relationships of each element of the system with all the other;

– hierarchy – presence of levels of structural and functional organization (organism, population species), while animal world as the element of the system of higher rank – ecosystems, at the same time, consists of elements (living organisms of all kinds of wild animals) – subordinated to it systems of the lower rank;

– interdependence of the system and environment – indissoluble unity of the animal world with the environment, in the process of interaction with which the animal world functions, forms its properties and manifests its integrity.