



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANT CONSERVATION AND ITS ROLE IN BOTANY

Ismailov Khurshid Esirgapovich

prof. (PhD), Academic Lyceum of Tashkent State Agrarian University

Abstract: *Nature is one of the most important factors for the life and future of humanity, and plants are an integral part of it. Plants produce oxygen, protect the soil from erosion, ensure ecological balance, and are a source of food, medicine, and raw materials for humans and animals. Therefore, protecting the plant world is not only of ecological, but also of economic and scientific importance.*

This article provides information on the concept of flora, the definition of flora by legal scholars, statistics on plant species in the world and in the Republic of Uzbekistan, flora objects, the experience of some developed countries in protecting flora, the types of flora objects established in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the foundations of their protection.

Keywords: *plant, plant world, world objects, botanical collections, plant world protection, Uzbekistan - 2030 strategy.*

The era we live in is the most advanced era of humanity in every field, and we are influencing the nature around us to such an extent that we are even trying to control it with technological means created by ourselves based on our own plans. As if nature should serve us. But both nature and the plant world that lives in it have their own way of life. So what is the plant world? What are the objects of the plant world? Plants are life. 80 percent of the food we eat and 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe depend on them. However, due to biotic and abiotic threats, plant life is under threat, and plant production requires transformation to meet the growing demand for food, feed, fiber and fuel.

Botany is the science that studies plants, their types, structure, reproduction, distribution and significance. This science creates the scientific basis for the



protection of the plant world and provides important recommendations for nature conservation. The decline of plants can have a negative impact not only on biodiversity, but also on humanity.

Scientists who have studied the flora and its objects have given it different definitions. In particular, according to A.N. Nigmatov, it is known from the system of environmental legislation of our republic that at all stages of the process of legal regulation of the use and protection of the flora, attention is paid to a number of specific features of the flora: firstly, plants are found in the soil, above the ground, underground and in water; secondly, there are cultivated and wild species of them; thirdly, wild plants are divided into two categories: forest and non-forest. A.B. Iskoyan, on the other hand, "the flora is understood as the set of wild plants growing naturally freely on land and in water on the territory of the state, as well as within the continental shelf belonging to it. According to Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection and Use of Flora", flora is a set of all types of wild plants growing in the natural environment or cultivated in artificially created conditions on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to Article 5 of the Law, objects of the plant world include: wild plants; products of the vital activity of wild plants; botanical collections. 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 system. There are 21 thousand of them in the CIS countries, 7 thousand in Central Asia, and 4148 in our country. Uzbekistan occupies a special place in terms of the diversity of the plant world and its importance in the national economy. For example, there are about 4500 plant species belonging to 146 families in our country. Including plants, fungi and aquatic plants, approximately 11 thousand species can be listed, of which 4800 are flowering and vascular plants. The biodiversity of endemics is not so great - about 400 species, of which 10-12% are under threat of extinction. As can be seen from the above figures, the share of plants on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is much lower than in other countries. As Prof. Zh. T. Kholmuminov noted, "Much work still needs to be done on measures aimed at preserving rare species of wild and medicinal plants that



are disappearing in Uzbekistan.” Based on this, the President is adopting relevant regulatory and legal documents to implement a number of works to improve the ecological environment of our country. Indeed, the Decree No. PF-158 “On the Strategy “Uzbekistan — 2030” adopted on September 11, 2023 clearly defines the work to be carried out in this area. The "Uzbekistan - 2030" strategy provides for the expansion of the "Green Space" nationwide project aimed at stabilizing the ecological situation, in particular, planting 200 million trees annually and bringing the level of greenery in the republic to 30 percent, creating a system for caring for each planted tree and watering it. In Tashkent alone, the goal is to increase the area of green spaces by 5 times, bringing it to 5 thousand hectares. Also, the State Program for 2024 stipulates the planting of at least 200 million trees of ornamental and fruit trees and shrubs, seedlings, cuttings, and the creation of 444 green parks in the republic within the framework of the project. Citizens and legal entities are users of flora objects. Users of flora objects must strictly adhere to the terms and conditions established by law when using flora objects.

Currently, many plant species are on the verge of extinction as a result of human activities. This situation is caused by the following factors:

Deforestation – the cutting down of trees for industrial and agricultural purposes – leads to ecosystem destruction.

Land degradation – soil erosion, salinization, and chemical pollution – harms plant growth.

Climate change – global warming and extreme weather conditions – are affecting plant habitats.

Destruction of rare species – some medicinal plants and rare plant species are in decline due to overharvesting.

Plant Protection Measures

The following measures should be taken to preserve the flora:

By establishing protected areas - reserves and national parks - it is possible to preserve rare and endangered plant species.



Environmental education and advocacy – teaching about nature conservation in schools and universities is important.

Support recovery processes - it is necessary to expand planting programs to restore ecosystems and increase forests.

Legal protection measures – it is necessary to strengthen the legislative framework to protect endangered plants and take measures against illegal logging.

In conclusion, botany helps to maintain ecological balance by studying the scientific foundations of plant protection. If humanity wants to develop its future sustainably, it is necessary to protect plants, breed them, and treat nature with care. Therefore, each of us must contribute to the preservation of nature and plant protection.

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