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Research and Work Done on the Rehabilitation of Urban Ecosystems Under Climate Change Conditions

Shakarova Laylo Odilovna*

Samarkand State Architectural & Civil Engineering University

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*Correspondence: Shakarova Laylo Odilovna
Email: shakarovalaylo@gmail.com

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Abstract: *This study aims to analyze the implementation and outcomes of urban ecosystem rehabilitation in the context of climate change, focusing on global strategies, technological innovations, and lessons applicable to Central Asian urban environments. The research employed a qualitative approach using a comparative analysis of existing green infrastructure projects across diverse climatic and socio-economic contexts. Data were gathered from scientific publications, official reports, and project evaluations, with parameters such as ecological impact, economic viability, public participation, and adaptability being assessed. The findings reveal that green roofs, vertical gardens, and sustainable drainage systems significantly contribute to energy efficiency, air purification, flood mitigation, and biodiversity enhancement. Additionally, urban forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration and psychological well-being. However, gaps persist in financing, inter-sectoral integration, and local adaptation, especially in developing countries. The study emphasizes the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration, public engagement, and long-term monitoring to ensure successful ecosystem rehabilitation. This research contributes to the development of resilient and sustainable urban planning models in the face of climate uncertainty.*

Keywords: *Climatechange, urbanecosystems, rehabilitation, sustainability, biodiversity, ecosystem services.*

Introduction

Planet Earth is facing one of the most complex ecological challenges in its history: climate change. The rise in global temperatures, drastic changes in weather patterns, and an increase in natural disasters are severely impacting all aspects of human life [1]. Especially in an era of rapid urbanization, cities remain one of the most vulnerable areas to the negative consequences of climate change. Urban ecosystems—natural and semi-natural areas within cities (parks, riverbanks, green spaces)—are under constant pressure due to human activity. These ecosystems provide vital environmental services such as improving air quality, managing water resources, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating the urban heat island effect. In the context of climate change, the degradation of urban ecosystems is exacerbated by urbanization, pollution, and improper planning. The reduction of green spaces in cities, the pollution of water bodies, and the alteration of natural landscapes disrupt ecological balance. This, in turn, reduces cities' ability to adapt to climate change and negatively affects public health and well-being [2]. Therefore, the rehabilitation of urban ecosystems—that is, their restoration and sustainable management—is one of the most pressing tasks of our time in the face of climate change.

This article is dedicated to analyzing global research and practical efforts in the rehabilitation of urban ecosystems under climate change. The article reviews innovative solutions, strategies, and projects aimed at enhancing urban environmental sustainability, preserving biodiversity, and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. It also discusses existing achievements, challenges encountered, and future prospects in the restoration and management of urban ecosystems.

Literature Review

Climate change has become a global problem, and its impact on urban ecosystems is steadily increasing. The rehabilitation of urban ecosystems is a timely topic, with numerous studies conducted at local and international levels. This analysis examines the main directions, achievements, existing shortcomings, and unexplored aspects of scientific works related to the topic.

Local Research and Achievements.In Uzbekistan, a number of scientific studies are being conducted on the impact of climate change on urban ecosystems and their rehabilitation. Uzbek scientists, in particular, have focused on addressing problems such as air pollution, water resource scarcity, and biodiversity loss in urban areas. In this regard, the works of Academician A.A. Zakhidov [3] have highlighted the role of urban forests and greening in mitigating the effects of climate change. Furthermore, Professor M.T. Mirsaliyev [4] has conducted research on reducing the urban heat island effect, using Tashkent as an example, and proposed effective solutions. Local specialists have primarily focused on improving the urban microclimate through establishing urban parks and gardens, proper tree selection, and optimizing irrigation systems. The importance of urban greening in air purification and carbon dioxide absorption has also been emphasized in several studies [5, 6].

International Research and Approaches. Globally, numerous comprehensive studies have been conducted on the rehabilitation of urban ecosystems in the context of climate change. Western scientists, particularly in the US, Europe, and Australia, have carried out work aimed at sustainable urban ecosystem development, often based on the concepts of "green infrastructure" and "nature-based solutions" [12, 13]. Green Roofs and Vertical Gardens. Works by scholars such as Professor R. Zandbergen (Netherlands) [11] and Dr. T. Wong (Australia) [10] have explored the potential of establishing green roofs and vertical gardens on urban buildings for energy efficiency, reducing the urban heat island effect, and increasing biodiversity. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). In the UK and Germany, significant attention has been paid to developing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). These systems help enhance the resilience of urban ecosystemsby effectively managing rainwater, preventing floods, and replenishing groundwater. Dr. K. Butler (UK) [8] has thoroughly analyzed the role of these systems in urban flood management. Urban Forests and Parks. In the US and Canada, the role of urban forests and parks in adapting to and mitigating climate change has been extensively studied. Dr. D. Nowak (US Forest Service) [9] has calculated the economic benefits of urban trees in air purification, carbon dioxide absorption, and improving public health. In Scandinavian countries, public participation and local community engagement have been shown to be of great importance

in urban ecosystem rehabilitation. Dr. L. Andersson (Sweden) [7] has analyzed the role of civil society in urban greening projects.

Achievements and Successes.Based on the overall results of scientific works related to the topic, the following key achievements have been made in urban ecosystem rehabilitation. Technological Solutions. Innovative technological solutions such as green roofs, vertical gardens, and sustainable drainage systems have been developed and are being implemented. Understanding of Impact. A deeper understanding of the complex impact of climate change on urban ecosystems and the social, economic, and ecological benefits of their rehabilitation has developed. Strategies and Policies. Many countries have developed strategies and policies for combating climate change and sustainably developing urban ecosystems.

Shortcomings and Unexplored Aspects. At the same time, there are still a number of shortcomings and unexplored aspects in the rehabilitation of urban ecosystems in the context of climate change. Financing rehabilitation projects remains a major challenge, especially in developing countries. Many studies and projects focus only on one aspect (e.g., greening), lacking a complex, systemic approach to urban ecosystems. The lack of long-term and comprehensive databases on the reaction of urban ecosystems to climate change hinders the depth of research. Limited Local Adaptation Research.There is insufficient research on adapting international experiences to local conditions (climate, soil, socio-economic factors). In particular, deep research is required on selecting and preserving drought-resistant and heat-adapted plant species in the conditions of Central Asia.Socio-Cultural Factors and Public Participation.There is limited research on considering local population's traditions, needs, and cultural characteristics during the rehabilitation process. Studying mechanisms to ensure active public participation in projects is important. Inter-Sectoral Integration.Urban ecosystem rehabilitation requires cooperation not only among ecologists but also urban planners, architects, engineers, economists, and sociologists. Systemic solutions for ensuring this inter-sectoral integration are lacking. Conclusion and Future Research Directions.The rehabilitation of urban ecosystems in the context of climate change is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires extensive scientific research and practical measures. The analysis of existing literature shows that while significant progress has been made in this area, there are still a number of shortcomings and unexplored aspects.

Future research should focus on the following directions. Innovative Solutions Adapted to Local Conditions. Conducting in-depth research on identifying climate-resilient plant species and their application in urban conditions, taking into account the climate and soil conditions of Uzbekistan and the Central Asian region. Developing Integrated Management Models. Creating complex management models that integrate various sectors (urban planning, ecology, water management, healthcare, etc.) in urban ecosystem rehabilitation. Assessing Economic Efficiency. Evaluating the economic efficiency of rehabilitation projects and developing mechanisms for attracting investments. Raising Public Awareness and Ensuring Participation. Studying effective mechanisms for increasing public ecological literacy and actively involving them in urban ecosystem rehabilitation processes. Long-Term Monitoring and Evaluation. Long-term monitoring of the state of rehabilitated ecosystems and assessing their ability to adapt to climate change. Scientific

works conducted in these directions will serve as a strong scientific basis for the effective rehabilitation of urban ecosystems in the face of climate change and will help ensure the sustainable development of cities for future generations.

Methodology

This section details the methodologies employed in this research, specifically focusing on the Comparative Analysis of Existing Green Infrastructure Projects as a key approach. It then summarizes the key findings from scientific studies focused on rehabilitating urban ecosystems in the face of climate change, presenting the approaches and successes achieved across various research directions. Methodology.Comparative Analysis of Existing Green Infrastructure Projects The primary methodology employed in this research is a comparative analysis of existing green infrastructure projects across various geographical regions. This approach allowed for a systematic evaluation of diverse strategies and their effectiveness in addressing climate change impacts on urban ecosystems. The process involved several steps. Identification of Projects.A comprehensive search was conducted to identify relevant green infrastructure projects globally, with a focus on those explicitly designed for urban ecosystem rehabilitation under climate change conditions. Projects in different climatic zones and socio-economic contexts were prioritized to ensure a broad perspective. Data Collection.For each identified project, relevant data were collected from scientific publications, official reports, project documentation, and reputable online databases. This included information on the type of green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, vertical gardens, sustainable drainage systems), project objectives, implementation details, costs, monitoring data, and reported outcomes (e.g., energy savings, air quality improvement, flood reduction, biodiversity enhancement). Parameter Definition for Comparison. Key parameters for comparison were defined to allow for a structured analysis. These included: Ecological Impact.Measured by improvements in biodiversity, air quality, water quality, and reduction in urban heat island effect. Economic Viability.Assessed through cost-benefit analyses, return on investment, and potential for attracting funding. Social Acceptance and Participation.Evaluated by community engagement levels, public perception, and benefits to local residents. Adaptability and Scalability.The potential for the project design to be adapted to different urban contexts and scaled up for wider implementation. Technological Innovation.The degree to which novel technologies or approaches were utilized. Comparative Analysis.Data collected for each parameter were then compared across different projects. This involved identifying similarities and differences in design, implementation challenges, success factors, and overall impact. Qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed to draw meaningful conclusions. For instance, energy consumption data from buildings with green roofs in different climates were compared, or flood reduction rates achieved by various SuDS implementations were analyzed.

Result and Discussion

Synthesis of Findings.The results of the comparative analysis were synthesized to identify best practices, common challenges, and gaps in current research and implementation. This synthesis formed the basis for the discussions and conclusions

presented in this article, highlighting both global achievements and specific areas requiring further attention, particularly in the context of regions like Central Asia. This methodical approach provided a robust framework for understanding the multifaceted aspects of urban ecosystem rehabilitation.

The table №1 below summarizes the key findings from various scientific studies, categorized by different types of green infrastructure and rehabilitation efforts

Table 1.

Research Direction	**Methodologies Used**	**Key Findings**
Green Infrastructure	Comparative analysis of existing green infrastructure projects in various geographic regions; computer modeling to simulate energy consumption, heat island effect, and water runoff; pilot projects conducted in limited urban areas for practical evaluation.	Green roofs increase building energy efficiency by 15-20%. Vertical gardensimprove air quality and reduce noise levels. Sustainable drainage systemseffectively manage rainwater, reducing the risk of floods.
Urban Forests and Greening	Remote sensing and GIS analysis to study the dynamics and distribution of green spaces in urban areas; climate modeling to calculate the impact of trees on microclimate and their carbon dioxide absorption capacity; sociological surveys to assess public usage and perception of green spaces.	Urban trees reduce air pollutants by 7-15%. One hectare of urban forest absorbs an average of 2-8 tons of carbon dioxide annually. Green areas improve public psychological well-being and increase physical activity.
Enhancing Biodiversity	Ecological monitoring to assess the state of biological diversity in urban ecosystems; population dynamics modeling to analyze the adaptation and reproduction of native species in urban environments; experiments with control groups to evaluate the impact of different plant species and habitats on biodiversity.	Planting native plant species increases biodiversity by 20-30%. Wildlife corridors expand habitats for birds and insects in urban areas. Provision of ecological services is improved (e.g., pollination).

Discussion

The rehabilitation of urban ecosystems in the context of climate change is one of today's most pressing issues. It's crucial for environmental protection, improving public health, and ensuring the sustainable development of cities. While a review of the literature and research results shows significant progress both locally and internationally, there are still serious shortcomings and unexplored aspects that need to be addressed.

Achievements and Their Significance.Research has confirmed the vital role of urban ecosystems in adapting to climate change and mitigating its negative impacts. Green infrastructure (such as green roofs, vertical gardens, and sustainable drainage systems) has proven its effectiveness as innovative solutions for increasing energy efficiency, improving air quality, and managing water resources wisely. Urban forest and greening projects not only purify the air and absorb carbon dioxide but also positively impact the physical and mental health of residents. Efforts to enhance biodiversity contribute to the stability of

ecosystem services. Public engagement in these projects is a crucial factor in their success and helps foster environmental literacy.

Existing Shortcomings and Challenges.Despite these achievements, many studies point to several common challenges in this field. Funding remains a significant barrier to the widespread implementation of rehabilitation projects, especially in developing countries. The lack of an integrated approach limits the comprehensive effectiveness of projects, as focusing on only one aspect often overlooks the complexity of urban ecosystems. A shortage of long-term data on how urban ecosystems react to climate change makes it difficult to make scientifically informed decisions. Crucially, the lack of in-depth research on adapting international best practices to local conditions (climate, soil, socio-economic characteristics) hinders the full potential of projects in countries like Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the socio-cultural factors of the local population and mechanisms for their active participation in projects are not yet sufficiently studied.

Future Prospects and Recommendations. Effective rehabilitation of urban ecosystems under climate change requires a complex and systemic approach. This approach must encompass not only ecological but also social and economic aspects. In Uzbekistan, future research should prioritize identifying and widely applying drought-resistant, heat-adapted native plant species. It is also vital to develop inter-sectoral cooperation mechanisms that unite various fields like urban planning, ecology, water management, and public health. Evaluating the economic efficiency of projects and attracting investments through innovative financing models are also essential. Finally, increasing public awareness and actively involving them in urban ecosystem rehabilitation processes will not only ensure project success but also contribute to building a civil society that supports environmental sustainability. In conclusion, efforts to rehabilitate urban ecosystems are a significant step towards creating more resilient and livable cities for future generations. However, this path still presents numerous scientific and practical challenges that require continuous research, innovative solutions, and the cooperation of all stakeholders.

Conclusion

Climate change is one of the most global and complex challenges facing humanity today. Its impact on urban ecosystems is particularly relevant for rapidly developing cities like Tashkent. Problems such as unchecked urban expansion, air pollution, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss further exacerbate the negative consequences of climate change. Therefore, urban ecosystem rehabilitation is of strategic importance not only for ensuring environmental sustainability but also for improving public health and creating livable, resilient cities for future generations. The literature analysis shows that globally, many effective initiatives are being implemented based on green infrastructure (green roofs, vertical gardens, sustainable drainage systems) and nature-based solutions concepts. These approaches have demonstrated high effectiveness in improving urban microclimates, reducing energy consumption, and managing water resources judiciously. Locally, various studies are also being conducted on urban greening and improving air quality. However, despite the topic's urgency, several unexplored aspects and issues still need to be addressed. The financing of projects, the lack of an integrated approach between different sectors, and

the shortage of innovative solutions adapted to local conditions are major obstacles. Particularly, considering the unique climatic conditions of the Central Asian region, special attention should be paid to the use of drought-resistant, heat-adapted plant species and the introduction of water-saving technologies.

In conclusion, the rehabilitation of urban ecosystems in the face of climate change is not solely the responsibility of ecologists. It is a complex task that encompasses all aspects of urban planning, architecture, economics, social sciences, and public policy. Future scientific research and practical projects in this area will play a decisive role in creating climate-resilient, green, and comfortable cities for residents. This, in turn, will lay an important foundation for a healthy and prosperous life for both current and future generations.

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