

## Development Of Tourism And Ecotourism As The Main Branch Of The Economy Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan During The Coronavirus Pandemic

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**Abstract:** This article outlines the problems of developing tourism and ecotourism on the economic situation of the country that developed during the Covid-2019 pandemic, as well as a way to resolve the problem based on further improvement of ecotourism in the region.

**Keywords:** tourism, eco-tourism, revenues from ecotourism, economics, Covid-2019 pandemics, improvement of ecotourism.

Today, in our country, tourism, as in many other countries of the world, is an important factor in the development of the national economy. Our country leads among the countries of Central Asia in tourism development opportunities. It should be noted that Uzbekistan ranks ninth in the world in the number of historical and architectural monuments. Passing through the territory of the country in the past centuries of the Great Silk Road gives the appearance of Uzbekistan special mystery, which causes considerable interest among foreign guests. Along with this, it is possible to highlight such important factors as safety, the unique taste of national cuisine, cities known all over the world, picturesque nature, the presence of direct flights, as well as the preserved originality of the people, their traditions, customs, mentality, friendliness and hospitality.

Tourism is an activity aimed at satisfying such needs of tourists as recreation, health improvement; visiting relatives and acquaintances; business and professional goals; treatment; religion and pilgrimage; related to the physical, economic and mental needs of people and for other purposes. It should be noted that tourism is an economic category that sells local services to tourists from other countries, creates

working conditions for its employees and receives income from incoming currency. On the one hand, the tourism sector offers a network that directly serves tourists, on the other hand, it defines an interconnected system of interconnected industries, such as services and the production of materials oriented to the tourism market. Tourism is a single process of production and consumption. The object of consumption is tourism goods and services, and the consumer must be satisfied with these goods and services during the period of consumption. At the same time, the consumer value of tourism is due to the variety of goods, amenities and natural landscapes and services. Consumption of tourists includes, on the one hand, the availability of goods and paid services, and on the other hand, the lack of appearance of goods, a favorable environment. Tourism is directly related to the number of cost-effective tourists. As the number of tourists increases, so does tourism revenue. In turn, an increase in the number of tourists depends on objects of tourist interest, that is, tourist resources. In order to create favorable conditions for developing the tourism potential of the republic and attracting more visitors, a number of important documents have been adopted since 2019: Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the creation of a branch of the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education“ Russian State University of Physical Culture, Sports, Youth and tourism ”in the city of Samarkand” No. PP-4311 dated 05/05/2019; The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Tourism” No. ZRU-549 dated July 18, 2019; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the establishment of the procedure for the provision of paid services on the basis of an agreement by the departments of the internal affairs bodies for the provision of safe tourism” No. 669 of 08/13/2019; Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures for the further development of the tourism sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan” No. UP-5781 dated 08/13/2019; Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures for the further development of roadside and tourist infrastructure” No. 793 dated 09/21/2019.

The regulatory documents developed by the state are aimed at the expedient development of the tourism sector. Since the development of tourism is also very important for the state. In particular, it contributes to economic growth, increases revenues to the state budget, preserves natural resources, seeks and ensures social stability in the country to seek international relations, expand cultural ties, increase foreign exchange earnings, etc. Tourism as an integral part of the economy brings income to the host country, provides a solid income in foreign currency and increases employment. Now we will consider the number of foreign citizens who have entered our republic from countries near and far abroad based on the diagram below:

	<i>Total:</i>	<i>travel goals:</i>									
		<i>official</i>	<i>study</i>	<i>job</i>	<i>tourist</i>	<i>visit relatives</i>	<i>treatment</i>	<i>Permanent residence</i>	<i>commercial</i>	<i>transit</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Total</i>	8279,0	53,1	21,4	54,0	1043,9	5520,7	55,5	53,6	53,9	883,0	540,0

**Dynamics of foreign citizens who entered the Republic of Uzbekistan in January-December 2018-2019, thousand people**

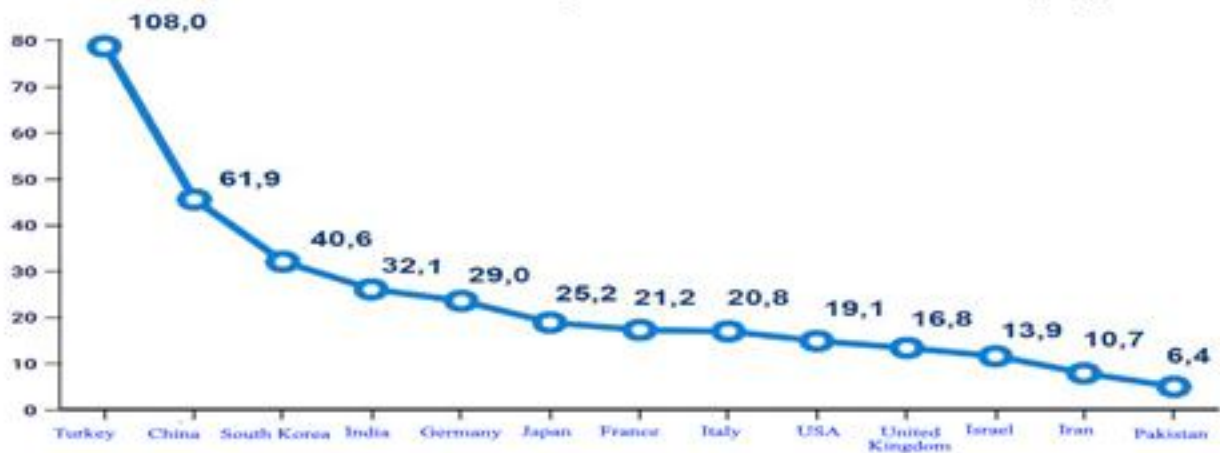
<i>from the CIS countries</i>	7661,4	23,5	19,5	31,1	689,6	5457,5	55,4	47,8	14,7	869,5	452,9
<i>from foreign countries</i>	617,6	29,6	1,9	22,9	354,3	63,2	0,1	5,8	39,2	13,5	87,1

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the dynamics of the number of foreign citizens who arrived in Uzbekistan, their significant influx was recorded between January-December 2018 and January-December 2019 - an increase of 1846.0 thousand people.

The bulk of tourists are foreign citizens who have arrived from Turkey, China, South Korea, India, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, etc., which are shown in the graphic image below:

**Foreign citizens entering the Republic of Uzbekistan from far-off countries in January-December 2019, thousand people**



Thus, tourism resources have their own characteristics as an integral part of the economy. In addition, resources have a significant impact on the life of the country. It is also very beneficial for the local population. They will work, communicate with people of different nationalities, nationalities and peoples, learn about their various traditions and values, have the opportunity to earn a steady income, sell products and save it as much as possible in order to demonstrate their traditions and values and restore a forgotten past. The economic importance of tourism resources is also due to the fact that the nature of the country also provides great benefits for the development of tourism. In particular, measures will be taken in the country to ensure environmental sustainability, the use of natural resources for the pleasure of tourists,

the creation of opportunities for the creation of picturesque territories, the desire to naturally preserve water, air, forests and attract tourists.

Tourism development also has a stimulating effect on such key sectors of the economy as transport, communications, trade, construction, agriculture, consumer goods production and, taking into account the multiplier effect, is one of the most promising areas of economic restructuring.

The economic content of tourism resources lies in the sustainable development of tourism. Currently, the share of the labor force employed in this area in the world economy is growing from year to year. Therefore, much attention is paid to the development of eco-tourism, as it is aimed at outdoor activities, knowledge of its objects and phenomena, and most importantly, restoration of ecosystems. Ecotourism development trends are defined by the World Tourism Organization (WTO). According to forecasts of the WTO, ecological tourism is one of the five main strategic directions for the development of tourism for the period until 2020. Currently, one in ten workers in the world has been employed in tourism. In our country, tourism, along with agriculture, industry, transport and other macroeconomic sectors, has sufficient resources to take its rightful place in the economy of the republic.

The epidemiological situation of Covid-2019 prevailing and covering the whole world did not bypass our country either. In order to prevent the importation (introduction) and spread of a new type of coronavirus 2019-nCoV in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to ensure a favorable sanitary and epidemiological situation and protect public health, an order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 29, 2020 No. P-5537 was adopted. The Covid 2019 pandemic thwarted the spring tourist season around the world, including Uzbekistan. The economy of Uzbekistan can also suffer significant losses. In 2020, Uzbekistan intended to receive an annual income of \$ 15 million from the tourism industry, but in connection with the pandemic, the whole world figure is equated to naught. The government of our state has developed measures during the crisis period. Flights between countries and quarantine measures are prohibited, which in the near future can hit the tourism sector hard, causing an unprecedented crisis in history. On March 6, 2020, the World Tourism Organization announced that the global tourism industry would lose between \$ 30 billion and \$ 50 billion due to a pandemic. Uzbekistan is preparing for the fact that in the spring of 2020, the domestic tourism sector will also suffer losses. Today, judging by the canceled reservations, the industry has lost 45-50 thousand tourists from Italy, China, South Korea, Japan, Germany and France. This, according to estimates, resulted in a loss of almost \$ 31 million for the country's economy. This figure is increasing daily. The government of Uzbekistan established

an operational headquarters. A video-conference was held with the involvement of the regions of the country, in which representatives of tourism companies, HORECA and the responsible heads of ministries, departments and transport companies took part. It discussed all the risks and heard suggestions from industry representatives to overcome the crisis. Local meetings were also held.

Thus, it should be noted that because of the current epidemiological situation and the protection of public health, it is necessary to develop ecotourism as the main tourism industry. The development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan will greatly contribute to protecting the health of the population and, in the future, tourists in nature. The involvement of ecotourists in our country, the solution of the problems of conservation and reproduction of rare flora and fauna, as well as the development of our economy will be resolved by ensuring employment of the local population. In connection with ecotourism activities, it is important to carry it out in specially protected natural areas. At the local level, meeting the needs of the population is more dependent on the types of nature management. The growing use of natural resources in production, the growing use of the natural environment to meet the diverse needs of society, to ensure human life and activities, requires the preservation of certain areas of nature. Such areas are specially protected areas (water areas) that perform environmental, genetic, environmental, protective, sanitary-hygienic, recreational, cultural and educational functions and are excluded from active economic development. Specially protected areas maintain ecological balance, reproduction of natural resources, maintaining the standards of the gene pool of ecosystems and organisms, protecting and preserving the environment, recreational and conservation education, as well as activities at the local level, both in natural and human conditions, serves to study regional and global natural processes.

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