

IMPROVEMENT OF UZBEKISTAN'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Ochilova Shoirayevna

Associate Professor, Samarkand State Pedagogical Institute

Abstract: *This article analyzes the environmental policy of Uzbekistan during the years of independence, state programs, national strategies and international initiatives adopted to address environmental problems. In particular, the measures taken to protect the environment, preserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change, manage water and land resources, recycle waste, and transition to a "green economy" are highlighted. It also analyzes multilateral cooperation programs, work with the UN and regional organizations to mitigate the environmental crisis in the Aral Sea region.*

Keywords: *Environmental policy of Uzbekistan; sustainable development; environmental protection; Aral Sea crisis; climate change; biodiversity; waste management; green economy; environmental legislation; transboundary water resources; ecological culture; international cooperation.*

Introduction.

During the years of independence, Uzbekistan adopted important documents aimed at eliminating environmental problems and ensuring sustainable development. The National Action Plan for Environmental Protection for 1999–2005 and 2008–2012 was developed and successfully implemented. The first and second national reports on climate change were prepared. The National Ozone Office was established and practical work was carried out to prevent ozone layer depletion. The National Strategy and Action Plan for Municipal Waste Management were developed, and on April 21, 2017, measures were determined to radically improve this area based on the Resolution No. PQ–2916 “On measures to radically improve and develop the system for implementing work related to municipal waste in 2017–2021”[1].

A National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation has been developed, within the framework of which the area of protected natural areas has been expanded by 70 thousand hectares. The “Lower Amudarya Biosphere Reserve”[2] has been established on the banks of the Amu Darya River. A strategy for the development of alternative energy has been adopted. Also, by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On approval of the Regulation on the procedure for the preparation and implementation of investment projects within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol”[3], the National Body of the Clean Development Mechanism has been established within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol, and 17 international projects aimed at low-carbon development are being implemented. Systematic work is being carried out on the basis of the National Action Plan for Chemicals Management.

In order to develop ecological awareness and culture, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution “On approval of the Concept for the

Development of Ecological Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan"[4] aimed at developing ecological education, training and retraining of personnel. To eliminate shortcomings in the irrigation system, the Fund for the Improvement of Irrigated Land Reclamation was established, and large-scale projects were implemented to repair and restore drainage systems.

Since 1993, Uzbekistan has actively participated in the creation of regional structures such as the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Intergovernmental Commission for Sustainable Development. At the initiative of Uzbekistan, the "Program for Mitigating the Consequences of the Drying of the Aral Sea" was submitted to the UN General Assembly. Since 2008, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea has had UN observer status.

In order to strengthen environmental cooperation between the countries of Central Asia, the "Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia" was adopted, and a subregional Sustainable Development Strategy was developed.

Analysis of relevant literature.

In 2017, the "Multi-Partnership Fund for Ensuring Human Security in the Aral Sea Region"[5] was established in collaboration with the UN. At the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the issues of rational use of transboundary water resources, combating desertification, and restoring the Aral Sea ecosystem are being raised at the international level. In addition to the above, the 2020 Presidential Decree "On Approval of the Concept of Water Management Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030"[6] also demonstrates the attention paid to this area at the state level.

In order to restore ecological balance, a wide range of measures have been established to improve the economic and legal mechanisms for managing land and water resources, preserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change, and ensure food security. Also, the need to adopt new laws such as the "Land Code"[7], "On Soil Protection and Increasing its Fertility"[8], and "On Pastures"[9] remains urgent.

Analysis and results.

Given the complexity of water supply in Central Asia, it certainly requires targeted management of transboundary waters. Economic methods of stimulating the sustainable use of natural resources in Uzbekistan can be divided into 4 groups:

- payments for environmental pollution;
- taxes;
- privileges;
- licenses.

Currently, this activity is carried out by the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection, 40% of the funds received go to nature protection funds, and 60% to the budget. One of the economic incentives introduced in Uzbekistan is the "reduction coefficient", which allows organizations and enterprises that have reduced their emissions by several times to reduce fines by 5-10 times. If the amount of waste, wastewater

and toxic gases discharged exceeds the established norm, the fine will be increased up to 10 times.

The work carried out in Uzbekistan on environmental protection, qualitative changes in the economy, society and politics require a transition to the next stage, aimed at achieving sustainable development goals. One of such effective mechanisms is the transition to a “green” economy. According to experts, the economy of Uzbekistan has sufficient potential to develop the main sectors of the economy. It is from this point of view that, according to the UNEP definition, a “green” economy will ensure human well-being and health in the future, achieve social justice, while preventing environmental risks and conserving natural resources. Uzbekistan's strategy for transition to a "green" economy should be implemented in the following main areas today:

On approval of the rules for calculating the amount of fines for damage to the flora of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In the field of renewable energy:

Introduction of photovoltaic devices for the full electrification of remote districts and villages by 2030;

In the energy sector, construction of large photovoltaic plants; installation of solar panels in the heat supply system. In the field of housing and communal services:

Modernization of the heating node (external thermal insulation and thermostats, modification of the pipeline system);

Introduction of passive solar heating systems;

Widespread use of renewable energy sources in lighting and heating of buildings.

In the transport sector:

- Increasing the energy efficiency of fuel consumed by vehicles;
- expanding the use of alternative “green” fuels (mainly liquefied gas and synthetic fuels from plastics).

In the field of waste management:

- improvement of existing landfills and construction of waste processing plants;
- The strategy for developing the waste management system in Uzbekistan is aimed at the full recycling of existing solid waste generated in the republic;

In the field of land and water resources management:

- increasing the efficiency of water resources use and preventing subsequent salinization and deterioration of land quality through the use of water-saving technologies, modernization of the water management system, increasing the efficiency of canals, and constructing anti-filtration coatings on canals;

- implementing the principles of “clean” agriculture, reducing the use of mineral fertilizers and pesticides in the agricultural sector;

- improving the drinking water supply system and developing an environmentally friendly sewage system.

The country's report at the Rio+20 meeting, based on the decisions of the Conference Based on the implementation of 30 sustainable development goals in Uzbekistan, a Program and Strategy for sustainable development have been developed in the republic:

Based on the decisions of the conference, the following activities should be carried out, based on the goals of sustainable development of the republic:

Develop a long-term Strategy and Program for sustainable development of Uzbekistan based on the existing Concept of sustainable development;

Develop programs for the "ecology" of economic sectors, the subsequent modernization of the economy;

Develop and improve the National Monitoring System in the field of environmental protection and climate, modernize the National Observation Network in order to improve the quality of information and make appropriate decisions;

Strengthen regional cooperation on the effective management of transboundary water resources and the development of activating measures at the regional and international levels to prevent transboundary pollution of natural resources, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

At the same time, in order to achieve sustainability in the use of natural resources and sustainability in the preservation of the ecosystem:

1. Implement appropriate processes to maintain ecosystem stability in the ecological use of natural resources. For these purposes, ensure the conduct of scientific research aimed at ensuring environmental safety and sustainable use of natural resources, develop new generation technologies and implement them.

2. Coordinate the activities of relevant ministries and organizations in all regions of the republic to reduce the level of environmental pollution, utilize natural resources and waste.

3. Strengthen social support for the population of the Aral Sea and other regions affected by the ecological crisis and implement a set of measures to protect and improve the health of the population. Develop an action program for the restoration and stabilization of nature at the local and regional levels, especially in order to prevent degradation of the natural environment of the Aral Sea.

4. Provide the population of the republic with full-quality drinking water with new quality standards.

5. Creating a waste-free society, using technologies for obtaining alternative energy sources, developing new technologies in this area, introducing the use of environmentally friendly fuels for transport (replacing gasoline with gas, electrifying railways, etc.).

6. Creating a system of ecological marketing and state incentives for manufacturers, greening production.

7. Creating experimental ecological zones of sustainable development to ensure environmental safety in areas affected by ecological crisis, monitoring the real ecological situation.

8. Creating a unified state system of ecological monitoring based on existing monitoring, surveillance and control services and establishing a forecast of the state of the environment within its framework;

9. Creating a system for rapid response to natural and man-made disasters, equipping emergency and rescue services with modern material and technical means;

10. Creating a Central Asian and European-Asian ecological security system, primarily eliminating global and regional ecological risks. To this end, the creation of a single

information and analytical network aimed at directing the environmental security and national action plans of the CIS and Central Asian countries specifically to eliminating environmental problems, identifying transboundary environmental problems, assessing their risks and taking measures to eliminate them;

11. Establishing cooperation with the world community in eliminating environmental problems. First of all, solving problems in the Aral Sea regions, saving water resources, reaching a consensus on their use, preventing desertification of landscapes, climate change, preserving biodiversity.

The peoples of the CIS countries have a common history, culture, religion, resources, and territory. Given the transboundary nature of environmental problems, the need for the heads of government of the CIS countries to jointly solve these problems requires strengthening cooperation. Therefore, the solution of these problems requires, in addition to combining the material, technical, technological, and intellectual capabilities of all states, the development of the role of the human factor in this process. It is worth noting that the effectiveness of the work currently being carried out on environmental policy largely depends on the development of environmental awareness and culture of citizens. Therefore, the priority of environmental awareness and environmental culture in the system of criteria for the development of human socio-economic, spiritual and cultural life must have the status of a law. Only then, on the basis of environmental awareness and culture, people will try to find solutions to problems related to the protection of the natural environment, to study them and to solve them.

Conclusion.

Today, the formation of high environmental awareness and culture among citizens remains one of the important tasks of our state. In this regard, it is necessary to develop specific programs and recommendations, and to further strengthen propaganda and propaganda among the population. Preserving our mother nature, rationally using its benefits, and creating a healthy ecological environment in society is the sacred duty of not only nature protection agencies, but also of every person living on this earth. It should also be noted that today, environmental problems should be viewed as a threat to all of humanity. In order to eliminate this threat, it is primarily important to change the attitude of man to nature, to ensure that environmental security issues occupy an important place in the internal and foreign policy of the state, and to develop international cooperation in ensuring ecological stability.

REFERENCES

1. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining Qarori, 21.04.2017 yildagi PQ-2916-son [<https://lex.uz/docs/-3174890>]
2. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi ekologiya va iqlim o‘zgarishi milliy qo‘mitasi. [<https://gov.uz/oz/eco/news/view/22753>]
3. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Vazirlar Mahkamasining qarori, 10.01.2007 yildagi 9-son [<https://lex.uz/docs/-1105426>]

4. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Vazirlar Mahkamasining qarori, 27.05.2019 yildagi 434-son [https://lex.uz/ru/docs/-4354743]

5. BMTning 2019-yilgi hisoboti. [https://www.undp.org/uz/uzbekistan/publications/orolboyi-mintaqasi-uchun-kopsheriklik-trast-fondi]

6. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining Farmoni, 10.07.2020 yildagi PF-6024-son [https://lex.uz/ru/docs/-4892953]

7. O‘zbekiston Respublikasining Kodeksi. –T.: 2021-yilgi tahrir. [https://lex.uz/acts/-152653]

8. O‘zbekiston Respublikasining Qonuni, 02.02.2024 yildagi O‘RQ-903-son [https://lex.uz/docs/-6787881]

9. O‘zbekiston Respublikasining Qonuni, 20.05.2019 yildagi O‘RQ-538-son [https://lex.uz/uz/docs/-4344714]

10. O‘G‘LI, XOLIQULOV MUHAMMAD QAXOR. "GEO-IDEOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND LAWS OF THEIR ORIGIN." *International Journal of Philosophical Studies and Social Sciences* 4 (2024): 22-27.

11. Xoliqulov, Muhammad Qaxor O‘G‘Li. "MA‘NAVIYAT TUSHUNCHASINING MOHIYATI, UNING JAMIYAT STRUKTURASIDAGI O‘RNI VA ROLI." *Oriental renaissance: Innovative, educational, natural and social sciences* 4.26 (2024): 384-388.

12. Kholikulov, Mukhammad. "Scientific-Theoretical and Philosophical Origin of the Doctrine of Unity in Sufism." (2023).

13. Xoliqulov, MQ va X.N.Jumanov. "GLOBALIZATSIYA JARAYONINING SAN‘AT VA BADIY ADABIYOT VOSITASIDA MILLIY QADRIYATLARGA TRANSFORMATIV TA‘SIRI." *Luchshie intellektualnye issledovaniya* 40.1 (2025): 203-210.

14. Azlarova, Ozodaxon Xasanxonovna. "DAVLATNING KELIB CHIQISHI NAZARIYASI (SIVILIZATSION YONDASHUVLAR MISLIDA)." *Analysis of world scientific views International Scientific Journal* 3.1 (2025): 141-149.

15. Muhammad, Xoliqulov, and Obruyeva Dilbar. "TALABA YOSHLAR ONGIDA HUQUQIY ONG VA HUQUQIY MADANIYATNI SHAKLLANTIRISHNING KONSEPTUAL ASPEKTINI RIVOJLANTIRISH TENDENSIYALARI." *STUDYING THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE AND ITS SHORTCOMINGS* 1.7 (2025): 27-32.