



## EFFECTIVE USE OF ECOTOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN UZBEKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

This article reveals aspects of the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan. As we know, the republic has opportunities for the development of international and domestic tourism, as evidenced by the many objects of material and cultural heritage, natural and climatic conditions, unique national cuisine and unsurpassed hospitality of the Uzbek people attract travelers. The purpose of this study is to analyze the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan.

**Key Words:** *Ecotourism, service, opportunities of tourism, recreation, infrastructure.*

### INTRODUCTION

Uzbekistan has rich opportunities and unique features for the development of ecotourism and its types of adventure, such as rafting, trekking, door tourism, agro tourism, mountaineering and other sports. Various natural and cultural landscapes, flora and fauna resources, gene pool of rare and endangered organisms, magnificent natural complexes, natural monuments, which are of interest to eco-tourists, are important bases for the development of ecotourism.

From the point of view of ecotourism, specially protected natural areas should be considered as base areas. As Western European countries are already deprived of their natural landscapes, the interest in the nature of other countries is growing from year to year. Therefore, the role of nature protection in the efficient use of tourist resources is great. Ecotourism has become a rapidly growing tourism industry. The development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan will make a significant contribution to the protection of nature, attracting eco-tourists to our country, solving the problems of conservation and reproduction of rare flora and fauna, as well as the development of our economy by providing employment to local people. Due to the ecotourism activity, it is important to implement it in specially protected natural areas. Locally, meeting the needs of the population depends more on the types of nature use.

The increasing use of natural resources in production, the increasing use of the natural environment to meet the diverse needs of society, the provision of human life and activity, necessitates the preservation of certain areas of nature in its natural state. Such plots are

pecially protected areas (water areas), which perform ecological, genetic, conservation, protection, sanitary-hygienic, health, cultural-educational functions, and they are excluded from active economic development. Specially protected areas support ecological balance, reproduction of natural resources, preservation of standards of gene pool of ecosystems and organisms, protection and preservation of the environment, recreation and conservation education, as well as local activities under both natural and human conditions, serves the purpose of studying regional and global natural processes.

The objects for the organization and development of ecotourism are:

- national parks, state orders, natural monuments;
- botanical gardens;
- health resorts and spas;
- nature reserves.

Separate protected areas are divided into the following categories, taking into account the differences in the status, function, mode and organization of management:

1. State nature reserves, including biosphere reserves.
2. National parks.
3. State national nature parks (gardens).
4. State nature reserves (reserves).
5. State natural monuments.
6. Other specially protected natural areas: water protection zones, natural health resorts, recreation zones, botanical gardens, dendrological parks, protection (intermediate) zones, restricted forest areas, zoos, and fishery zones.

In addition, other forms of specially protected natural areas - green zones, urban forests, city parks, garden-park art monuments, protected coastline, protected river systems, protected landscapes, biological stations, micro-reserves, etc. can be created. The role of the system of specially protected areas is determined by ensuring the sustainability of the environment, the social needs of society and material needs. Accordingly, specially protected areas perform the following economic and environmental functions:

- preservation of the gene pool;
- support for fundamental environmental processes and life support systems;
- Provide opportunities to collect information and conduct research on protected natural complexes for scientific, cognitive and educational purposes.

At present, there are nature reserves, national parks and rare natural monuments in Uzbekistan. This begs the question of what is the difference between a nature reserve and a national park and rare natural monuments, and how ecotourism can be developed in them.

Reserves are nature complexes and objects where economic activity is prohibited, and they are places of nature protection, scientific, ecological significance, lands where the permanent or rare landscapes of nature, the genetic fund of flora and fauna are preserved. In other words, state reserves are natural complexes and objects of scientific, ecological and spiritual significance, which are necessary to protect nature, typical or rare landscapes of natural environment, where the genetic fund of plants and animals is preserved and completely removed from economic use.

Recreation and tourism in a nature reserve can be detrimental to nature, but adhering to a pre-calculated non-harmful recreational pressure can prevent adverse changes through tourism.

**National parks.** The term “national park” originated in the 19th century in specially protected natural areas in the United States (Yellowstone Park, 1872). The main features of their organization arose by prohibiting the free access of people to rare natural objects and at the same time their use for ordinary economic purposes. The difference between a national park and a nature reserve is that only tourism is allowed from human economic activities, and the rest is prohibited.

To this end, it is important to carry out the activities of national parks on the basis of preserving the beautiful landscapes typical for each region, with its historical, cultural, architectural monuments, as well as increasing the genetic fund of flora and fauna. The main thing is to develop tourism on the basis of environmentally friendly. Scientific research, organization of educational work in the national parks and their solution of theoretical and practical aspects of nature protection, acquaintance of the population with various monuments and sights are carried out.

Zomin National Park covers 10.5 thousand hectares and was established in 1960 as a mountain forest reserve to protect natural complexes in the western part of the Turkestan mountain system. Later it was turned into a national park due to its rich tourist resources. A characteristic feature of the national park is the spruce (Zarafshan, Turkestan hemisphere species).

There is a great opportunity to walk in the national park and develop mountain tourism. Using the healing properties of this place, it is possible to develop medical tourism. However, due to the fact that the national park is a bit far from Samarkand, Tashkent, Bukhara and other cities, and the roads to it are not good, its tourist potential is not fully used.

In the area of reserves, only a part of the objects of nature is used by the economy, and this use is carried out at certain times, in certain seasons and to the extent that it does not harm the environment. In addition to hunting orders, in recent years began to be allocated botanical-landscape, hydrological and other purposeful and complex nature reserves (reserves).

Complex landscape reserves (reserves) are understood as important natural areas that protect protected natural areas, where h different nature complexes are protected, and at the same time other activities of the farm are not stopped.

**Natural monuments.** Rare natural monuments are one of the types of protected objects. In some cases, it is not advisable to establish nature reserves, which occupy large areas to protect natural objects. Therefore, natural objects in smaller areas are called "natural monuments" and are protected. The term "natural monuments" was first proposed by A. Humboldt. At the beginning of the last century, the protection of natural monuments in Europe began.

Natural monuments provide somewhat clear evidence of the change in nature and the processes that take place in it. Natural monuments have scientific-historical and cultural-aesthetic significance.

By their general nature, natural monuments are divided into geological - geomorphologic, botanical, paleontological, astronomical and landscape monuments. The protected natural areas of Uzbekistan include 9 state reserves with an area of 2164 km<sup>2</sup>, 2 national parks with an area of 6061 km<sup>2</sup> and 9 state orders for the breeding of rare species "Jayron Eco-Center" with an area of 12186 km<sup>2</sup>. The total area of protected natural areas is 20,520 km<sup>2</sup>, or 5.2% of the territory of Uzbekistan. The development of ecotourism in our country is hampered by the lack of adequate conditions, infrastructure, material and technical base, services in the protected natural areas.

Of course, we believe that in order to take advantage of these opportunities, we need to do a number of things:

- increase the number of nature reserves and national parks;
- Research existing reserves and national parks as a tourist resource study in terms of;
- assessment of ecotourism resources and their cadastre;
- formation of the necessary infrastructure for the use of existing nature reserves and national parks as an object of ecotourism and a recreational resource;
- orderly use of existing natural areas as an object of ecotourism;
- training of ecotourism specialists;
- study the skills and experience of countries with developed eco-tourism;
- special attention to nature protection, etc.

National parks and state reserves are nature protection institutions, the territories of which include natural complexes of ecological, historical and aesthetic value and intended for nature protection, recreational, educational, scientific and cultural purposes. It is important to establish a natural service sector in these areas with the use of natural resources, complex

development and organization of various mathematical routes, the development of ecotourism.

The economic role of ecotourism is important due to the budget deficit in the specially protected natural areas of Uzbekistan. It is also important that the development of ecotourism does not require expensive and extensive infrastructure. This means that ecotourism can become a source of great benefits in the future, at low cost. In the context of Uzbekistan, the Kitab Geological Reserve has experience in horseback riding and hiking with eco-tourism. The summer season, which is suitable for tourism, lasts from April to October for 7 months in mountainous areas. If the entry price for a group of pedestrians (10 people) is \$ 50 per person per day and \$ 70 for horseback riders, you can earn  $10 \text{ people} \times \$ 50 = \$ 500$  or  $10 \text{ people} \times \$ 70 = \$ 700$  per day.

Horseback riding routes are held from May to September. While the number of arrivals averages five groups per month (10 people), 50 people range from \$ 70 to \$ 3,500, and \$ 5,500 in 5 months. So, if we take into account the number of hikers in one season, it is possible to earn about 30-35 thousand dollars. There are also opportunities to further increase revenue through additional service networks.

Another importance of ecotourism and ecological excursions is that it serves as an important form of ecological education, conducts nature conservation work, and serves to enhance the public reputation of specially protected natural areas. Nowadays, it is difficult for most protected areas to operate without the involvement of the public.

The way to focus community support on protected areas is to organize these people into participants in the conservation of rare landscapes. Often the species established by the reserves for different organizations pave the way for their long-term cooperation. In addition, foreign eco-tourists can set up relief funds for the reserves they visit.

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