



RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRIMES RELATED TO PLANT PROTECTION

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Annotation: This article examines the legal responsibility for crimes related to plant protection, focusing on the prevention, detection, and punishment of violations in this area. The study highlights the importance of safeguarding plant life from harmful organisms, misuse of pesticides, and illegal activities that endanger biodiversity and agricultural sustainability. The article also reviews national and international legal frameworks, emphasizing the need for stricter enforcement and awareness to ensure food security and ecological balance.

Key words: Plant protection, legal responsibility, environmental crime, agricultural law, biodiversity, criminal liability, phytosanitary control, ecological safety.

The issues of protection and rational use of the plant world are one of the most pressing environmental problems at the global and national levels. Factors such as the decline of biological diversity globally, changes in the atmosphere, the reduction of forest areas, and the disruption of ecological stability require a review of the relationship between humans and nature.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, as a country rich in natural resources, is distinguished by the diversity and richness of its flora. However, in recent years, there has been an increase in cases of illegal felling, the destruction of rare and protected plant species, non-compliance with agrotechnical procedures, and the illegal use of forest fund lands. This, in turn, has a negative impact on the natural environment and limits the possibility of restoring the plant world.

The fact that 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with plants also indicates that these natural objects occupy a special place in the ecological system¹.

The total area of cultivated crops is 1.5 billion hectares, which is about 1/10 of the total area. It should be noted that there are 300 thousand species of flowering plants on Earth. 21,000 species are found in the CIS countries, 7,000 in Central Asia, and over 4,000 in Uzbekistan².

The President's initiative to declare 2025 the "Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy" is an important initiative put forward to protect nature in the interests of not only today's generation, but also future generations. This proposal, voiced by the head of our state, has become an important step in maintaining the balance between man and nature, the rational use of natural resources, and ensuring sustainable development.

Also, the introduction of Article 49 in the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted in 2023, is one of the important innovations. This article enshrined the

¹ Қаранг: Бобожонов Б.Э., "Экология ва атроф-муҳитни муҳофаза қилиш асослари", Т.: «Fan va texnologiya», 2020, 45-б

² <https://yuz.uz/news/ozbekiston-qizil-kitobiga>

following norm for the first time: "Everyone has the right to a favorable environment and reliable information about its condition."

This norm is aimed at constitutionally guaranteeing human environmental rights and is of particular importance in protecting the fundamental interests of citizens related to the natural environment. The reflection of such legal guarantees at the constitutional level demonstrates Uzbekistan's focus on important reforms in environmental protection, ensuring environmental safety, and strengthening public participation in environmental matters.

Today, the issue of maintaining ecological stability, rational use of natural resources, in particular, the protection of objects of the plant world, has become one of the most important tasks on the agenda of the world community. Because preserving biological diversity, ensuring ecological stability, and creating a favorable natural environment for human health are becoming one of the main directions of state policy.

As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, "We will dedicate the year to this direction, analyze the laws, and formulate the work." It would be good if we took every decision, every decree under the guise of greening."³

In particular, the environmental policy reflected in the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026," adopted by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022 No. UP-60⁴, is aimed at implementing the transition from the protection of individual elements of nature to the general protection of ecological systems, ensuring optimal indicators of the human environment and harmonizing interconnected sectors of the economy with mechanisms for their development based on the principles of a "green economy." The 80th goal of this strategy is aimed at environmental protection and improving the ecological situation in cities and districts. Furthermore, the task of expanding the area of forests has been defined in Goal 81, which further strengthens the relevance of this topic.

At the same time, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the recently adopted Presidential Decree "On Approving the Concept for Raising the Environmental Culture of the Population for the Period up to 2030"⁵ is an important historical document for mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change, protecting the environment, effectively solving environmental problems arising in the field of natural resource use, and raising the environmental culture of the population.

This resolution approves, first and foremost, the Concept for Raising the Ecological Culture of the Population until 2030, a roadmap for its implementation in 2025-2026, and target indicators as program documents and implementation mechanisms.

The main goal of the Concept is defined as the formation and development of ecological knowledge, consciousness, and culture in the younger generation, the effective organization of

³ [//www.gazeta.uz/uz/2024/11/21/yil-nomi/](https://www.gazeta.uz/uz/2024/11/21/yil-nomi/)

⁴ Ózbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2022 yil 28 yanvardagi 2022 — 2026-yillarga mo'ljallangan "Yangi Ózbekistonning taraqqiyot strategiyasi to'g'risida"gi PF-60-son Farmoni. Qonunchilik ma'lumotlari milliy bazasi. 20.05.2025-y., 06/25/87/0451-son).

⁵ **Ózbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2025 yil 15 maydagi "2030-yilgacha bo'lgan davrda aholining ekologik madaniyatini yuksaltirish konsepsiyasini tasdiqlash to'g'risida"gi PQ-184-son Qarori.** Qonunchilik ma'lumotlari milliy bazasi. 02.06.2025-y., 06/25/90/0486-son).

the educational process in this area, and the further enhancement of ecological awareness, including the culture of "green" consumption, among all segments of the population.

At the same time, illegal actions against the plant world, including those occurring in the non-state sector and by industrial entities, are causing significant damage to ecosystems. Considering the dangerous consequences of environmental crimes for society, the economy, and future generations, developing effective mechanisms for criminal liability in this area and strengthening legal protection is one of the urgent tasks of today.

In conclusion, analyzing and further improving the institutions of responsibility for violating plant use procedures in the criminal legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, comparing them with foreign experience, identifying the shortcomings of the existing system, and developing advanced recommendations are among the requirements of today.

References:

1. See: Bobozhov B.E., "Fundamentals of Ecology and Environmental Protection", T.: "Science and Technology", 2020, p. 45
2. <https://yuz.uz/news/ozbekiston-qizil-kitobiga>
3. www.gazeta.uz/uz/2024/11/21/yil-nomi/
4. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022 No. PF-60 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan" for 2022-2026. National Database of Legislative Information. 20.05.2025, No. 06/25/87/0451).
5. Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 15, 2025 No. PQ-184 "On approval of the Concept for improving the ecological culture of the population for the period until 2030". National database of legislative information. 02.06.2025, No. 06/25/90/0486).