



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS OF PROTECTED NATURAL TERRITORIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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| Article history: | Abstract: |
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| Received: May 11 th 2021 Accepted: May 26 th 2021 Published: June 30 th 2021 | This article discusses the possibilities of creation and development as a unified system of protected natural areas of Uzbekistan. A recommendation was made to improve the system based on the analysis of protected areas. |
| Keywords: Protected natural areas, ecological framework, representativeness, biological diversity, sustainable development, ecosystem. | |

INTRODUCTION

The process of multiculturalization is intensifying in the world, uniting all the world's diversity, individual political and economic systems, national cultures are gradually emasculated, and they are being replaced by the universal system of values of global civilization. In the course of these processes of globalization, global flows are formed: economic, cultural, informational and environmental. Initially divided into various segments with pronounced features based on geographical, ethnological, cultural differences between their carriers, the designated flows assimilate previously distinguishable segments [4, 8].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The natural ecosystems of Uzbekistan are characterized by a high level of biological diversity, which is a reflection of the complex historical pathways for the formation of flora and fauna, the country's geographical position and the exceptional diversity of its natural conditions. A significant part of the flora and fauna is represented by endemic species and subspecies that are not found outside of Central Asia. The flora of Uzbekistan has more than 4800 species of vascular plants belonging to 650 genera and 115 families, and has an endemism rate of about 8%. Relict endemic make up 10-12% of the total number of endemic species. The fauna of Uzbekistan is distinguished by species richness and diversity. The invertebrate fauna includes about 14900 species (850 - protozoa, 61 - annelids, 1179 - roundworms, 533 - flatworms, 223 - mollusks, 12000 - arthropods). The modern fauna of vertebrate animals of the republic is represented by 5 classes and totals 715 species - 84 species of fish, 3 species of amphibians, 60 species of reptiles, 461 species of birds and 107 species of mammals. Endemics make up about 8.8% of the total number of terrestrial vertebrate species of the country. The highest level of endemism is characteristic of the fauna of reptiles - up to 50% of all species of the class. A lesser degree of endemism is distinguished by the class of mammals - 15%, and a small number of endemics is noted for the class of birds - 1.8%. A separate part of the flora and fauna of Uzbekistan is represented by alien species that have not been previously encountered here, which were intentionally introduced by humans or inadvertently brought into the republic from other regions. Many of these species of animals and plants have successfully naturalized in the wild of Uzbekistan, i.e. created stable and long-term independently existing populations [2, 3, 4, 5].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the process of globalization, there is a clash, hybridization of most spheres of public life, the prevailing worldviews, ideas and values are changing, which entails the destruction of social structures, blurring of boundaries between national economies and the formation of new ones [7]. The current phase of globalization is characterized by the following features, which are based on the swiftness of action:

- the rapid growth of trade turnover, traditional exports and imports in international trade, stimulates production based on the flywheel principle;
- rapid and volatile growth in global capital flows;

- technology transfer to emerging market economies and the rapid spread of new production and distribution technologies;

–uncontrolled international labor migration;

–systemic transformation into democracy, market relations and civil society;

–quality changes in international relations in the field of culture and politics [6].

At the same time, the "reverse side" of the globalization process has become the development of negative processes leading to a deterioration of the ecological situation in the regions, the destruction of the traditional cultures of small peoples on different continents, the prevailing economic systems, and social stratification. The problem of environmental degradation is aggravated by the fact that all over the world the interaction of the economy with nature is of a market (predatory) nature and nature is practically defenseless. To achieve a balance between economic growth and the preservation of the environment and natural resources, an optimal combination of managerial and self-regulatory mechanisms of interaction between ecology and the economy is necessary [6].

The process of globalization is engaged in the fight against threats to the environment in most countries of the world. The desire to support the implementation of the European Strategy for Nature Conservation, to preserve valuable ecosystems, species, types of landscapes, as well as to use natural resources rationally has led to the creation of the Pan-European Ecological Network. One of the important conditions for the development of Uzbekistan is the creation of a full-fledged network of protected natural areas (hereinafter - PNA) based on the rich natural heritage for the preservation of the existing biodiversity. Protected natural areas (PNA) of Uzbekistan play an extraordinarily important role in the preservation of the regional biological and landscape diversity of Central Asia. The presence of unique ecosystems, the rarest and most vulnerable species of plants and animals is the subject of special attention when organizing a protected area, and their study and monitoring is one of the main tasks of the scientific research work of a protected area. Thanks to the creation of a new protected area and the improvement of the ecological framework, it was possible to preserve and restore the populations of many rare, endangered species of our flora and fauna.

Over the PNA decades, as a result of increased nature management, many species of animals in Uzbekistan have experienced a strong anthropogenic impact, reduced their area and number; some of them have completely disappeared. The greatest threat is faced by large species of mammals and birds, which are of great practical value as objects of hunting, as well as endemic and locally widespread species occurring within vulnerable ecosystems intensively assimilated by humans [2].

The biological and landscape diversity of Uzbekistan is one of our national treasures. In 2010, at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya (Japan), countries committed themselves to increasing the area of protected natural areas by 2020 at least 17% of the land area of the countries and 10% of the marine area. Over the PNA fifteen years, a number of projects have been implemented in Uzbekistan with the involvement of international grants, within the framework of which new approaches have been demonstrated for the conservation and management of biodiversity and natural resources in and around PNA, and the expansion of the PNA system. Thanks to the implementation of these projects, new categories of PNA were created, their material and technical base was improved, specialists and employees of the system of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection, as well as ecologists of companies and enterprises of the republic were trained in new advanced approaches to biodiversity conservation.

Today, there are 7 nature reserves in the republic (188.3 thousand hectares), 1 integrated landscape reserve (628.3 thousand hectares), 2 biosphere reserves (111.7 thousand hectares), 3 national natural parks (558.2 thousand hectares), 1 national park "Durmen" (32.4 hectares), 10 natural monuments (3.8 thousand hectares), 12 reserves (572.4 thousand hectares) and the Bukhara specialized nursery "Jeyran" (16, 5 thousand hectares), as well as forestry and forestry hunting (11.121 million hectares). The total area of protected areas providing sustainable conservation of biodiversity (without protected landscapes - resort natural areas, recreational zones, water protection zones, coastal strips, zones of sanitary protection of water bodies, zones of formation of surface and ground waters) is about 13.2 million hectares. At the same time, the total area of protected areas excluding forestry and forestry farms is 2,079.2 thousand hectares, or 4.64% of the country's territory. But the analysis of the state of the system of protected natural areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in particular, showed that it will introduce new categories of protected areas and their management needs modernization.

One of the significant transnational factors of the global system for protected areas is the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Acting at the international level, it brings together states, government departments and a wide range of diverse non-governmental organizations, exemplifying a global global partnership. The mission of IUCN is to provide leadership and assistance to the global conservation movement to maintain the integrity and conservation of wildlife diversity and to ensure human use of natural resources in a sustainable and wise manner. [9] An expanding network of regional and national offices, located predominantly in developing countries, makes the work of IUCN increasingly decentralized, which allows it to cover global spaces. The process of globalization in the development of systems and for the optimal set of PNA in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to use a comprehensive socio-ecological-economic assessment. Therefore, for the development and optimization of protected areas, the following priority tasks should be carried out:

1. Ecological and geographical analysis of the representativeness of Uzbekistan to the creation and development of protected areas. The creation of protected natural areas ensures the preservation of resources,

including unique and irreplaceable ones, the value of which is constantly increasing in the modern world. Thus, a protected natural area can be considered as a regulated resource-saving system. A protected natural area, performing a standard, reserve, environment-forming and resource-saving function, is an independent regulated system and acts as a subject of socio-economic relations.

To preserve biological and landscape diversity, PNA should be of optimal size. The formation of an optimal system of PNA in the Republic of Uzbekistan is aimed at preserving natural ecological systems, biological and landscape diversity, ensuring the ecological balance of natural systems and sustainable use of flora and fauna, protected natural areas. They ensure, firstly, the ecological balance of natural conditions, and secondly, the use of the territory for various purposes in the PNA system.

Optimal areas of the protected area depend on the natural conditions of the territories, the degree of variability and the status of the protected object. In many countries of the world, the areas of reserves, national and natural parks range from 1 to several million hectares. The areas of reserves protecting herbivorous or predatory animals cover the largest territories that are necessary for the life and reproduction of the inhabitants of this institution.

At the suggestion of N.F.Reimers and F.R.Shtilmark, the optimal area of reserves for tundra should be more than 1 million hectares, for taiga and desert - 250 thousand hectares, for steppes - 10 thousand hectares, in shallow waters of the seas -25- 30 thousand hectares [1]. The above proposals on the optimal area of protected areas for Uzbekistan are not acceptable due to the development of natural and anthropogenic landscapes. The optimal area of protected areas should be at such a level that the representativeness of natural complexes, biological diversity and stable development are preserved in these areas. At the same time, an acceptable classification should be developed for all belts and natural-geographical regions of Uzbekistan, taking into account the optimal size of the protected area.

The unified system of PNA consists of areas organized in administrative districts. Moreover, in each region there should be an optimal choice of territory for all categories of PNA. For example, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent, Kashkadarya, Jizzakh, Bukhara, Samarkand, Surkhandarya and Khorezm regions, the share of PNA (categories Ia, Ib, II) is more than 1% of the total area they occupy. A low indicator (below 1%) in Andijan, Namangan, Syrdarya and Fergana regions, in the main these regions are carried out and are being protected by the nature reserve regime [5, 7]. Therefore, the optimal selection by categories of the PNA system should be carried out in all administrative districts.

With the optimal choice of protected areas for administrative territories, the ratio of the area used in an intensive and extensive manner should be taken into account. The most tangible results were revealed in the regions of the Fergana Valley, that in the system of geotiron "population-economy-territory" anthropogenic pressure on nature is very high [5]. Therefore, with intensive development of the territory, it is necessary to take into account the existence of rare natural objects and their protection under the influence of human economic activity, where rare and unique objects are gradually losing their appearance and value.

2. Formation of the ecological framework as a form of territory organization. In this case, the ecological framework is understood as a system of the most valuable areas of the territory in terms of their natural characteristics. The ecological framework of the territory is an integral part of the active system "Man-Nature-Society", functions and develops within the boundaries of a specific territory. On each diagram, points are highlighted that reflect the socio-economic importance of the PNA. New tasks of the organization have been identified, the solution of which contributes to the integration of PNA into the socio-economic life of local communities, as well as into the socio-cultural, environmental and educational sphere of the whole society. At the same time, ensuring the natural and functional integrity of the system occurs due to the rationing of all anthropogenic activities, both in frame and interframe territories, taking into account the general principles of management. As a result, favorable opportunities are created that support ecological balance, create natural conditions, resource-saving and enriching abilities.

The process of creating a representative network of protected natural areas is inevitably associated with the creation of new and changes in existing protected areas. At the same time, the question of choosing the category of PNA is important. It determines the priority of nature protection tasks, the protection regime, the possible profile and zoning of the created protected areas. Currently, PNA are located in almost all countries of the world. At the same time, most states have their own specific categories of protected areas, the idea of which was formed gradually, absorbing national traditions and experience of other countries. Due to the extremely wide variety of protected areas, a classification that would cover all the categories known in the world has not yet been created [7].

The functions performed by the protected areas are of a strategic nature for the country and play an essential role in the protection of nature. The role of the protected system in the socio-cultural, ecological development of society is great, in this regard, against the background of global changes in the world space, complete isolation of these territories is impossible. Public interest in PNA is growing in various countries. While on the territory of the country there are various categories of protected lands in accordance with world standards, which allows you to subject most of them to a certain load. Nevertheless, the traditions and rules characteristic of the institutional field of the studied organization have been taking shape for many years. They dictate a certain model of closed, isolated management of these territories [3].The purpose of these studies was to determine the possibility of expanding the regional network of PNA by increasing the number of PNA of the natural reference type, as well as to identify the structural and functional parts of the natural and ecological framework of the Republic.

3. The need for a single coordinating institution in the distribution of tasks and the development of the PNA system. The activities of many PNA are ineffective due to poor legislative protection and legal uncertainty of their status. Each country should have a well-developed legal framework on which any protected area system could be built and legislatively protect its facilities from the temptation to immediately maximize profits.

CONCLUSION

The previously highlighted state and international concepts for the development of territories of special protection can be attributed to the sources of changes. Ecological tourism can be called a factor, a direct attribute of practical transformations. In order to develop ecological tourism as a necessary component of PNA activities, practical, technological transformations, personnel changes in the composition of employees, and infrastructure development are required. Thus, ecological tourism is an actual "engine", a motivator for changes in the structure, functions and management rules of protected areas [5, 7].

The created only institution dealing with the organization and development of affairs under the PNA system in the Republic does not have a unified management system, but is subordinate to four organizations. In connection with the development and increase in the area, the PNA requires a unified system of organizing activities. At the same time, it is necessary to pay attention to the following: to organize a unified management system for the further development of the PNA and the corresponding board to optimize all functions, organizations in accordance with the direction of hierarchical administrative management.

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