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Article



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ON THE CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Abstract: The article under discussion depicts the Concept of environmental protection in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Presidential Decree contains solutions to many acute environmental problems. The Decree approves the Concept itself and a three-year roadmap for its implementation, while for the first time requiring the State Committee for Environmental Protection to develop and submit for approval to the Cabinet of Ministers a draft roadmap for the next period. The author of the article believes that the Concept of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan requires in-depth study by managers and specialists, scientists and practitioners, teachers and students. On its implementation depends on how much progress we will make in improving the environmental situation in the country and reducing a number of diseases among the population.

Key words: the Concept, environmental, situation, protection, natural disaster, hazardous, toxic substances, toxic waste, chapters, diseases, population.

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Introduction

Nothing affects the state of nature more than human activity, no natural disaster has a more serious and lasting effect on the environment. Toxic waste discharges poison the water, air, and soil and lead to the death of entire ecosystems, deforestation and poaching lead to the extinction of many animal species. The situation is worsening as technology advances [7].

Environmental protection was not a priority until the mid-twentieth century, even though by then anthropogenic activities had long had the most negative impact on nature. It was not until the 27th session of the UN General Assembly that this issue was first raised in earnest. At the same time, a new organization, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), was created within the UN system. Its activities are mainly focused on environmental monitoring, development of laws and regulations, as well as educational activities. In particular, thanks to UNEP, norms and rules of transportation of hazardous and toxic substances were adopted. The organization

was actively involved in the development of many international conventions dealing with the protection of the environment. UNEP also acts at the practical level: for example, the organization supports and sponsors the introduction of renewable energy technologies. There is a program of loans for the purchase of solar panels, which was launched in India and is now being carried out in other developing countries.

Conservationists currently face many challenges. Anthropogenic activities are diverse, and so are their impacts on our environment. Here are the main goals that environmentalists are focused on today:

- limiting the release of toxic waste that poisons water and soil;
- creating nature reserves to protect unique natural complexes and ecosystems;
- limiting hunting and fishing to conserve endangered species, introducing new methods of fishing that cause minimal harm to nature;

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- limiting the emission of garbage and finding ways to recycle it.

It is very difficult to achieve these goals by acting only at the local level. International cooperation is needed, because ecology knows no borders.

Many international agreements have been developed to protect nature. Perhaps the most famous is the Kyoto Protocol, which obliged developed countries to strictly control carbon dioxide emissions in order to prevent the greenhouse effect that affects the climate around the world. In addition, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted to protect the seas, the Montreal Protocol, which limits the production and use of substances that destroy the ozone layer of the atmosphere, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, which aims to protect and sustainably use wildlife resources and dozens of other important documents.

The Republic of Uzbekistan carries out consistent work in the field of environmental protection, rational use of natural resources, improvement of sanitary and ecological situation [2].

However, the results of the analysis indicate a lack of an integrated approach and strategic planning in the implementation of state functions in the field of environmental protection, as well as the lack of authority of the environmental protection body to effectively perform the assigned tasks.

On October 30, 2019, the President of Uzbekistan adopted Decree No. PD-5863 "On Approval of the Environmental Protection Concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030. The Concept is a logical continuation of the normative acts on environmental protection adopted in the last three years. These include "On the program of comprehensive development and modernization of drinking water supply and sewerage systems for 2017-21", "On measures to radically improve and develop the waste management system for 2017-21", "On measures to further improve economic mechanisms to ensure environmental protection" [3].

The Concept determines the priority directions of the state policy in the field of environmental protection, introduction of effective mechanisms of prevention, detection and suppression of violations of environmental legislation, strengthening of personal responsibility of heads of state bodies and economic entities, citizens for sanitary and ecological condition of settlements of the republic. The Concept consists of 7 chapters, which explain the goals and objectives of the document, the basic concepts, the current state of environmental objects, the existing problems of the qualitative state of the environment, ways to solve environmental problems, the expected results and the implementation mechanism of the Concept [4].

The Concept provides for measures to:

- preservation and ensuring the quality of environmental objects (atmospheric air, water, land, soil, subsoil, biodiversity, protected natural areas) from anthropogenic impact and other negative factors;

- priority use of materials, products, production and other facilities posing the least environmental threat;

- expansion of protected natural areas;
- ensuring environmentally safe use of toxic chemical and radioactive substances;

- improving the environmentally safe waste management system;

- forming an environmental culture of the population, increasing the level of transparency of government agencies in the field of environmental protection, and strengthening the role of civil society.

The Concept of environmental protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan introduced a moratorium on cutting valuable species of trees and shrubs, not included in the state forest fund (hereinafter - moratorium). During the period of the moratorium, authorized state bodies are prohibited to issue permits for felling valuable species of trees and shrubs, not included in the state forest fund, except in cases specified in this paragraph. The moratorium shall not apply to:

- sanitary pruning and felling of trees and shrubs damaged as a result of natural factors or pests, plant diseases, withered or dried up, as well as threatening the safety of human life and health, property of legal entities and individuals;

- cutting of trees and shrubs (poplar and other fast-growing species, mulberry plantations, fruit trees and shrubs) grown for timber and fruits;

- cutting of trees and shrubs growing on plantations and/or being the property of a legal entity or an individual.

The Concept provides for the preservation of trees and shrubs, including through the practice of their replanting, at the stage of selection and allotment of land for construction and design of construction facilities, as well as the creation of engineering and communication infrastructure (electricity, gas and water supply, sewage, railways and highways, and others) [4].

As a result, the Concept ensured that commissions of citizens' self-government bodies on ecology and environmental protection, landscaping and planting control over the observance of environmental requirements in the sanitary pruning and cutting of green spaces, as well as their processing and waste disposal, including the commercial use of wood, with the involvement of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions.

According to the Concept, for the first time the procedure of annual reporting on the state of environmental protection by heads of regional departments and district inspections to regional and district (city) councils of people's deputies is introduced. The State Committee on Ecology is allowed to carry out operational control measures without prior coordination with the inspection coordination bodies when detecting cases of air

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pollution by burning various substances, illegal intake of natural water and sewage discharge, illegal felling of trees, hunting and plant collection, non-compliance with waste management legislation.

The State Committee for Environmental Protection and other ministries and departments, the regional khokimiyats, and the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan have been identified as implementers of the policy document.

Conclusion

To date, the Concept of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan requires in-depth study by managers and specialists, scientists and practitioners, teachers and students. On its implementation depends on how much progress we will make in improving the environmental situation in the country and reducing a number of diseases among the population.

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