



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECOLOGICAL LEGISLATION IN RESORT NATURAL AREAS: A LEGAL ANALYSIS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF UZBEKISTAN'S LEGAL SYSTEM

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Annotation. This article analyzes the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding environmental protection and the ecological safeguarding of resort and natural areas. Resort and natural areas are environmentally protected zones intended for public health recovery, recreation, and wellness, and therefore require a specialized approach to their preservation. The article examines the Law "On Environmental Protection," the Law "On Resorts," and other regulatory legal acts, highlighting ecological requirements, restrictions on activities, state supervision, and the system of environmental expertise applicable to these territories. Additionally, the principles of rational use of land, water, air, and biological resources within such areas are discussed.

Keywords. Ecology, sanitation, environment, restrictions, state control, ecological expertise

Resort natural areas are protected territories with unique climatic and natural conditions, used for the purpose of restoring and strengthening human health. In such areas, preserving the natural state of the environment is not only an ecological obligation, but also a significant socio-economic and public health responsibility. Therefore, legal mechanisms aimed at ensuring ecological safety, preventing pollution, and rational use of natural resources in resort zones play a vital role.

When discussing the concept and ecological significance of resort natural areas, it is important to note that these territories are designated by the state as ecologically protected areas for health improvement, treatment, and recreation purposes. These areas include:

Sources of thermal and mineral waters;

Climatic resort zones;

Mountain, desert, and forest regions;

Locations where climate and natural resources possess combined therapeutic properties.

In Uzbekistan, the primary normative legal documents concerning environmental protection include, first and foremost, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to Article 50 of the Constitution, every citizen has the right to live in a healthy environment.

In addition to the Constitution, key legal acts such as the Law "On Environmental Protection" (1992), the Law "On Nature Protection" (1992), the Law "On Water and Water Use", the Land Code, the Water Code, and the Forest Code provide the legal basis for the regulation of resort areas, including the following:

Limiting atmospheric air pollution;

Rational use of water resources;

Waste management;

Protection of flora and fauna listed in the Red Book;
Obligations to conduct ecological assessments and monitoring.

Regarding environmental law violations and liability in resort areas, the following are considered offenses:

Illegal placement of polluting industrial facilities;
Excessive exploitation of mineral water resources;
Unauthorized construction activities;
Damage to plant and animal life.

Relevant articles of the Administrative Liability Code and the Criminal Code provide for penalties in such cases (e.g., Article 198 – Pollution of the Environment).

Ecological Expertise and Assessment: Application in Resort Areas

State ecological expertise is a system of evaluating the ecological safety of new projects, constructions, or resource utilization before implementation. In resort zones:

Any infrastructure object must undergo ecological review;

The process is supervised by the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

International Experience and Reforms in Uzbekistan

Many countries (Germany, Czech Republic, Russia) have introduced strict ecological standards for the protection of resort areas. In Uzbekistan, several initiatives are underway in this direction:

The "Green Space" project;
Designation of ecotourism zones;
Implementation of digitalization and monitoring systems for resort resources.

Conclusion

The ecological protection of resort natural areas is crucial not only for the residents of those regions but also for the health and well-being of society as a whole. Therefore, it is essential to: Strengthen environmental control in resort areas; Increase liability for ecological offenses; Raise environmental awareness among the public and entrepreneurs; Expand ecotourism and ecological investment initiatives.

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