

UZBEKISTAN'S EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

Rakhmatova Mukhaiyo Elboboyevna
Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute
Teacher of the Department of "Social Sciences"

Abstract

This article reviews the main strategies, programs and legislative initiatives implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure environmental sustainability. It also analyzes Uzbekistan's achievements and current problems in this area, comparing them with international experience. The article assesses the directions of Uzbekistan's environmental policy based on the recommendations of international organizations.

Keywords: Environmental sustainability, Uzbekistan, international experience, environmental policy, sustainable development, climate change, environmental management.

Introduction

In the 21st century, environmental sustainability has become a priority issue on the global agenda. Environmental problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and air pollution threaten not only individual countries, but all of humanity. In this regard, it is important for each state to pursue a sustainable policy against environmental problems, taking into account international experience, and to form its own national model. Uzbekistan has also been implementing fundamental reforms in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development in recent years. In recent years, it has become a tradition for our country to discuss and then adopt the State Program, which includes a number of other measures to further improve the standard of living of the population and other measures. It is no exaggeration to say that this practice is, first of all, the practical result of our reforms based on the principle of dialogue with the people. After all, our people must familiarize themselves with each conceptual document that affects their fate. This not only deepens democratic reforms in our country, but also awakens a sense of involvement in socio-political processes among citizens living on this land. As a practical expression of this practice in the environmental sphere, we can cite the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 30.10.2019 No. PF-5863 on approval of the Environmental Protection Concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period until 2030. The national goal of this decree is to protect environmental objects (atmospheric air, water, land, soil, subsoil, biodiversity, protected natural areas) from anthropogenic impact and other negative factors and ensure their quality.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is working on the following main areas to achieve environmental sustainability:

- The regulatory framework is being strengthened: in 2019, the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection was transformed into the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change.
- Strategic documents have been adopted: documents such as the “Concept of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2023–2030”, the nationwide project “Green Space”, and the “National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change” play an important role in ensuring environmental sustainability.
- Transition to renewable energy sources: Large investment projects are being implemented to introduce solar and wind energy (for example, in collaboration with the Saudi Arabian company ACWA Power).
- Phased implementation of the concept of “green economy”.

2. International experience: sustainable environmental policy models

Countries such as the European Union, Japan, Norway and South Korea have successfully implemented the following in ensuring environmental sustainability:

- Widespread introduction of green technologies: Japan has developed zero-waste production technologies.
- Climate policy integration: Norway has made strong commitments to reduce carbon emissions as part of the Paris Agreement.
- Public-private partnership: Germany has exceeded 50% of its energy consumption through the "Energiewende" policy.
- Raising environmental awareness: In Scandinavian countries, environmental education is integrated into school curricula.

At all periods and stages of human development, it has developed in harmony with nature, interdependently. In recent history, integration in the ecological sphere, as in other areas between the peoples of the world, is of great importance. In our time, it is especially important to maintain environmental sustainability, studying the experience of the international community in this regard. International methods of environmental sustainability are approaches used to ensure the economical use of natural resources and maintain ecological balance. So, what does international experience show in maintaining environmental sustainability. How effective is the practice of applying these methods in the conditions of Uzbekistan? International practice in ensuring environmental sustainability includes the establishment of laws and regulations regulating the use of natural resources, as well as environmental standards established by organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization. Another method of environmental sustainability is the use of technologies that use less natural resources and do not pollute the environment. Such technologies include the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind or hydropower.

International methods of environmental sustainability also include education and advocacy to raise people's awareness of the need to sustainably use natural resources and protect nature.

Finally, regulatory legislation is also used to support environmental sustainability. Governments and regional organizations can establish taxes, incentives and benefits to encourage operators to comply with environmental standards and use technologies that are less wasteful of the natural resource network.

The methods listed above are methods of ensuring sustainability that are recognized worldwide and are being implemented by most countries. At the same time, there are also countries that have been recognized by the World Environment Organization as environmentally sustainable countries, and it is also important to study their methods of ensuring sustainability. Among the countries with the highest level of environmental sustainability in the world:

1. Costa Rica is a leading sustainable country that pays great attention to protecting the environment and biodiversity.
2. Sweden is a country that is taking active measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and switch to renewable energy sources.
3. Norway is one of the most environmentally friendly countries in the world, regularly investing in energy efficiency and sustainable transport systems.
4. Finland is a country where a large part of its energy is produced from renewable sources, and many innovative technologies are being created to preserve the environment.
5. Iceland is a country where energy is produced from geothermal and hydroelectric sources, as well as a high level of water purification.
6. Denmark is a country with the lowest level of CO₂ emissions and is engaged in waste collection and recycling.
7. Switzerland is a country with a very developed waste disposal and recycling system, and is also actively using renewable energy sources.
8. Austria is a country that is taking measures at the state level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop sustainable technologies.
9. Canada is a country with vast reserves of natural resources, but is also actively working to preserve biodiversity and reduce environmental pollution.
10. Estonia is a country where a large part of its energy is produced from renewable sources, and they are also actively working on water purification and waste disposal.

Now let's look at the ways in which the world's top-ranked countries are achieving sustainability! Costa Rica is a country located in Central America and is known for its innovative approach to environmental protection. The Costa Rican approach to environmental protection is a set of ecological practices aimed at preserving nature and reducing negative impacts on it.

The Costa Rican approach to environmental sustainability includes the following:

1. Biodiversity - Costa Rica has introduced a system of national parks and reserves that protect various ecosystems such as tropical forests, oceans, mangroves, etc.
2. Ecotourism - the country is actively developing tourism in order to provide visitors with the opportunity to see and appreciate the beauty of nature. This encourages nature conservation, job creation.
3. Energy - Costa Rica has switched to the use of completely renewable energy.

4. Ecological design - the urban environment is designed with the potential to reduce negative impacts on nature.

The Costa Rican approach has been successfully used for several decades, and its environmental protection approach, which integrates biological, ecological, social and economic dimensions, is used by many countries seeking to create sustainable ecosystems.

The second, relatively lower-ranked, small Baltic state of Estonia's approach to environmental sustainability demonstrates environmental sustainability through effective government programs and public participation in environmental protection initiatives. Some of the main features of this approach are:

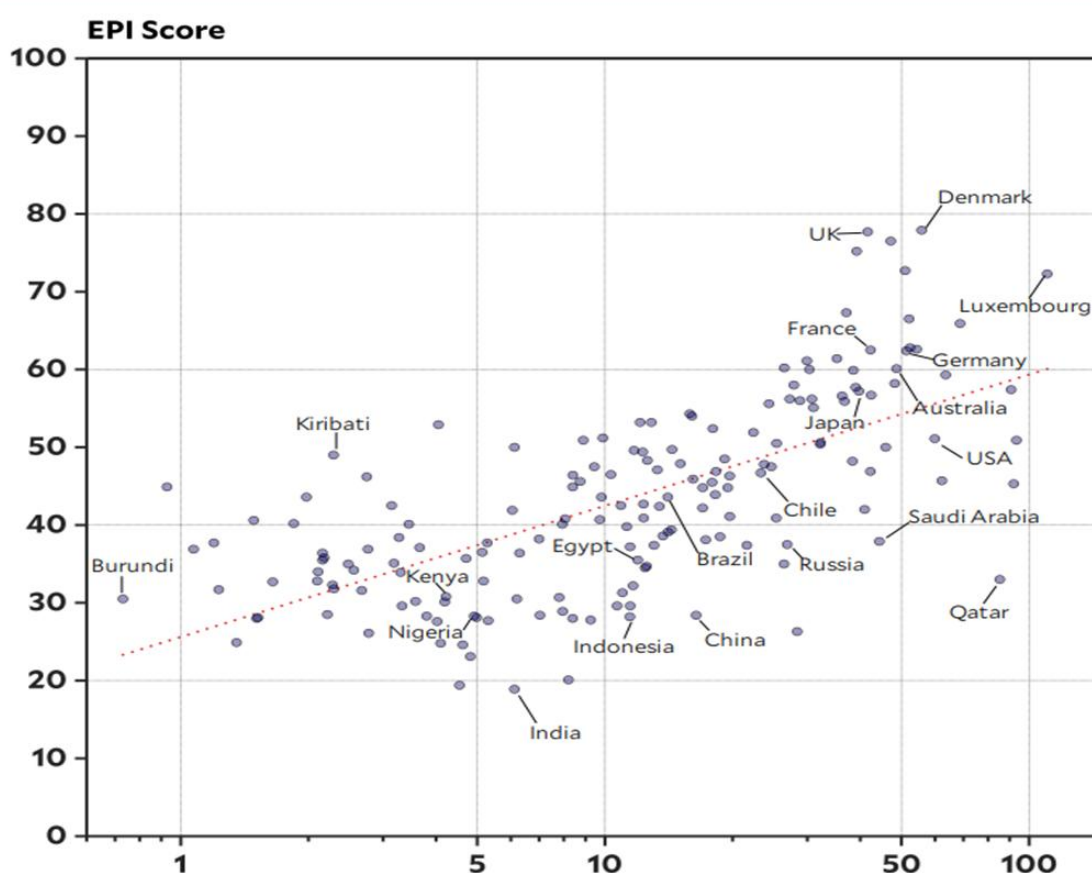
- economic development taking into account environmental factors, which allows the country to develop not at the expense of the environment, but to preserve and respect it.
- innovation in the field of energy conservation. This is achieved through the development of new technologies and programs, such as the use of wind energy and solar panels, as well as expanding cooperation with OECD countries.
- strict environmental standards. For this purpose, special laws and regulations have been created that regulate emissions and other parameters, and set restrictions on the activities of firms and enterprises.
- Public participation in environmental activism: Estonian citizens actively participate in environmental initiatives, organize protest actions in cases of environmental violations.

Thus, Estonia is a vivid example of how the government and citizens can cooperate to create an environmentally sustainable society.

Another such international organization working on environmental protection and the Environmental Sustainability Index is the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, which annually monitors the ranking of the cleanest countries in the world. The environmental performance study measures the country's achievements in the state of ecology and natural resource use based on 22 indicators in 10 categories, which cover various aspects of the state of the natural environment and the viability of its ecological systems, preserving biodiversity, combating climate change, public health and economic practices and the degree of their impact on the environment, as well as the effectiveness of state policy in the field of ecology. The Environmental Performance Index is updated on average every 2 years.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is based on cutting-edge scientific evidence that provides a data-rich sustainability scorecard. Using nearly 40 performance indicators, the EPI ranks 180 countries on their national efforts to protect environmental health, enhance ecosystem vitality, and mitigate climate change. Measuring these indicators shows how close countries are to meeting internationally agreed sustainability goals, which is at the heart of EPI research. Below are the latest EPI research results (Figure 1)

1 - rasm



Uzbekistan has made great efforts over the past years to improve its environmental status and achieve environmental sustainability. Some of the country's achievements in this area are:

1. The country signed the Paris Agreement on climate and adopted a national action program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Uzbekistan is expanding the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. For example, the first solar power plant in Central Asia with a capacity of 100 megawatts has been built.
3. Projects have been implemented to modernize treatment facilities in rivers and lakes, and monitor water quality.
4. Tree planting and urban parks are being carried out, and measures have been taken to combat air pollution in cities.
5. Measures have been taken to preserve biodiversity and conserve natural resources, such as reserves, national parks, etc.

These achievements indicate that active efforts are being made in Uzbekistan to achieve environmentally sustainable development. However, despite the measures being taken, the environmental situation in Uzbekistan remains unfavorable. Some cities in the country, such as Tashkent and Samarkand, are among the most polluted cities in the region. In addition, issues such as unauthorized landfills, raising public awareness about the state of the environment, developing natural and technical production methods, promoting organic supply products,

enriching land and water resources, increasing ecological literacy, monitoring and preventing legal violations in the field of environmental law, expanding the pool of qualified personnel in the sector, reducing household expenses, improving the legal system, and enhancing safety and reducing (and preventing) toxic exposure remain urgent.

References

1. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Farmoni “2030 yilgacha bo‘lgan davrda O‘zbekiston Respublikasining atrof muhitni muhofaza qilish konsepsiyasini tasdiqlash to‘g‘risida”
2. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Shavkat Mirziyoyevning Oliy Majlis va O‘zbekiston xalqiga Murojaatnomasi. 2022 yil 20 dekabr. – “Xalq so‘zi” gazetasi, 2022 yil 21 dekabr soni.
3. Shavkat Mirziyoev. Yangi O‘zbekiston strategiyasi. – Toshkent: “O‘zbekiston”, 2021.
4. “BMT ming yillik taraqqiyot dasturi” Xalq so‘zi gazetasi 2010 yil 15 sentabr soni .
5. “Ekologik barqarorlikni ta‘minlash ustuvor vazifa”. “Xalq so‘zi” 05 iyun 2018 yil soni.
6. <http://правачеловека.уз/уз/newsc/>
7. <http://nonews.com>