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# HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUNTING IN UZBEKISTAN

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## ANNOTATION

*The article discusses the history of the development of hunting in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Studying the history of the development of hunting makes it possible to assess its current state, as well as opportunities for proper organization of hunting, optimization of management of hunting farms, improvement of the system for issuing quotas and permits for hunting animals, as well as other issues in the field of hunting.*

**KEY WORDS:** *protection, activity, hunting, hunting farms, period, history, quota, sphere.*

Studying the history of the development of hunting makes it possible to assess its current state. Humanity has hunted animals for various purposes from the earliest times of its development to the present day. Hunting is one of the most important human activities and served to meet the needs for food and clothing, and is now widely used in industry, medicine and other fields.

At later stages of the development of society, as a result of the establishment of trade relations between states, the production and development of hunting tools, hunting methods were adapted and improved. City residents began to use firearms for hunting.

The villagers hunted using birds of prey (*Falco pelegrinoides*, *Falco cherrug*, *Accipiter gentiles*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*) and caught using traps, where this tradition is still preserved among the peoples of Central Asia.

In Uzbekistan, before the advent of firearms, there was very little substantiated information about hunting methods and hunting grounds. Nevertheless, stone tools and various iron hunting tools (spears, bullets), bones of wild animals, images painted on stones (petroglyphs), miniature works depicting hunting processes confirm that our ancestors in ancient times hunted various animals. Since ancient times, interest in the possession of valuable skins and game birds trained to hunt animals has served as an impetus for the improvement of hunting and, as a result, attention has been paid to the development of hunting networks and their importance.

Game birds, especially the gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), were highly valued in Western Europe and even became the subject of diplomatic negotiations in the 13th-18th centuries.

An analysis of activities related to the protection of wildlife in the 17th-18th centuries shows that during this period many reserves were created to protect species important for hunting and their habitat, and later endangered and rare animals began to be protected in them.

Due to the increase in population, increased interest in game animals served as the basis for the formation of legislation regulating the hunting sector. In the years 1730-1775, a number of regulatory documents aimed at protecting nature were adopted in Europe, including the Law "On Hunting" in 1763. According to this law, hunting of any animal is limited from March 12 to July 9. In 1892, the Law "On Hunting" was adopted in Russia, but it did not work because it was not fully implemented in practice.

The increased interest in game animals due to the increase in livestock served as the basis for the formation of legislation regulating hunting. In the years 1730-1775, a number of regulatory documents aimed at protecting nature were adopted in Europe, including the Law "On Hunting" in 1763. According to this law, hunting of any animal is limited from March 12 to July 9. In 1892, the Law "On Hunting" was adopted in Russia, but it did not work because it was not fully implemented.



The scope of this law did not extend to Siberia and Turkestan, and hunting in these lands continued to be carried out on the basis of national and local traditions. In the CIS in 1920, the first law “On Hunting” was adopted, which determined the list of fully and partially protected and hunting species, types and periods of hunting. On the basis of this document, a state monopoly has been established in relation to game animals; the sale of hunting products obtained in violation of their size, standards, hunting period and hunting rules is prohibited. This measure regulates the relationship between government procurement of hunting products, management of hunting farms and its control.

According to literary data, local residents of Central Asia hunted in a unique way, based on national traditions, and used hunting birds and hunting dogs in the hunting process. For example, in Turkmenistan, eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), hawks (*Accipiter nisus*) and kestrels (*Accipiter gentiles*) were used in the hunting process in the past, and now 2 species of falcons are used, namely the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and the red-headed peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinoides*). In the 1940-1950s, skilled hunters in the Karakum Desert caught 10-30 hares in one hunt, and also used them to hunt goitered gazelle, bustards and pheasants. At the beginning of the 20th century, a good falcon (*Falco cherrug*), trained for hunting in the Central Karakum, was highly valued, and its price was estimated as one camel, saddled with a quality saddle.

In subsequent years, the lack of understanding among the majority of the population of hunting and its importance, the lack of control in this area led to the formation of a mass of unorganized hunters and, as a consequence, the emergence of poachers who do not recognize any norms and restrictions, and this situation continues today.

In 1919, the first hunting farm was created in Uzbekistan in the form of a hunting society in the city of Tashkent and Tashkent district. The association is tasked with combating poaching, as well as supplying the state with fur, poultry and other game products. In the 1930s, industrial reptile hunting was organized in Central Asia, for which some species (*Vipera lebetina*, *Varanus griseus* and *Echis multisquamatus*) were caught and kept in nurseries. In 1944, a breeding plant for breeding Amudarya muskrats with an area of 350 thousand hectares was created in the Amu Darya delta; 3,345 muskrats were brought into it for industrial breeding through acclimatization.

Later, in 1956, the use of *Ondatra zibethicus* for industrial hunting was introduced in livestock farms of the Khorezm and Tashkent regions; the nutria *Myocastor* was brought to the Syrdarya region in 1950; in total, 11 species of fur-bearing animals were hunted during this period, and their fur was sent to procurement departments in the region, and then to the Tashkent fur base. Today, the recorded species are virtually extinct, with only the muskrat surviving in small numbers.

After the 1970s, fur production in Uzbekistan declined sharply, and in 2000, commercial hunting virtually ceased. In 1950, 54 thousand heads of *Vulpes vulpes*, 1100 heads of *Meles meles* and 506.6 thousand heads of *Ondatra zibethicus* were caught in the republic, and by 2017 a total of 157 heads of these species were caught (*Vulpes vulpes* 4 heads, *Meles meles* 153 heads).

Industrial hunting, which developed rapidly in Uzbekistan in the 1950-1970s and had high economic efficiency, is no longer practiced today.

Management and control of hunting farms at different times were also under the jurisdiction of different departments. Uzbekistan In 1959, the Association of Hunters and Fishermen of Uzbekistan was created, which continues to operate to this day. The military society of hunters and fishermen, which operated during this period, has ceased its activities today.

Analysis of the data shows that of the three main types of animal hunting (recreational, industrial and sport) that exist today, recreational hunting, that is, the use of hunting products mainly in the form of meat and clothing, is the oldest type of hunting. Currently, amateur hunting is widely used in Uzbekistan, mainly for hunting animals.

The three goals of the International Convention on Biodiversity, to which the Republic of Uzbekistan has joined, namely the protection of biodiversity, including wildlife, its use and equitable distribution of benefits, require in-depth theoretical and practical study of game species.

In order to regulate relations in hunting and hunting farms, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated 07/08/2020 no. ZRU-627 “On hunting and hunting farms”, was adopted.

Thus, studying the history of the development of hunting makes it possible to assess its current state. Provides an opportunity for the proper organization of hunting, optimization of management of hunting farms, increasing the rational use of hunting farms, as well as further improvement of the system for issuing quotas and permits for hunting animals, as well as other issues in the field of hunting.



## LITERATURE

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