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GREEN ECONOMY AND THE PROMOTION OF ITS FORMATION IN ARMENIA

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The green economy is one of the cornerstones of ensuring sustainable development and one of the imperatives for the transformation of the modern world. It is the green economy that creates opportunities for long-term development. In this case, it is within the powers of the state and local self-government bodies of any country to promote its formation and subject the country to the green transformation. The Republic of Armenia is not an exception. However, what the prerequisites are for green transformation in the RA is another question. The purpose of the analysis carried out in the paper is to analyse those initiatives and prerequisites and to highlight the problems.

The management of the process of formation and development of the green economy in each country is assigned to certain government bodies. The organization of the green economy formation process in the Republic of Armenia is mainly within the framework of the functions of the executive power: The executive power, in the form of the government, should show maximum initiative to form applicable and effective prerequisites and legislative framework, the presence of which is simply a necessity for the formation of the green economy in the country. Almost all the governments of the Republic of Armenia, starting from 2000, have tried to one degree or another to show some initiative towards the formation of the green economy. It should also be noted that often those initiatives also contained elements of ensuring sustainable development. In this context, we consider it necessary to present the references

made to the green economy and sustainable development in all programs of the RA government developed for the years 2000-2026 (table 1).

As we can see from the data presented in table 1, sustainable development was first mentioned in the programs of the RA government in 2007, and the concept of the green economy was used for the first time only in 2013. The government programs of 2013 and 2014 reported the need to develop the principles of the green economy, as a result of which a plan for the implementation of actions resulting from the creation of innovative financial and economic mechanisms in the field of environmental protection was developed, according to which the presentation of the protocol decision of the RA government "On approving the concept of the principles of the green economy" was defined as a separate event, for which the goal is to introduce the planning system of economic mechanisms and indicators that ensure the development of the green economy. The deadline for this event was the 4th quarter of 2015¹, however, the non-implementation of the measure led to the priority inclusion of the development of the concept of the implementation of green economy principles in the 2016 and 2017-2022 programs of the RA government. Moreover, the 2016 plan prioritized the creation of a national green economy center. However, both of these priorities remained unfulfilled. Despite this, the discussed program of measures is considered to have expired from January 1, 2022. For the first time since 2013, the 2018 program of the RA government lacks any reference to the formation of the green economy, and it is only in the 2019 program that the green economy and sustainable development are considered as one system, and the need to develop and implement a separate policy for their provision has been defined as a priority. However, in the 2019 and 2020 reports on the progress and results of the government's 2019 program, there is not a single reference to the implementation of the above-mentioned priority², which indicates that within the framework of that program too, the concept of introduction of green economy principles and national policy of green economy formation and sustainable development have not been developed. As a result, the only possibility to fill the existing gap is within the framework of the current 2021-2026 program, the final summary of the results of which can be expected only after 2026, unless there is an early change in the government's program.

Naturally, such a situation does not allow the initiative of the RA executive power to form the green economy to

¹ Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, No. 47 of November 14, 2013, appendix, point 3.

² Reports on the Implementation and Results of the RA Government Program in 2019 and 2020, <https://www.gov.am/files/docs/3932.pdf>; <https://www.gov.am/files/docs/4520.pdf>



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TABLE 1

References to Green Economy and Sustainable Development in the RA Government Programs

<i>Government program</i>	<i>References to green economy and sustainable development in the program</i>
Government program 2000-2003	There is no reference to the green economy and sustainable development. There is a reference to environmental protection, which is related to the green economy and sustainable development. ³
Government program 2003-2007	There is no reference to the green economy and sustainable development. There is a reference to environmental protection, which is related to the green economy and sustainable development. The reference made almost completely repeats the provisions included in the government's 2000-2003 program. ⁴
Government program 2007	There is no reference to the green economy. The following reference was made to sustainable development: the goal of the government program is the stable and safe development of the state, the establishment of a civil society anchored on democratic values, the formation of an atmosphere of trust between the public and the authorities, the establishment of social justice, the unconditional rule of law, free economic relations offering equal competitive opportunities, and ensuring the country's security. ⁵ Sustainable development is also addressed in sections such as poverty reduction ⁶ , economic development ⁷ , environmental protection ⁸ , urban development ⁹ , social security ¹⁰ , education and science ¹¹ , etc.
Government program 2008-2012	There is no direct and complete reference to the green economy. Among the components of the green economy, only green urban development is mentioned: green urban planning is adopted as the most important principle of urban planning. ¹² And ensuring sustainable development is defined by the program as one of the main priorities of the government. ¹³ Ensuring sustainable development is addressed in almost the same sections as in the government's 2007 plan. ¹⁴
Government program 2012-2017	There is no reference to the green economy and sustainable development. The program only refers to ensuring stability in certain directions. ¹⁵
Government program 2013	The concept of the green economy is used for the first time in the government program: to develop the principles of implementation of the green economy in order to finance environmentally preferable technologies and programs, to improve management in the field of environmental protection, to encourage the continuous development of mechanisms of cooperation between private and public sectors and the introduction of new ones. ¹⁶ Sustainable development is addressed according to sectoral programs. ¹⁷
Government program 2014	The reference to the green economy fully coincides with the provision presented in the 2013 program. ¹⁸ Sustainable development is addressed in sections such as sustainable economic development ¹⁹ , urban planning and architecture ²⁰ , infrastructures ²¹ etc, however, there is no direct reference.
Government program 2016	According to the plan, in 2017 it was planned to develop a concept for the implementation of the principles of the green economy and to form a national center of the green economy. ²² Sustainable development was addressed only in the context of foreign policy, in particular, ensuring the sustainable economic development of the Republic of Armenia is defined as the direction of the foreign policy. ²³

³ Government Program 2000-2003, point 4.9.2

⁴ Government Program 2003-2007, point 4.9.2

⁵ Government program 2007, foreword

⁶ See *ibid.*, point 4.1

⁷ See *ibid.*, point 4.3.1

⁸ See *ibid.*, point 4.3.10

⁹ See *ibid.*, point 4.3.12

¹⁰ See *ibid.*, point 4.4.2

¹¹ See *ibid.*, point 4.4.3

¹² Government program 2008-2012, point 4.3.12

¹³ See *ibid.*, point 2

¹⁴ See *ibid.*, points 4.3 and 4.2

¹⁵ Government program 2012-2017, point 3

¹⁶ Government Program 2013, point 3.4.4

¹⁷ See *ibid.*, point 3

¹⁸ Government Program 2014, point 2.4.4

¹⁹ See *ibid.*, preface, point 2.2

²⁰ See *ibid.*, point 2.2.6

²¹ See *ibid.*, point 2.2.8

²² Government Program 2016, point 1.4, Environmental Protection, point 4

²³ See *ibid.*, point 1.3

Government program 2017-2022	According to the government's plan, a concept for the introduction of the green economy principles had to be developed by the end of 2017 ²⁴ , which was also addressed in the 2016 program. According to the government's plan, the government considers the said plan to be a program of activities guaranteeing sustainable development. ²⁵ The government's program has made a broad reference to the provision of sustainable development according to different directions. ²⁶
Government program 2018	There is no reference to the green economy. Sustainable development is addressed in sections such as foreign policy ²⁷ , poverty alleviation and social support ²⁸ , continuous development of the economy ²⁹ etc.
Government program 2019	The government program directly refers to the green economy and sustainable development. In particular, the development and implementation of policies aimed at long-term promotion of the green economy and sustainable development are defined as a priority direction of actions in the program. ³⁰ At the same time, according to the program, the formation of a green economic system is defined as the cornerstone of the government's economic policy ³¹ , and sustainable development is at the base of the entire program. ³²
Government program 2021-2026	The government's 2021-2026 program specifically and directly refers to the green economy and sustainable development. In particular, one entire sub-chapter of the economy section of the program is dedicated to ensuring sustainable development and forming the green economy. ³³

be sufficiently assessed, because if only the development of the concept and policy in 7 programs remains a priority without implementation, then we deal with non-strategic practices.

However, the mentioned situation does not imply that Armenia is completely lacking the legislative foundations contributing to the formation of the green economy, as there are a number of legislative and sub-legislative acts that significantly affect the formation of that system. In the process of forming the green economy, essential provisions are discussed in such legal acts as the RA Land Code³⁴, the RA Water Code³⁵, the RA Forest Code³⁶, the RA Crust Code³⁷, the RA Law on Atmospheric Air Protection³⁸, the RA Law on Waste³⁹, the RA Law on Environmental Control⁴⁰ etc. But the problem is the lack of a systematic approach. It will be possible to ensure the formation of the green economy in the short term, its development in the long term and obtaining synergistic results in only the case of consolidation of sectoral programs and regulations under the general policy.

We also consider it necessary to record that, in addition to internal legislative regulations, within the framework of the discussed topic, the Republic of Armenia has also ratified a number of agreements at the global, regional and bilateral levels since independence. The list of the mentioned agreements is as follows (table 2).

The list of agreements related to the topic, to which the Republic of Armenia is also a member, is wide enough and is not limited to the above, but the agreements presented in table 2 are more attributable to the concept of the green economy. However, there are no provisions directly typical to the process of forming the green economy in the mentioned agreements, they are mostly attributable to environmental protection, which is naturally one of the pillars of the green economy. In other words, we have a situation where the Republic of Armenia is a member of a number of international agreements, has ratified a number of legal acts that refer to the formation of the green economy, but they do not completely close the field of actions,

²⁴ Government Program 2017-2022, point 4.4.9.1
²⁵ See *ibid.*, The Vision and Goals of the RA Government Program
²⁶ See *ibid.*, point 1
²⁷ Government Program 2018, point 3.2
²⁸ See *ibid.*, point 5.2
²⁹ See *ibid.*, point 6
³⁰ Government Program 2019, point 4.8
³¹ See *ibid.*, point 5.3
³² See *ibid.*, point 2,3,4,5,6
³³ Government program 2021-2026, point 2.2
³⁴ The RA Land Code, 02.05.01
³⁵ The RA Water Code, 04.06.02
³⁶ The RA Forest Code, 24.10.05
³⁷ The RA Crust Code, 28.11.11
³⁸ The RA Law on Atmospheric Air Protection, 11.10.94
³⁹ The RA Law on Waste, 24.11.04
⁴⁰ The RA Law on Environmental Control, 11.04.05

TABLE 2

Armenia's membership in international, regional and bilateral agreements⁴¹

Global agreements	
1.	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterbird Habitat, Ramsar 1971
2.	Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris 1972
3.	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro 1992
4.	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, New York 1992
4.1.	<i>Kyoto Protocol, Kyoto 1997</i>
4.2.	<i>Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, Doha</i>
4.3.	<i>Paris Agreement, Paris 2016</i>
5.	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Paris 1994
6.	Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna 1985
6.1.	<i>Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Montreal 1987</i>
6.2.	<i>London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol</i>
6.3.	<i>Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol</i>
6.4.	<i>Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol</i>
6.5.	<i>Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol</i>
7.	UN Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes, Basel 1989
8.	Convention on the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Rotterdam 1998
9.	Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Stockholm 2001
10.	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Washington 1979
11.	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn 1979
12.	Convention on Mercury, Minamata 2013
Regional agreements	
1.	UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Geneva 1979
1.1.	<i>Protocol on Long-Term Funding for the Joint Project on Monitoring and Assessment of Long-Range Air Pollutant Dispersion in Europe</i>
2.	UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Espoo 1991
2.1.	<i>Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Kyiv 2003</i>
3.	UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Helsinki 1992
4.	UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, Aarhus 1998
5.	UNECE Convention on the Conservation and Use of International Waters and Transboundary Watercourses, Helsinki 1992
5.1.	<i>Protocol on Water and Health, London 1999</i>
6.	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Other Hostile Uses of Technical Means of Environmental Modification, Geneva 1976
7.	European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000
8.	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Environment, Bern 1979
Bilateral agreements	
1.	<i>Georgia, Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of Georgia on Cooperation in the Field of Environment and Natural Resources Protection /03.05.1997/</i>
2.	<i>Iran, Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation between the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and the Environmental Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran /27.12.2001/</i>
3.	<i>Syria, Agreement between the Ministry of Nature Protection of the RA and the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources of the Syrian Arab Republic on Cooperation in the Subsoil Field /...06.2001/</i>
4.	<i>Brazil, Memorandum of Intentions between the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and the Environment Secretariat of the State of Sao Paulo of the Federal Republic of Brazil /08.05.2002/</i>
5.	<i>Russia, Agreement on Cooperation between the RA Ministry of Nature Protection and the Russian Federation in the Use of Natural Resources /05.11.2002/</i>
6.	<i>Egypt, Memorandum of Understanding between the RA Ministry of Nature Protection and Egypt's Ministry of Industrial and Technological Development on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Geology /19.10.2002/</i>
7.	<i>Tajikistan, Agreement between the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection /25.11.2003/</i>
8.	<i>Denmark, Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark on Cooperation for the Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change /09.11.2004/</i>
9.	<i>Syria, Agreement between the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and the State Ministry of Environmental Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on Cooperation in the Field of Nature Protection /17.06.2009/</i>
10.	<i>Latvia, Agreement about Cooperation between the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Environment Protection of the Republic of Latvia in the Field of Nature Protection /11.12.2009/</i>
11.	<i>Lebanon, Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon on Cooperation in the Field of Environment /24.05.2011/</i>

⁴¹ The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia, <http://env.am/storage/files/hamadzaynagr-cank-arm-08-08-2013.doc>, <http://env.am/storage/files/tab-arm-large.pdf>

moreover, they are not coordinated around a single general policy. On the contrary, since 2013, all the RA governments have been trying to develop a concept and policy for the formation of the green economy, but they still do not exist. And this gap is the problem to be considered first, because in this case, the action plan should not be adopted from the bottom-up, but the opposite, from the top-down. It is necessary to develop a national program based on existing validations, a concept from which individual programs and actions will be derived.

In the Republic of Armenia, the process of forming the green economy at the community level is in a much better state,

because according to the RA Law On Local Self-Government of the City of Yerevan⁴². The local self-government bodies of the city of Yerevan developed, approved and implemented the Yerevan Green City action plan. The latter is the first strategic document developed and implemented in the RA, which is aimed at the formation of a green region and economy, but the existence of this document still does not prove its effectiveness. However, the existence of such a strategy only for the capital does not solve the problem at the national level, therefore, it is impossible to consider the level of initiative to create the green economy in the RA as sufficient.

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10. Government Program 2017-2022
11. Government Program 2018
12. Government Program 2019
13. Government Program 2021-2026
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ԿԱՆԱՋ ՏՆՏԵՍՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ԵՎ ԴՐԱ ՁԵՎԱՎՈՐՄԱՆ ԽԹԱՆՈՒՄԸ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆՈՒՄ

Կանաչ տնտեսությունը կայուն զարգացման ապահովման հիմնաքարերից և ժամանակակից աշխարհի վերափոխման հրամայականներից մեկն է: Կանաչ տնտեսությունն է, որ ստեղծում է երկարաժամկետ զարգացման հնարավորություններ: Ուստի պետական և տեղական ինքնակառավարման մարմինների լիազորությունների շրջանակում հնարավոր է խթանել դրա ձևավորումը՝ յուրաքանչյուր երկիր ենթարկելով կանաչ վերափոխման: Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունը բացառություն չէ: Սակայն, այլ հարց է, թե ինչպիսին են ՀՀ-ում կանաչ վերափոխման նախադրյալները: Հոդվածում կատարված վերլուծությունն ունի հետևյալ նպատակը. հենց այդ նախաձեռնողականության և նախադրյալների ուսումնասիրում, առկա խնդիրների վերհանում:

Հիմնաբառեր. *կանաչ տնտեսություն, կանաչ վերափոխում, պետական կարգավորում, համակարգային մոտեցում*

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ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА И ИЗМЕНЕНИЕ КЛИМАТА

ЗЕЛЕНАЯ ЭКОНОМИКА И СОДЕЙСТВИЕ ЕЕ ФОРМИРОВАНИЮ В АРМЕНИИ

Зеленая экономика является одним из краеугольных камней обеспечения устойчивого развития и одним из императивов преобразования современного мира. Именно зеленая экономика создает возможности для долгосрочного развития. В этом случае в компетенции государства и органов местного самоуправления любой страны способствовать ее становлению и направить страну на зеленую трансформацию. Республика Армения не является исключением. Однако каковы предпосылки для зеленой трансформации в РА – это другой вопрос. Цель анализа, проведенного в статье, состоит в том, чтобы проанализировать эти инициативы и предпосылки и выделить проблемы.

Ключевые слова: *зеленая экономика, зеленая трансформация, государственное регулирование, системный подход*