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Collana	Ethnobiology Series
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Nota di contenuto	Preface -- Ecosystems, Biodiversity of Uzbekistan and Its Global Value -- The peoples of Uzbekistan and their traditions -- A Brief History of Ethnobiology in Uzbekistan -- Diversity of Medicinal Plants, Fungi and Animals Use in Uzbekistan -- Plants and Their Folk Medicinal Uses in Local Communities -- Fungi and Their and Folk Medicinal Uses in Local Communities -- Animals and Their and Folk Medicinal Uses in Local Communities -- Folk healers (Tabib's) Knowledge and Communication about Traditional Uses of Ethnobiological Species in Uzbekistan -- Distribution Map of Medicinal Plants, Fungi and Animals (or Ethnobiological Species) Use in Uzbekistan -- Appendix -- Table -- Photo Gallery -- References -- Index to Medicinal Plant Species -- Index to Medicinal Fungal Species -- Index to Medicinal Animal Species.
Sommario/riassunto	Natural resources and associated biological diversity provide the basis of livelihood for humans, particularly in rural areas and mountain regions around the world. Over centuries, indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities have developed their own specific knowledge regarding plant use, management, and

conservation. The history of plant use by humans as food and to treat diverse ailments dates back to ancient civilizations. Even though the advent of allopathic medicine has somehow minimized the role of medicinal plants in favor of synthetic drugs, a number of modern drug discoveries have been based on medicinal plants used by indigenous peoples. Ethnobiology is the burgeoning interdisciplinary scientific field which covers all sorts of interactions between plants and people, and Central Asia is recognized as a plant diversity hot spot. The mountains and valleys of this region are rich in unique medicinal and food plant species. Local communities residing in the mountain regions of Central Asia possess unique knowledge of surrounding resources, which is the result of many years of interaction with and selection of the most desirable and pervasive plant species present. In this context, this book provides comprehensive information on cross-culture variation in the traditional uses of plants, fungi, and animal species as food, medicine, and for cultural purposes among the diverse communities of Uzbekistan. The key areas of focus include plant diversity in Uzbekistan, cross cultural variation in traditional uses of plant species, high-value medicinal and food plant species, and threats and conservation status of plant species and traditional knowledge.

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