

## LEGAL AND PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESORT NATURAL AREAS IN A GREEN ECONOMY

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### Abstract:

This article examines the potential of applying the green economy concept to promote regional development in the resort natural areas of Uzbekistan. It highlights how the integration of green technologies can contribute to maintaining ecological balance, developing sustainable infrastructure, and ensuring the efficient use of natural resources. The paper also analyzes the current legal and regulatory framework governing resort territories and identifies key areas for its improvement. Based on international practices and national priorities, the article provides recommendations aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability and supporting long-term socio-economic growth in these ecologically sensitive regions.

**Keywords:** Resort natural areas, green economy, sustainable development, natural resources, environmental safety, eco-tourism.

### Introduction

In recent years, environmental sustainability has emerged as a critical concern across all sectors of the global economy. Economic growth, while essential, is often accompanied by environmental degradation, resource depletion, pollution, climate change, and disruption of the biosphere — all of which negatively impact human health and hinder long-term development prospects. Scholars and policymakers increasingly view the transition to a “green” economy as a vital response to these challenges, offering a way to mitigate environmental risks and adapt to climate change.

In this context, the sustainable development of resort natural areas holds significant promise. These areas not only serve as zones for public health and well-being, but also function as long-term drivers of economic growth through eco-tourism, regional development, and job creation. The use of green and innovative technologies in managing such areas is becoming a central requirement in market economies.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines a green economy as one that improves human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. Key priorities include the adoption of renewable energy sources, minimizing waste, and enhancing environmental protection.



By applying green economy principles to the development of resort natural areas, Uzbekistan can simultaneously ensure ecological preservation and stimulate economic benefits. According to Article 36 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Protected Natural Areas,” resort natural areas are defined as territories with healing properties, including mineral springs, therapeutic muds, favorable climate, and other natural conditions beneficial to human health. Prominent examples in Uzbekistan include Zomin, Chartok, Amirsoy, Charvak, Chimgan, and Aktash. These regions are rich in therapeutic resources and present significant potential for health recovery and disease prevention. However, much of the infrastructure in these zones is outdated, and many do not yet meet modern environmental safety standards. This highlights the need for rational resource use, modernization, and ecologically responsible development.

A green economy-based approach to developing resort areas can include the use of renewable energy (e.g., solar and wind), energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, eco-friendly transport infrastructure (e.g., electric vehicles, bicycles), water reuse technologies, and regulated mineral water extraction. These steps would help to preserve the fragile ecological balance of resort areas while increasing their economic viability.

The legal regulation of such areas in Uzbekistan is governed by several key laws, including the Law “On Protected Natural Areas,” the Law “On Ecological Expertise,” and the Law “On Tourism.” These are also closely linked to legislation in the areas of land use, water management, and public health. A review of the current state of the national health and resort infrastructure indicates that resort recreation should be prioritized in tourism development policy, as it can serve as a significant source of revenue and employment.

Health tourism centers — typically sanatorium-type institutions — cater primarily to middle-aged and elderly individuals or those with chronic health issues. These facilities provide medical care, rehabilitation services, and wellness treatments, and their integration with green economy tools can further enhance their appeal and sustainability.

The issue of resort development must be considered not only from an economic or environmental standpoint but also within the broader framework of strategic planning and territorial policy. A green economy requires innovation not only in technology, but also in governance, financing mechanisms, and human capital development. Active participation of local communities, the implementation of scientific and technological projects, and the expansion of international cooperation are crucial for success.

Finally, to institutionalize resort areas as a sustainable sector of the national economy, there is a need to establish comprehensive assessment systems based on environmental, social, and economic indicators. Prioritizing ecological values and implementing digital governance tools will be essential to preserving Uzbekistan’s unique natural resources while enabling long-term sustainable growth.

In addition to environmental innovations, the financial mechanisms underpinning green resort development must be carefully designed. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can serve as a crucial tool to attract investments in eco-infrastructure while sharing risks between stakeholders. Tax incentives, green bonds, and carbon credits could be introduced to stimulate



business participation in sustainable tourism projects. Moreover, establishing dedicated “green resort development funds” supported by both national budgets and international donors would create long-term financing opportunities for ecotourism and nature conservation.

Uzbekistan can also benefit from studying international models. For instance, the “Green Destinations” standard used in European countries and ASEAN Eco-Tourism Standards offer best practices for eco-certification, sustainable land use, community engagement, and tourism impact monitoring. Adapting these standards to the local context could help Uzbekistan gain international recognition, improve tourist confidence, and increase foreign investment flows.

Institutional reform is another critical factor. Clearly defined inter-agency coordination bodies, responsible for overseeing resort development and enforcing environmental norms, are essential. Such bodies must ensure the consistent implementation of green economy principles across the health, tourism, environment, and land management sectors. Without such coordination, overlapping jurisdictions may hinder sustainable development efforts.

Finally, it is necessary to enhance environmental education and public awareness. Campaigns that promote the value of resort natural areas, their ecosystem services, and the need for conservation among tourists and local residents can foster a culture of sustainability. Supporting ecotourism startups, innovation hubs for green technology in resort zones, and school-level education initiatives on environmental ethics can nurture a new generation of green leaders.

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