



ECOTOURISM AND UZBEKISTAN: AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20127723>

Kuyliyev Tulkin

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF "SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN SCIENCES" AT TASHKENT UNIVERSITY

Abstract: *This article analyzes the concept of ecotourism, its role in the global tourism system, aspects related to sustainable development, and opportunities for the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan from a scientific and popular point of view. The prospects of the sector are highlighted using the example of the country's natural resources, reserves, national parks, and regions with ecotourism potential.*

Keywords: *ecotourism, sustainable development, nature conservation, national parks, Uzbek tourism.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье анализируется концепция экотуризма, его место в мировой системе туризма, аспекты, связанные с устойчивым развитием, и возможности развития экотуризма в Узбекистане с научной и популярной точек зрения. Перспективы сектора освещаются на примере природных ресурсов страны, заповедников, национальных парков и регионов с экотуристическим потенциалом.*

Ключевые слова: *экотуризм, устойчивое развитие, охрана природы, национальные парки, туризм в Узбекистане.*

In the context of sustainable development, the issue of ecotourism in independent Uzbekistan is not only an economic direction, but also an important component of socio-ecological policy. The aggravation of environmental problems in the world, the reduction of biodiversity and climate change due to the irrational use of natural resources have set the task for states to implement the concept of sustainable development. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan, along with economic reforms, began to pay special attention to environmental

protection, preservation of natural heritage and its rational management. In his works, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev paid special attention to the issues of rational use of natural resources, environmental safety and sustainable development, identifying the tourism sector as one of the drivers of the economy [1].

From this point of view, ecotourism is a promising direction for Uzbekistan. From this point of view, ecotourism has become one of the strategic areas that implements the principles of sustainable



development in practice. The essence of ecotourism is based on the idea of a careful attitude to nature, protecting the interests of the local population and ensuring economic benefits without violating the ecological balance. Unlike traditional mass tourism, it takes into account the ecological capacity of natural areas, aims to have minimal impact on the environment and has educational and educational significance. In the conditions of independent Uzbekistan, ecotourism is considered an effective means of diversifying the national economy, creating new jobs and developing rural areas.

Ecotourism is an environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, which aims to protect nature, improve the socio-economic well-being of the local population, and develop environmental education. "Citizens are obliged to preserve the historical, spiritual, cultural, scientific, and natural heritage of the people of Uzbekistan. Historical, spiritual, cultural, scientific, and natural heritage is protected by the state". [2]

The concept of sustainable development requires ensuring a balance between economic growth, social justice and environmental safety. In this regard, ecotourism is an area that combines these three factors. On the one hand, it brings income to the state budget, on the other hand, it provides employment for the local population, and on the third, it serves to protect nature. State programs for the development of the tourism sector adopted during the years of independence

identified ecotourism as a separate priority. Measures are being taken to establish tourism activities without harming nature by improving infrastructure, expanding transport and logistics capabilities, and creating ecological corridors in national parks and reserves.

Mountainous regions play a special role in the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan. The natural landscapes located in the Tien Shan and Hissar mountain systems are distinguished not only by their aesthetic appeal, but also by their biological diversity. The unique flora and fauna of the Chatkal Mountains, the ecosystems of the Zamin and Ugam-Chatkal regions create great opportunities for scientific research and ecological tourism. In these places, it is possible to popularize the idea of nature protection by organizing trekking, bird watching, ethno-ecological tours. At the same time, it is necessary to organize tourist activities based on environmental standards, strictly observe the issues of waste management, water resource protection, and protection of biological species.

The social importance of ecotourism is that it increases the economic activity of the local population and directly involves them in the process of nature protection. Residents create a source of income by organizing family guest houses in rural areas, offering national dishes and handicraft products to tourists. This increases the responsibility of the population towards nature, because they



realize that the flow of tourists will be sustainable only when natural resources are preserved. From this point of view, ecotourism is an important tool in the formation of environmental awareness and culture in society. One of the main conditions of sustainable development is the active participation and responsibility of the population.

The development of ecotourism in independent Uzbekistan is also supported by a legal and regulatory framework. Laws on nature protection, specially protected natural areas, and decisions aimed at supporting the tourism sector have created a legal basis for the development of the sector. The ecotourism infrastructure is being gradually improved through the development of cooperation between the public and private sectors, the implementation of projects with international organizations, and the attraction of grants and investments. In particular, the introduction of digital technologies, online booking systems, electronic guide services, and virtual tours are expanding the possibilities of ecotourism.

In the context of sustainable development, ecotourism in independent Uzbekistan is a complex sector that serves to protect nature, ensure economic growth, and form an ecological culture in society. It is a strategic direction aimed at rational management of the country's natural potential, preservation of national heritage, and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations. The

essence of ecotourism is closely related to the idea of restoring harmony between man and nature, its preservation, and development. As a result of the reforms and initiatives implemented during the years of independence, Uzbekistan has great opportunities in the field of ecotourism, and its sustainable development will become one of the important factors for the future development of the country. In today's globalization, tourism is becoming one of the strategic sectors of the world economy. However, the increasing negative impact of mass tourism on the environment is exacerbating environmental problems. Therefore, the development of alternative forms of tourism aimed at protecting nature is gaining urgent importance. One of such directions is ecotourism.

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), ecotourism is a type of tourism that has minimal impact on nature and serves to preserve local culture. [3]. The concept of sustainable development was promoted by the UN, which aims to ensure economic growth, social justice and ecological balance. Ecotourism is seen as a mechanism that harmonizes these three [4].

Many countries have achieved economic growth through ecotourism. For example, Costa Rica accounts for a significant part of its GDP from national parks and ecotourism. In Kenya, safari-ecotourism is being implemented in combination with biodiversity conservation.



This experience is also of important scientific and practical importance for Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is located in Central Asia, and its territory has desert, mountain, steppe and valley landscapes. The Kyzylkum Desert, the Tien Shan and Hissar mountain ranges create unique opportunities for the development of ecotourism. Uzbekistan is home to more than 4,000 plant species and about 700 vertebrate animals, some of which are listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

There are the following protected natural areas in Uzbekistan: Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve, Zamin National Nature Park, Nurota State Reserve, Badai-Tokai Reserves. These areas serve as centers of ecological tourism, scientific research and environmental education.

The following forms of ecotourism are developing in Uzbekistan: mountain trekking; desert ecotourism; birdwatching; agro-ecotourism.

As the President of our country, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, emphasized, through

the development of tourism, new jobs can be created and the income of the population can be increased. Ecotourism is distinguished by the fact that it directly involves the local population in economic activities. [5].

There are problems in the development of ecotourism, which include: the infrastructure does not meet the current requirements; the lack of specialists in ecotourism; the lack of a developed legal and regulatory framework; the low level of ecological culture.

To develop ecotourism in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to: strengthen state programs; introduce international experience; support the local population; popularize environmental education. In conclusion, ecotourism is an important sector that allows for economic benefits while preserving Uzbekistan's natural resources. With support at the level of state policy and development based on a scientific approach, ecotourism serves the sustainable development of the country.

REFERENCES USED:

1. Мирзиёев Ш.М. Янги Ўзбекистон стратегияси. -Т.: Ўзбекистон, 2021.
2. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Конституцияси. - Т.: “O’zbekiston”, 2023.
3. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Экология қўмитаси маълумотлари.
4. Мирзиёев Ш.М. Тараққиёт ва миллий тикланиш йўлида. - Т.: Ўзбекистон, 2020.
5. Ўзбекистон Республикасининг“ Туризм тўғрисида”ги Қонуни. - Т.: 2019.