



THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN UZBEKISTAN'S GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the role of international cooperation in advancing Uzbekistan's green economy transition. As the country faces challenges from climate change, resource scarcity, and environmental degradation, coordinated global partnerships have become critical for sustainable development. The paper explores Uzbekistan's national green-economy policies, including renewable energy expansion, carbon mitigation, and ecosystem restoration, and highlights the contributions of multilateral institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and UNDP-GEF partnerships. Challenges related to governance, institutional capacity, and social inclusion are discussed. The study concludes that continued international cooperation is vital for Uzbekistan's low-carbon, sustainable, and resilient development trajectory.

1. Introduction

In recent years, Uzbekistan has significantly intensified its commitment to a green economy. With global ecological change accelerating, coordinated international cooperation has become essential. This thesis explores how Uzbekistan's national green-economy policies, combined with global partnerships, contribute to sustainable development and climate resilience.

2. Uzbekistan's Green-Economy Vision

Uzbekistan declared **2025 as the "Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy"**, signaling its political will to integrate sustainability into national development. Under its long-term strategy, **"Uzbekistan – 2030"**, the country aims to increase the share of renewable energy, expand green space, and drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The government has also launched a **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) update**, a low-carbon development roadmap, and "green" financing mechanisms. For example, Uzbekistan plans to build 16 green power plants, small hydropower stations, and incentivize biogas and solar technologies.

3. Importance of International Cooperation

Financing & Governance: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is supporting a \$500 million “Green and Resilient Market Economy” program in Uzbekistan to help reform key sectors and develop carbon credit markets.

Technical & Institutional Support: The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) works with Uzbek authorities on green investment, agriculture, energy efficiency, and carbon markets.

Biodiversity & Ecosystem Restoration: Through the UNDP-GEF partnership, Uzbekistan updates its National Biodiversity Strategy and restores mountain ecosystems in the Tien Shan and Nuratau ranges.

Policy Signaling & Diplomacy: Declaring 2025 as the Year of Green Economy enhances Uzbekistan’s environmental diplomacy, positioning it as a partner in regional and global sustainability initiatives.

4. Challenges and Risks

Despite policy momentum, coordination across ministries remains fragmented. According to an ADB report, green policies are dispersed among institutions, reducing effectiveness.

Establishing a robust national carbon market requires transparent **MRV (measurement, reporting, verification)** systems — a complex institutional task. Ensuring social inclusion in green transitions, protecting vulnerable communities, and balancing economic growth with environmental goals remains challenging.

5. Conclusion

Uzbekistan’s green-economy strategy relies heavily on **international cooperation** to succeed. Through climate finance, technology transfer, and environmental diplomacy, the country is building a pathway toward sustainable, low-carbon development. For this transition to be effective, it must continue strengthening global partnerships, improve governance, and develop inclusive green policies. The success of Uzbekistan’s green economy not only benefits its citizens, but also contributes to global ecological resilience.

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