FLORA AND FAUNA IN UZBEKISTAN. MINERAL AND ROW RESOURCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation. This article explores the rich biodiversity of Uzbekistan, highlighting the country's varied flora and animals. Readers will travel through the nation's habitats, from the lush valleys to the parched deserts, and acquire knowledge of its distinct biodiversity. The piece also sheds light on Uzbekistan's economic situation by offering insightful analysis of the country's raw and mineral resources. Through an examination of the abundant reserves and resources dispersed throughout the nation, readers will gain a more profound comprehension of Uzbekistan's capacity for sustainable development and expansion. This article provides a thorough examination of Uzbekistan's natural and economic resources, catering to both investors and nature enthusiasts interested in the country's resource industry.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Minerals, Raw resources, Economic development, Sustainability, Investment opportunities

There are more than 3700 plant species in Uzbekistan's flora. 20% of the species are endemic, meaning they don't meet anywhere else; most of them are found growing in the mountains. Steppe and desert vegetation is made up of distinct

shrubs. Low plains saw the development of herbaceous, shrubby, and tree vegetation. Cane and Candiria thickets are characteristic of tugai woodlands.

The upland plains are covered in grass, trees, and bushes that grow by streams of water. Various varieties of onions, tulips, rhubarb, and irises flourish here. Dark serozems cover the arid steppe with mottled grass in the upper foothills. Shrubs like cherries, curchavas, and almonds flourish in rocky areas.

Zaravshan juniper grows predominantly in the low elevations, where important timber species are found. Common hardwoods include birch, willow, poplar, cherry magalebka, pistachio, walnut, hawthorn, and several wild apple varieties. Shrubs abound in the low: thickets of wild vineyard, honeysuckle, barberry, rose hips, and tavolga. An extremely varied assortment of herbs: Pskov onion (a priceless medicinal plant), rhubarb, sorrel, tulips, zizifora, and clary sage. Wild roses and other bushes thrive in the heart of the mountains. In the highlands, vegetation covers barely thirty percent of the soil. Growing mostly tipchak here.

Uzbekistan has a varied range of flora and fauna. Numerous specimens of Asian fauna can be found here. Among them are: mammals (wolf, big-eared hedgehog, a Fox, a corsac, a hare-tolai, turtle, Gazelle, antelope, wild boar, markhor, mountain sheep, badger, stone marten, bear, snow leopard, ermine, Siberian mountain goat, prestigiosa rat, Jackal and Bukhara deer, Bokhara horseshoe bat, eared bat gopher, jerboa), reptiles (geckos, Agama, sand boa, arrow-snake, Central Asian Cobra, Copperhead snake, get snake, Alay), birds (Houbara bustard, avdotka, Sandgrouse, saja)

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.

Resources in the nation include metallic ores; copper, zinc, lead, tungsten, and molybdenum are exploited in the Kurama Range's Olmaliq (Almalyk) mining region. Significant deposits of coal, oil, and natural gas are found in Uzbekistan.

The nation uses a lot of natural gas, and gas pipelines connect major cities and extend from Bukhara to the Russian Ural area. According to surveys, there are petroleum resources in the Fergana Valley, Karakalpakstan, and the vicinity of Bukhara, including significant deposits in the Namangan area. It was only after World War II that the modern extraction of coal started to gain prominence, particularly in the Angren areas. In addition to the nation's nuclear, coal, and petroleum-powered electrical generating, hydroelectric dams on the rivers of the Chrichichq and the Syrian Darya improve electricity output.

It is clear that the long-standing rumours of massive gold resources in Uzbekistan have some truth to them. Southeast of Tashkent, in the Ohangaron (Akhangaran) field, rich polymetallic ores have been discovered. There, miners extract zinc, lead, molybdenum, tungsten, copper, and a little amount of gold. In the Muruntau field in the Kyzylkum Desert in north-central Uzbekistan, a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation constructed a heat-leaching gold facility from low-grade ore in the mid-1990s. Although a joint venture with the government was planned, in 2007 Newmont Mining Corporation's portion was forfeited in a court dispute.

The Aral Sea, which was once one of the world's most exquisite, rare, and vast closed water reservoirs, is almost completely disappearing. It has become an unparalleled calamity that will permanently harm the ecosystem, biodiversity, and way of life for those who live there. The Aral Sea was 68.9 thousand km² in size and 1083 cubic kilometres of water up until 1960. Its breadth was 284 km, its length was 426 km, and its maximum depth was 68 m.

There were 38 different types of fish and several uncommon animal species living in the Aral Sea basins; the number of saigas reached one million heads, and 638 different species of higher plants made up the floristic composition of the region.

The Aral Sea also had a significant impact on the growth of the region's production sectors, economy, ability to employ people, and establishment of a solid social infrastructure. The Aral Sea's reservoirs produced between 30,000 and

35,000 tonnes of fish annually, making it one of the world's richest fishing grounds in the past. Fisheries and fish products accounted for the livelihoods of over 80% of the people living along the shore of the Aral Sea. More than 100,000 people were employed in the cattle, poultry, and agricultural crop industries by the fertile grounds of the Amudarya and Syrdarya river delta and very productive pastures.

In addition, the sea moderated the region's extreme weather variations and acted as a reservoir to regulate the climate, all of which improved the living standards of the populace, the output of agriculture, and the ecological state. Over the Aral Sea, the air masses that invaded the region in the winter warmed up and cooled down in the summer.

The Aral Sea's difficulties began to escalate in the 1960s due to careless management of the two main transboundary rivers in the area, the Syrdarya and the Amudarya, which historically supplied the Aral Sea with 56 cubic kilometres of water yearly. One of the world's most beautiful reservoirs dried up due to a combination of factors including the rapid population growth in the region, the extent of urbanisation and intensive land development, and the previous, environmentally irresponsible construction of massive irrigation and hydrotechnical projects on the Aral Sea basin's watercourses.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan's wealth lies not only in its diverse flora and fauna but also in its abundant mineral and raw resources. This combination presents a unique opportunity for economic development, while also emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices to preserve the country's natural heritage for future generations. With careful management and strategic investment, Uzbekistan can continue to thrive both ecologically and economically, offering promising opportunities for growth and prosperity.

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