

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP ECOLOGICAL TOURISM IN KHORAZM REGION

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the possibilities of ecotourism development in Khorezm region.*

Key words: *Aral Sea, ecotourism, resorts, medical tourism, foreign investments.*

In the President's Decree No. PF-4861 of December 2, 2016 "On measures to ensure rapid development of the tourism industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan" [1, p. 2]. as noted: "Rapid development of tourism in the country, more complete and effective use of the existing huge tourism potential, national and regional programs for the comprehensive development of other potential types of tourism - ... ecological tourism ... internal, inbound and outbound tourism along with traditional cultural and historical tourism development and implementation" is defined.

On April 25, 2007, in an interview with "TODAY" newspaper, I. Karimov assessed the country's ecotourism potential and said: "The beautiful geographical and natural conditions are very favorable for the development of ecotourism in the territory of the republic" [2, p. 1]. The goal of ecotourism is the rational use of nature in the tourist direction for the ecological safety and sustainable development of current and future generations. Therefore, effective use of natural and ecological resources is one of the urgent issues. In the world, the ecological tourism direction of the tourism industry was formed and is developing on the basis of the search for ways to save the nature of our planet and its resources for the prevention of the ecological crisis facing mankind, for the sustainable development and survival of mankind.

Khorezm region has a great opportunity to use natural and ecological resources, including the "Kal'ajyk castle" health-tourist complex in Bogot district. This health center is located near the lake around the 3,000-year-old Kalajik Castle. This lake is considered an important tourist and recreation object of this place, its water is rich in various mineral substances, bathing in water, lying in the coastal mud, burying in the sand and basking in the sun improves the blood circulation system, calms the nerves, and is effective in the treatment of joint and some skin diseases. In this place, there is a restaurant serving tourists, a camping site, camel and horse rides around the fort.

Solving environmental problems affecting public health has been elevated to the level of public policy. The fact that 35 percent of the population in the region, including 40 percent of the rural population, is not provided with clean drinking water shows that the work in the field is not satisfactory. For example, in 2002, in order to improve the supply of clean drinking water to the population in the region, a foreign bank loan in the amount of 4 million 926 thousand US dollars was appropriated. Some of the inefficient regional medical institutions were privatized, and the rest were brought to the level of medical students. By the year 2000, 38 cases of private treatment were registered, including 5 in 1999. Besides, the hospital was still in a precarious situation.

The bolneological resort "Khonka" sanatorium, located on the shore of the "Shavot" channel of the region, is operating. For many years, this sanatorium has been helping visitors effectively deal with cardiological, neurological and locomotor diseases. This sanatorium is famous for its healing mineral water saturated with bromine, iodine and other trace elements.

Timely resolution of issues of ecotourism development in the region, preservation of biodiversity in nature, protection of natural resources and prevention of international environmental crises will be a contribution [3, p. 5]. Reforms were carried out in the health system of Khorezm region on the basis of "State Dastypi on Health Care System Reform". Inefficiently working hospitals, medical facilities have been reduced, and the area where medical facilities meet has been reduced to the level of sanitary facilities.

Another of the sanatorium-resort facilities created using natural ecological resources is the "Shavot Obi-hayot" sanatorium located in Shavot district. The sanatorium is surrounded by trees and plants and is located on the water's edge, providing vacationers with fresh air. The difference between this health center and other places is that special healing infusions are made here. In addition, the sanatorium offers acupuncture, hydromassage, magnetotherapy and other human refreshing services to those who want to restore their health in this place. Also, visitors to the sanatorium can use the services of healing mud, swimming pool, vibromassage, sauna, and gym. [4, 6. 4].

Khorezm region also has some recreational resources. For example, it is possible to create a tourist complex on the shores of "Govukkol" and "Eshonravot" lakes in the Khiva district, develop fishing, organize tents, swimming equipment rental services, and the infrastructure of swimming pools. According to data, the income from ecotourism in the tourist market is 10-18 percent. In particular, the share of ecological tourism in the economy of Kenya, Costa Rica, the Middle East and some Arab countries, and some countries on the European continent is significant. This type of tourism is also distinguished

by its importance in solving the problems of nature protection, preservation and reproduction of rare plants and animals. On the banks of the "Shavot" channel in the city of Urganch, special places for ships to stop were built, new ships were bought and put into operation, and recreation facilities were organized, and a hypermarket with a modern look was built in the city center.

According to the definition of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, "ecological tourism or ecotourism helps to protect nature in order to travel responsibly with respect to the natural environment, explore areas without harming their nature and enjoy their unique, beautiful places, has a "soft" impact on the environment, local activates the socio-economic conditions of the population and ensures that they receive benefits from this activity”.

There is a great potential for the development of ecological tourism in the region, and it is possible to develop ecological tourism and hotel services on the Amudarya coast of Bogot, Khanka, Urganch districts. It is also possible to establish ecological tourism services in the zone of the "Kyzilqum" state reserve in the region. This reserve is located in the middle stream of Amudarya, mainly in Khazorasp district of Khorezm region and partly in Romiton district of Bukhara region. The total area of the reserve is 10 thousand 311 hectares. 86 percent of its territory corresponds to Khazorasp district. The reserve consists mainly of groves and partly desert, and the reserve has more than 150 species of flora, 86 species of animals and 267 species of birds. Of these, 8 types of fish, 1 reptile, 18 types of birds and 2 types of animals are included in the "Red Book". On the basis of this reserve, there are opportunities to develop ecological tourism and hotel services on the coast of Amudarya, and organize camel and horse excursions for tourists [5, 6. 158].

One of the main directions for the development of ecological tourism in the archipelago region is the Lower Amudarya State Biosphere Reserve (KADBR), where there are 43 species of fish, 2 species of amphibians, 29 species of reptiles, 246 species of birds and 36 species of mammals, as well as many natural ecotourism sites on the Amudarya coast. is also available. Also, Aqchakol, Sudoe, Eshonravot, and Govuk lakes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan are important objects for the development of ecological tourism in the Aral Bay region.

On January 28, 2022, the President's Decree No. PF-60 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" stated that "implementation of concrete measures for the development of ecotourism in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Aral Bay is defined as a priority"[6, 6. 4].

In general, as opportunities for the development of ecotourism in the region, it can be shown that there is an opportunity to develop ecotourism in a

complex manner with other types of tourism, that natural and ecological resources can be used as an object for ecological tourism in regions that are in an ecological crisis.

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