



UN DP

Uzbekistan

ENVIRONMENTAL

OF UZBEKISTAN

Foreword

During the last decades public has been displaying the greater interest to environmental problems in general and it is quite reasonable since they are indeed very serious and pressing, cause great concerns and their solving demands joint efforts of authorities, scientists and the public at large. Human intervention in all inmost spheres of the nature causes drastic environmental degradation that in many cases results in demise of unique natural complexes and memorials, reduction and extinction of various flora and fauna species and loss of biodiversity as such. All these irreversible alterations in geographical environment could result in unpredictable adverse effect.

Today we can say that lately ecology has started affecting the interests of actually every person of our society, therefore, it is very important to keep people informed about ecological aspects and problems and to increase the level of their awareness and environmental literacy.

State Committee for Nature Protection lays great emphasis on the necessity to inform governmental agencies and population about environmental conditions of the air, land and water resources, and of all other components of environment of the country as a whole. The Committee regularly undertakes measures to keep society informed about the existing transboundary problems and ways of their solving. These measures are based on information and data provided by ecologists. It is very important to use modern scientific approaches and technologies.

It is a great pleasure for me to offer for your consideration first edition of Atlas on the environmental state in Uzbekistan prepared as part of the Government of Uzbekistan/UNDP Joint Project. The Project "Environmental Indicators to monitor the state of the environment in Uzbekistan" and its follow-up "Enhancement of the Environmental Indicators Database with GIS application to monitor the state of the environment in Uzbekistan" is a part of the wider initiative on development of the national data collection and processing system being implemented with the UNDP support. GIS programs based environmental indicators database was developed as part of the Project, and was used as a basis for preparation of a series of maps reflecting the state of environment. The proposed collection of the environmental schematic maps clearly demonstrates the state of environment in Uzbekistan in 2000 - 2006.

The database materials display that air and water resources pollution situation is stabilizing and partially improving in a number of regions of the country. However, lots of ecological problems of the country still cause serious concern and dictate pressing necessity for their solving.

The Atlas could be very helpful in delivering activities on conservation and rehabilitation of the environment and will provide basis for monitoring of the results achieved. We do hope that this release will be useful and interesting not only for specialists and decision makers, but for a high readership as well, who is concerned about conservation of our greatest national endowment - the nature of Uzbekistan.



Chairman of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Foreword

The Environmental Atlas of Uzbekistan is an attempt to present the most significant environmental variables for the country under one cover and link those to the geographical location. It is a spin-off of the major project, Environmental Indicators of Uzbekistan, which has managed to bring together 91 environmental indicators as time series (sometimes going all the way back to the Soviet period) in a GIS-enabled database.

Similar to many ex-Soviet countries Uzbekistan exhibits some major environmental problems caused by central planning and its preoccupation with increasing economic growth with little regard to its effects on the environment or the sentiments of the people who might be living in the affected areas. The most notorious of those is the Aral Sea disaster - perhaps the first climate change of any appreciable scale caused by human action. All of Central Asia contains degraded lands, buried or open-air toxic/radioactive wastes, polluted surface or underground waters and still-operating archaic factories that spew poisonous gases to atmosphere.

Hence, it is very important that Uzbekistan and other CIS countries chart their development as independent countries to be environment friendly in order that this terrible legacy is not further compounded and act as a deterrent to higher living standards to present and future generations. Sustainable resource usage, conservation, productive modern technologies, rational waste management, respect for biodiversity, respect for the shared water and other resources must be fully considered in future development plans by the Government and the private sector. Even more important is raising the awareness of the citizens so that they demand the right standards of behavior of each other, their Government and companies.

I hope that this Environmental Atlas will help in the above regards and will be a timely complement to the Welfare Improvement Strategy that has recently been endorsed as the national development strategy for the period 2008-2010. UNDP is committed to support the people of Uzbekistan in achieving sustainable development and improving living standards throughout the country.

F. AKCURA UNDP Resident Representative

ENVIRONMENTAL ATLAS OF UZBEKISTAN

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"Kartografiya" State Scientific-Production Enterprise, "Art Line Group" LTD. Photo by D.Akhunbabaev was used for design of front cover

Contributors are grateful to all organizations, companies, and staff of research institutions for their assistance in collection of essential materials and their cartographic analysis.

Introduction

This Atlas - the State of the Environment in Uzbekistan has been prepared by the joint Project of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and United Nations Development Program "Enhancement of the Environmental Indicators Database with GIS application to monitor the state of the environment in Uzbekistan".

The analysis of the current state and trends in the environmental changes are based on environmental indicators reflecting national environmental priorities in line with the international environmental approaches; based on ongoing observations; containing reliable information, which enables to predict effectiveness of the undertaken measures.

These indicators describe prioritized issues of country's environment related to climate change, current state of atmospheric air, water and land resources, biodiversity, public health, current state of the Aral Sea, and issues of waste management.

Thematic maps, tables, and graphs are prepared based on the analysis of materials in the Database of Environmental Indicators for 1991-2006 utilizing GIS-technologies. Utilizing environmental indicators along with traditional methods of mapping analysis significantly expands knowledge of the current state of the environment in the region, enabling to identify emerging issues and the ways to overcome them.

Mapping was based on development of information layers of the general geographic underpinning and thematic content of the Atlas maps. This database puts together modern data of the State Committee for Land resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State cadastre and materials of the major ministries responsible for environmental monitoring to ensure accuracy, consistency, completeness, and timeliness of information essential to support management-related decision-making. Consistency of Information was ensured by preliminary analysis and agreement of Atlas maps.

These schematic maps are arranged in three sections. The first section provides distribution of major environmental indicators nationwide. The second one outlines the quality of air, water, and land resources and features of biodiversity across regions and districts. The third one is about distribution of major hydrological characteristics of water collection area and irrigated territory of the entire basin of the Aral Sea.

Considering the important role of the assessment of the state and utilization of water resources in the Aral Sea basin for almost all components of region's environment and economics, these aspects are specified in the special section of the Atlas, encompassing the territory of the neighboring nations. The hydrological section is prepared primarily by the specialists of the Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan.

This publication is designed for a broad circle of users, staff of research and training centers, businesses, public organizations, local authorities as well as decision-makers and will facilitate development of effective activities to improve domestic environment and more rational utilization of its natural resources.

The authors are sincerely grateful to all organizations, companies, staff members of research institutions for the assistance provided in collecting and analysis of essential materials.

SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL MAPS OF UZBEKISTAN

FIXED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING STATIONS

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AIR QUALITY BY REGIONS



Dust storm in the Aral Sea Basin

http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery/

Number of days with dust storms (per year)



Number of days with higher content of particulate matters in city air (per year)



20 AIR QUALITY IN BUKHARA AND NAVOI REGIONS



25 50 100 150 200 Km AIR QUALITY IN KASHKADARYA AND SURKHANDARYA REGIONS 21



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WATER QUALITY BY REGIONS













SOIL QUALITY BY REGIONS





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95 - 100

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BIODIVERSITY BY REGIONS

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Brandt's Hedgehog Hemiechinus hypomelas



Thick-tailed Pygmy Jerboa



Honey Badger (Ratel)



Asiatic Cheetah



Turkmen Caracal (Desert Lynx)





Kulan



Bactrian (Bukhara) Deer



Goitred Gazelle



Transcaspian (Ustyurt) Urial

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WATER RESOURCES OF CENTRAL ASIA

The surface water bodies are those of different kinds-rivers, says, ephemeral streams, lakes, water storage reservoirs, marshes, glaciers, as well as snow cover, located on the land surface of the earth.

The formation and distribution of surface waters over the territory of Uzbekistan is closely connected with the climatic factors, first of all, with atmospheric precipitation. The precipitation is distributed very unevenly over the territory of the republic. This peculiarity is determined by its geographical position, orographic structure and other factors. The least precipitation (less than 100 mm a year) falls on the plain part of Uzbekistan. As one approaches the mountains, the rainfall increases and in the highland areas the rainfall amounts to 1000 mm and more. Throughout the territory of the republic most of precipitation (about 80 per cent) falls in the winter-spring period. In summer on the greater part of the territory of Uzbekistan the rainfall is very slight.

The annual distribution of precipitation over the territory of Uzbekistan influences greatly the formation of the river runoff. The duration of snow cover is also changeable over the territory depending on the geographical latitude and altitude of the locality. Snow fallen in the high mountain zones remains in the form of snow fields throughout the year. Glaciers are widespread in these areas as well.

On the plain part of the republic because of slight precipitation streams with the perennial flow are not formed. However, the ephemeral overland runoff may be formed in these areas and especially in the low mountain regions Sultan-Uvais, Tamdytau, Bukantau and others in the period of snow melting or during heavy showers.

The rivers of Uzbekistan belong to the closed drainage area of the Aral Sea. The main rivers - the Syrdarya and the Amudarya, crossing the territory of the country, rise beyond the borders of the republic. 10 per cent of 38 km³ of the runoff of the Syrdarya, and 8 per cent of 78 km³ of the runoff of the Amudarya are formed on the territory of Uzbekistan.

The mountain part of the territory of Uzbekistan is rich in the

river network. The largest rivers of them are the Chirchik, Ahangaran, Kasansay, Naryn, Karadarya, Isfayramsay, Soh, Isfara, Sanzar, Zarafshan, Kashkadarya, Sherabad, Surhandarya.

Sixteen orographic regions with different dependencies of the annual specific discharge upon the average elevation of the basin are distinguished within the mountain part of Uzbekistan. During drawing the boundaries of the orographic regions the general macroexposition of the basins, their orientation concerning humid air masses and synoptical processes were used as criteria. The correlations, obtained for different orographic regions, are given in this atlas and they were the basis for making the map of the annual normal flow and other maps.

The seasonal snow cover, glaciers and, to a lesser degree, rain water take part in the nourishment of the rivers of Uzbekistan. According to the sources of nourishment the rivers of Uzbekistan are divided into glacier-fed streams (the Soh, Isfara, Isfayramsay), snowmelt-glacier-fed ones (the Zarafshan, Tupalangdarya) snowmelt-fed ones (the Pskem) and snowmeltrain-fed ones.

The main runoff (60-75 per cent) of glacier-fed and snowmelt-fed streams is formed between July and September and so it is very convenient to use their waters for irrigation. The runoff of snowmelt-fed and snowmelt-rain-fed streams is notable for the great interannual variability, and the flood of these streams is observed in April and May.

The amount of the seasonal river runoff is closely connected with the type of nourishment and the elevation of the basins. The following seasons can be distinguished on the rivers of Central Asia, including Uzbekistan: hydrological spring (March-September)-the period of melting the seasonal snow cover supply; hydrological summer (July-September)-the period of melting of perennial snows and glaciers; hydrological autumn (September-November) and hydrological winter (December-February). For the majority of rivers-of Uzbekistan the first two seasons fall on the flood, and the succeeding two seasons - on the period of minimum flow (low water season). The formation of the peak runoff is also dependent on the elevation of river basins. On the low-lying river basins the flood begins early and finishes earlier. For instance, in the basins with the average elevation of the catchment area of about 2000 m the flood begins on March 10-20th and in the basins with the elevation of about 3000 m-on April 10-20th. In the low water season (low discharge of water) rivers are mainly fed by groundwater.

Rivers with the elevation of the catchment of about 2000 m and more are characterized by the autumn-winter low water stage, and the summer-autumn-winter low water stage is observed on the rivers with the relatively low elevation of the catchment.

On the says in the low mountain areas in the years with little snowfall the flood reduces down to 20-30 days, and for the rest of the year the low water stage is observed, and for the most part, the river beds dry up. On leaving the mountains for the plains, the natural river regime changes. It is caused by the diversion of water for irrigation, the availability of water storage reservoirs and the inflow of regeneration water.

The rivers of Uzbekistan are not reckoned among the most turbid ones in Central Asia. Only on some rivers (the Guzardarya and some tributaries of the Surhandarya) the annual mean turbidity exceeds 2 kg/m³. The turbidity of the majority of rivers varies within 0.2-0.5 kg/m³. In some rivers the turbidity is still less. For instance, in the Chiralma (the catchment area of the Pskem), the annual mean turbidity makes up only 0.01 kg/m³. The turbidity of mud floods, formed in the foothills and low mountain areas, reaches 200 kg/m³, and sometimes more. The annual wash modulus in the basins of mountain rivers of Uzbekistan varies within 10-650 t/km², and these amounts make up 0.0025-0.254 mm per year of the denudation depth.

In the plain areas of Uzbekistan the river runoff is used for irrigation of agricultural lands. Therefore this area is called the runoff scattering area. Numerous canals have been cut for the purpose of irrigation (the Great Fergana canal, Eski Angar canal and others). Some long-existing canals have acquired characteristics peculiar to the plain rivers-the meandering and the division into branches. To increase the irrigation efficiency of newly-built canals, their bed has been stabilized or covered with concrete.

On the territory of Uzbekistan numerous water-raising installations (pump stations) have been constructed on the canals, such as the Amu-Bukhara Canal, the Karshi Canal and others.

There are not many lakes on the territory of Uzbekistan. They are small in size and distributed extremely unevenly. The majority of lakes are situated in the mountain areas at the altitude of 2000-3000 m.

According to their genetic type most of lakes in Uzbekistan are referred to as tectonic, morainic and landslide lakes. The plain lakes are fed by river and sewage-drainage waters.

The lakes fed by river waters are divided into flood plain and deltaic lakes. The flood plain lakes are frequently met in the flood plains of the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers. Their area does not exceed 1 km2. The deltaic lakes are widespread in the deltas of the Amudarya river. In recent years , because of the lack of water, most of them have dried up. The hydrological regime of lakes fed by the sewage -drainage and regeneration waters depends mainly on the regime of sources of nourishment. The lakes lying in the lower parts of the irrigated area of the Kashkadarya and Bukhara districts represent an example of this type.

Since the middle of the last century many artificial lakes-water storage reservoirs have been built. The largest of them within Uzbekistan are the Tuyamuyun, Talimardjan, Tudakul, Kattakurgan, South-Surhan, Chimkurgan, Charvak and Kuyumazar water reservoirs. The number of water storage reservoirs is increasing from year to year. At present the Rezaksay and Kengkul water reservoirs are being built in the Namangan district, and the Tupalang and Hangaran ones in the Surhandarya district.

The hydrological regime of water storage reservoirs depends on the regime of rivers feeding it and on the needs of water users and hydroenergetics as well. The processes of storage and partial or full emptying are peculiar to most of them.

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THE TEMPERATURE REGIME OF RIVERS, LAKES AND WATER STORAGE RESERVOIRS 51



52 THE ANNUAL EVAPORATION FROM THE WATER SURFACE





Sources of these

54 ANNUAL NORMAL FLOW OF RIVERS



less than 1 5 10 20 30 40 over

Annual Mean Discharges of Water in Rivers (Q, m³/sec)

N	Rivers	Q
1	Syrdarya - k Kal	454
2	Syrdarya - k Kokbulak	732
3	Naryn - Uchkurgan.	376
4	Karadarya - k.Kamyiravat	120
5	Isfairam - k.Uchkurgan	21.8
6	Shakhimardan - k Paulgan	9.78
7	Padshaatasay - Tostu river mouth	6.02
8	Kasansay - k Kyzyitokay	7.32
9	Gavasay - k Gava	6.04
10	Soh - k Sarykanda	42.2
11	Chadaksay - Djulaisay river mouth	3.88
12	Isfara - k. Tashkurgan	14.5
13	Khodjabakirgan - k Andarkhan	10,1
14	Aksu - k Dasgan	3.84
15	Shirinsay - k Basmandysay	1.82
16	Zaminsu - k. Duoba	1.83
17	Sanzar - k Kyrk	1.98
18	Akhangaran - lertash river mouth	19.2

N	Rivers	Q
24	Amudarya - Kerki town	1960
25	Amudarya - k Chatly	1460
26	Surkhandarya - k Shurchi	68.2
27	Tupalangdarya - k.Zarchob	52.2
28	Karatag - k.Karatag	22.3
29	Sangardak - k Kengguzar	14.5
30	Halkadjar - k Bazardjay	6.87
31	Sherabaddarya - k Derbent	5.4
32	Kashkadarya - k.Varganzi	5.21
33	Kashkadarya - k Chirakchi	23.2
34	Akdarya - k Khazamau	12.1
35	Tanhyzdarya - k.Kattagan	4.3
36	Yakkabagdarya - k.Tatar	6.22
37	Guzardarya - k Yartepe	5.93
38	Zerafshan - Dupuli bridge	155
39	Zerafshan - k.Ziyavutdin	97.3
40	Zerafshan - k. Khazara	83.5
41	Urgutsay - Urgut town	0.41
42	Amankutansay - k Amankutan	0.8
43	Sazagansay - k.Sazagan	0.41
44	Tusunsay - k Karakiya	1.92
45	Aktepasay - k Akcha	0.31
48	Beglyarsay - k Yangi Akchab	0.53



CONVENTIONAL SYMBOLS



55 SOURCES OF RIVER NOURISHMENT

The Annual Distribution of the stream flow of rivers with different sources of nourishment





Criteria of river classification according to the source of nourishment

Sources of nourishment	σ	Proportion in the river nourishment, %	Month with the greatest streamflow
Glacial waters	>1.00	>38	VII, VIII
Snow- glacial waters	0.99-0.26	37-17	V, VI
Snowmelt waters	0.25-0.18	16-12	IV, V
Snowmelt-rain waters	0.17-0.00	11-0	III, IV, V

Kasa

KOKAND

FERGA

NAMANGA ANDUAN .

CHIRCHIN

Shardara w.s.r.

GULISTAN

22

Chimkurg w.s.r.

DJIZA

SAMARKAND

BAYSUN 0

o - streamflow ratio for July-September to the stream flow for March-June

- **Regions** centres
- Other settlements

less

than

\$ 10

The Syndarya

Months

SPRING PERIOD (MARCH-JUNE)

SUMMER PERIOD (JULY-SEPTEMBER)



stream flow (k. Kal) 1200. 1000. 800. 600. 400. 200. 0. I II III IV V VI VII VII IX X XI XII Months - Natural hydrological regime (1936-1970)

Annual distribution of the Syrdarya

s/a

Water

- Toktogul water storage reservoir in the energetic regime (2004)

MINIMUM STREAM FLOW

MUD FLOW FLOODS 57











Mud flow floods the causes of whose formation have been established, are considered

THE MAIN CAUSES OF MUD FLOW FORMATION

- rainstorm
- ////, rain, intense snow melting
- Υ. areas of the arising of catastrophic mud flows

Mud flows differing in the genesis and reasons of their formation are possible on the same mud flows streams. The prevailing ones are given on the map.



58 TURBIDITY OF RIVER WATER





HYDROCHEMICAL REGIME OF RIVERS 60



Variations of mineralization of river water throughout the year (1987-2004)



Variations of mineralization relative to the zone of flow formation (%)





LAKES AND WATER STORAGE RESERVOIRS 61



Notes: OPY-the year of putting into operation, NBH-normal backwater horizon, m; ALA-absolute level altitude, m; V-volume of water, mln.m., F- water table area, km.; hm-maximum depth, m. 62 AIDAR-ARNASAY LAKES



In connection with the decrease of the water discharge through the dam of the Shardara water storage reservoir, in winter period the water level begins to rise. Beginning from February of the wet year of 1969 through March 1970, the volume of water equal to 21.78 km³, was discharged through the dam into the Arnasay depression. As a result the Aydar-Arnasay lake system (lakes Tuzkan, Aydarkul, Arnasay) has been formed. These lakes are fed also by regenerated. Flow from the Mirzachul and Djizak steppes. In 1971 and 1972 the volume of the water discharge was in the limits of

In 1971 and 1972 the volume of the water discharge was in the limits of 500 mln. km². In the succeeding years there was almost no discharge of water from the Shardara into the Arnasay depression, thence the water level in the lakes gradually decreased Beginning from the 90's of the last century, the Toktogul water storage reservoir

Beginning from the 90 's of the last century, the Toktogal water storage reservoir began working in the energetic regime. In this connection, the new increasing of water level began, as a result of discharge of water from the Shardara water storage reservoir into the Arnasay, mainly in the autumn-winter period. In 2005 the level of water in the lakes reached 247.4 m of sea level the area of the water table amounted to 3702 km², and water volume 44 km³. Variations of mineralization in different years



Annual variations of mineralization and the quantity of water discharged from the Shardara 1994 years



The variations of the level of the Aydar-Arnasay lakes depending on the volume of water, discharged from the Shardara water storage reservoir





ARAL SEA DEPTH MAP

The Aral Sea appeared in the Upper Pliocene in the depression formed as a result of the downwarp of the earth's erust. The relief of the bottom without taking into account the western part, is flat. In the administrative respect, over half of the southwestern part of the sea lies the territory of the Karakalpakastan Republic, and the northeastern part-on the territory of Kazakhstan.

Before the 60 's of the last century the area of the Aral Sea, together with the islands reached about 68000 km². In area of the water table, the sea ranked fourth in the world (after the Caspian Sea, Superior lake in America and Victoria lake in Africa).

In that period the sea extended from the northeast to the south-west, its length amounted to 428 km, the widest point being 235 km. The volume of water in the sea was over 1000 km³, the mean depth being about 16.5 m. In the western part of the sea, near the Karakalpak Ustyurt, the depth reached 69 m. The southern, southwestern and eastern portions of the sea were shallow.

50.

60.

0

10000

200

20000

400

The curve of the area

30000

600

40000

800

"0" the depth corresponds to the water level of 53 m.

50000

1000

60000

1200

The curve of volumes

70000 F, km²

W, km³





STATE COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN FOR LAND RESOURCES, GEODESY, CARTOGRAPHY AND STATE CADASTRE TASHKENT 2008

The atlas prepared for print by the State Scientific-Industrial Enterprise "Kartografiya" in 2008 Editor Ye.E. Kim Technical åditor T.S. Gurova Sent to press 14.12.2007 Size of paper 70ö100 Printer's sheet 4 Conventional printer's sheet 1,29 Order № 2 Edition size 300 copies

State Scientific-Industrial Enterprise "Kartografiya" 6, Ziyolilar Str., Tashkent, 100170

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