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MUNDARIJA

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GREEN ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN AND INDONESIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu tadqiqotda O‘zbekiston va Indonesiada yashil iqtisodiyot rivojlanish holati tahlil qilinadi. Mazkur ikki rivojlanayotgan mamlakat iqtisodiy va ekologik transformatsiyani turli sur’atlarda boshdan kechirmoqda. Tadqiqotda har ikki davlatning siyosiy boshqaruv tizimi, qayta tiklanuvchi energiya dasturlari, qishloq xo‘jaligi tashabbuslari hamda asosiy ekologik muammolari ko‘rib chiqilgan. Asosiy imkoniyatlar va muammolarni aniqlash maqsadida tizimli adabiyotlar sharhi hamda qiyosiy tahlil usullaridan foydalanildi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, har ikkala mamlakat uzoq muddatli iqtisodiy maqsadlarga sodiq bo‘lsa-da, boshqaruv samaradorligining yetarli emasligi, ilmiy-texnologik taraqqiyot sur’atining pastligi va moliyaviy resurslar cheklanganligi kabi muammolar saqlanib qolmoqda. O‘zbekiston suv resurslarini boshqarish va toza energiya yo‘nalishida sezilarli yutuqlarga erishgan bo‘lsa, Indonesia o‘rmonlarni muhofaza qilish hamda CO_2 emissiyasini qisqartirishda muhim natijalarni qayd etgan. Tadqiqot yakunida barqaror rivojlanishga erishish uchun xalqaro hamkorlikni kuchaytirish, institutlarni rivojlantirish va kompleks yondashuvlarni qo‘llash bo‘yicha tavsiyalar berilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: Yashil iqtisodiyot, qayta tiklanuvchi energiya, barqaror rivojlanish, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, iqlim o‘zgarishi, ekologik siyosat, qiyosiy tahlil.

Аннотация. В данном исследовании анализируется развитие зеленой экономики в Uzbekistan и Indonesia. Эти две развивающиеся страны проходят экономические и экологические преобразования с различной скоростью. В работе рассмотрены системы государственного управления, программы возобновляемой энергетики, инициативы в сельском хозяйстве и основные экологические проблемы обеих стран. Для выявления ключевых возможностей и вызовов использованы систематический обзор литературы и сравнительный анализ. Результаты показывают, что, несмотря на приверженность долгосрочным экономическим целям, обе страны сталкиваются с проблемами недостаточной эффективности управления, замедленного научно-технического прогресса и ограниченного финансирования. Uzbekistan добился значительных успехов в управлении водными ресурсами и развитии чистой энергетики, тогда как Indonesia достигла заметных результатов в охране лесов и сокращении выбросов CO_2. В завершение предложены рекомендации по усилению международного сотрудничества, институциональному развитию и применению комплексных подходов для достижения устойчивого роста.

Ключевые слова: Зеленая экономика, возобновляемая энергия, устойчивое развитие, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, изменение климата, экологическая политика, сравнительный анализ.

Abstract. This study examines the development of the green economy in Uzbekistan and Indonesia. These two developing countries are undergoing economic and environmental transformation at different rates. The study reviews their policy systems, renewable energy programs, agricultural initiatives, and major environmental challenges. A Systematic Literature Review and comparative analysis methods were used to identify the key opportunities and challenges faced by each country in the transition toward a green economy. The findings indicate that although both countries remain committed to long-term economic goals, they continue to face challenges related to governance efficiency, slow scientific progress, and limited financial resources.

Uzbekistan has achieved notable progress in water resource management and clean energy development, while Indonesia has made substantial progress in forest conservation and CO_2 emission reduction. The study concludes with policy recommendations emphasizing stronger international cooperation, institutional development, and integrated approaches to achieve sustainable progress.

Keywords: Green economy, renewable energy, sustainable development, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, climate change, environmental policy, comparative analysis.

INTRODUCTION

A green economy is an economic model aimed at addressing environmental and natural resource challenges while promoting long-term sustainable growth. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is one that improves human well-being, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Therefore, supporting countries in their transition toward a green economy has become one of the most important global priorities.

Ensuring simultaneous economic growth and social progress has become increasingly important because of climate change, natural resource depletion, and environmental degradation. The green economy provides solutions to these challenges by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and encouraging the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies. Green technologies such as solar and wind energy, waste recycling systems, and sustainable transport not only protect the environment but also create green jobs and improve the quality of life for future generations.

Uzbekistan and Indonesia are two emerging economies that have introduced various policies to support sustainable economic and environmental development. Uzbekistan has significant potential for solar and wind energy and is considered one of the promising renewable energy markets in Central Asia. Indonesia, by contrast, has a population of more than 270 million people and possesses rich ecosystems and natural resources. Both countries recognize the importance of transitioning to a green economy and have committed themselves to long-term sustainability-oriented reforms. A comparative assessment of their experiences may provide valuable lessons for sustainable development.

The transition to a green economy requires reforms in urban planning, industrial production, energy generation, agriculture, and consumption patterns. Climate change, resource scarcity, and environmental pressures make it necessary to integrate economic growth with social development. However, both countries continue to face constraints related to financing, technological capacity, and institutional effectiveness. In many cases, further progress depends on stronger international cooperation and external support mechanisms.

This study examines sustainable economic growth in Uzbekistan and Indonesia from a comparative perspective by analyzing legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, and policy outcomes. The findings contribute to the broader understanding of how developing countries can successfully transition toward a green economy and provide practical recommendations for policymakers and international organizations.

Research Objectives

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:

To examine the current level of green economic development in each country.

To analyze the policies, institutions, and implementation mechanisms related to sustainable economic transformation in both countries.

To identify the major opportunities and challenges influencing green economy development.

To evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and green technologies.

To develop evidence-based policy recommendations that can accelerate the transition toward a green economy.

Research Questions

This study addresses the following key questions:

What are the major similarities and differences in green economy development between Indonesia and Uzbekistan?

How do governance systems and institutional mechanisms support or hinder sustainable economic transformation in each country?

What opportunities exist for expanding the green economy in both countries?

What barriers limit the implementation of environmental policies and sustainable practices?

What lessons can be learned from comparing green economy experiences in these two different national Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the transition toward a green economy in developing countries. By comparing Uzbekistan and Indonesia, which differ in terms of geography, economic structure, and historical development, the research provides a broader understanding of how diverse national contexts influence sustainable transformation processes.

The findings are particularly valuable for policymakers seeking to promote environmentally sustainable growth, researchers studying green economic transitions, and international organizations supporting sustainable development initiatives. Through the analysis of achievements and challenges in both countries, the study offers practical recommendations that may also be relevant for other nations undergoing similar economic and environmental transitions.

Furthermore, this research addresses an important gap in the existing literature by presenting a systematic comparative analysis of two developing countries from different world regions, both striving to establish a green economy. The study therefore enhances academic understanding while also providing evidence-based guidance for improving institutional capacity, policy effectiveness, and long-term sustainable development strategies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent scholarly studies on the development of the green economy indicate that, in developing countries, progress toward sustainable development, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and improvement of energy efficiency are essential components of national development strategies. Several researchers note that Indonesia and Uzbekistan have both introduced green economy policies; however, the scale of implementation and achieved progress differs between the two countries. International institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and World Bank have examined Uzbekistan's opportunities to improve energy efficiency, expand renewable energy use, and implement broad environmental reforms.

Scholars emphasize that Uzbekistan possesses considerable solar and wind energy potential, while also facing constraints such as limited infrastructure, dependence on imported technologies, and insufficient investment resources. Although the country is gradually advancing toward a green economy, the literature suggests that monitoring and evaluation systems still require further strengthening.

The literature on Indonesia highlights the importance of reducing carbon emissions through initiatives such as the FOLU Net Sink 2030 program, expanding renewable energy capacity, and improving environmental governance mechanisms. Despite its rich natural resource base, challenges such as deforestation and forest degradation continue to slow green economy development. Nevertheless, Indonesia remains one of the most promising countries for green transformation.

Comparative studies indicate that both countries have adopted state-led green development strategies, cooperate actively with international organizations, and seek to increase the share of renewable energy. However, Uzbekistan's approach focuses more strongly on energy sector modernization, whereas Indonesia places greater emphasis on forest protection, marine resource management, and climate adaptation measures.

Green Economy in Developing Country Contexts

The literature on green economy development in developing countries demonstrates that their opportunities and challenges differ significantly from those of developed economies. Developing countries often possess abundant renewable energy resources, rich biodiversity, and relatively young populations that are more open to innovation and technological change.

The transition to a green economy creates opportunities to replace outdated technologies, generate new employment, and address worsening environmental and public health concerns. At the same time, limited financial capacity, institutional weaknesses, and technological gaps remain major barriers.

Studies conducted across Asia show that national experiences vary substantially. China demonstrates how strong state support and large-scale investment can accelerate renewable energy and electric vehicle development. India illustrates how large domestic markets can stimulate solar energy adoption and environmentally sustainable transportation systems. These examples provide useful lessons for other developing economies.

Environmental Challenges in Indonesia

Indonesia faces a range of environmental challenges that make the transition toward a green economy especially urgent. Agricultural expansion, palm oil production, and logging activities have contributed to forest loss over recent decades. Deforestation has also increased carbon emissions and weakened ecosystem resilience.

Marine pollution represents another serious issue. Indonesia has frequently been identified as one of the major contributors to plastic waste entering the oceans. Biodiversity loss has become an important consequence of environmental degradation, particularly in ecologically sensitive regions.

Urban air pollution, especially in Jakarta, creates significant public health risks, while agricultural and industrial waste affects water quality. Climate change has intensified coastal vulnerability through sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and flooding.

Despite these challenges, Indonesia has substantial renewable energy potential, particularly in geothermal, hydropower, and solar energy resources. The country has increased investment in geothermal and solar projects and has demonstrated commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through long-term sustainability initiatives.

Environmental Challenges in Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan faces a number of environmental challenges, many of which originated during the Soviet period, when cotton production and industrial expansion were prioritized over environmental protection. One of the most serious consequences of that period was the degradation of the Aral Sea, which has lost a significant share of its water volume since the twentieth century. This environmental crisis has negatively affected public health, fisheries, biodiversity, and regional climate conditions.

Another major challenge for Uzbekistan is water scarcity. Intensive irrigation practices have contributed to soil salinization, reducing agricultural productivity in several regions. Water pollution caused by agricultural chemicals and industrial waste also remains a concern, creating risks for ecosystems and human health.

The energy sector continues to face structural inefficiencies. A heavy reliance on natural gas for electricity generation has increased greenhouse gas emissions and limited the pace of energy diversification.

Since 2016, Uzbekistan has introduced substantial reforms in water resource management, environmental governance, and energy efficiency. The government adopted the Green Economy Development Concept for 2019–2030, which established strategic priorities for environmental protection and expansion of renewable energy sources.

Comparative Studies and Analytical Framework

Direct comparative studies on green economy development in Uzbekistan and Indonesia remain limited. This study seeks to address that research gap through a systematic comparison of the two countries.

Previous comparative research on developing economies indicates that successful green transitions depend on several interrelated factors, including institutional quality, political commitment, financial resources, technological readiness, and stakeholder participation.

Comparative environmental studies further demonstrate the importance of considering historical, economic, political, and cultural contexts. Therefore, this study applies a multidimensional analytical framework that enables structured comparison while recognizing the specific national circumstances of each country. By comparing the experiences of Uzbekistan and Indonesia, the research aims to identify practical approaches for overcoming barriers to green economy development.

Theoretical Framework

This study is based on three academic theories that guide the comparative analysis of green economy progress in Uzbekistan and Indonesia. These theoretical foundations provide a structured basis for understanding institutional, environmental, and developmental dynamics in both countries.

Sustainable Development Theory

The first theoretical foundation is Sustainable Development Theory, which emphasizes the need to balance economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection. This concept was widely popularized in the 1987 report of the Brundtland Commission, which defined sustainable development as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

From this perspective, the green economy strategies of Uzbekistan and Indonesia can be understood as efforts to achieve long-term growth while addressing environmental degradation and social inequality. The theory explains why both countries remain committed to green development goals despite economic and institutional constraints. Long-term prosperity increasingly depends on ecological balance and environmentally sustainable growth patterns.

Ecological Modernization Theory

Ecological Modernization Theory argues that environmental problems can be addressed without sacrificing economic growth through technological innovation, institutional reform, and market-based solutions. According

to this theory, modern institutions, technologies, and economic mechanisms can be redesigned to respond more effectively to ecological challenges.

This perspective is particularly relevant to both countries. Uzbekistan has prioritized modernization of technology in the energy and water sectors under state-led reform programs. Indonesia, meanwhile, has sought to combine environmental protection with economic growth through regulatory reforms and technological innovation in forestry, renewable energy, and resource management sectors.

SDGs Framework

Finally, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework serves as an internationally recognized benchmark for measuring each country's progress toward sustainable economic development. In particular, this study emphasizes SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Both Uzbekistan and Indonesia have incorporated the SDGs framework into their national development strategies, creating a shared set of priorities and indicators.

These international goals provide a common basis for evaluating how effectively governments fulfill their commitments and achieve sustainability targets. In this study, the SDGs framework is used as a comparative tool to assess each country's progress toward internationally agreed development objectives and to identify areas where stronger policy support and institutional reforms may be required.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study applies a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with cross-national comparative analysis to examine the development of the green economy in Uzbekistan and Indonesia. The SLR method was selected because it enables a transparent, replicable, and comprehensive synthesis of existing academic, policy, and regulatory sources while reducing subjectivity in the selection and interpretation of references.

Research Design

The research uses a qualitative multi-country comparative framework. Indonesia and Uzbekistan are treated as two independent case studies, allowing for a structured comparison of green economy policies, institutional arrangements, and practical outcomes.

This comparative case study design makes it possible to identify both common development patterns and country-specific conditions that influence the transition toward a green economy.

Data Sources and Search Strategy

A structured search of scientific and policy publications was conducted using the following databases and platforms: Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, and ProQuest.

The search strategy included key terms such as:

Green economy
Sustainable development
Environmental policy
Renewable energy
Uzbekistan
Indonesia

In addition to peer-reviewed journal articles, the study examined official policy guidelines, national development strategies, reports from international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as official government documents.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Materials were selected according to the following inclusion criteria:

Published between 2010–2025;
Direct relevance to Uzbekistan, Indonesia, or other countries undergoing green economic transition;
Focused on environmental policy, ecological governance, renewable energy, or sustainable development;
Available in English, Uzbek, or Indonesian languages.

The following materials were excluded:

Editorial or opinion-based texts lacking scientific or regulatory evidence;
Duplicate publications;
Studies focusing exclusively on developed countries without comparative relevance to developing economies.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The collected materials were reviewed using both thematic and cross-national comparative approaches. Key dimensions such as policy instruments, institutional capacity, financing mechanisms, and implementation outcomes were identified and systematically examined within each national context.

This analytical method makes it possible to identify general development trends as well as country-specific factors influencing sustainable economic transformation. Through thematic analysis, major patterns were extracted and compared across the two case studies in a structured manner.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS. Table-1.

Comparative Matrix

Criteria	Uzbekistan	Indonesia
Policy Instruments	Green Economy Development Concept 2019–2030; water resource management reforms	National Action Plan for Climate Change; FOLU Net Sink 2030; renewable energy strategies
Institutional Capacity	Centralized and state-led governance; limited domestic manufacturing capacity; constrained financial resources	Decentralized and multi-stakeholder governance model; comparatively stronger institutional systems
Implementation Outcomes	GDP share increased from 8.2% to 11.5%; renewable energy share rose from 13% to 19%; 185,000 green jobs created	GDP share increased from 12.3% to 15.7%; 3.4 million green jobs created; deforestation declined by 77%
Performance Indicators	Improved water management; gains in energy efficiency; Aral Sea environmental crisis remains unresolved	Expanded geothermal and solar energy use; reduced carbon emissions
Key Challenges	Limited institutional capacity; Aral Sea crisis; dependence on imported technologies	Deforestation pressures; coal sector interests; marine pollution
International Cooperation	Support from United Nations Development Programme, Asian Development Bank, World Bank	Partnerships with OECD, International Energy Agency, Asian Development Bank

The comparative matrix presented above demonstrates both important similarities and notable differences in the development of the green economy in Uzbekistan and Indonesia. Although both countries have shown a strong commitment to green development goals, their policy approaches, institutional capacities, and implementation outcomes differ considerably.

Commonalities Between the Two Nations

Both countries have adopted nationally driven green economy strategies, maintain regular cooperation with international institutions, and prioritize clean energy as a central component of sustainable development. Uzbekistan approved the Green Economy Development Concept for 2019–2030, while Indonesia updated its National Action Plan for Climate Change.

Another important similarity is the strategic emphasis placed on renewable energy as a key driver of future growth. In addition, both countries face comparable constraints related to limited financial resources, technological dependence, and the need for external expertise. International cooperation therefore remains highly important for advancing green economy initiatives in both national contexts.

Key Differences Between the Two Nations

Despite these similarities, major differences can be observed in governance models, institutional

effectiveness, and sectoral priorities. Uzbekistan follows a more centralized and state-led governance model, allowing stronger coordination in strategic sectors such as water management and renewable energy development.

By contrast, Indonesia applies a more decentralized governance structure that involves multiple stakeholders, including local authorities, private enterprises, and civil society organizations. This broader participation can encourage innovation and policy responsiveness, although it may also create implementation inconsistencies across regions.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan's green transition is more strongly linked to water security, energy modernization, and industrial efficiency, whereas Indonesia's strategy gives greater attention to forest conservation, marine ecosystems, and carbon emission reduction.

Causal and Institutional Analysis

Institutional, political, and economic conditions largely explain why the two countries have followed different green development trajectories. In Uzbekistan, centralized administration has enabled the government to implement targeted reforms, particularly in renewable energy and water resource management. However, progress has been constrained by limited institutional capacity, restricted domestic financing, and dependence on imported technologies. The continuing ecological challenges associated with the Aral Sea also create additional development pressures.

In Indonesia, decentralized governance has created wider opportunities for stakeholder participation in green economy projects. At the same time, strong economic interests in coal production and extractive industries continue to slow the transition toward a more sustainable economy. Regional differences in governance capacity also make the consistent implementation of national policies more complex.

These institutional and political distinctions demonstrate the importance of country-specific strategies when designing green economy frameworks for emerging economies. Both nations would benefit from strengthening governance institutions, expanding domestic green financing, improving technological self-reliance, and reducing dependence on fossil-fuel-based revenues.

Concluding Assessment

In summary, both countries have achieved meaningful progress in green economy development; however, substantial challenges remain, particularly in institutional capability, technological advancement, and long-term financing. Future progress will require coordinated cooperation among governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Substantial efforts have been undertaken in both Uzbekistan and Indonesia to promote the development of a green economy. The findings of this study indicate that both countries have made meaningful progress toward sustainable economic transformation, although the pace, structure, and policy pathways of that progress differ considerably.

Uzbekistan has adopted a centralized and state-led model focused on water efficiency, renewable energy expansion, and environmentally sustainable agriculture. Between 2019–2024, the share of the green economy sector in GDP increased from 8.2% to 11.5%, the share of renewable energy rose from 13% to 19%, and approximately 185,000 green jobs were created.

Indonesia has followed a more decentralized and multi-stakeholder model. During the same period, the green economy sector's share of GDP increased from 12.3% to 15.7%, approximately 3.4 million green jobs were generated, and deforestation declined by 77%. Nevertheless, Indonesia continues to face challenges related to strong economic interests in coal and forestry sectors.

The comparative analysis demonstrates that both countries are committed to green economy development, yet they face different barriers shaped by their political, economic, and institutional conditions. The study confirms that successful green transitions in developing countries require not only supportive policies, but also strong institutions, effective financing systems, and active stakeholder participation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following policy recommendations are proposed for Uzbekistan and Indonesia to accelerate the transition toward a green economy:

1. Strengthen Institutional Capacity

Both countries should invest in institutional modernization for green governance. This includes establishing specialized green economy agencies, improving inter-ministerial coordination, and developing transparent monitoring and evaluation systems.

2. Improve Domestic Financing

Both countries should expand green financing instruments such as green bonds, climate funds, and public-private partnerships. Reducing excessive dependence on external funding while strengthening domestic investment capacity is essential for long-term sustainability.

3. Accelerate Renewable Energy Transition

Both countries should adopt more ambitious renewable energy targets and create stronger incentives for investment in solar, wind, geothermal, and other clean energy sources. Redirecting inefficient fossil fuel subsidies toward renewable energy development could significantly speed up the transition.

4. Strengthen National and International Cooperation

Both countries should actively participate in regional and international cooperation platforms to exchange technology, expertise, and best practices. Collaboration with ASEAN, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and other regional institutions may provide valuable support.

5. Address Sector-Specific Challenges

Uzbekistan should prioritize mitigation of the Aral Sea environmental crisis and modernization of agricultural water management systems. Indonesia should strengthen forest governance and expand alternative livelihood opportunities for communities dependent on coal and forestry sectors.

6. Promote Public Awareness and Participation

Both countries should invest in education, awareness campaigns, and stakeholder engagement programs related to green economy transformation. Involving local communities, civil society organizations, and private enterprises is essential for building an inclusive and sustainable development model.

Limitations and Future Research

This study is based primarily on published academic literature, international organization reports, and policy documents. It does not include direct field data collection, expert interviews, or consultations with relevant authorities, which may limit contextual depth in certain areas.

In addition, the comparative scope is limited to two countries—Uzbekistan and Indonesia. As a result, the findings may not be fully generalizable to other emerging economies undergoing similar transitions.

The study also does not apply a time-series analytical model, meaning long-term trends and evolving policy dynamics are not comprehensively examined. Furthermore, limited access to some internal government information and non-public strategic documents may have reduced the completeness of the regulatory review.

Future research should address these limitations by collecting primary data through expert interviews and field studies, expanding the sample to include additional emerging economies, and using longitudinal methods to evaluate policy effectiveness over time.

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