



UNECE



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Country statement

Uzbekistan

**- Policies affecting forest land use and forest
products markets -**

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POLICY OF THE USE OF FOREST LANDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

The land of Uzbekistan is the national wealth, subject to rational use and protected by the state as the basis of life, work and well-being of the nation.

Land law of the Republic is regulated by "Land Code" adopted by Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan on April 30th, 1998.

The main aims of land legislation are the regulation of land terms in order to ensure the interests of both present and future generations, scientifically grounded, rational use and protection of lands, reproduction and raise of soil fertility, preservation and improvement of environment, creation of conditions for equal development of all enterprises, protection of the land rights of both juridical and natural persons as well as strengthening law in this sphere.

Available land fund of the Republic is divided into different categories including forestlands.

At the beginning of 2005 total area of State forest fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan make up 8110,5 thousand hectares or around 19,3% of the territory of the country. At the same time woodlands, that is the ratio of the area covered with forests to the total territory makes up 5,3%. In other words forest land accounts for 0,1 hectare per resident of Uzbekistan.

Forest fund area is formed by forest and non-forest lands. Forest land is the land, where forest-growing takes place, and non-forest land is the land where there is no possibility to carry out forest amelioration or it is possible only under the conditions of additional preparation.

Forests of the Republic belong to the Group I of forests and fulfill erosion-preventive, water protective and protective functions.

Forest land in Uzbekistan makes up 3517,3 thousand hectares, of them 2327,3 thousand ha. is forest land, 209,3 thousand ha. is close crops, 716,4 thousand ha. is rare forest land, 247,4 thousand ha. is glade.

Non-forest land makes up 4540,6 thousand ha., which include 11,6 thousand ha. of arable land, 1,4 thousand ha. of hayfield, 1865,9 thousand ha. of pasture, 2,0 thousand ha. of marsh, 114,3 thousand ha. of sands, 2469,4 thousand ha. of other lands.

Of total area of forest land desert forests make up significant part (88,5%); mountain forests make up 10,5%, flood-plain forests make up approximately 1%.

The largest territory of forest fund lies in the Republic of Karakalpakstan (48% of total), Navoi (30%), and Bukhara (7%) regions.

Allocation of forest land is also irregular. The biggest area of such lands is situated in Navoi (50%) and Bukhara (13%) regions. In other regions forestlands make up from 1 up to 3 per cent of total area of forest land of Uzbekistan.

The main forest making crops in the country are saxaul (*Haloxydon*), juniper (*Juniperus*), pistachio-tree (*Pistacia*), turanose (*Cappadocia*), almond-tree (*Amygdalus*), maple (*Acer*), walnut (*Juglans regia*), and others. Considerable area is occupied with bushes like adder's tongue (*Calligonum aphyllum*), roof tree (*Tamarix*), silver chingil (*Halodendron woss.*), saltwort (*Salsola richteri*).

One of the important moves towards the development of forestry in the country was the adoption of the Law of Uzbekistan "About forests" (15.04.1999) and the following several normative documents. In 2000 the State Committee on forests was reorganized to Head Department of forestry, which is in the structure of the Ministry of agriculture and water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

There are 83 forest farms, 6 national parks, 1 national nature park and 6 forest hunting enterprises in the Head Department of forestry.

Since the transition to market relations in the country, forestlands have been transmitted by the state into the different forms of property. Besides it is envisaged by the Law "About Forests" to rent forest land in the long-term for the cultivation of forest crops.

At present more than 1,5 thousand ha. of gardens and vineyards as well as lands suitable for industry plantations of poplar and other fast-growing sorts are lent for long-term rent.

It is well known, that irrigated lands in the Republic are not much that is why fertile lands are used for cultivating agricultural crops. Only the lands, which are not suitable for agricultural purposes, are turned over to forestry.

As a result of forest amelioration works large areas of unused lands have been put into national economy circulation.

Nowadays the Republic is sharply in need of National program on development and improvement of forestry. Taking into account different sources of financing of land improvement, protection of environment and the reduction of ecological tension in some regions of the country it is foreseen to settle the following principal tasks:

1. To conduct complex inventorying of forest lands by using aero photographs.
2. To establish government agency and special services on cadastral evaluation of forests and annually conduct these works.
3. To start the creation of the system of field-and-pasture protective forest belts.
4. To create the second line of Bukhara barrier in the border contiguity of Kyzylkum and Karakum deserts with the oases of Samarkand, Syrdarya and other regions.
5. To use more widely traditional methods of forest management in the provinces.
6. To accelerate the process of transmission of forest lands to private and collective ownership.
7. To elaborate the methods of registration and bookkeeping in forestry according to the requirements of FAO and the experience of other developed countries in the sphere.
8. To attract more widely public and private investments both foreign and domestic to develop forestry.
9. To continue works on forest amelioration of drain bottom of the Aral Sea.

We think these directions must take priority in settling problems of forestry development in Uzbekistan. It is absolutely clear that, forest is not only the tool for improvement of melioration conditions of lands but also one of the integral parts of general ecosystem.

Forests and wild animals living there in natural conditions are the state property and subject to rational use and protected by the government.

Forests are not lent to private persons for permanent use, they can be rented for the period of 10 years, for example, to manage hunting farm or maintain other necessary activities not prohibited by the law. These conditions concern to other government and public organizations, which are not member of forestry bodies as well.

As to wild animals that are the subject to hunting, they can be under the private ownership and be kept in house conditions (cages, open-air cages, pythons) in the presence of permission of local bodies of nature protection.

In accordance with the forest legislation of the Republic one of the types of forest use is the use of areas of state fund for hunting purposes, that is the creation of state hunting, forest-hunting, fishing farms, which are the part of bodies of forestry management.

Parts of forest fund may be provided for temporary use for hunting to different hunting enterprises, public organizations (association of hunters and fishers, etc.) by the recommendation of local bodies of state government and the agreement with the administration of national reserves, nature reserves and hunting farms.

In agreement terms for hunters several important points like protection of flora and fauna, their intactness and reproduction as well as rational use are marked out.

Thus, in the system of forestry there were 6 state hunting farms founded in the total area of 3078,6 thousand ha., while forests in Tashkent, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya and other regions of the country are assigned to the associations of hunters.

Government bodies of forestry provide their services not only to local but also to foreign hunters and fishers, which bring fixed earnings including in foreign currency.

Illegal activities related to hunting and forest destruction is not the problem in the country, since they are rare cases. Moreover, legislation in the sphere of nature use foresees strict measures of punishment for infringers, which includes imprisonment up to 4 years with payment of significant juridical claim sums for the damage to state forest-hunting fund.

j) Name and list main engaged entities, related to forest management, including non-governmental, research, educational and environmental organizations, apart from state agents (see points g). and h).)

<i>Type of organization</i>	<i>Official name of organization</i>	<i>Main objective</i>	<i>Internet address /URL/ Link</i>
State forest enterprises	Main directorate of forest management Minselhozvodhoz	Forest restoration,	Katartal str.21, massive Chilangar-8, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
	Ugam Chatkalskij national park supervised by Tashkent regional authorities	Planting and protection	
Private forest owners and unions of entrepreneurs			
Non-governmental organizations			
	Ecoles		
Education and research			
Other			