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Current Problems of the Republic of Uzbekistan's Transition to A "Green" Economy

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the advantages of the transition to a «green economy» using methods for assessing environmental and economic development. The connection between the «green economy» and sustainable development is considered, as well as how effective this economy can be.

Keywords:

«green economy», climate change, crisis, environmental problems, development, ecology

Introduction

Over the past three decades, with the growth of the population and the development of technology, mankind has faced the inability of the economy to independently solve the problems of depletion of natural resources and the negative impact on the environment, which in turn affects people's health and therefore, more and more attention is now being paid to environmental issues.

In 1972, a conference was held in Stockholm, as a result of which 26 principles were formulated aimed at preserving the human environment by the peoples of the world and improving it. December 19, 1983 was established

“World Commission on Environment and Development” (this name was given to the commission a little later), the purpose of which was to present a document that would reflect environmental and global problems up to the year 2000, and also proposed strategies for achieving sustainable development. As well as the adopted Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 04.10.2019 No. PP-4477 “On approval of the strategy for the

transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “green” economy for the period 2019-2030”, which spoke about the consistent implementation of the tasks identified by the Action Strategy for five priority areas for the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, as well as ensuring the fulfillment of the obligations of the Paris Agreement (Paris, December 12, 2015) and the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a "green" economy.

UNEP defines a green economy as an economic system that increases human well-being and social equity while reducing environmental risks and natural resource scarcity. In other words, a green economy is a low-carbon economy that uses resources efficiently and serves the interests of the whole society.

The key problem that necessitates the transition of Uzbekistan to a "green" economy is that the current

The "brown" model of the economy limits the country's ability to ensure sustainable long-term development, which creates risks and problems for current and future generations. In particular, most of the development strategies

implemented in the country over the past decades have encouraged the rapid accumulation of physical, financial and human capital at the expense of the depletion of natural capital. As a result, despite the fact that the current development model has made it possible to ensure high rates of economic growth and an increase in the welfare of the country's population, the negative consequences of the functioning of this system are significant. These include environmental problems (problem of the Aral Sea; climate change, desertification of land, loss of biodiversity); depletion of water resources and degradation of land quality due to irrational use of land and water resources; depletion of energy resources due to the high energy intensity of the production process and insufficient use of renewable energy sources.

Analysis of literature on the topic

Among the economists whose work is devoted to the problems of ecological economics, one can single out such well-known foreign and domestic authors: as T.A. Akimova, who studied the relationship between economic and environmental problems, stimulating the greening of economic activity, features of the implementation of environmental policy, the efficiency of using the country's natural resource potential, the problems of forming an environmentally oriented economy [1], A. G. Bannikov noted that in the process of production activity, a person creates new objects for nature: cars, buildings, roads, factories, mines, agricultural fields, etc. These labor-processed natural materials have a decisive impact on the environment[2], M M Brinchuk substantiated the introduction of the category "potential of nature" into legal practice as a new methodological basis for state environmental policy and environmental law[3], MN Ignatieva devoted her work to information about emissions, discharges, waste disposal, which allows assessing the economic damage caused by environmental pollution during the development of subsoil resources[4], A.V. Vakhobov considered the more efficient use of the "Green Economy" system in the further development of the country's economic

stability[5], R.A. Kulmatov studied in his writings that the goal of the "green economy" is to develop practical recommendations for improving the quality of environmental protection and social integration while ensuring sustainable economic growth and increasing investment activity[6], and the economist F. T. Egamberdieva studied the problems of sustainable development, in particular issues of low-carbon development, green labor and others[7]. A number of studies considering the formation and actual use of the concept of sustainable development, which involves a comprehensive solution of social, environmental and economic problems to ensure the growth of the well-being of the current generation of people while not worsening future generations, was considered by A. G. Bezdudnaya [8].

According to the scientists I mentioned above, the "green" economy involves "monitoring and forecasting climate change, the development, production and use of technologies and equipment to control and reduce pollutant emissions, as well as sustainable development issues. In my article, I considered that the transition to a green economy represents a perspective in various sectors of the Republic of Uzbekistan in order to preserve and restore natural capital.

Methodological research

The methodological foundations of the study are determined by the views of academic scientific schools that study the processes of evolution and development of environmental economics, ecological economics and the economics of sustainable development. The materials of the United Nations, the World Bank and other organizations are widely used to one extent or another regulating various aspects of the ecological economy in the context of sustainable development.

Analysis and results

The transition to a green economy will restore and expand natural capital, reduce carbon emissions and provide a favorable environment for people to live and work in the long term.

Natural assets (forests, lakes, wetlands and river basins) are important components of natural capital at the ecosystem level. They are vital to ensure the stability of the water cycle and its benefits to agriculture and households, the carbon cycle and its role in climate mitigation, soil fertility and its importance for crop production, local microclimates that create a safe environment for people to live, fisheries as a source proteins. Natural capital contributes to the well-being of people and provides economies with valuable resources at the levels

of genes, species and ecosystems.

The “Green economy” is formed taking into account a certain system of principles, which are also interpreted differently by researchers, international organizations, and national documents.

The concept of “Green economy” is based on the principles that determine the actions of businesses, governments, and communities. Their content reveals the essential difference between this model of economic development and others (see fig. 2).

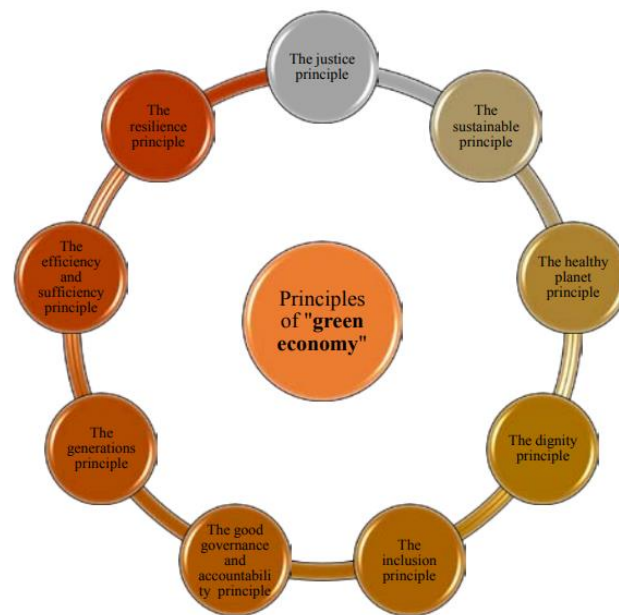


Figure 1. Principles of the “green economy”

Source: author development

We will also consider Environmental Quality of Life Indicators, which identify risks to health and safety, availability of amenities and ecosystem services, and the impact of the environment on livelihoods, in particular through assessing access to water or the disruptive effects of polluted air. Indicators of environmental aspects of quality of life include: level of air pollution; average life expectancy at

birth; expected healthy life expectancy; access to centralized sewerage; share of households connected to the water supply.

The amount of emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere per unit area is an indicator that characterizes the density of emissions of pollutants that enter the atmosphere from stationary and mobile sources of pollution.

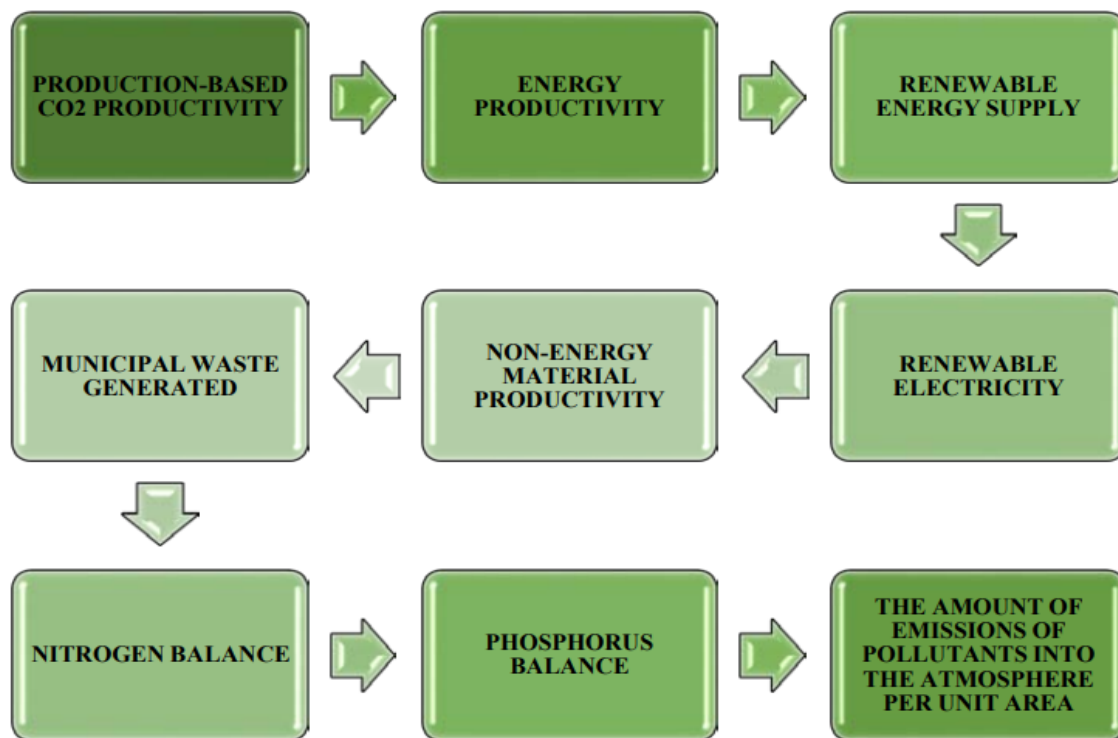


Fig. 2. Green growth indicators

Source: author development

The transition to a green economy not only recognizes and demonstrates the value of natural capital (as a source of human well-being, livelihood for poor households, new and decent jobs), but also invests in and builds on this natural capital for economic progress. It also presents the prospects for investing in various areas of the "green" economy in order to preserve and restore natural capital:

First, reducing deforestation and reforestation will help preserve and develop ecosystems and improve climate regulation. In particular, forests are home to 80% of terrestrial biological species and contribute to the sustainability of agriculture, health and other sectors related to flora and fauna, the well-being of more than 1 billion people depends on the conservation of forests.

Benefits from improved climate regulation due to twice the reduction in deforestation are estimated to be three times the cost.

Modeling of the "green" economy shows that investing 0.03% of GDP in 2011-2050. in the form of forest conservation

payments to forest land owners, as well as private investment in reforestation, can increase the value added of the forest industry by more than 20% and significantly increase the amount of carbon stored in forest areas.

Second, greening agriculture will feed a growing world population without undermining the natural resources used by the sector. With global population growth, agriculture will need to feed 9 billion people by 2050 without compromising ecosystems and human health. Today, agriculture consumes more than 70% of the world's fresh water resources, and the agricultural sector accounts for more than 13% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The use of available technologies in agriculture is responsible for 3 to 5 million cases of pesticide poisoning and more than 40,000 deaths per year.

As for the inefficient use of energy, which costs Uzbekistan at least 4.5% of GDP annually, with electricity generation, heat supply and buildings being the main sources of energy losses. Nearly 40% of Uzbekistan's existing generating capacity is past its useful life, leading

to power outages. In the absence of policies to encourage energy efficiency and decarbonization, Uzbekistan will face a sharp decline in oil and gas production (and exports) by 2030 and will become more dependent on coal. Studies show that the country's renewable energy potential is 270 million tons of fuel equivalent, more than three times the annual energy requirement, and most of this potential comes from solar energy. Over the past 10 years, the global cost of solar electricity has fallen by 80%, in Uzbekistan its cost may be even lower due to the abundance of sunlight.

Conclusion

The analysis carried out in the work showed that at present the need for a transition to a "green" economy in Uzbekistan has a solid economic and social justification. It is advisable to implement the main strategies for the country's transition to a "green" economy in the following main areas:

In the field of introduction of renewable energy sources:

1. Installation of photovoltaic converters in rural areas to achieve full electrification of remote farms by 2030
2. Creation of large photovoltaic power plants
3. Implementation of solar attachments in boiler heat supply systems.

In general, the implementation of the policy of "greening" through the development of non-traditional renewable energy sources will reduce the share of fuel energy to 50% in total energy production by 2050.

In the field of waste management:

1. Arrangement of existing landfills and construction of waste processing plants.

The development strategy for the waste management system in Uzbekistan should focus on the complete processing of the annual volume of incoming solid domestic waste in the country.

In the field of land and water management:

1. Improving the efficiency of water resources use and preventing further salinization and deterioration of land quality through the widespread use of water-saving

technologies, modernizing water management systems, increasing the efficiency factor (COP) of canals, and building impervious cover on them.

2. Introduction of the principles of "clean" agriculture, reduction of the use of mineral fertilizers and pesticides in the agricultural sector.

3. Improving the drinking water supply system and developing environmentally friendly sewerage systems.

The solution of these issues and the implementation of the strategic goals of the transition to a green economy in these sectors will help improve the current situation and eliminate future risks at the national and global levels.

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