
**Socio-economic sustainability of rural areas of the Far East
with a special regime of environmental management
(on the example of Republic of Buryatia)****Sembrika N. Ivanova**

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Abstract. *The article provides an assessment of socio-economic sustainability of rural areas of the Republic of Buryatia using the developed and tested methodology. It is noted that indicators of infrastructure provision, transport accessibility of rural areas, the level and quality of life of the population living in them are significantly inferior to urban ones, which leads to inter-territorial inequality and increased outflow of the rural population. It was revealed that in the structure of rural settlements of the Republic of Buryatia, sparsely populated ones predominate (26.2% with a population of less than 100 people; 16.6% – 101–200 people and 24.9% – 201–500 people), with In this case, more than a third of the rural population lives in settlements with a population of more than 5,000 people. The difficulties of developing rural areas are due to the fact that they are subject to social, economic, demographic, environmental and other challenges. Rural territories were differentiated according to the integral index of social and economic sustainability of rural territories. Groups of rural areas with high, medium and low levels of socio-economic sustainability have been identified. The socio-economic development of rural areas within the boundaries of which the Central Ecological Zone of the Baikal Natural Territory lies is constrained by the legal framework in which significant restrictions in economic activity prevail. The study used comparative analysis and economic-statistical methods. The information base was data from the Federal State Statistics Service. In territories with a special regime of environmental management, the goals of preserving the unique natural environment must be accompanied by the creation of conditions for improving the quality of life of the population. The main conclusions and recommendations can be used by authorities when improving the system for comprehensive assessment of socio-economic sustainability and when developing programs for the socio-economic development of rural areas.*

Keywords: *rural areas, socio-economic sustainability; accessibility of social services, special regime for environmental management, quality of life of the population*

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