



The role of ecotourism in Uzbekistan and its development

Ogabek Sadullaev

Student of Silk Road International university of tourism and cultural heritage

Abstract: *The goal of this initiative is to look into strategies to advance ecotourism in Uzbekistan. Despite having a rich natural and cultural legacy, the country's potential for ecotourism is yet mostly unrealized. The study analyses the situation of ecotourism in Uzbekistan today, pinpoints the obstacles preventing its development, and suggests solutions. A literature review, interviews with tourism industry participants, and a survey of prospective tourists served as the foundation for this study. According to the results, infrastructure gaps, a lack of public knowledge, and safety issues are the main obstacles to promoting camping tourism in Uzbekistan. The project offers a variety of solutions to overcome these obstacles, such as spending money on infrastructure, executing focused marketing initiatives, and creating safety regulations. According to the project's findings, Uzbekistan has the potential to develop into a well-liked camping tourism destination by putting these strategies into use and giving visitors a unique and genuine experience of the country's natural beauty and cultural heritage.*

Keywords: *ecotourism, sustainable tourism, environmental protection, local community engagement, resource management, natural resource preservation, cultural preservation, stakeholder participation*

INTRODUCTION

Uzbekistan is quickly becoming a well-liked travel destination, drawing tourists from all over the world to its ancient towns, gorgeous landscapes, and rich cultural history. Uzbekistan has a lot of promise for ecotourism because of its distinct ecosystems, rare and endangered species, and variety of flora and fauna. Ecotourism is a type of responsible tourism that emphasizes eco-friendly travel, resource preservation, and the promotion of regional cultures. Ecotourism can be



developed in Uzbekistan to benefit the local populations as well as the preservation of the nation's natural and cultural assets. In this essay, the potential for ecotourism in Uzbekistan will be examined, along with its advantages for the economy and environment, and how it might be grown in a responsible and sustainable manner.

1.1 Problem Statement

The project's unique focus and objectives will determine its goal, which is related to ecotourism in Uzbekistan. However, the project's general objectives may be to:

Analyze Uzbekistan's potential as an ecotourism destination and the country's natural and cultural resources to determine its potential for ecotourism development.

Identify the main obstacles and prospects for the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan, taking into account the role of local communities and stakeholders, the degree of visitor demand, and the current legislative and regulatory framework. Create suggestions for the ecotourism sector's sustainable growth in Uzbekistan, including tactics for fostering ethical travel habits, boosting guest experiences, and assisting local people.

Create a sustainable ecotourism model for Uzbekistan that can serve as a blueprint for the growth of the industry there in the future.

The project's goal should be clear, quantifiable, doable, pertinent, and time-bound. Additionally, it should be in line with the overarching objective of fostering sustainable growth and ethical tourism practices in Uzbekistan.

Significance of the study

At its conclusion, the project will present a list of suggestions for fostering the growth of ecotourism in Uzbekistan. These suggestions, which will be based on the results of the literature research and stakeholder interviews, will serve as a road map for policymakers, tour operators, and other stakeholders to follow in order to expand the tourist industry.

Additionally, ecotourism has the potential to significantly contribute to the Uzbek tourism industry, but it needs to be actively promoted and developed. In order to identify the sector's issues and suggest tactics for developing camping tourism in Uzbekistan, this research will be essential. By doing this, the initiative will assist in realizing this crucial industry's full potential and support the expansion and development of the nation's tourist sector.

1.2 The Study's Objectives

The following study tasks might be determined based on the purpose of the diploma project about ecotourism in Uzbekistan:



1. Review the available research and literature on ecotourism in Uzbekistan. Finding important information sources, such as academic journals, studies, and publications from the tourism sector, will be required.

2. Identify Uzbekistan's primary ecotourism destinations and assess each one's potential for long-term sustainability. In order to avoid negative effects and promote favorable ones, this work entails evaluating the environmental, social, and economic effects of ecotourism at particular places.

3. Examine the situation of Uzbekistan's ecotourism market at the moment, taking into account the volume of tourist demand, the kinds of ecotourism services and goods, and the contribution of locals.

4. Assess the Uzbek Republic's ecotourism policies and legal framework. Analyzing the institutional and legal foundations for ecotourism, as well as pertinent standards, guidelines, and policies, will be required.

5. Formulate suggestions for the growth of ecotourism in Uzbekistan, including plans for fostering ethical tourism behavior, boosting visitor experiences, and assisting local people.

6. As a last suggestion, put up an ecotourism model that is sustainable and applicable to Uzbekistan. This model can be used to direct the country's future ecotourism growth.

1. Is ecotourism for everyone? ...
2. How can irresponsible tourists be prevented from going to ecotourism sites?
3. Is ecotourism development suitable for all tourism destinations or protected areas? ...
4. What is high value/low value tourism and why is it associated with ecotourism?

LITERATURE REVIEW

THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ECOTOURISM

Since 1990, ecotourism has been developed and researched as a tool for sustainable development by NGOs, development specialists, and academics. It is currently described as a type of nature-based tourism in the marketplace. Therefore, the term "ecotourism" refers to a particular market area as well as a concept based on a set of principles. One of the early definitions was provided in 1991 by The International Ecotourism Society (TIES), formerly The Ecotourism Society (TES): "Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural regions that conserves the environment and promotes the well-being of local people (M. Wood, 2002). A well-liked kind of responsible travel is ecotourism, which supports environmental protection and sustainable activities.



Ecotourism is a great way to experience Uzbekistan's rich natural and cultural heritage. Theoretical underpinnings for ecotourism in Uzbekistan may include community-based tourism, conservation programs, and sustainable development ideals. Community-based tourism entails including the neighborhood in tourism-related activities and guaranteeing that they gain from the money generated by tourism. Environmental, endangered species, and cultural heritage places are all the targets of conservation efforts. The fundamental tenets of sustainable development guarantee that tourism-related activities are both beneficial to regional development and environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

Further information

By including local communities in tourist-related activities and making sure they gain financial advantages from tourism, this strategy seeks to strengthen local communities. Local communities can make money and create new job opportunities by taking part in tourism-related activities including homestays, cultural tours, and handicraft manufacture. Additionally, community-based tourism can foster intercultural dialogue and understanding while assisting in the preservation of local traditions and practices. The unique natural landscapes, rich cultural legacy, and historical past of the Central Asian nations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) have served as the foundation for the growth of tourism, particularly ecotourism. For instance, there are more than 4,000 historical and cultural monuments in Uzbekistan, of which thirty sites are tentatively up for nomination and five are listed as part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. The five locations are Itchan Kala, Samarkand, the Western Tien-Shan Mountains, and the Historic Center of Bukhara. Additionally, Uzbekistan's geographic location provides climatic characteristics of natural landscapes for the promotion of eco-tourism routes. According to Baxtishodovich, Suyunovich, and Kholiqulov (2017), the system of protected areas in Uzbekistan currently consists of eight reserves, two natural national parks, one national park, one biosphere reserve, twelve nature reserves, and seven natural monuments.

METHODOLOGY

The following research approaches might be employed to complete the tasks linked to ecotourism in Uzbekistan:

Review of the literature A systematic approach to gathering and evaluating prior studies and literature on a certain subject or research issue is known as a literature review. This would entail looking for and examining important informational sources about ecotourism in Uzbekistan, like academic journals, studies, and publications from the travel and tourism sector.



Site evaluations: Site evaluations can be carried out to analyze the environmental, social, and economic effects of ecotourism at particular Uzbek locations. This would entail finding the country's ecotourism destinations and evaluating the level of visitor interest, contentment, infrastructure, services, and facilities, as well as the function of regional groups and stakeholders.

Surveys and interviews: Surveys and interviews can be used to gather data on stakeholder attitudes and perceptions, tourist preferences and behavior, and the socioeconomic effects of ecotourism. In order to do this, it will be necessary to identify important stakeholders, such as local communities, tourism businesses, government representatives, and tourists, and then conduct surveys and interviews with them.

The legal and institutional framework for ecotourism in Uzbekistan, as well as pertinent laws, rules, and standards, are examined in a policy analysis. This would entail looking into pertinent laws and regulations and evaluating how well they support environmentally friendly growth and ethical travel.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of its rich natural and cultural heritage, expanding tourism sector, and other factors, Uzbekistan has a lot of potential for the growth of ecotourism. To encourage ethical and sustainable tourist practices and safeguard the nation's natural and cultural resources, there are, however, certain major obstacles that must be overcome. There are a number of approaches and suggestions that Uzbekistan can take to lessen these difficulties, including creating and promoting ecotourism goods and services, investing in tourism-related infrastructure and services, enhancing sustainability and environmental stewardship, interacting with local communities and stakeholders, creating supportive policies and regulations, offering education and training, and monitoring and evaluating the ecotourism sector. These tactics and suggestions can be put into practice. While also safeguarding the nation's ecology and cultural legacy, Uzbekistan can support the sustainable growth of ecotourism and ensure that local people as well as the tourism sector as a whole profit financially.

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