

# LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MECHANISMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN

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## Abstract

In this article, the elimination of current global ecological problems, the need for the state to provide legal and practical support of environmental activity of citizens, as well as the formation of ecological consciousness, cultural understanding through close acquaintance of the population with ecology and environmental documents, the development of people's ecological outlook, as well as the use of effective methods of education in the field of ecology is maintained.

**Keywords:** Environmental safety, mechanism, declaration, convention, environmental monitoring, Constitution, tax, exemption.

## Introduction

The only way to shape an ecological worldview within society is to promote the concepts of ecological consciousness and culture in people's minds, highlighting their essence through measures aimed at addressing the relationship between humanity, nature, and the laws governing them. Resolving ecological issues has become one of the primary tasks facing humanity today.

In this context, cooperation between the state, civil society institutions, and the population is of crucial importance. Therefore, in tackling environmental problems, special attention is being given to the development of theoretical-legal frameworks followed by practical and organizational mechanisms that align with current realities and international standards, while also promoting these initiatives among the population. The designation of 2025 as the "Year of Environmental Protection and 'Green' Economy" in our country is not without reason.

The urgency of these issues is underscored by the words of our first president, I.A. Karimov: "At a critical juncture in history, all of humanity, as well as the population of our country, has encountered a significant ecological threat. To ignore this or remain passive is akin to condemning oneself to death. The issue of ecological security has long surpassed national and regional boundaries and has become a global challenge. Nature and humanity are governed by certain laws. Violating these laws leads to irreparable ecological disasters."

This statement reflects the objective laws that govern the relationship between nature and society, laws to which ignoring or excessively harming can cause immense suffering to our planet and all living beings on it.

In light of these considerations, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, significant efforts are being made in recent years to stabilize the ecology and environment. His

statement, "In the future, all sectors will align with environmental considerations," is gradually becoming a reality.

The sources of ecological law in Uzbekistan are structured as follows:

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

International law, universally recognized international treaties, and principles;

Decrees, resolutions, and orders of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Normative-legal documents of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Normative-legal documents of ministries, committees, and other agencies;

Decisions of local government bodies;

Judicial decisions. Bundan tashqari tarixan shakllanib kelgan milliy urf-odat, an'analarda ham ekologiya va atrof-mufitni toza saqlash haqida yozilmagan tartib-qoidalarga katta ahamiyatga ega.

Firstly, in the updated Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on April 30, 2023, Articles 49, 61, 62, 68, 115 (Clause 4), and 123 (Clause 2) legally define the rights and obligations of citizens in the field of ecology, their relationship with the environment, and the activities of governance structures in this domain.

Additionally, the Constitution outlines the fundamental principles of Uzbekistan's ecological development strategy, including requirements for environmental and public ecological safety. This political-legal document establishes the primary rules for environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources in our country.

Secondly, a number of environmental protection laws have been adopted over the years, including the Law on Land, dated June 20, 1989; the Law on Environmental Protection, dated December 9, 1992; the Law on Protected Natural Areas, dated May 7, 1993; the Law on Sanitary Control, dated July 3, 1992; the Law on Water and Water Use, dated May 6, 1993; the Law on Underground Resources, dated September 23, 1994; the Law on Air Quality Protection, dated December 27, 1996; the Law on Forests, dated April 14, 1999; the Law on the Protection of Fauna and Flora, dated 2000; the Law on Environmental Expertise, dated 2000; the Law on Waste, dated December 6, 2001, among others.

The fourth section of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan is titled "Crimes in the Field of Ecology." The newly adopted "Administrative Responsibility" Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, dated September 22, 1994, play a significant role in the country's efforts to protect the environment and ensure its sustainable use.

The "National Security Concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan," adopted on August 29, 1997, highlights the following principles in the country's ecological worldview:

Protecting individuals' health, which is essential for their vital needs, and ensuring optimal ecological conditions for human life;

Providing comprehensive support to families, an essential social unit, establishing a moderate ecological balance, securing public health, and fostering a physically robust generation;

Ensuring sustainable development, maintaining regional and economic stability, and promoting a healthy lifestyle to meet the vital needs of the state.

Since the early years of independence, Uzbekistan has actively participated in numerous international conventions related to environmental protection. Starting from 1993, the country became a participant in various international agreements, including the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1992 New York Convention on Climate Change, both under the auspices of the United Nations. Additionally, from 1995, Uzbekistan has been involved in the 1989 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 1994 Paris Convention to Combat Desertification.

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro), UN Secretary-General Maurice Strong famously stated, "We can only live together, or none of us can live." This brief statement encapsulates the profound idea that securing a safe living environment for humanity requires collective action from all nations of the world.

In recent years, significant actions have been taken in the field of ecology under the leadership of President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev. For example, the "Action Strategy" for 2022-2026, particularly goals 79, 80, and 81, as well as the "Uzbekistan — 2030" strategy, with goals 66 through 73, are focused on improving ecology and the environment.

On November 23, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed Decree PF-199, which aims to enhance the level of greenery in the country and ensures the implementation of the "Green Space" national project to promote ecological sustainability.

In accordance with the principle of sustainable development, this decree outlines measures to improve, restore, and protect the environment, maintain ecological balance, and protect and restore the ecological system of the Aral Sea region. These actions are intended to ensure the ecological stability and safety of the country and to promote social and economic stability in the region.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan outlines the fundamental principles of the ecological development strategy and the obligations concerning the ecological safety of the population. This political and legal document establishes the most important and foundational regulations regarding environmental protection and conservation. In accordance with the principle of sustainable development, the state implements measures to improve, restore, and protect the environment, while maintaining ecological balance.

The guarantee of the population's right to a healthy ecology and favorable environment should be enshrined in the Constitution.

Overall, a key factor for the population's healthy and dignified life is the assurance of ecological sustainability, the protection of all natural resources, and the rational use of these resources. Enhancing the organizational and legal frameworks aimed at ensuring these aspects remains a top priority. Indeed, in a world where ecological stability is not only vital for nature but is increasingly becoming a matter of life and death for humanity, we must consider the improvement of environmental protection as an urgent task. We must also remember that we bear responsibility for the fate of future generations.

To date, significant environmental issues have arisen as a result of human economic activities. These issues include the "greenhouse effect," the "ozone hole," and desertification. In efforts to address these problems, the global community is working together to combat them.

Currently, in our country, the active involvement of the public in environmental protection and finding solutions to existing ecological problems is particularly commendable. Specifically, the environmental movement in Uzbekistan is focused on improving environmental conservation, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, and deepening reforms in this regard. This movement has united over 200 non-governmental, non-profit organizations that are actively engaged in these efforts.

With the independence of Uzbekistan, effective mechanisms for ensuring ecological sustainability were implemented within the framework of market economic relations. Around 30 laws and nearly 150 subordinate regulatory acts have been adopted in the field. Furthermore, Uzbekistan has actively engaged in environmental protection cooperation with the United Nations and other reputable international organizations. Notably, Uzbekistan signed the Rio Declaration, joined the Kyoto Protocol related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the Basel, Bonn, and Ramsar Conventions, among numerous other international agreements on environmental protection.

Our country is actively participating in multilateral efforts to combat global ecological threats. The Uzbekistan delegation will take part in the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Dubai on December 1-2 of this year. This forum, where numerous countries, international organizations, and civil society representatives are expected to attend, is of significant importance in uniting international efforts to combat climate change, mitigate its impacts, and finance the transition to green energy and climate-related strategies.

### Conclusions

Strengthening legal and organizational mechanisms for addressing environmental issues, as well as promoting ecological culture among the population, is of significant importance. If government institutions, NGOs, educational establishments, and the public act together, notable results in environmental protection can be achieved. Therefore, raising public awareness about ecological rights and responsibilities and involving people in practical actions contributes to sustainable ecological development. Promoting legal and organizational mechanisms for solving environmental problems among the population is not only about reinforcing laws but also about engaging society in environmental issues, developing environmental education, and enhancing the ecological responsibility of both the public and businesses. In this regard, cooperation between the state and society, as well as the widespread dissemination of environmental knowledge and consciousness, is crucial.

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