

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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ANNOTATION

Our planet Earth is only a tiny part of the universe, and it is so far the only place where human beings can live. We always polluted our surroundings. But until now pollution was not such a huge problem. People lived in the countryside and couldn't produce such amount of pollution that would lead to a dangerous situation on a global scale.

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INTRODUCTION

With the development of industrial cities, which create huge amounts of pollutants, the problem has become real. Nowadays our planet is in serious danger. Global warming, acid rains, air and water pollution, overpopulation are the problems that threaten human lives on the Earth. Every year world industry pollutes the air that we breathe with. A great number of cities suffer from smog. Rainforests are cut down. Their disappearance upsets the oxygen balance. As a result, some rare species of animals, birds, fish and plants are extinct. A lot of seas, rivers and lakes are filled with poison like industrial and nuclear wastes, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The pollution of air and the world's ocean, destruction of the ozone layer is the result of man's careless interaction with nature, a sign of the ecological crisis. What can we do to save our planet?

First of all, people should switch to alternative forms of power, such as solar power or wind power. Secondly, the use of atomic power must be banned. Thirdly, we need to recycle. It's the art of turning waste into new products. It would be a good idea if people started riding bicycles instead of driving cars. We are obliged to protect nature. If everybody cares, it will make a difference.

Environmental protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, organizations and governments. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and, where possible, to repair damage and reverse trends. Due to the pressures of overconsumption, population growth and technology, the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized, and governments have begun placing restraints on activities that cause environmental degradation. Since the 1960s, environmental movements have created more awareness of the multiple environmental problems. There is disagreement on the extent of the environmental impact of human activity, so protection measures are occasionally debated.

Voluntary environmental agreements. In the industrial countries, voluntary environmental agreements often provide a platform for companies to be recognized for moving beyond the minimum regulatory standards and thus support the development of the best environmental practice. For instance, in India, Environment Improvement Trust (EIT) has been working for environmental and forest protection since 1998. A group of Green Volunteers gets a goal of Green India Clean India concept. CA Gajendra Kumar Jain a Chartered Accountant, is the founder of Environment Improvement Trust in Sojat city a small village of State of Rajasthan in India. In developing countries, such as Latin America, these agreements are more commonly used to remedy significant levels of non-compliance with mandatory regulation.

Ecosystems approach. An ecosystems approach to resource management and environmental protection aims to consider the complex interrelationships of an entire ecosystem in decision making rather than simply responding to specific issues and challenges. Ideally, the decision-making processes under such an approach would be a collaborative approach to planning and decision making that involves a broad range of stakeholders across all relevant governmental departments, as well as industry representatives, environmental groups, and community. This approach ideally supports a better exchange of information, development of conflict-resolution strategies and improved regional conservation. Religions also play an important role in the conservation of the environment.

International environmental agreements



Kyoto Protocol Commitment map 2010

Many of the earth's resources are especially vulnerable because they are influenced by human impacts across different countries. As a result of this, many attempts are made by countries to develop agreements that are signed by multiple governments to prevent damage or manage the impacts of human activity on natural resources. This can include agreements that impact factors such as climate, oceans, rivers and air pollution. These international environmental agreements are sometimes legally binding documents that have legal implications when they are not followed and, at other times, are more agreements in principle or are for use as codes of conduct. These agreements have a long history with some multinational agreements being in place from as early as 1910 in Europe, America and Africa. Many of the international technical agencies formed after 1945 addressed environmental themes. By the late 1960s, a growing environmental movement called for coordinated and institutionalized international cooperation. The landmark United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm in 1972, establishing the concept of a right to a healthy environment. It was followed by the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme later that year. Some of the most well-known international agreements include the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and the Paris Agreement of 2015. On 31 May, the Press Club held a launch meeting for Ecoweek 2017 in Uzbekistan. The meeting featured panel speakers Uktam Utayev, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Environmental

Protection, Boriy Alikhanov, Vice Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, and Farid Garakhanov, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. It was also attended by deputies of the Parliament's Legislative Chamber, representatives from various government ministries and institutions, NGOs, and national and international media accredited in Uzbekistan. The World Environment Day marked on 5th June since its endorsement by the UN General Assembly Resolution in 1972 has become a landmark and mobilizing event in the international ecological calendar. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the ways to preserve and improve the environment, and pursue large-scale environmental campaigns at national policy levels. The slogan of the World Environment Day 2017 is "I am with the Nature". Traditionally, the State Committee for Environmental Protection jointly with UNDP in Uzbekistan organize series of Ecoweek events to celebrate this important environmental date. This year, the events program includes meetings, site clean-up initiatives, and other activities in Tashkent and the regions. All these seek to raise the awareness of the country's people – especially young people – and encourage their interest and action for environmental protection, efficient use and reproduction of biological resources, and waste management.

The speakers at the meeting highlighted Uzbekistan's closer involvement in the global environmental policy by enforcing international declarations, conventions and other UN treaties on the environment.

Adhering to the international norms of sustainable development and the key principles of its Constitution, Uzbekistan has carried out judicial reforms to produce new and improve the current regulatory tools for environmental protection consistent with international standards.

The country has adopted and implemented strategic documents such as the national program to protect the environment, conserve biodiversity and phase out ozone depleting substances along with a series of climate initiatives.

Uzbekistan's law on environmental control has introduced an important stage in advancing the country's environmental regulations by providing strong regulatory frameworks enabling a productive involvement of specialized civil society institutions in addressing environmental challenges in the country. Additionally, given the important role of NGOs in solving environmental issues, a social dialogue has been established to carry out State-ordered and grant projects that seek to improve the environment in the regions.

The country has taken measures to reduce air pollution, improve key water canals, expand the protected area networks thereby achieving general betterments in nature use practices and environmental protection.

Following President Mirziyoyev's Decree, the State Committee for Nature Protection has been reformed into the State Committee for Environmental Protection in order to reorganize the country's environmental regulation system. The new Committee's key functions include state regulation and coordination of the efficient use of natural resources and inter-agency cooperation in environmental protection.

The speakers also highlighted the adoption of the presidential decrees on advancement of the state environmental regulation system, on measures to ensure the operation of the Committee for Environmental Protection, and on measures to radically enhance the country's waste management system for 2017-2021 which seek to ensure environmental security, develop social infrastructures, improve the nation's living standards, and achieve other goals as set by the National Development Action Strategy on Five Focus Areas.

Furthermore, one of the key tasks of the new Committee will be to establish an effectual system for household waste collection, transportation, processing, disposal and burying.

The speakers also discussed occasional breaches of environmental regulations that need further elaboration towards stronger accountability and higher fines for law violations.

In 2016, the Committee detected 18,269 violations of the administrative code on the environment of which 7,187 or around 40% involved environmental pollution by littering. This situation resulted from poor administrative measures and sanctions for breaches of environmental, sanitary and waste management regulations. Therefore, the Code of Administrative Responsibility is expected to see new amendments that will strengthen environmental accountability.

Besides, the environmental experts at the meeting called for a stronger public involvement, hence a better public oversight of the use of the nation's natural resources. Some priority measures should include stronger practices of reporting on any poaching or illegal tree cutting cases to prevent further violations.

At its closure, the meeting stressed that Ecoweek 2017 should seek to sensitize environmental issues and encourage the interest and involvement of each citizen in addressing environmental protection challenges.

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