

DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL TOURISM IN THE REPUBLIC OF  
UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** In recent years, a number of measures have been implemented in our country to protect mother nature and preserve biological species. In Uzbekistan, in 2001-2005, the international bank-GEF projects and the international project EuropeAid project on the preservation of biological species of the Western Tien-Shan were implemented. These projects are directly related to environmental protection and attraction of local population to tourism.

**Key words:** economic, forest, massifs, water conservation, protection, sanitation, health, recreation.

РАЗВИТИЕ ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОГО ТУРИЗМА В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ  
УЗБЕКИСТАН

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**Аннотация:** В последние годы в нашей стране реализован ряд мероприятий по охране матушки-природы и сохранению биологических видов. В Узбекистане в 2001-2005 годах были реализованы проекты международного банка-ГЭФ и международного проекта Europe-Aid по сохранению биологических видов Западного Тянь-Шаня. Эти проекты напрямую связаны с охраной окружающей среды и привлечением местного населения к туризму.

**Ключевые слова:** хозяйство, лес, массивы, водоохрана, охрана, санитария, здоровье, рекреация.

O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASIDA EKOLOGIK TURIZMNI  
RIVOJLANTIRISH

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**Annotatsiya:** Mamlakatimizda keyingi yillarda ona-tabiatni asrash, biologik turlarni saqlab qolish borasida bir qator tadbirlar amalga oshirildi. O'zbekistonda 2001-

2005 yillarda G'arbiy Tyan-Shanning biologik turlarini asrash bo'yicha xalqaro bank-GEF loyihalari va xalqaro loyiha EuropeAid loyihasi amalda bo'ldi. Bu loyihalar atrof muhitni muhofaza qilish, mahalliy aholini turizmga jalb qilish bilan bevosita bog'langan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Iqtisodiy, o'rmon, massivlari asosan, suvni asrash, himoya, sanitariya-gigiena, sog'lomlashtirish, rekreasion.

In economically difficult times, the population relies more on the natural economy as the only material source, and therefore intensively develops animal husbandry and agriculture. Naturally, under such conditions, state-protected parks and nature reserves are also used for plowing and grazing. As a result, there is an active "attack" of man on the unexploited territories, as a result, the ecology is destroyed and some species disappear. According to Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Forests", forest massifs are mainly ecological (water conservation, protection, sanitary-hygiene, healing, recreational), aesthetic and limited use. performs other duties.

Residents provide accommodation, meals, transportation, demonstration of customs and crafts, guiding, protection and security services. The development of this area encourages local handicrafts based on national traditions and the mentality characteristic of our people: the population restores handicrafts and hunting at the level of its capabilities. This will be an additional source of income that does not require a large investment. In addition, the local population provides tourists with quality food products grown by themselves, not imported from other areas, that is, subsidiary farming (vegetable products planted on vacant land in residential plots) also brings income.

As a result, the population itself begins to actively protect nature, because if the environment is damaged, foreign tourists will stop coming, which will have a negative impact on the income of the local population. For this reason, interested parties will be forced to allocate part of their funds to nature protection measures and to the repair of cultural and artistic monuments.

It is important that the development of this field stimulates communications, new technologies, the construction of roads, communication lines, medicine, drinking water, energy, and other types of activities will appear.[2]

Undoubtedly, in the conditions of transition to a market economy, the government should be the leading reformer in the development of tourism and revitalization of recreational activities. Because the use of nature without a clear plan can cause great damage to the country. Therefore, in our republic, there is a special approach to this field, and important decisions are being made. For example, according to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 10, 2000 No. 83 "On preservation of natural resources and ensuring a comprehensive and

consistent approach to the development of the Chimyon-Chorvoq area", this area has its natural - it belongs to a specially protected natural area of resort and recreational nature due to climatic conditions. In this regard, infrastructure restructuring was carried out in this area in order to reduce the environmental threat posed by enterprises that cause significant damage to nature and to determine the potential of local tourism.[1]

Western Tien-Shan is the territory of three countries: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, it is impossible to develop tourism here without achieving active cooperation and compatibility between these countries. In this case, the issue is not only about creating cross-border tourist routes that are popular with foreign tourists, but also about preserving natural resources, preventing animals from being brutally exterminated by illegal hunting, reducing the negative impact of industry, and boosting the local economy. is also Both the authorities and the local community should benefit from the development of the region. They must control all economic processes in their territory and take the reins of management. The TESIS project on the preservation of natural resources of the Western Tien-Shan is aimed at solving this problem.

Currently, there is a great demand for ecotourism products among foreign and local tourists. According to experts, Central Asia can become a kind of "Mecca" for nature travelers. In this regard, on April 17, 2006, the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-325 "On measures to accelerate the development of the service sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2006-2010" was adopted.

In order to implement this decision and develop ecotourism, the State Committee for Nature Protection has developed the Concept of Ecotourism Development in the Republic of Uzbekistan and its Near Future Prospects.

In this Concept, the necessary conditions for the gradual development of ecotourism in our country, organizational and legal issues are provided. If these issues are implemented, the Republic of Uzbekistan has a great chance to take its place among the countries with developed ecological tourism in the world.

Despite the great potential of tourism in Uzbekistan, its share in creating the gross national product is only 0.5%.

In addition, to replace hospitality, other industries that supply goods and provide various services - energy, utilities, road services, public safety, medicine, insurance, banking, foreign policy and etc. (more than 20 sectors of the economy). However, the peculiarity of tourism is that, although the level and quality of service can be evaluated, the "effects" that cannot be evaluated with any measurements - impressions, spiritual nourishment, satisfaction, many such as aesthetic pleasure can be enumerated.[5]

It is known that trade in goods is different from trade in services. Services are specific "products" and include transportation, communications, construction, insurance, finance, computer and information services, accounting and management consulting, etc. The basis for determining the price of services is the market. It is agreed

upon by the parties during the conclusion of the transaction. Tourism is a set of such services offered by providers. In tourism, the goods (object, country) are not brought to the buyer, on the contrary, the consumer of services (buyer) comes to him.

Export of services refers to the expenses of persons visiting a country that is not their permanent residence for recreation, business, private business and other purposes. It includes fees paid for travel (tour), fees for paid services provided to foreign tourists in the visited country, fees for reserved rooms in hotels and other places of accommodation, profits from the sale of gift (souvenir) goods, international transportation services contains z. In turn, the income of the hotel industry is the payment for rooms, fees for food services, use of restaurants, bars, night clubs, organization of banquets and conferences, transportation, theater tickets, gifts. income from sales and other services.[3]

Tourism import consists of the sum of consumption expenses related to the departure of a citizen of the country for various purposes and for a period of not more than one year. These indicators include the costs of preparing and carrying out the trip, the costs incurred during the trip and at the places visited. These expenses are calculated in the country of departure after returning from a trip abroad.[4]

According to official data, in 2006, for every 1 US dollar of tourist services import, exports amounted to 21.2 US dollars, in 2007, this ratio was 1:23.8 dollars, that is, by 112%. growth was observed. However, when compiling the indicators, it can be noticed that the export of services increased by 14.7%, import by 24%, and the negative balance was 14.3%.

It is known that no factor in the world has a static character, such changes occur that lead to the improvement or deterioration of the situation in countries. In other words, tourists respond to changes in the situation with their "feet": if they don't like something, they change their travel directions. In international practice, it is accepted to consider the volume of trips made by national and foreign citizens throughout the country as domestic tourism.[8]

At the same time, it is often difficult to determine the number of tourists who are citizens of this country, because during the trip they do not complete formalities (registration), do not always stay in hotels, boarding houses and holiday homes, their visits are for other purposes (shopping doing, destroying relatives, going to weddings). Such trips constitute the main part of the trips within the country. Such trips usually peak in late spring, early summer, and fall. Such travelers prefer rail and road transport, which are much cheaper.[6]

As can be seen from the table, in 2008, foreign tourists did not go to Karakalpakstan, Andijan, Namangan, Syrdarya and Tashkent regions. But this situation cannot be called correct. Because tourist companies organize their customers to go to those places, but they don't stay in hotels and hostels.

At the moment, it is noteworthy that the share of foreigners served in the total volume of domestic tourism is 50.7%, the largest number of visitors from abroad is Tashkent city (50.1%), Bukhara region (19.1%), Samarkand region (15.4%), Khorezm (8.94%) and Surkhandarya (3.88%) regions. Thus, 94.8% of tourists who come to Navoi region are citizens of other countries. 73.9% of them in Bukhara region, 51.7% in Samarkand region, 84.2% in Surkhandarya region.[7]

There are more than 7,000 objects of historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological interest in Uzbekistan. These are the things that attract foreigners. B. Toraev stated that "... among them, 545 architectural, 575 historical, 1457 art monuments, more than 5500 objects are archaeologically valuable. But only 70 of them are attracted to the tourist demand. More than 200 of the above-mentioned objects are under repair, 500 are under repair; tens of millions of dollars should be spent on these every year. The experience of other countries shows that the repair process itself is interesting for many tourists. In this regard, there are several thousand archeological objects from Uzbekistan. In addition, there are more than 300 museums and 1200 enterprises of folk art in our Republic. The number of objects visited by tourists is 144 in Tashkent, 118 in Samarkand,

221 in Bukhara, 310 in Khiva. However, in general, tourism authority is underutilized.

At least 10% of people visiting Uzbekistan for tourism or private purposes are interested in the ecological aspects of their trips: they visit natural areas (parks, mountains, forests, lakes) they will order, or if not, one to the nearby rural areas day excursion. At least 60% of them feel the need for a mixed type, in particular, they are interested in ecology with ethnography[9].

As a result organized tourists are "specializing" in ecological tours. Thus, a new form of tourism is being formed - ecological tourism. Of course, it is difficult to determine the exact place of ecological tourism in the general tourism market. It is often difficult to distinguish it from other types of tourist services.

But it is clear that the contribution of this new direction in tourism is still very low. The fact that this field is relatively little studied and promising shows the relevance of its theoretical scientific analysis.

The tourism industry of the developing country is mainly carried out at the expense of natural or ecological tourism. According to experts, ecotourism covers 10-20% of the tourist market, and the growth rate exceeds the growth rate of the general tourism industry by 2-3 times. However, the potential indicators, purpose, organizational-legal, educational, socio-economic aspects of ecotourism in our country, problems of development of services and service provision in this area have not been sufficiently developed.

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