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ECOLOGICAL TOURISM IN PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

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ABOUT ARTICLE

Key words: protected natural areas, categories, classification, nature reserves, parks, legislation, IUCN, WWF.

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Abstract: In the article, protected natural areas are considered as objects of ecological tourism. as well as the geo-ecological classification of protected natural areas makes it possible to organize ecological tourism according to their categories.

MUHOFAZA ETILADIGAN TABIIY HUDUDLARDA EKOLOGIK TURIZM

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MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit so'zlar: qo'riqlanadigan tabiiy hududlar, toifalar, tasnifi, qo'riqxonalar, parklar, qonun hujjatlari, IUCN, WWF.

Annotatsiya: Maqolada muhofaza etiladigan tabiiy hududlar ekologik turizm ob'ektlari sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi. shuningdek muhofaza etiladigan tabiiy hududlarning geoekologik tasnifi ularning toifalariga qarab ekologik turizmni tashkil etish imkonini beradi.

ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ ТУРИЗМ НА ОХРАНЯЕМЫХ ПРИРОДНЫХ ТЕРРИТОРИЯХ**Олимжон И. Абдуганиев***кандидат географических наук, доцент
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О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: охраняемые природные территории, категории, классификация, заповедники, парки, законодательство, МСОП, WWF.**Аннотация:** В статье охраняемые природные территории рассматриваются как объекты экологического туризма. а также геоэкологическая классификация охраняемых природных территорий позволяет организовать экологический туризм по их категориям.

INTRODUCTION

The second half of the twentieth century can rightfully be described as the "epoch of tourism". At present, natural and recreational resources and objects of protected natural areas (hereinafter referred to as PNA) attract tourists and are, in essence, a market tourism product. The priority area of activity in the development of sustainable tourism is to ensure the preservation and restoration of the environment in the process of recreational use and minimization of possible negative consequences. One of the directions for the development of ecotourism in the world is a network of protected natural areas. Therefore, the new PNA paradigm is characterized by the active introduction of social and economic practices in the territory of special protection, the most large-scale of which is the practice of ecological tourism.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasizes that ecotourism involves travel with responsibility to the environment in relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to explore and enjoy nature and cultural attractions [9]. The World Wildlife Fund also focuses on the environmental orientation of ecotourism: "Ecotourism is nature tourism that contributes to the protection of nature. An analysis of the approaches of foreign researchers and international organizations to the identification of ecological tourism allows us to distinguish three of its mandatory components:

1) knowledge of nature, i.e., the presence of elements of the study of nature, the acquisition of new knowledge and skills by tourists;

2) conservation of ecosystems, which implies not only the appropriate behavior of the group on the route, but also the participation of tourists and tour operators in programs and activities to protect the environment;

3) respect for the interests of local residents, which means both compliance with local laws and customs, and the contribution of tourism to the socio-economic development of tourist destinations [1].

When organizing ecological tourism, first of all, it is necessary to take into account the fact that its structure is heterogeneous, and that there are various gradations and classifications of types of ecotourism and ecotours. It is advisable to divide the whole variety of types of ecotourism into 2 main classes: 1) ecotourism within the boundaries of protected natural areas (PNA) and water areas (a classic direction in ecotourism); 2) ecotourism outside the boundaries of protected natural areas and water areas, most often in the rural landscape. In accordance with this, it is possible to determine the main functions of ecological tourism: recreational, environmental, educational, educational, health-improving, socio-economic (improving the quality of life of the local population, creating new jobs, increasing local budget revenues, implementing investment programs, etc.).).

Protected areas are a very promising place to meet the growing needs of people for educational outdoor recreation. Therefore, protected areas play a significant role in tourism and recreation. But, on the other hand, for the protected area, tourists are considered from two positions: as a source of pollution - a negative factor and as a desirable guest - an economic benefit. Therefore, each protected area should have its own plan for the development of tourism and related activities. Such a plan contains a detailed description of the goals and objectives of the protected area, which were officially adopted upon its establishment (Charter or Regulations on the protected area), a description of the objectives in the field of tourism development, specific measures to achieve them, including budgetary and financial aspects and features of the zoning of the territory. These measures allow the regulation of tourism activities in PNA [7, 8].

An important and difficult task for the protected area staff is to ensure that visitors are aware of natural values and preserve them during their stay in a protected area. This task can be accomplished by creating targeted programs, possibly in alliance with private business, which would both increase the attractiveness of the territory and properly manage the flow of tourists [2].

When developing ecotourism in protected areas, the issue of choosing the category of protected areas is important. It determines the priority of environmental tasks, the regime of protection, the possible profile and zoning of the created protected area. The Republic of Uzbekistan is interested in improving the PNA system with the experience of advanced states in general, in particular, in Germany, Austria, Great Britain, the USA, Russia and other states. In

these states, over the past two or three decades, environmental protection legislation has been well tested. It can be argued that these states today have advanced experience in supporting the integrity and conservation of wildlife diversity and ensuring human use of natural resources on a sustainable and reasonable basis [1].

At the moment, the protected area system of Uzbekistan includes 8 reserves, 2 natural and 1 national parks, 1 biosphere reserve, 3 natural nurseries, 12 wildlife sanctuaries, 7 natural monuments. The total area of protected areas providing sustainable biodiversity conservation (I-IV IUCN categories) is more than 5% of the country's area. Creation of new and expansion of existing PNA A draft "Program for creating a network of protected natural areas" has been prepared, which provides for the expansion of the PNA system from 2.3 million hectares to 8.1 million hectares (about 17% of the territory of Uzbekistan), the creation of new and expansion of existing PNA (29 territories in total), which will ensure the coverage of all types of natural ecosystems of Uzbekistan by protected natural areas [12, 13, 14].

Ecotourism is considered in the world as the main mechanism of self-financing of biosphere reserves, reserves and national parks, therefore the economic component is predominant in this field of activity, although the environmental nature of ecotourism programs and technologies is postulated. At the same time, neither the creation of "green trails", bivouacs and other objects of tourist infrastructure with a massive influx of tourists guarantees natural landscapes from digression. Therefore, it seems illegitimate to identify any nature tourism with the concept of "sustainable tourism", since the former is a very ecological activity [1].

Table 1

Geoecological classification of protected natural areas (9)

№	Group PNA		Types of protected areas	IUCN protected area categories	Functional tasks*
	By function	By purpose			
I	Reserved-reference	Standards protected in a strict regime	State natural reserves	Ia	4
			Interstate reserves	Ia	4
		managed reserves	State biosphere reserves	Ib	2
			Complex (landscape) reserves	Ib	2
II	Resource-saving and stable using	Multi-purpose	National parks	II	1
			Natural parks	II	1
		Relative conservation	State monuments of nature	III	1
III	Environment-forming and preserving	Restoring	Reserves	IV	3
			Natural nurseries	IV	3
		Supportive and preserving	Water protection zones	V	2
			Coastal strips	V	2
			Zones of sanitary protection of water bodies	V	3

			Zones of formation of surface and ground waters	V	3
IV	Resource-saving and managers	Combined use	protected forests	VI	1
			Resort natural areas	VI	1
			Recreational areas	VI	1
			Fishery zones	VI	1

*On examples of tourism and recreation. Key: 1 = task of paramount importance; 2 = task of secondary importance; 3 = potentially applicable task; 4 = only for eco-tourism.

In our opinion, the domestic category and classification of PNAs should coincide with the IUCN classification generally accepted in world practice [3], this allows us to compare examples of resolving issues with the establishment of a regime of economic activity within PNAs in foreign countries with how it is solved in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The basis for the organization of ecological tourism in the world is a developed network of protected natural areas (ecoframework) [10, 11]. The specificity of tourism in the protected area is its focus on environmental education and training of visitors, which is due to the high educational and educational value of the natural environment, emphasized by many scientists, artists, classics of environmental protection. The above tables and the network of protected areas show that Uzbekistan has ample opportunities for the development of eco-tourism. The next task is to draw up a route plan for each object i.e. PNA [8, 9].

To attract local and foreign tourists, it is necessary to advertise these tourist sites. At the same time, the development of tourism in protected areas, regardless of their category, is associated with a number of issues and difficulties (Table 1). This specificity allows us to formulate some systemic problems of ecotourism development: 1. Ambiguity in the interpretation of the concept of "ecological tourism" and, as a result, different understanding of the essence of the phenomenon and its organizational form; 2. Unpreparedness and, as a result, lack of demand for PA resources by tourists; 3. The inevitable emergence of conflicts between recreational, on the one hand, and environmental and traditional nature management, on the other hand; 4. Underdeveloped infrastructure of protected areas; 5. Unpreparedness and disinterest of the protected areas themselves; 6. The almost complete absence of science-based planning and regulation of tourist activities on the routes in protected areas, including work to determine the recreational capacity of ecosystems and regular recreational monitoring systems [6].

The task of geographers in advertising is to draw up plans and maps of routes. However, when organizing recreational activities in the territory of national and natural parks, it must be taken into account that such activities are possible only if the regime of special protection is observed. These PNA have one of the main goals of their activity is recreation and tourism. Natural parks are more focused on the development of not only individual educational tourism, but mass tourism, involving a significant number of visitors.

According to the geoecological classification, resource-saving and managing protected areas are of particular importance in the development of tourism (Table 1). In these protected natural areas included in this group, based on the natural, economic and environmental capabilities of geocomplexes, a combined use of economic activity is carried out. At the same time, natural objects and geocomplexes are distinguished on their territory, which have a certain ecological value in their natural state, as well as zones that can be used for recreation, tourism, health improvement, and hunting.

CONCLUSION

Today, it is important to use the natural resource potential of protected areas for the purposes of ecological tourism, where sustainable development issues are a priority. However, here the problem of differentiation of PNA objects according to the criterion of consumer attractiveness, the uneven distribution of them, comes to the fore. The development of tourism activities in the protected areas is limited by the use of these territories for economic purposes, which requires accurate calculation and constant monitoring of the load on display facilities.

In order to reduce the negative effects of ecotourism in protected areas, the following measures can be proposed: zoning of protected areas, designing routes taking into account the sustainability of natural complexes, regulating tourist flows, introducing seasonal restrictions on visits, creating the necessary minimum infrastructure, monitoring the consequences of recreational activities. All these activities will support the specifics of ecotourism - focusing on environmental education and enlightenment, reducing the impact on the natural environment, making a certain contribution to the protection of the nature of the visited areas and improving the well-being of local residents [5, 6].

One of them establishes the main criteria for ecological tourism. Among them are the involvement of residents of natural areas in economic and social activities for the development of ecological tourism; providing an individual approach, taking into account the characteristics of protected areas; the use of infrastructure facilities, transport and equipment in the process of tourism that have the lowest possible negative impact on the environment, as well as guarantees that the maximum allowable values of recreational load in protected natural areas will not be exceeded.

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