

WAYS TO PROMOTE ECOTOURISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS

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Abstract: This article explores the main directions of ecosystem ecology, focusing on functional processes and the structures and services produced by ecosystems. It emphasizes the interrelationship between physical and biological structures and how understanding these interactions supports the sustainable production of high-quality water and economically beneficial goods. The study highlights the significance of functional processes, including primary productivity, decomposition, and trophic interactions, and their role in maintaining human resources, fiber, fuel, and water supply. Ecosystem ecology provides a strong foundation for addressing global environmental challenges, such as climate change and freshwater degradation, by identifying interrelated ecological mechanisms. The article also reviews national strategies and initiatives in Uzbekistan aimed at promoting environmental protection, ecological sustainability, and “green space” projects. Specific targets include afforestation programs, air quality monitoring, waste collection and recycling, and the protection of natural water bodies, all contributing to the mitigation of human-induced climate impacts.

Keywords: Ecosystem ecology, physical and biological structures, functional processes, pollution assessment, environmental impact, green space project, sustainable resource management.

Ecosystem ecology studies the interactions between physical and biological structures and their functional processes. This understanding is crucial for maintaining the production of high-quality water and economically valuable goods. The main focus of ecosystem ecology is on functional processes and ecological mechanisms that preserve ecosystem structures and services, including primary productivity, decomposition, and trophic interactions. Studying ecosystem functions has significantly enhanced knowledge about the sustainable provision of human food, fiber, fuel, and water. Functional processes operate at regional levels under the influence of climate, environmental disturbances, and management interventions. Therefore, ecosystem ecology provides a solid basis for identifying ecological mechanisms interacting with global challenges, particularly climate change and the degradation of surface water resources.

The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the “Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026” outlines seven priority directions and ninety-four objectives, emphasizing the principle of “human dignity as a priority.” This approach addresses global environmental challenges while considering national interests. The strategy emphasizes mitigating ecological threats that endanger human health and the gene pool, promoting international environmental initiatives such as the World Ecological Charter, and improving mechanisms for monitoring pollution levels. Recommendations include enhancing environmental surveillance, forecasting pollution, providing continuous information for state ecological control, monitoring polluting sources, and ensuring compliance with environmental requirements across all economic activities.

Furthermore, targeted programs aim to improve environmental conditions in cities and districts, including the nationwide “Green Space” project. This initiative sets annual targets, such as planting at least 200 million trees, establishing aerobiological monitoring systems in ten regions, achieving

100% household waste collection, and increasing recycling rates from 21% to 50% by 2026. Protection zones along natural water bodies, including rivers, streams, and lakes, are being defined, and urban greening efforts in Tashkent aim to reach 15% coverage in 2022 and 30% in 2023. Public parks will be organized for every 50,000–100,000 residents, further enhancing community engagement and environmental well-being.

In the context of climate change and environmental challenges, efforts in the Aral Sea region include creating an additional 500,000 hectares of green space, increasing the total area to 2.5 million hectares by 2026, which will restore ecological stability in Uzbekistan and the region. International projects under programs such as “Green Climate” and the Global Environmental Facility, with an estimated investment of \$300 million, focus on biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and soil erosion prevention. In summary, the development strategy prioritizes human well-being, providing a clean environment, and fostering a prosperous and sustainable future. Implementing these initiatives is expected to enhance quality of life, ensure environmental protection, and leave a thriving country for future generations.

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