

## THE USE OF NATURAL MONUMENTS OF SURKHANDARYA REGION FOR ECOLOGICAL TOURISM

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the distinctive features of ecotourism as a separate, fast-growing industry in the world. It shows the place of eco-tourism and its importance in the development of the country's economic system. The paper also considers the state and prospects of development of this sphere of activity in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** Tourism, ecotourism, natural monuments, architecture.

### INTRODUCTION

Currently, tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy in many parts of the world. Tourism has become the third largest sector of the world economy. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2017 the International year of sustainable tourism.

It should be emphasized that this kind of tourism is gaining popularity - according to forecasts of the world tourism organization, he is among the five main strategic directions for tourism development until 2020, and estimated the share of ecotourism in the total volume of the global tourism industry in recent years has reached more than 10%, and the growth rate is 2-3 times higher than the respective rates of growth of the entire tourism industry.

Based on these data, it is possible to draw conclusions about the importance of international tourism and the promotion of inter-ethnic cooperation. This has led to the fact that the countries have fully begun to learn about each other's rich, cultural and historical heritage.

The sphere of ecotourism is radically different from other economic and social spheres. This is due to the fact that ecotourism is a new sector that provides a monetary system that is necessary for the country's Treasury, as well as creates new jobs and at the same time increases the standard of living of the population.

Ecotourism is an important factor in the sustainable development of countries and the protection of the environment, cultural and ethnographic features, without violating the integrity of the ecosystem as a whole. Uzbekistan is one of the most dynamically developing countries in the field of ecological, conscious tourism and has a huge potential for ecotourism, thanks to its rich natural resources.

Given the increasing rate of urbanization and pollution of natural landscapes in the foreseeable future, interest in ecotourism will grow accordingly. The development of ecotourism, in turn, provides comprehensive support for environmental protection systems, biodiversity and unique natural areas, maintaining local revenues and is a promising market for investment projects.

Today, the direction of "ecotourism" is becoming more and more popular among vacationers. The concept of "ecotourism" was first used in 1980, the Mexican economist G. Ceballos, and Laskuri. The main goal of ecotourism is to see new places, enjoy the beauty of nature, breathe the mountain air, visit and admire historical monuments. [2] This type of tourism is well established in many countries of the world, especially in Canada, the United States, Europe, Japan, China, Central and South America.

The term "natural monument" appeared more than 170 years ago. [3]. This concept was introduced into science by the famous German traveler Alexander von Humboldt, who understood the word "Naturdenkmaler", that is, "pieces of primitive nature". Since the time of von Humboldt, this expression has become very popular.

Natural monuments by their nature are divided into:

- botanical;
- geological;
- hydrological [4].

The Republic of Uzbekistan, including the Surkhandarya region, has favorable opportunities for the development of eco-tourism, national parks and reserves, unique natural sites, Botanical gardens, sanatoriums serve as an important resource for the organization and development of eco-tourism. The diversity of the region's nature, the presence of high mountains covered with white snow even in hot summer, mountain rivers, flora and fauna resources, rare and endangered organisms, natural monuments and architecture of different historical periods serve as the basis for the development of tourism.

### **Materials and methods**

As a unique country, the territory of which was home to a developed ancient civilization and culture, Uzbekistan has huge opportunities for tourism, not inferior in attractiveness to the best places in the world for tourist travel. It is expected that the use of this potential will be facilitated by the presidential decree "On measures to accelerate the development of the tourism industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan". [5]

It is worth noting that the favorable geographical position of Uzbekistan at the intersection of routes from East to West and from South to North of the country, climatic features, a unique network of protected natural areas and a rich variety of landscapes also open up great opportunities for promoting ecotourism routes.

Ecotourism is directly linked to the sustainable development of the country. Uzbekistan has great opportunities for the development of ecotourism with its natural and climatic features. Here is a unique nature, a variety of picturesque landscapes and a rich cultural heritage.

The approval by the government of Uzbekistan in 2013 of tourism development programs for the Khorezm, Surkhandarya, Tashkent and Kashkadarya regions, providing for the allocation of more than 260 million US dollars, was a new stage in the development of this sector.

Public and non-governmental non-profit organizations were involved in the implementation of the program. The successful implementation of project activities was ensured by the fact that they took into account all the provisions of the Law "On social partnership" [6], which was adopted in 2014 and is designed to regulate the interaction of state bodies with non-governmental organizations and other civil society institutions.

Further, a program for creating a developed ecotourism infrastructure in the regions of Uzbekistan for 2016-2018 years, in order to ensure the appropriate institutional, legal and infrastructural conditions for the further development of ecological tourism in Uzbekistan.

The experience of States that have achieved significant results in the development of ecotourism shows that effective management and regulation are particularly relevant at the stage of formation and are a determining factor for building a national ecotourism market.

Today, Uzbekistan is one of the leading countries in Central Asia in terms of popular ecotourism. Currently, the system of protected areas includes 8 nature reserves, 2 natural-national and 1 national parks, 1 biosphere reserve, 12 nature reserves, 7 natural monuments, which attract the attention of a large number of both researchers and ordinary foreign visitors. The total area of protected natural areas is 20,520 km<sup>2</sup> (5% of the territory of Uzbekistan).

Especially attractive are the mountainous regions of the country - Chimen, Zomin, Chatkal, Kuzkuv, Piskom, Turkestan, Hissar, Zarafshan, Alai, Kurama, Nurata, where all the natural and geographical conditions for Hiking, trekking and mountaineering are created. There are also many opportunities to develop rafting on countless mountain rivers and streams.

This sphere is also reflected in the South Surkhandarya region of our Republic. Since time immemorial, our region has played a special role in expanding trade and cultural ties with various countries [1]. The fields of science, culture, architecture, trade and crafts are well developed. Valuable sources found on the ruins of ancient Termez indicate that the city was once a major cultural, educational, scientific and commercial center.

Most of the ancient monuments of Uzbekistan are concentrated in the Surkhandarya region. Among the most significant Khalchayan, Dalverzintepa, Ayritam, Kyzyltepa, Bandikhan, kampyr-Tepe, and others. Here also appeared the first human encampments: in the river valleys of the Baisun range. One of the earliest of them is the famous cave teshiktash, where they found the remains of a Neanderthal boy. The grotto is located in the mountain gorge of Zautoloshsaya and belongs to the middle Paleolithic era – 100-40 thousand BC. [7]

Geological monuments in this area include natural rocks, caves, and hot springs. In particular, caves and settlements inhabited by primitive people: teshiktash cave in the village of Machay, Katta Suluvkamar, Shop, Amir Temur, Iskandarkhan, Iron gate in the village of Darband, among them Boybulak cave in the village of Kurgancha.

Hydrological monuments are also concentrated in the mountainous part of the region, which includes magnificent waterfalls and ravines, ravines, gorges, springs, picturesque places. Among them are the Khodjaipok cave (length 240 meters, height at the entrance 4 meters), the famous Sangardak waterfall, which is located on the border of Kelif-Sherabad, at an altitude of 1110 meters above sea level in the foothills of limestone cliffs. Among the biological monuments of the region are the millennial maple in the village of Sairob, the maple in Chorchinor, Baisun, and the arboretum in Denau.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Baisun district of Surkhandarya region has a great potential for ecotourism, as it is located at the historical crossroads of cultures and religions, including Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Islam.

In order to protect rare plants and animals of mountain areas on the southern edge of the Kuhitang mountain range, the Surkhandarya state reserve was created. Here are guarded by a horned mountain goat, argali, Turkestan lynx, white-clawed bear, snow leopard, cobra, eagle and other animals.

The architectural and archaeological monuments of the Surkhandarya region are the mausoleum of Khakim at-Termizi, (Fig.1.1.) The mausoleum of Abu Isa Termizi of the XI-XII centuries, which is an important tourist attraction.



**Fig. 1.1. The mausoleum of Hakim at-Termezi**

Accordingly, opportunities exist for ecotourism development in Surkhandarya region in the directions of mountain eco-tourism, ecotourism, historical monuments, eco-tourism monuments, archaeological site of ecotourism, ecotourism of protected natural areas. The development of ecotourism in the region contributes to the protection of nature, the attraction of eco-tourists, the preservation of unique flora and fauna and economic development. [8]. Speaking about the development of tourism in a particular city, you need to clearly understand what type of tourism can be predominant.

Also, I would like to note that special attention in this region is not paid to the development of ecotourism. In August 2017, the government of Uzbekistan approved a program of measures for the development of tourism for 2018-2019 in the country. Currently, work is underway to create favorable conditions for tourists to have a pleasant stay in nature, to enjoy the beauty of unique nature, to get acquainted with the richest species of flora and fauna.

Three clusters of mountain tourism are being created in Surkhandarya region. The first is Baysun, will cover the territory of the villages Omonhona and Darband of the Boysun district, and the highlands Suboshi.

The second is Sariasi, will include the slopes of the Khonjiza mountain system of the Sariasi and Uzun districts, as well as the territory of the Sangardak village of the Sariasi district.

The third is Sherabad, will cover the areas of the village of Shalkon, the area around The khuzhaikon salt Deposit, as well as pomegranate and other fruit orchards.

It provides for the creation of virtual tours, the installation of audio guides, the development of electronic catalogs of historical monuments in foreign languages and their 3D models. There will be mobile applications with detailed information about cultural and historical heritage sites. In places of tourist pilgrimage, it is planned to organize access to the Internet via WI-FI. The implementation of the project also involves the introduction of a number of preferences for Internet service providers.

Of course, in the historical city, the main potential is architectural monuments, and unfortunately, most of them are in a depressing physical condition, and investing in the reconstruction or restoration of these objects without the development and modernization of social infrastructure may not be effective. To do this, first of all, it is necessary to reconstruct existing architectural monuments, study the number and preservation of natural monuments.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is worth noting that there are enough opportunities in the region to increase the potential of ecotourism. This requires a number of measures to increase the number of new high-quality ecotourism facilities, thus stimulating the country's economy.

For example, it is possible to increase the number of jobs by developing and increasing the number of marketing research organizations in the ecotourism system, advertising historical monuments and relics, finding and creating new sites for ecotourism, increasing and improving additional types of services related to tourism: household services, communications, transport, etc. Also, it is worth noting that paying great attention to the development of the situation in the tourist market when setting prices is the right choice of service personnel.

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