

# URTACHUL OASIS LANDSCAPES AND THEIR COMPLICATED ORGANIZATION

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**Annotation:** following article describes the historical development of Urtachul region, oasis landscapes, and their rational organization in detail.

**Keywords:** landscape, Neolithic period, shrub and semi-shrub plants, oasis, desert, “saksovul”, “juzgun”, “shuvok”, “koriz”, Shoyikazoq, Kuyumlik, Shoydaroz, Yangikuduq, Tandircha, Shoyikhatip, Tanikli, Beshtepa.

Central Asia is rich with its history and developed culture since ancient times. Many physical evidences testifying to the activities of the first human ancestors were found in this holy land.

Academician U.A. Shishkin's book "Varakhsha" (Moscow, 1963) provides a lot of evidence about the history of archaeological investigation of Kiziltepa district and its surroundings. In 1934, a group of scientists led by A.U. Yakubovsky began work to investigate the Bukhara oasis. This group was supposed to carry out inspections in places from the city of Bukhara to the city of Samarkand. Scientists conducted archaeological excavations in designated places and found places where people lived.

Research by scientists has shown that our primitive ancestors first lived by eating ready-made delicacies of nature. Later, they made a living by raising cattle. Later, thanks to studying the secrets of nature, they discovered animal husbandry and agriculture at the same time. This discovery freed mankind forever from the slavery of nature. These events took place in the Neolithic (New Stone Age) of the primitive community system. Such major changes appeared in the southern regions of Central Asia in the 5th millennium BC, and in the central and northern regions in the 3rd millennium BC (Kaltaminor culture). Agriculture, in turn, created the ground for the

development of handicrafts, as well as a number of industries, on the basis of which the regions of the ancient eastern civilization were settled. As a result of the archaeological scientific-research works carried out in South Uzbekistan, it was proved that the ancient Eastern culture has its deep local roots in these lands.

Academician Abdulahat Muhammadjanov published his book "Ancient Bukhara" (Tashkent, 1991, "Fan" publishing house) and wrote:

"At the end of the 2nd millennium BC and the beginning of the 1st millennium BC, the livestock farming of the tribes in the lower part of the Zarafshan valley was also rapidly developing" ("Ancient Bukhara" , page 30).

The peoples of Central Asia also follow the main paths of social and economic development of society, which have been experienced by the peoples of the whole world in their many centuries of complex history. The wars of aggression, massacres and other evils that happened in the way of its development could not break the will of the working people.

Although we do not have a separate historical written source about Urtachul, we study the history of this area by comparing the evidence of the history of other regions of Kyziltepa. In 1955-1957, the archeological investigation group headed by academician Yahya Ghulomov, scientists who carried out inspection work in the Kuyimozor fortress, opened and examined a number of graves here. If we compare these data, it also corresponds to the Urtachul region.

The archeological investigation team led by Academician Yahya Ghulomov found a lot of pottery and farming equipment in Davandogh, south of Ayranchi village, considering that Ayranchi and Urtachul regions are not far from each other. We can point to the fact that people lived in Urtachul district in the distant past. They came to the conclusion that Ayranchi may be the name of a clan. Also, iron objects, swords, daggers, and bow arrowheads were found in the hills east of Kuyimozor. According to scientists, these date back to the 1st century BC or 1st century AD.

The conducted archaeological investigations reveal that there are many monuments of all stages of our human history: Paleolithic (ancient stone age). Kiziltepa, Kuyimozor, Urtachul, Hazora VI BC and many places related to IV centuries, III-V centuries AD, namely old ruins, cemeteries, fortifications, waterways, hills were investigated by K. Hamroev in 1956-1965 years. Urtachul pastures, wells, meadows belonging to the Bukhara region were examined, mentioned and analyzed by scientists.

Ephemeral-shrub, “juzgun”, “saksovul” plants grow and develop well in middle desert pastures and can be widely used for feeding livestock. Effective use of the above-mentioned nutritious plants, their reproduction and protection allow to increase the productivity of pastures in the region, and this is one of the prosperous ways to develop livestock farming.



**Figure 1. Urtachul. Khorasan region. Wild strawberries planted in 1978.**

In the past, Urtachul was a pasture belonging to the Emirate of Bukhara, where 170-180 thousand herd sheep of the Emirate were fed. Shepherds built low black houses, shacks, huts, cellars around every well in middle desert pastures and grazed sheep and goats. There are 60 wells in the steppe, which serve as a source of water for people and livestock. Among the wells are Koriz, Shoykozak, Kuyumlik, Shoydaroz,

Yangikuduk, Tandircha, Shoykhatip, Tanikli, Beshtepa, Tashkutan, Kirkkuduk, Akkuton, Jarkuton, Darvoza, Kumkora, Buermana, Shurkuduq, Shapolot, Shorcha, Sultankora, Shahimardan, Bitkana, Toqitepa, Hofizak, Karayotoq, Todakol, Dongakli, Khorasan, Yulduzgok, Rahimquduq, Egricha, Galakuduk, Choytovok, Ugrikok, Kirkkuloch, the draw-well birds such as Iskandar, Tetalon, Yunuskuduk, Achilkara, were famous.

That is, the Zarafshan river was then filled with sand-clay, sand-gravel deposits of the Suvkaytisoy, which entered from the Kashkadarya (Karnob) valley through its Kuyimozor branch. The thickness of the sand-gravel layers increases towards the east towards the mountain. Proluvial rocks dominate at the foot of the mountain (Urtachul oasis). These usually consist of yellowish loess and fine gravel layers. In most places, the parent rock of the soil has a composition of plastered sand, gravel and loess. In the lowlands, there are typical salt marshes.

Because of the use of gravel deposits on the Kuyimozor plateau, trenches with a depth of 5-6 meters and a diameter of 55-60 meters and more were formed. In places, their area reaches 0.5-4.0 hectares. Unfortunately, these ditches are now filled with waste from Kagan district. It is permissible to consider these areas as "broken lands". They are lands that have lost their economic and aesthetic value and have a negative impact on nature. As a result, we can see destruction of soil, hydrogeological conditions and the formation of man-made relief forms and the extraction of minerals. It is necessary to take measures to reduce the area of waterside and orchards as much as possible, because a large amount of fresh water evaporates and transpires from these areas. For this reason, the utility coefficient of the Tudakul reservoir is very low.

The human factor that caused the impoverishment of the natural geotisms of Kuyimozor and Tudakul regions and some of its consequences are discussed. Due to the extraction of sand and gravel reserves, the impoverishment of geosystems is increasing. Gypsum deserts mostly have an alluvial base, and sand and gravel deposits in it have a large scale and reserves. In order to visualize it more clearly, the

lithological cross section of the erosion opening on the western shore of the Kuyimozor reservoir is presented. The thickness of the sand-gravel layers, the level of salinity, and gypsum content differ in places. Since 1966, a sand-gravel factory has been operating at the foot of Khojcab hill for the purpose of extracting sand and gravel as a construction material. The plant has 670 hectares of sand-gravel area. As a result of the excavation works, the relief of the mining industry has been created on an area of 130 hectares. Ponds and ditches with a depth of 3-4 meters, piles of salted soil lying irregularly, remind of the lunar terrain. Such a situation can be seen in front of Kuyimozor railway station. Located on the border of the Bukhara oasis, this man-made landscape covers an area of more than 20 hectares. Such anthropogenic landforms can be found in many places of Urtachul. In the hot and dry period of the year, such areas are not only a center of deflation, but also a breeding ground for blood-sucking insects. Agro technical and biological recultivation of such lands is an actual task that cannot be delayed.

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