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Article



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DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN

Abstract: The article discusses the prospects for the development of ecological tourism and the creation of a unique and sustainable network of ecotourism routes that are attractive to all categories of tourists.

Key words: Tourism, international cooperation, "soft tourism", ecotourism, individual tourism.

Language: English

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Introduction

Uzbekistan is one of the most dynamically developing countries and important partners of UNWTO. In recent years, eco-tourism has become a segment of the tourism industry and a new area in the tourism industry. The UN General Assembly resolutions of 2012 and 2014 recognized the importance of developing eco-tourism in order to preserve natural resources and establish international cooperation in this area. As is well known, our country has great prospects for the development of ecotourism, the deployment of a unique and sustainable network of ecotourism routes that are attractive to all categories of tourists, and the further

integration of the republic into the international market of such services. Today, Uzbekistan is one of the leading countries in Central Asia in terms of popular ecotourism destinations. Ecotourism is becoming increasingly popular today. According to the World Tourism Organization, it is one of the five main strategic areas for tourism development until 2020, and it is estimated that the share of ecotourism in the global tourism industry has reached more than 10% in recent years, with growth rates that are two to three times higher than those of the overall tourism industry [1]. Ecotourism is becoming increasingly popular today. According to the World Tourism Organization, it is one of the five main strategic areas

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for tourism development until 2020, and it is estimated that the share of ecotourism in the global tourism industry has reached more than 10% in recent years, with growth rates that are two to three times higher than those of the overall tourism industry. The development of ecotourism, in turn, provides comprehensive support for the environmental protection system, the preservation of biodiversity and unique natural areas, the maintenance of local population income, and is a promising market for investment projects. Uzbekistan's advantageous geographical location at the intersection of East-West and South-North highways, its natural and climatic features, its unique network of protected natural areas, and its diverse landscapes offer ample opportunities for promoting ecotourism routes. Currently, the system of protected natural areas includes 8 nature reserves, 2 natural national parks, 1 national park, 1 biosphere reserve, 12 nature reserves, and 7 natural monuments, which were presented at the international conference. We are always interested in exchanging views at the international level on the development of tourism with other countries and learning from their experience in ecotourism. Germany amount to more than 100 billion euros, which is about 4% of the country's GDP. It is necessary to develop so-called "soft tourism," which involves making every effort to preserve the environment and natural resources. This is because, in addition to the positive economic impact and the expansion of intercultural dialogue, there is also the risk of depletion, pollution, and destruction of natural areas, historical landmarks, and infrastructure overloading [2]. As part of its cooperation with Uzbekistan, the German International Cooperation Agency GIZ supports reforms in the field of natural resource protection and has already implemented a number of joint projects in this area. In these projects, our experts have provided advice to Uzbek partners on the development of individual and ecological tourism. It is important to strike a balance between tourism development and environmental protection [3]. Tourism is also developing at a rapid pace in other countries. For example, France and Spain are among the top countries in terms of tourist arrivals and revenues. In 2025, France received 102 million tourists, while Spain welcomed 96.8 million tourists, ranking second in terms of tourist arrivals. Spain's tourism revenues reached 105 billion euros. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (WTO), in 2024, the United States (\$215 billion) holds the leadership in tourism revenue by a wide margin, followed by Spain (\$106.5 billion), Great Britain (\$84.5 billion), France (\$77.1 billion) and Italy (\$58.7 billion). In Uzbekistan, there are government programs aimed at preserving nature for future generations, and large-scale measures are being taken to develop eco-tourism. In order to develop eco-tourism, Uzbekistan is creating a legal framework for the protection of natural areas and the organization of

sustainable tourism. To develop eco-tourism, it is necessary to improve the tourist ecological zones, which meet environmental requirements and are designed for the movement of tourists. In Uzbekistan, hiking trails are being created for hiking, as well as for horseback riding and cycling. Tourist agencies are involved in the eco-tourism business. According to data for 2024, Uzbekistan is at a qualitatively new stage of tourism development, and large-scale work is being carried out to improve the tourism infrastructure and promote the industry abroad. Ecological tourist routes in Uzbekistan are being developed. The routes include visits to orchards and vineyards. It is necessary to develop master classes on cooking traditional national dishes and participation in seasonal agricultural work. It is advisable to further develop the Zaamin National Nature Park, which was established on the Turkestan mountain range to preserve the unique arched forests and rich wildlife. The Nuratinsky Nature Reserve was created to preserve the population of the Severtsov sheep, a special subspecies of the argali, which is listed in the International Red Book and the Red Book of Uzbekistan. Tourists will be interested in horseback riding tours, programs aimed at getting acquainted with rural life and nature, and excursions to mountain villages. Lake Aidarkul, located in the Kyzylkum Desert, is a popular destination for tourists. They love it for its miles-long beaches, the opportunity to admire the pristine nature, observe birds, and visit yurt camps on the shores of Aidarkul during ethnographic excursions. Tour operators offer eco-tours on the routes Tashkent-Charki-Tashkent, Tashkent-Baysayskaya-Chimyon-Tashkent, Tashkent-Zomin-Tashkent, Tashkent-Aidarkul-Tashkent. Camel rides in the desert areas of Uzbekistan attract a lot of attention from tourists. According to the analysis, tour operators providing ecotourism services mainly work within the Chimgan-Charki recreation area. However, the remains of Gissar, Bobotog, Kichitangtos (Surkhandarya), Charkar (Kashkadarya), Nurota (Navoi-Jizzak), Zarafshan (Samarkand), Turkestan (Jizzak), Alai (Ferghana), Kurama, Chattkal (Namangan), the Kyzylkum Desert, the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea, and the salt lakes, as well as the Ustyurt Plateau, are equally interesting. There is work to be done to create complexes and thematic eco-tours to the tugai forests, the Murantau deposit, the Mingbulak depression, the Aidarkul and Dengizkul lakes, and the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers. Uzbekistan has its own charm and unique landscapes, as well as beautiful caves. Therefore, speleotourism has great potential. There are more than 700 travel agencies in the country, about 240 large and small hotels, a large number of tourist camps and campsites, many architectural and historical monuments, and beautiful natural landscapes. Statistics show that 41% of tourists visiting Uzbekistan come to explore the country. Along the banks of the Amu Darya, there are

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tugai forests, which are very interesting for eco-tours. Eco-tours are organized to the 485-meter Mount Uvay, in the western part of the Kyzylkum, on the right bank of the Amu Darya (Cambrian period). In the Amu Darya region, one of the oldest cities in Uzbekistan is located in Khorezm, and its architectural monuments are one of the historical tourist centers. Eco-tours can be combined with the study of historical landscapes

Research results

Today, Uzbekistan is one of the leading countries in Central Asia in terms of popular ecotourism destinations. Ecotourism is becoming increasingly popular, and according to the World Tourism Organization, it is one of the five main strategic areas for tourism development. In recent years, the share of ecotourism in the global tourism industry has reached over 10%, and its growth rate is two to three times higher than the overall tourism industry [4]. Germany's tourism revenue exceeds 100 billion euros, accounting for approximately 4% of the country's GDP. Germany is developing the so-called "soft tourism," which involves making every effort to preserve the environment and natural resources. However, along with the positive economic impact, there are also concerns about the depletion, pollution, and destruction of natural areas, historical landmarks, and infrastructure. It is crucial to find ways to minimize the negative effects of these factors on sustainable development.

Discussion of the results

The development of ecotourism, in turn, provides for comprehensive support of the environmental protection system, the preservation of biodiversity and unique natural areas, the maintenance of local population incomes, and is a promising market for investment projects. Uzbekistan's advantageous geographical location at the intersection of East-West and South-North highways, its natural and climatic features, its unique network of protected natural areas, and its rich diversity of landscapes provide ample opportunities for promoting ecotourism routes. Currently, the system of protected natural areas includes 8 nature reserves, 2 national parks, 1 national park, 1 biosphere reserve, 12 nature reserves, and 7 natural monuments. Natural resources tend to be depleted, and this process accelerates significantly with the growth of tourist flows. This, in turn, reduces the potential for eco-tourism, highlighting the interconnectedness of these factors and the need for optimal solutions [5].

Conclusions

Like all other resources, natural resources tend to be depleted, and this process is much faster with the growth of tourist flows. This, in turn, reduces the potential for eco-tourism, and there is a clear correlation between these factors and the need to find optimal solutions. Eco-tourism can significantly improve the standard of living for the local population, create new job opportunities, and strengthen international relations [6]. In Uzbekistan, there are government programs aimed at preserving nature for future generations, and extensive measures are being taken to develop eco-tourism. This area allows for a significant improvement in the population's standard of living, the creation of new jobs, and the strengthening of international relations.

The successful implementation of these objectives in Uzbekistan demonstrates a proper understanding of the importance and significance of the development of this area as a factor in the overall sustainable development of the country. It is gratifying that such types of tourism as ecotourism, geotourism, extreme, medical and cultural tourism, auto-tourism and mountaineering, as well as other modern types of active recreation, are already sufficiently developed in the republic. It should be noted that more than seven thousand cultural and historical monuments have been preserved on your fertile land, along which the Great Silk Road ran. This rich heritage of the Uzbek people is carefully preserved and passed on from generation to generation. Uzbekistan has many places with great potential for development as tourism centers. For this reason, the World Bank is helping Uzbekistan to create the necessary infrastructure and attract private investment in order to support the economic development of small towns and mountainous regions and promote tourism.

Uzbekistan has a well-developed tourism industry, including ecotourism, geotourism, extreme tourism, medical tourism, cultural tourism, auto tourism, and mountaineering, as well as other modern forms of outdoor recreation. Uzbekistan has abundant resources and natural attractions for the development of ecotourism. The country attracts foreign ecotourists with its beautiful nature, rich flora and fauna, and unique landscapes.

Ecotourism allows to significantly improve the living standards of the population, create new jobs, and strengthen international relations. Based on the goals and objectives outlined in the "Concept for the Development of Ecotourism in Uzbekistan

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