

**FLORA AND FAUNA. MINERAL AND ROW RESOURCES OF
UZBEKISTAN**

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The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign languages

Philology and teaching languages

Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi

nafisateshaboyeva@gmail.com

Student: Abdurazzoqova Lobar Ikromjon qizi

abdurazzoqovalobar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: Uzbekistan's diverse landscapes, from fertile valleys to vast deserts, support a wide range of plant and animal species, showcasing the country's remarkable biodiversity. Moreover, the country's abundant natural resources, including minerals, petroleum, natural gas, coal, and agricultural resources, contribute significantly to its economic growth and development. The abstract delves into the unique flora and fauna found in Uzbekistan, highlighting the resilience and adaptability of life in this region. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of responsible resource management and sustainable practices to preserve the delicate balance between human progress and environmental conservation. By exploring the interplay between flora, fauna, and natural resources, this abstract provides a deeper understanding of the natural wonders and economic potential that Uzbekistan holds.

Key words: flora, fauna, row materials, natural resources, “Red book”.

Uzbekistan's natural world is very diverse. It is composed of desert areas and snowy mountains, rivers and completely dry lands. The most part of its territory lies in the Turon plain, where there are no sudden steep-drops and hills.

The Turan plate and mainland, which later became the Tian Shan and Pamir - Alai Mountains, were formed in the Paleolithic period. Later, the sea covered the plate for a long time. The mountain chains are thought to have fully developed during the Alps orogenesis. The mountain ranges blocked the humidity from the Indian Ocean. It caused considerable climatic change: the weather became dry and huge desert areas appeared. As rivers and winds kept changing their directions, the upper layer of soil was continuously displaced from one place to another. It led to the formation of the Kyzyl Kum and Kara Kum deserts. Mountains and foothills make up about one-fifth of the territory of Uzbekistan. The highest point is 4,643 meters. Mountains cover the east of the country. Uzbekistan embraces western parts of the Tian Shan and Pamir-Alai mountain ranges, respectively. The mountain ranges are very different: there is a sharp contrast of heights, foothills, canyons, and watersheds. There are also small mountains such as Aktau, Karakchitau and the western part of the Zarafshon mountain range with their smooth shape. Rather big depressions stretch between the mountains: Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Zarafshon, and Samarkand. The largest depression is the Ferghana Valley - 370 km long and 190 km wide. It is surrounded by mountain ranges on three sides except on the western face. On the border with Afghanistan, there is the huge Amu Darya depression.

Flora

Uzbekistan's flora comprises of more than 3,700 species of plants. 20% of plants are endemic ones (can not be found in other places); major part of them grow in mountains. Flora of steppes and deserts consists of unique bushes. Wooden, bushy, grassy plants are well developed in low plains. Tugays feature reeds and kendyrns.

Landscape of submountainous plains is characterized by grass, there are no trees, and bushes may be found along the water flows. Various species of onion, tulips, rhubarb, irises grow here. High foothills feature dry steppes with motley grass on gray earth. Ushes such as almond-tree, kurchava, cherry grove grow on stony

sites. The most valuable wood species - Zerafshani archa grows in lower mountains. Deciduous species such as maple, hawthorn, various sorts of wild apple-trees, pistachio-tree, walnut-tree, birch, willow, poplar, cherry-tree are also widespread. Lower mountains are rich in bushes: honeysuckle, barberry, dog-rose, meadow-sweet, bushes of wild grape. Grasses are also very diverse: muscat sage, rhubarb, tulip, Pskem onion (precious herb). Middle mountains feature dog-rose and other bushes. Only 30% of high mountains are covered with plants. Mostly tipchak grows here.

. The “Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan” on the plant world lists 314 rare and endangered plant species that need protection.

Fauna

Uzbekistan’s fauna is also very diverse. One can find many representatives of Asian fauna. Among them are: mammals (wolf, big-eared hedgehog, vixen, hare - toloy, tortoise, djeyran, saygak, wild boar, spiral horny billy-goat, mountain sheep, badger, stone marten, bear, snow leopard, ermine, Siberian mountain billy-goat, lamellitoothed rat, jacal, Bukharan deer, Bukharan, sharp-eared night gopher, jerboa), reptiles (hecons, agama, sand boa, arrow-snake, Central Asian cobra, quadristripe sledge runner, Alay , birds (pretty bustard, dun goatsucker, jay, shrike, mountain finch, bunting, lentil, grand turtle-dove, black griffon, lammergeyer, bearded vulture, jackdow, pheasant, cuckoo, yellow wagtail, magpie, black crow, southern nightingale, whiskered tomtit, cane bunting,), insects, etc. *In the waters there are about 70 species of fish: Aral salmon, Amu Darya trout, pike, Aral roach, Aral barbel, carp, silver carp, catfish, pike, perch, snakehead, common carp, white Amur.*

The Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences and the Uzbek Zoological Society have accumulated rich material that allows us to assess the current state and status of many species of animals of domestic fauna. The 2019 Red List includes 30 species of mammals (with subspecies - 32), 52 species of birds, 21 species of reptiles, 17 species of fish (with subspecies - 18), 3 species of

annelids, 14 species of mollusks, 66 species of arthropods. For comparison, we cite the data of the previous issue of the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2009. It includes 24 species of mammals (with subspecies - 25), 48 species of birds (with subspecies - 51), 16 species of reptiles, 17 species of fish (with subspecies - 18), 3 species of annelids, 14 species of mollusks, 60 species of arthropods.

Natural resources

Uzbekistan is blessed with abundant mineral and raw resources. The country is rich in gold, copper, uranium, and natural gas reserves, making it an important player in the global mining industry. Uzbekistan's mineral wealth has contributed to its economic growth and has become a vital sector for foreign investments.

Uzbekistan's mineral resources include petroleum, natural gas, gold, silver, uranium, molybdenum, tungsten, coal, copper, zinc and lead. Uranium, copper and gold are the country's chief minerals. The country has mineral reserves amounting to more than 1800 in number. Uzbekistan's subsoil is rich in oil, gas, coal and uranium. For natural gas, it ranks 11th in the world for mining and 14th for reserves, and for uranium it is 6th for mining and 7th for explored reserves. It is also among the world leaders for producing and supplying reserves of certain minerals: gold, copper, phosphorites, molybdenum, etc. The country boasts a diverse range of resources, including minerals, petroleum, natural gas, coal, gold, uranium, silver, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, and molybdenum. In terms of minerals, Uzbekistan ranks among the world leaders in the production and supply of gold, copper, phosphorites, and other minerals. It holds significant reserves of natural gas, oil, and coal, making it one of the largest natural gas producers globally. The country's subsoil is also rich in uranium, ranking it sixth in the world for mining and seventh for explored reserves. Uzbekistan's natural resources play a vital role in its economy. The country's energy sector, driven by natural gas and

oil production, contributes to its energy security and export capabilities. Uzbekistan is actively working on improving resource accountability and implementing technologies to enhance energy efficiency. Additionally, Uzbekistan's agricultural sector benefits from its natural resources. The country is renowned for its cotton production, orchards, vineyards, and livestock, including Karakul sheep and silkworms.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan's flora and fauna, along with its abundant natural resources, paint a vivid picture of the country's rich biodiversity and economic potential. The diverse landscapes, from the lush valleys to the arid deserts, provide a habitat for a wide array of plant and animal species, showcasing the resilience and adaptability of life in Uzbekistan. The country's mineral and raw resources, such as gold, copper, uranium, and natural gas, have played a crucial role in driving economic growth and attracting foreign investments. Uzbekistan's position as a major player in the global mining industry is a testament to the vast potential that lies within its borders. However, the utilization of these resources comes with the responsibility to ensure sustainable practices and environmental conservation. Striking a balance between resource exploitation and preservation of the natural habitat is crucial to safeguard the long-term well-being of both the environment and the people of Uzbekistan. Efforts must be made to promote responsible mining practices, protect endangered species, and preserve the delicate ecosystems that make Uzbekistan's flora and fauna thrive. By embracing sustainable development and conservation strategies, Uzbekistan can continue to harness the economic benefits of its natural resources while preserving its unique biodiversity for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Uzbekistan's flora and fauna, combined with its extensive mineral and raw resources, form an integral part of the country's identity and potential. With a commitment to sustainable practices and preservation, Uzbekistan can continue to showcase its natural treasures while ensuring a prosperous and harmonious coexistence between humans and the environment.

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