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LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF NATURE PROTECTION THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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Abstract
This article examines the legal foundations of nature protection, the environmental rights and duties enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the role of environmental legislation in public life. It also analyses ways of addressing environmental problems through legal, organisational and educational measures.

Keywords: Ecology, environment, nature protection, environmental law, Constitution, environmental safety, natural resources, public oversight, sustainable development.

Introduction

Environmental protection has become an important issue not only for natural sciences but also for law, economics, public administration and civil society. Climate change, water scarcity, air and soil pollution, increasing volumes of waste and the loss of biodiversity directly affect human health and the well-being of future generations. Protecting nature is therefore a shared responsibility of the state, businesses and every citizen.

The topic is relevant because effective solutions to environmental problems require legally established nature-protection standards, monitoring of their implementation and stronger public environmental awareness. Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes everyone's right to a favourable environment and to reliable information about its condition. The state must take measures to improve and restore the environment, protect it and preserve ecological balance [1]. Environmental law thus creates legal guarantees for a dignified life, the protection of health and the rational use of natural resources.

Constitutional and Legislative Foundations of Nature Protection

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the principal source of environmental law. Article 49 recognises the right to a favourable environment and highlights the importance of access to environmental information and public oversight. It provides a constitutional basis for citizens to participate in discussions of significant projects and help prevent environmental damage [1].

The Law “On Nature Protection”, adopted on 9 December 1992, establishes the legal, economic and organisational foundations for preserving the natural environment and using natural resources rationally. It aims to ensure harmonious relations between humans and

nature, protect ecosystems and natural objects, and guarantee citizens' right to a favourable environment [2].

The Law "On Environmental Control" establishes the legal foundations for state and public environmental oversight. Such legislation helps prevent, identify and eliminate violations of environmental requirements [3]. Constitutional provisions establish general guarantees, while special laws provide mechanisms for their practical implementation.

Environmental Problems and Ways to Address Them

Despite the existence of environmental legislation, several problems remain: insufficient sorting and recycling of household and industrial waste, inefficient use of water resources, shrinking green areas, harmful emissions into the atmosphere and limited public awareness of environmental requirements.

The first problem is the effectiveness of enforcing and monitoring legal requirements. Environmental monitoring should be strengthened, oversight results made transparent and statutory measures against violations applied consistently. Any person or organisation causing environmental damage must compensate for it in accordance with the law [2].

The second problem is the insufficiently developed culture of rational resource use. Water-saving technologies, improved energy efficiency, separate waste collection and recycling, tree protection and systematic greening are important. These measures should be adopted not only by government programmes but also by businesses, educational institutions, neighbourhood communities and families.

The third problem is limited access to environmental information and public participation. Information about environmental conditions should be communicated in an accessible and transparent form. Public discussion of urban-development and other environmentally significant projects, consideration of citizens' proposals and publication of outcomes can strengthen public trust [1].

The fourth problem is insufficient legal knowledge about environmental matters. Educational institutions should combine practical activities with the study of environmental law, respect for nature, waste reduction and conservation of natural resources. Student-led environmental campaigns, tree planting, clean-up activities and water- and energy-saving projects can turn legal knowledge into everyday behaviour.

Analysis of Mechanisms for Solving Environmental Problems

Environmental problems cannot be resolved through punishment alone. An effective system should combine prevention, economic incentives, legal liability, environmental education and public oversight. Requiring citizens to sort waste, for example, will not produce the expected results unless suitable infrastructure is available. Similarly, water-conservation campaigns should be supported by modern irrigation technologies and metering systems.

The effectiveness of environmental policy can be assessed using three criteria: compliance with legal requirements; measurable changes in environmental conditions; and public participation in environmental decision-making. The Law on Environmental Control is an

important instrument because it establishes the legal foundations of state and public oversight [3].

Analysis Results and Practical Recommendations

The analysis shows that Uzbekistan's main legal foundation for nature protection has been established through the Constitution and special laws. Recognition of environmental rights at constitutional level makes environmental protection an important component of state policy and civic responsibility. Special laws regulate the use of natural resources, environmental oversight and compensation for damage.

However, legal provisions alone do not automatically eliminate environmental problems. Results require law enforcement, inter-agency cooperation, transparent environmental information and active public participation. Environmental awareness is developed through long-term and continuous education.

The following recommendations are proposed:

- increase practical classes on environmental law and environmental awareness in educational institutions;
- strengthen cooperation between neighbourhood communities and educational institutions in waste sorting, recycling and resource conservation;
- regularly provide the public with reliable and understandable environmental information;
- expand citizen and public-organisation participation in discussions of environmental projects;
- improve prevention of environmental offences, monitoring and legal-liability mechanisms.

Expected outcomes include greater respect for environmental legislation, economical use of natural resources, more active public oversight and more initiatives to reduce environmental harm. These outcomes support sustainable development and the interests of future generations.

The legal foundations of nature protection are essential guarantees for environmental safety, the protection of citizens' right to a favourable environment and the rational use of natural resources. Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes the main constitutional principles in this field. The Laws "On Nature Protection" and "On Environmental Control" are important instruments for implementing these principles.

The key task is to put legal provisions into practice. State oversight, public participation, environmental education and personal responsibility must work together. Protecting nature is not only a legal duty of the present generation but also a moral responsibility towards the future.

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