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THE LANDSCAPE FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANCIENT STONE AGE SETTLEMENTS

©*Murodova D.*, ORCID: 0000-0003-3895-4080, Ph.D., National Center of Archaeology
of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan,
Tashkent, Uzbekistan, *murodovadurdonakhon@gmail.com*

ЛАНДШАФТНЫЙ ФАКТОР В ОСВОЕНИИ ДРЕВНИХ ПОСЕЛЕНИЙ КАМЕННОГО ВЕКА

©*Муродова Д. Х.*, ORCID: 0000-0003-3895-4080, канд. ист. наук,
Национальный центр археологии АН Республики Узбекистан,
г. Ташкент, Узбекистан, *murodovadurdonakhon@gmail.com*

Abstract. The article highlights long-term studies and the source materials obtained from them on the archeology of the Stone Age in Uzbekistan, which is an important component of Central Asia. Based on the analysis, the role and importance of natural landscapes as the main factor in the development of natural landscapes and areas of settlement by ancient communities of the Stone Age are shown.

Аннотация. В статье освещаются многолетние исследования и полученные из них исходные материалы по археологии каменного века Узбекистана, являющегося важной составной частью Центральной Азии. На основе анализа показана роль и значение природных ландшафтов как основного фактора в освоении древними сообществами каменного века природных ландшафтов и территорий расселения.

Keywords: landscape, flora, fauna, Stone Age, ancient waterways.

Ключевые слова: ландшафт, флора, фауна, каменный век, древние водные пути.

Introduction

The study of the history of the Stone Age in Uzbekistan and the landscapes of this period is important. The main purpose of this study is to study the ancient natural landscapes of the Stone Age communities and their anthropogenic impact on them through long-term research in the Stone Age archaeology of Uzbekistan, which is an important part of Central Asia, and their sources [1].

For this purpose, the study covers all periods of the Stone Age in Uzbekistan and the ancient landscapes of this period on the basis of paleoecological, paleogeological, paleozoological, paleobotanical analysis of the relationship of ancient Stone Age communities with nature and the environment [2–3].

Like many other regions of Eurasia, Uzbekistan has been proven to have been mastered by raw erections in the early Paleolithic period as a result of centuries of Stone Age archaeology. A number of Stone Age sites used by primitive people since the Early Paleolithic period include the Selungur, Chashma in the Fergana Valley, the lower strata of the Kolbulak and Kyzylolma monuments in the Ahangaron River Valley in the Tashkent region, the Jarsoy findings, and the Bokantag in the Kyzylkum region. With the emergence of humanity on earth, nature is constantly

changing and changing in order to make itself comfortable. The impact of man on nature is called anthropogenic impact, as a result of which new anthropogenic landscapes are formed and developed [4].

Material and research methods

Archaeological materials and written sources play an important role in the study of the formation and development of anthropogenic landscapes of ancient times [5].

The main factor determining the development of anthropogenic landscapes of the Stone Age can be seen in the fact that in the social life of ancient people were able to effectively use raw materials, flora and fauna, water landscapes in the manufacture of stone tools. Archaeologists argue that the Neolithic communities created a unique material culture by assimilating certain regions based on strict laws. By the end of the Mesolithic, the communities of Central Asia's two inter-river basins had developed their own material culture by adopting the deltas that were ecologically suitable for human habitation, especially the Amudarya and Zarafshan river basins and the many small water basins in the region. It is noted that since the last stages of the Mesolithic period and throughout the Neolithic period, the development of this region has made almost no change in the nature of the settlement. This situation, no doubt, shows that for a long time the landscape, climatic and ecological conditions have been in a constant state of flux. However, due to the changing direction of water flow in the river basin, it is observed that the habitats of the population also change accordingly [6].

Researchers of the Stone Age archaeology point out that during this period the communities in the acquisition of new sites spread not only around river basins but also to relatively wider boundaries. One of such Stone Age sites belonged to the cultural communities of Akchadarya and Lower Zarafshan. It is known that the ancient sites were located under the tributaries of the river. N. Kholmatov, a scientist who studied these monuments, noted that in the Akchadarya basin, Neolithic communities created their own material culture by living along the banks of the basin, lake-shaped water basins, and the heights of the basin above the water level. Based on research on the location of Neolithic communities in Uzbekistan, their development by ancient communities and the formation and development trends of anthropogenic landscapes, we can say that the Middle Zarafshan oasis belongs to the Sazaghan culture, the slopes of large streams flowing from the gorge to the oasis. located across. The location of the sites belonging to the cultural communities of Central Fergana was associated with the slopes of riverbeds and lake basins. According to the research of scientists, the location of Neolithic communities in Uzbekistan is divided into the following types:

1. Places located along the banks of watercourses (Lower Zarafshan and Sazaghan communities);
2. An area with a small number of habitats (Lavlakon Neolithic communities) on the surrounding borders, where the densely populated centers are clearly visible;
3. Areas with densely populated centers (Ustyurt communities);
4. Areas where the main area is more waterlogged, located along the banks of streams, lake basins (Akchadarya, Central Fergana communities) [7].

It is known that each developed area, in turn, depends on the specific landscape, climatic conditions of the region. According to scientists, a large part of the territory of Uzbekistan by this time began to be rapidly developed by mankind. They also realized their identity and realized that with this identity, the surrounding areas differed in a community of people who recognized their identity as similar. These features are also reflected in their ethnic names [8].

Different landscapes, climatic conditions, the number of people in the tribe, and other factors have led to significant variability in the area where the tribes live. This is because life itself required that there be a potential opportunity to meet the minimum needs of the population within the existing economic system. Among the rock paintings, which provide valuable information about the development of ancient landscapes of the Stone Age communities of Uzbekistan, the Zarautsoy monument is of special importance, and the images in it are mainly associated with the hunting process. The pictures depict people hunting animals such as bulls, gazelles, pigs, goats, and owls with the help of dogs, which can be used to assess the interactions of ancient people with nature and wildlife. Archaeologists point out that the nature, climate, and ecological conditions of the place where the ancient inhabitants lived were an important factor in their daily work, and also influenced the character of the tools they used in their lives. It follows that from ancient times, human labor, as well as the tools of labor they created, the natural environment and landscapes had a direct impact on their social activities. It is not surprising that the desire to maintain living conditions independent of nature has led to the creation of unique new anthropogenic landscapes [7–8].

Certain sectors of the subsistence economy, mainly engaged in hunting and fishing, varied in different corners of the Uzbek border due to local environmental conditions. Evidence of ancient cultural climatic conditions of different content (primarily water sources, flora and fauna), direct (mammal, poultry, fishbone remains, eggshells, edible mollusk remains), various plant remains, and secondary sources, in particular stone and bone weapons specializing in hunting and fishing, as well as weapons for food processing, allow the Neolithic communities of certain regions to recreate the economic landscape [7–8].

Based on the results of archaeological research in Uzbekistan, it can be said that the presence of many streams and the resulting thick tugai forests, rich in flora and fauna, as well as the formation of a unique natural landscape, led to the rapid development of new anthropogenic landscapes. Although there are two different ecological conditions in some areas, it has been observed that the landscape has similar aspects to each other. Archaeological research shows that the economy of the Neolithic communities living in such areas was the same, that is, they were engaged in hunting and fishing. One such place is called Tolstoy. Archaeologists have found special farm ditches where a lot of food waste has been dumped in the part of the settlements that are suitable for farming. Bone remains of most mammals and rodents have also been found in large numbers. The dog was considered a domestic animal and the others as wild animals. The named wild animals belong to a particular ecological region. Deer and wild boar lived around these basins. The Bukhara deer and wild boar still live among the wild animals of the region. Bulls, camels, wild ass, saigas, and gazelles are animals typical of desert or sandy landscapes. The bones of a bearded mountain goat were found in the Akchadarya basin, and they are among the hunted animals, in addition to the animals named above. According to archaeologist N. Kholmatov, if these facts find their scientific solution, it will be possible to prove that there was a region with a third ecological condition for these areas. Because the bearded mountain goat is wildlife native to the mountains and foothills. The Akchadarya basin and the lower Zarafshan oasis are very similar in terms of ecological conditions, which led to the fact that the Neolithic communities living in the area hunted almost the same wildlife. In the Lower, Zarafshan oasis lived a rare desert sheep in the Akchadarya basin. Remains of wild bull bones were also found in two locations in these areas, and it was determined that they belonged to the bull species [9].

Conclusions

In conclusion, from ancient times, natural landscapes have played an important role as a key factor in people's choice of habitat and the acquisition of new spaces. Ecological environments, which are not always favorable, have been influenced by the emergence of new farm species and the change of natural landscapes as a result of anthropogenic influences.

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