The purpose of the article is to study the problems related to the protection of national interests and determine their role in ensuring the national security of Ukraine.

The article states that national interests are understood by strategically important goals set by each state and the means by which it hopes to achieve them. Ukrainian national interests are the vital material, intellectual and spiritual values of the Ukrainian people as the bearers of sovereignty and the only source of power in Ukraine, the defining needs of society and the state, the realization of which guarantees the state sovereignty of Ukraine and its progressive development.

It was clarified that the value content of the essence of national interests is based on five kinds of "good": the good of individual citizens; the good of society as a whole; the good of the state; the good of socially interested groups in the state; the good of the government and its members.

It is stated that in understanding of the essence of the country’s national interests, the geopolitical and geostrategic idea of its place and role in the world are important. In this context, it is noted that the concept of “national interests” has a number of aspects: geopolitical, internal political and ideological.

The threats and challenges to the national interests that Ukraine has faced at the present stage of development are highlighted. It was noted that the priority strategic tasks of the state policy of national security are the restoration of the territorial integrity of the country and the set of democratic institutions throughout its territory, the consolidation of the Ukrainian political nation, the formation of a secular national identity, the unity of all citizens of Ukraine and all regions of Ukraine, the reintegration of temporarily occupied territories after their liberation. It is established that an essential characteristic of national interests is their awareness.

The basis of the Strategy for Sustainable Development, which will contribute to the development of national security, is set out. The need for implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development in Ukraine is conditioned by internal and external factors.

Consequently, national interests, despite the development of globalization processes, the strengthening of interdependence of countries as a result of the aggravation of global problems, the growth of the role of integration associations and their influence on the domestic policy of the states, continue to play a decisive role in shaping the state policy, determining the strategy of their activities. Therefore, the protection of national interests is a dominant basis for ensuring national security of the country, which in turn requires the need for in-depth analysis and taking into account the geopolitical factor and the definition of the state’s geostrategy on this basis.