

Sustainable Tourism Development in Ukraine

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Abstract. The publication is a contribution within the framework of the United Nations Development Programmed project UKR/95/003 «Introduction of Sustainable Development Principles into Governmental Institutions». The objective of this project is to introduce sustainable development principles into the policies, programmed and planning activities of major Governmental institutions in Ukraine in accordance with: a) the priorities of the Government; b) the resolutions reached at international conferences in which Ukraine participated; c) the international conventions or agreements to which Ukraine is a signatory.

The project which is implemented with UNDP resources, it is designed to stimulate a high-level policy dialogue on sustainable development issues in Ukraine and broaden participation in such a dialogue amongst Government institutions, as well as to disseminate the knowledge and tools necessary for the preliminary integration of sustainable development principles into the policy and strategy of the Government of Ukraine.

The primary focus for ecological tourism in Ukraine is on recreational activity, however it is limited by the need to meet environmental protection demands. The legislative preconditions for ecotourism organization are stated in the laws "On the natural reserve fund of Ukraine" (1992), "On tourism" (1995), and "On resorts" (2000) [1, 2, 3].

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INTRODUCTION

The strategy for forming an optimal living environment in Ukraine foresees that urbanization in the future will seek to maintain an ecological balance with the maximum preservation of the natural environment.

Recreational landscapes (forest, sea, mountain), sanitary resources (mineral waters and medical clays) and territories and objects of the natural reserve fund (biosphere reserves, national natural and regional landscape parks, parks – monuments of horticultural art), which provide a proper basis for development of recreation opportunities for the population as well as organization of tourism system, constitute a considerable part of the natural potential in Ukraine.

Following current international trends concentrated on the transfer of the standards of urban life as well as recreational activities into the rural and natural areas, and thus bringing one closer to nature, Ukraine is seeing the development of new processes within the country, such as ecological tourism development, adjustment of country dwelling for family vacation, development of country cottage and garden villages, etc [8 – 10].

The present situation and outlook for the development of ecotourism in Ukraine, and its functional and regional peculiarities in the context of general tourism development in Ukraine are presented in this article.

THE CURRENT STATUS AND OUTLOOK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN UKRAINE

Types of tourism

The legal basis for the development of tourism in Ukraine is set forth within the law "On tourism", in which it is stated, that "tourism is a temporary departure of a person from the place of his permanent residence with health-improving, educational or professional purposes" [2].

There are many varieties of tourism in Ukraine – cultural and educational (in historical places); health-improving and sports (at sea, in forest and mountain regions), ecologi-

cal and green (on landscape territories), rural and agrotourism (in rural areas) [4].

Large tourist-zones were created in Ukraine, such as "Namysto-Slavutich" along the Dnieper river, "Yaremcha-Vorohta" in the Carpathians, "Great Yalta" on the Black Sea shore, as well as tourist centres that are functioning in historical cities such as Kyiv, Lviv, Kamyanets-Podolsky and others. Lately, complexes of ecological (green) tourism are being created and developed in places of preserved biodiversity.

The objects of the interest of the people in the sphere of ecotourism are the sea and mountains, rivers and lakes, forests and steppe ecosystems, as well as the flora and fauna that inhabit these areas.

Ecotourism is a part of a whole system of tourism in Ukraine; ecotourism is carried out especially on landscape – recreational territories and within the boundaries of the natural reserve fund [1].

Recreational Resources Potential

Ukraine is one of the largest European states with a geopolitical position in the centre of Europe (Fig.1). It has unique natural recreational resources that are very favorable for international tourism development [5].

The area of potential recreational territories in Ukraine comprises 12,8% of the country's area and is divided accordingly to the natural peculiarities of the regions (Fig.2). The present state and perspectives of natural recreational resource utilization in the boundaries of Ukraine as a whole and it's oblasts, are shown in the diagrams (Fig.3, 4).

The health-improving resources are unique, since more than 500 mineral water and clay deposits have been found. Beaches comprise 47% of the sea shore territory of the Black Sea and Azov Sea [5].

This natural potential needs to be protected, reserved and rationally used because it forms the basis of sustainable development of health-resorts, recreational zones, tourism.

In Ukraine a special resolution of the government confirmed over 240 resort settlements, which are situated in the boundaries of



Fig.1. Ukraine on the territory of Europe



Fig.2. Ukraine's recreational potential

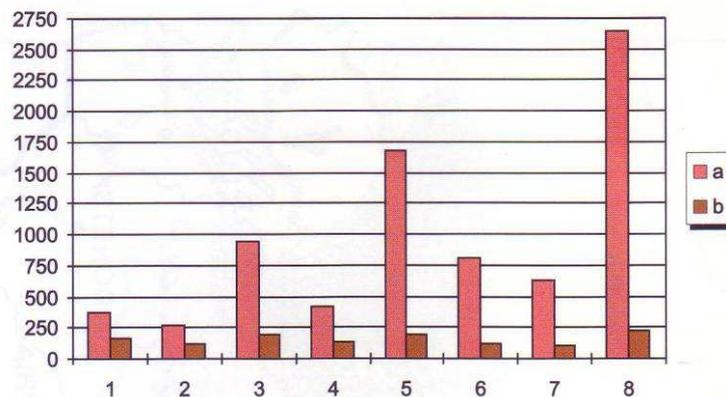


Fig.3. Recreational territories structure distribution among regions.

Recreational territories area, thousand ha: *a* – altogether; *b* – developed territories. Oblast groups: 1 – Donetsk, Lugansk; 2 – Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Kirovograd; 3 – Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv; 4 – Kyiv, Cherkassy; 5 – Volyn, Zhytomir, Rivno, Chernygiv; 6 – Vinnytsya, Ternopil, Khmelitski; 7 – Mykolayiv, Odessa, Kherson, Crimea autonomous republic; 8 – Zakarpatya, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy

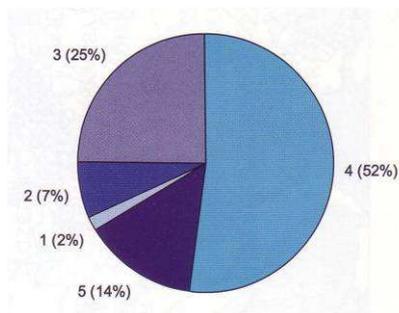


Fig.4. Recreational territories of Ukraine stage use structure.

Recreational territories area, %:
 1 – 1 stage (until the year 2006);
 2 – II stage (until 2016);
 3 – III stage (2026);
 4 – reserve of recreational territories;
 5 – used territories

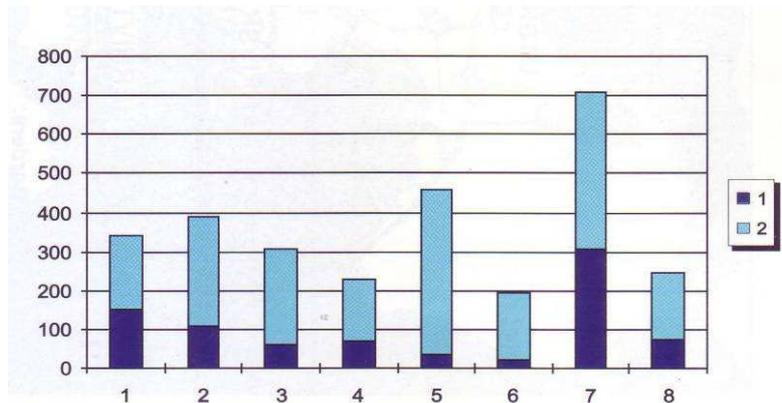


Fig.5. Recreational facilities according to oblasts development dynamics.

Capacity of recreational health and tourist establishments, th. people/places:
 1 – present situation;
 2 – perspective (until 2026)

7 recreational regions [6]. These regions include the sea shore of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Black Sea shore and the Azov Sea shore, the mountainous and foothill regions of the Carpathians and in other localities. Among these settlements there are 27 health resort cities and 214 villages which have a special status for the development of recreational and tourist functions.

According to statistical data the general capacity of permanent recreational, health-improving and tourist facilities comprises more than 800 thousand beds.

In the section of functional specialization health-improving facilities (sanatoriums, holiday hotels, philactoriums) comprise 23,6%, recreational (houses and centers, children health-improving facilities) – 66,3%, tourist facilities – (hotels, tourist centers, motels-campings) – 10,1% [8]. The capacity and the prognosis for the stage development within the framework of recreational facilities (health-improving, tourism) are shown in the diagram (Fig.5).

Natural Reserve Fund

The network of the natural reserve fund comprise 8032 territories and objects, with an overall area of 3922 thousand hectares, which comprise 6,49% of the Ukraine's territory. The situation plan of the main objects of the natural-reserve fund are shown in Fig.6, and their share in each region – in Fig.7.

National natural parks, regional landscape parks and biosphere reserves play a very important role for the ecotourism organization in Ukraine (Table 1). It is in the location of these natural sites that recreational activity takes place, and is one of the foreseen areas of direction for the future development of these facilities.

Biosphere reserves comprise 6,42% of the structure territory of the nature reserve fund, national natural parks – 30,99%, regional landscape parks - 19,34%. Artificially created objects and parks and monuments of horticultural art are also part of the nature-reserve fund, although their share is less than 1%.

The structure and volume of the natural-reserve fund objects of Ukraine are shown in diagram (Fig.8).

As far as natural reserves, zakaznyks, and nature-monuments are concerned, they can be used only for ecological, educational work and tours. At the same time, the possibility for wider use of the reserves and nature-monuments territories for commercial ecotourism has been looked into. For this the corresponding economic mechanism to guarantee self-financing measures to preserve biological diversity is being created. In Table 1 you can see the most preserved and attractive for ecotourism and specially guarded nature sites.

Ukraine has actively joined the complex development of international ecotourism process. Through this connection, the formation of interstate natural reserves within the country's territory is very important. Large tracts of land "Stuzitsa" (14665 ha) became a part of the first Central European trilateral interstate territory – biosphere reserve "Eastern Carpathian" [11].

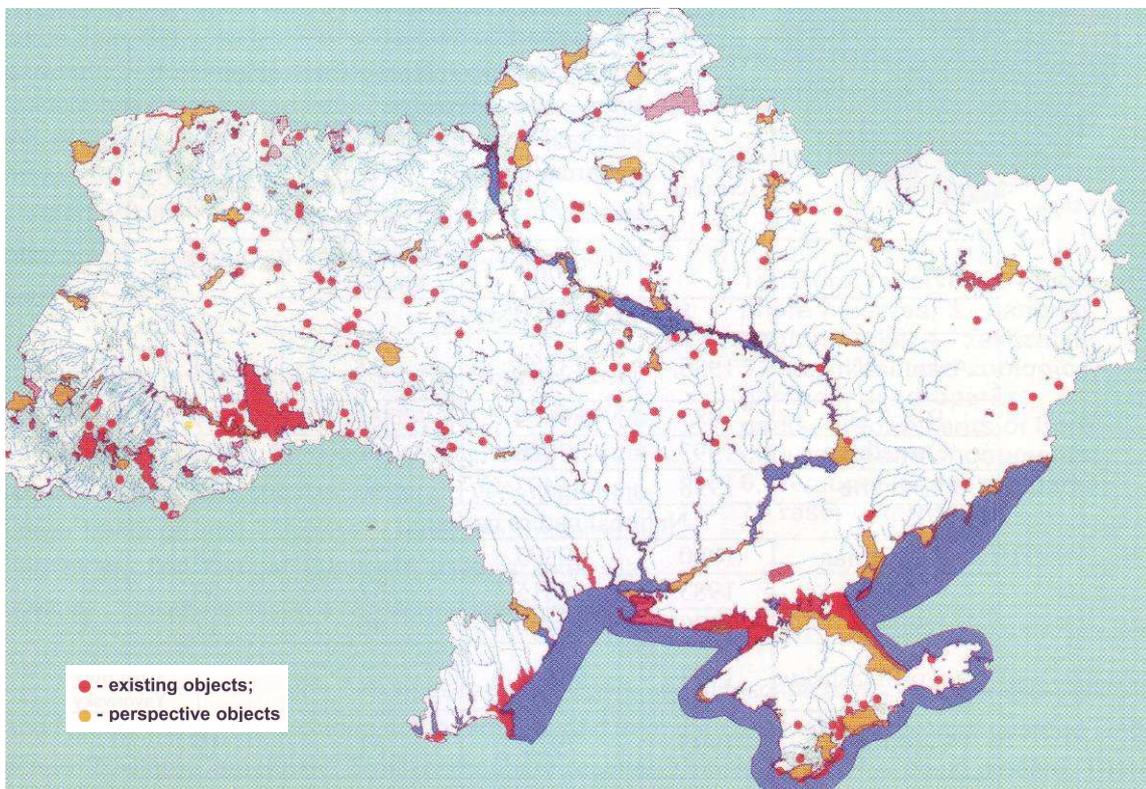
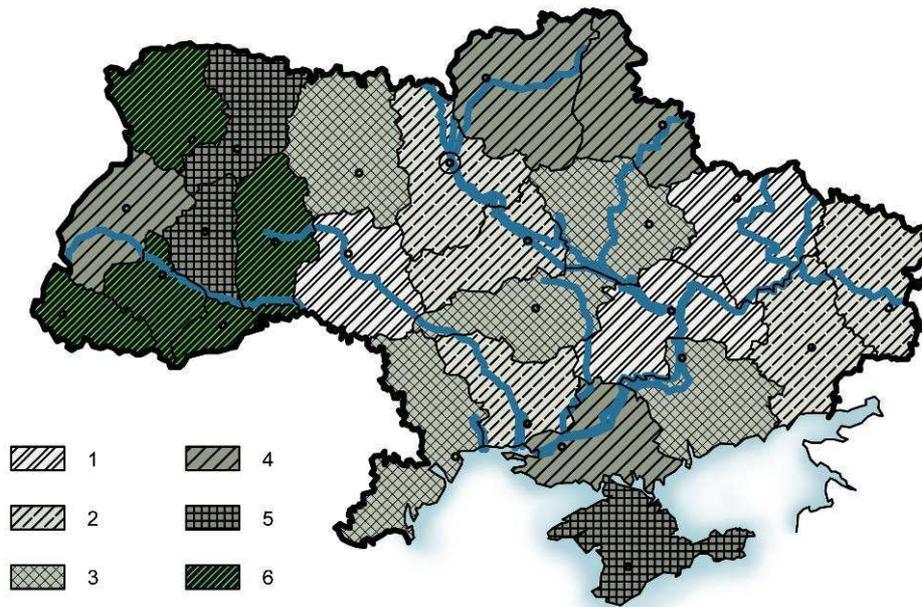


Fig.6. Natural reserve fund of Ukraine



Питома вага заповідних територій у площі області: 1 - до 3% (Вінницька, Дніпропетровська, Харківська); 2 - до 4% (Донецька, Київська, Луганська, Миколаївська, Черкаська); 3 - до 5% (Житомирська, Запорізька, Кіровоградська, Одеська, Полтавська); 4 - більше 5 до 8% (Львівська, Сумська, Херсонська, Чернігівська); 5 - більше 8 до 10% (Автономна республіка Крим, Рівненська, Тернопільська); 6 - більше 10 до 16% (Волинська, Івано-Франківська, Хмельницька, Чернівецька, Закарпатська)

Fig.7. Reserve level on the territory of oblasts

Table 1. Biosphere reserves and national nature parks of Ukraine

Nature-reserve establishments		Nature-reserve territories		
Name	Year of creation	Area (ha)	Quantity of flora and fauna species, entered in the Red Book of Ukraine	
		Whole	Flora and Microbiota	Fauna
Biospherical reserves				
Askania-Nova	1985	33307	22	41
Black Sea	1985	89129	24	69
Carpathian	1993	57880	92	74
Danube	1998	46403	8	61
National nature parks				
Carpathian	1980	50495	78	18
Shatsky	1983	48977	32	33
"Sinevir"	1989	40400	40	11
Azovo-Sivashsky	1993	57400	7	18
"Vizshnitsky"	1995	7928	31	19
"Podilski Tovtry"	1996	261316	60	79
"Sviati Hory"	1997	40589	48	50
Yavorivsky	1998	7108		27
Skolivski Beskydy	1999	35261		

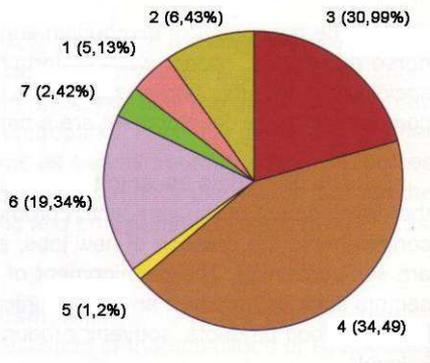


Fig.8. Natural reserve fund structure:

- 1 – natural reserves;
- 2 - biosphere reserves; 3 – national natural parks; 4 – zakaznyks;
- 5 – botanical and zoological gardens, dendroparks, parks – monuments of horticulture, natural monuments;
- 6 – regional landscape parks;
- 7 – reserve territories

From the Polish side Beschadsky national park and landscape parks – Tsisniansko-Vetlinski and "Sleep Valley" are included in the territory; and from the Czech side - region of guarded landscape "Eastern Carpathian". Similar biosphere reserve "Dunaiski Plavni" is being created. There is a proposal to create such interstate biosphere reserves, as: Polish-Ukrainian "Western Polissia", Russian-Ukrainian "Briansk and Starogutsk forests" etc. Those objects might in perspective be the most popular for developing a transnational ecotourism system [17].

Tourism as economic category

Ukraine, a country with a transitioning economy, has a goal to achieve a level of profitability and competitiveness within the tourism industry since it is an important branch of its economy.

So far profits from tourism within country's economy are low. Revenues from tourism in gross domestic product equate to about 1%. Ukraine's share in international tourist exchange is about 0,06%. In total volume of gross tourism revenues Ukraine's share is only 0,13%.

The contingent of ecotourism supporters – those, who are fond of speleotourism, foot and horse excursions, hiking, water entertainment

– is not covered by official statistics. According to sociological data this portion comprises up to 8% of the entire number of tourists. The economic components of its development are a part of tourism economics on the whole.

The given data attest to the great reserves in tourism development and economic profits of the development of tourism, which promotes the quality of life and raises the standards of living, contributes to the creation of new jobs, and ensures that the environmental protection measures are self-sustaining. The development of tourism in Ukraine stimulates the development of other sectors such as transport and communication, the production of building materials and biologically cleans food products, souvenir production, which provides for the country's rise of an economic level [7, 18-21].

PECULIARITIES OF ECOLOGICAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

Typology of objects of ecological tourism

Ecological tourism (ecotourism) in Ukraine has developed within the territory of the natural reserve, in the boundaries of which people can take long-term or short-term vacations, acquaint with the flora and fauna. Ecological tours and environmental education may be carried out. At the same time a special environmental protection regime is ensured. To the categories of the national reserve fund of Ukraine, where ecological tourism can be developed, belong: national natural parks (Carpathian, Shatsky, Sinevirsky, Azov-Sivashsky and others), regional landscape parks (Dnister Canyon, Kinburn Split, Dikansky and others), and biosphere reserves (Carpathian, Askaniya Nova, Black Sea, Danube) [11].

Green tourism has a lot in common with ecological tourism. It is being organized within the territory of natural landscapes with the provision of amenities, where conditions exist for short-term vacations (from 5 – 10 hr to 1 – 2 days), vacation on the beaches, etc. The areas where green tourism may take place, are: forestparks, hydroparks, dendroparks, botani-

cal gardens and other landscape complexes which can be situated in rural areas as well as in urban areas. Resources for the organization of green tourism exist in all Ukraine's regions, in particular -green lines on the riverbanks of the Dnieper, Desna, Danube, Southern Boug and on a number of small rivers, lakes, reservoirs.

Another variety of ecological tourism is *rural tourism*, which is oriented on the use of rural settlements for a long term, as well as for a short-term vacation in the conditions of ecologically clean landscape. Traditional for Ukraine, dacha villages, which have since lost their agricultural function, are also part of country tourism. Of great importance for rural tourism development are ethnic peculiarities, the ethnographic characteristics of Ukraine's population's life, the existence of folk trades and folk architectural and the historic monuments (in particular - palace-park facilities of XYIII – XIX centuries).

Similar to ecological tourism is also *agrotourism* on the agricultural arable land, where the conditions for producing the agricultural products exist, as well as for vacation and the voluntary involvement the population in some kinds of jobs (harvesting fruits, vegetables and berries, looking after domestic animals).

There are a lot of agrotourism villages in Ukraine, gardening associations villages, agroparks, also farms and farmsteads suitable for vacation (*farm tourism*). Low-income families prefer to go on vacation to rural areas, where they are provided with ecologically clean produce and inexpensive housing, get acquainted with ancient customs and involve children in practical agricultural work, folk trades and rituals [4].

An interesting example is a project for tourists called "The Big Tavria Ring". It is a route in the Crimea, by which planners envisage the creation of farms and farmsteads to fulfill double functions for tourists and agro-food. It has been proposed to develop on tourist routes mini-hotels, small factories for agricultural produce processing, to construct horse farms for tourism needs.

Ecological tourism development resources

Nature resources. In Ukraine there are three main categories of natural reserve areas, which may directly become the basis of ecotourism development: national nature parks, regional landscape parks and biosphere preserves.

According to the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" program 4 biosphere preserves have been created in Ukraine. One of their goals is connecting nature preservation, tourist-vacation and economic activities. The most famous is "Askania-Nova" preservation (built in 1874) in Kherson region. Except standard steppe sections and rare animal species that are guarded in preservation there is a dendropark and zoo, which are very attractive for tourists.



Forty seven national nature parks were created in Ukraine. The first park was created in 1980 – Carpathian National Nature Park, the biggest in Europe tourist-vacation region. This and other national nature parks – Shatsky, Sinevir compared to international national parks not only are very "young", but also so far are not well equipped. In the vicinities of these parks there are working tourist-recreational facilities, working tourism sites and infrastructure, while additional service infrastructure development is needed [11].

Among nature preservation territories of Ukraine which can be the most practically utilized for ecological tourism development an important role belongs to 69 regional landscape parks and 58 dendroparks. Regional landscape parks are in formation stage, and



dendroparks, such as "Sofiivka" in Uman, "Olexandria" in Bila Tserkva, Trostianets in Chernihiv region and others are magnificent examples of Ukraine's landscape architecture (there are more than 100 of those in Ukraine), and a substantial part of which is in rural areas [12, 13].

Historico-cultural resources. In Ukraine important tourist attractions are: historical monuments, archeological monuments, ethnographic and cultural facilities, and museums. There are also trades – hunting and fishing, handicrafts – weaving and ceramics, folk architecture and folklore, which attract tourists. The spirit of the people, which is preserved in Ukrainian rituals and customs (for example, holidays "Christmas", "Shrove/tide", "Easter", "Green holidays" etc.) is extremely important in education of children and younger generation and attraction of tourist, including foreign.

There are scansenes – museums of folk architecture and life under the open sky in Kyiv, Uzhgorod, Pereyaslav-Khmel'nitski. Creation of such natural ethnographic museums, which depict the ethnic specific features of certain regions of Ukraine is a proposed direction for ecotourism development.

Territorial organization of ecotourism

Among the first national natural parks created in Ukraine are the Carpathian Park in 1980 (area 50,5 th. ha) and Shatsky Park in 1983 (area 48,9 th. ha). The main unique feature of these national natural parks is the use and adaptation of the existing recreational fund and infrastructure, in the framework of a functionally new object without constructive changes. At the present moment these and other national parks are only limited to the popularization of nature by means of excursions, regional studies and other ecotourist functions. Rational territorial organizations and high level of amenities in national parks, biosphere reserves and regional landscape parks would be a favorable basis for ecotourism development.

The Ukrainian legislature is regulating the creation of functional zones in national parks: reserve, regulated recreation, stationary recreation, regulated economic activity [1].

Besides allocating new tourist and recreational facilities or use of existing ones, an important measure is the creation of "landscape-route corridors", "exposition zones", "ecological roads", "tourist land" (for fishing, berry-

mushroom gathering, hunting, skiing). Equipment for special views and barbecue places, building of ecologically safe roads is also foreseen.



One of the examples of ecotourism complex formation is the idea of the South scientific center of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and tourist-commercial company "Eugenia Travel LTD" (Odessa). It has been suggested to locate the ecotourism complex 50 km from Odessa in the zone of the "Tyligulsky" regional landscape park on the grounds of cooperative land (10 th. ha), where the zakazniks are located – ornithological, botanical and zoological; environment – dry steppe with a unique microclimate, which is characteristic of only this part of Ukraine. The Tyligulsky landscape evokes great interest in different categories of the population: tourists, sportsmen, scientists, and businessmen. There are beautiful views here, diversity of the flora and fauna, thrilling hunting and fishing.

The territorial organization of the ecotourism complex foresees the creation of a zoo "Steppe safari", contemporary farms, delta-planerism club, exotic recreational settlements, equipment of places of interest tourism (crab and lobster catching, hunting, horse riding, troikas riding). Several hundred jobs will be provided for the servicing of tourists, rebirth of crafts and growing of ecologically clean products. On the account of the volume of services to local and foreign tourists, a high level of economic effectiveness of this ecotourism complex functioning is being prognosed.

A similar project of creating an international ecotourism complex on the shore of the Zhabrianska Bay of the Black Sea at the border with Romania was proposed by the Ministry of ecological safety and urban building SRPI. The unique natural resources of this region are the Danube delta, the Sasic salt lake, Zhebrianskaya split. In the Danube biosphere reserve, unique flora and fauna are preserved. The Danube delta – a unity of islands – and the aquatoria are part of the water-marsh land of international importance.

An attractive site for tourists is the Vilkovo village with numerous channels – the so-called "Ukrainian Venice". A wonderful waterlink by the Danube gives an opportunity of acquaintance with this phenomenon of nature for tourists from many countries and with the analogy with the above mentioned project considerable economic profits can be obtained here.

Ecotourism development organizational measures

Ecotourism in Ukraine is in the making. Certain facilities exist in different regions of Ukraine – tourist hotels, tourist centers, motels, camping grounds, which accept and provide services to groups or individuals, who engage in their favorite vacation activities (fishing, hunting, yacht sailing, skiing, horseback riding, berry, mushroom, herb collection; speleo-tourism, alpinism, etc.). Special ecotourism marketing and commercial services are yet to be developed.

One of the first steps towards the establishment of demands concerning ecotourism organization in Ukraine was the holding in 1996 by the World Bank and Ministry of Ecological Safety of Ukraine an International seminar on the "biobusiness", where the problems of "ecobusiness" and development of "ecotourism business-plans" were discussed. The organizational preconditions for ecotourism development were the following: attractiveness of landscape resources for ecotourism; the existence of accommodations to receive tourists and servicing facilities; presence of specialists -tour guides, instructors, translators, who can provide ecological tours and individual secu-

riety. All these questions must be taken into consideration in the business-plan of the ecotourism complex organization, when expenses and income are established, investment sources, price prognosis and risk description, taxes, commercial – informational program, etc.

Thus, valuable landscape complexes in Ukraine will be not only "high standards of nature", but also become profitable commercial ecotourism enterprises, which will be able to provide for the preservation and restoration of nature by its own means.

ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGIONS OF UKRAINE

According to the recreational regioning of Ukraine, there are 7 regions on its territory: Carpathian, Transdnister, Dnieper, Transdonetsky, Transazov, Black Sea, Crimean (see Fig.2).

The Carpathian recreational region

The Carpathian region is one of the most interesting ecotourism regions of Ukraine, with continental-European climate, landscape diversity, rich flora and fauna and a great number of natural resort objects.

The most attractive zones for ecotourism are natural parks: "Carpathian", which embraces mountain heights and river basins; "Sinevir", with the largest in the Carpathian Sinevir lake – the so-called "sea eye", "Vyzhnitsky", which takes up great areas of forests, etc [12].

The natural aspects of the Carpathian region are widely used for the organization of ecological mountain tourism. The large areas of Swidovets, Marmaros with the Goverla mountain (2061 m), Beskidy, Svaliava landscapes, carts caves – are very interesting ecotourism sites. The mountain relief and favorable climate attract tourists and sport participants, who are interested in winter sports, such as skiing, and the developed network of rivers for those who are into boat sailing.

The Carpathian flora has over 1100 types of plants. The picturesque "Narcissus valley", where the only European wild thicket of narcissus is being protected, as well as the vegetation of the alpine zone attract a great number of tourists [16].

The animal inhabitants of the Carpathian region are also significant. There are more than 220 species of ground spine animals, birds, snakes, amphibian. Here you can find bear, lynx, deer, golden eagle, black stork, and trout.



The Carpathian region is rich in natural, historic and ethnic monuments, and original folklore. A developed recreational infrastructure, with a network of walking routes for ecological tourism was created here. Besides the existing shelters, tourist grounds, hotels, the construction of private facilities for servicing tourists are also being developed here, including mini-hotels, family vacation homes, and national cuisine restaurants.

The Carpathian region is situated on the crossroads between Western and Eastern Europe, highlighting the country's important place in international tourism development on the basis of creating international nature reserve sites for Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, and Slovakia.

Transdniester recreational region

The Transdniester unites a considerable territory of the western part of Ukraine at the Dniester river basin. The Podil height, has a favorable climate – a mild winter and warm summer.

On the region's territory a considerable number of environmental protection objects are concentrated. The most significant among these are the natural reserves "Roztochchya"; "Medobort", which border with the Carpathian region, national natural parks "Shatsky" and "Podil Tovtry" and the western part of the regional landscape park "Pripyat-Stohid". Among the significant ecotourism objects are also the Dniester reservoir, Tovtry-cliffs canyons, caves and grotto's. Among the forest flora of the different regions are beech, horn-



beam, lime-tree; and among the fauna – elk, wild boar, and muskrat which are widely spread.

The region is rich in natural, historic, cultural and architectural monuments, especially in Ternopil, Khotin, Galich, Zhovkva cities. In the city of Kamyanets-Podilsky a historic-cultural reserve was created – "Old City".

These natural and cultural reserves of the Transdniester promote the development of ecological and other types of tourism - educational, scientific, speleotourism etc. The tourist infrastructure has been developed in this region. There are tourist bureaus and hotels in the cities of Kamyanets-Podilsky, Chernivtsy, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, as well as interesting tourist routes.

On the frontier territories of the region ecotourism can be developed as part of international natural reserve territories of Ukraine and Moldova.

The Dnipro recreational region

The territories by the Dnipro river basin have favorable climate conditions, a variety of recreational resources and a network of areas under environmental protection. Ecological and other types of tourism have been developed here as well including "the nostalgic" for the untouched Ukrainian nature.

In the Transdnieper a national system of tourist tour routes was created – "Namysto Slavuticha". In this region such natural reserves are situated as Kanivsky and Dniprovsko-Orilsky; and partially the Black Sea biosphere reserve. Other ecotourism sites include historical-architectural reserves such as "Chigirin" and "Hortytsya"; dendroparks – "Sofiivka", "Trostyanetsky", "Olexandriya".

The region is known for its vegetation diversity – forest, marsh and steppe areas. In the hunting farms, hunting of elk, deer, and wild boar is organized and fishing of pik, sheat-fish and other has been developed. The monuments of historic-cultural heritage, that relate to the Kyiv Rus period (IX – XII) and development of Ukrainian statehood (XYII – XY-III), are important. Among them are historic-cultural reserve "Kievo-Pechersky"; archeo-



logical monuments of the Trypillya, ancient, Scythian culture, remarkable historical cities: Kyiv, Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky, Chernigiv, Odessa.

A tourist infrastructure has been created in the region: transport connections were developed, and there is a network of tourist agencies, tourist centers, and hotels. The majority of them are concentrated in the regional centers of the area. In the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, there are first class hotels, which are adapted for foreign tourists (3 – 4 stars) – "Kyivskaya Rus", "Dnipro", "Lybid" and others.

Transdonetsk recreational region

This region is situated in the forest-steppe region, has a developed network of river and water services and a considerable number of areas under environmental protection.

In Transdonechyna the following sites are located: the national natural park – "Sviati Gory"; "Ukrainski Stepovy" natural reserve and others. The vegetation in this region cover steppe, forest and marsh areas with a lot of

plant varieties, and fauna numbering over 400 animal species.

Natural-recreational resources, and the presence of historic-cultural monuments of heritage (XVI-XIX cent.) favor the development of ecological, cognitive and educational tourism types in this region. A developed tourism infrastructure was created here that includes tourist agencies, a network of tourist facilities, especially in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Lugansk, Poltava, and transport connections

In this highly industrialized region a large international business community is active, thus conditions could be created for business-tourism, as well as ecotourism, with the goal of providing the working conditions and vacation opportunities for people.

The Transazov recreational region

This region takes up the territory along the shores of the Sivash. The Azov Sea has considerable health – resorts, recreational resources and environmental protection objects, among which the most significant are: the biosphere reserve – «Askaniya Nova», natural reserves-Ukrainian Steppe and Lugansky, Azov-Sivash national natural park, natural monuments – Granite cliffs, Stone tomb, etc.

The flora of these places is unique. The topography includes sea sands, lakes and estuaries, marshes and meadows. Among the fauna, the birds are wonderfully unique to the area. In the migration period, mountain stork, vulture and other birds can be found here. Some types of ornithofauna of the Transazov are included in the Red Book of Ukraine and the European Red list; water- marsh territories



(according to the Ramsar convention) are of international importance [15].

The uniqueness of nature, the presence of historical, cultural and architectural monuments (XVII – XIX cent.), create favourable conditions for the development of ecological and other types of tourism. The region has a developed tourism infrastructure: a modern

transport network, and a considerable number of tourist agencies and hotels – «Zaporizhzhya» in Zaporizhzhya; «Parus» in Berdyansk and others.

The Transzov region is a part of a single tourist-recreational system of the Black and Azov Seas, the development perspectives of which are laid in «The sea shore zone tourism development Program» (1996), prepared by the Ministry of ecological safety under the assistance of the World Ecological Fund [21].

The Black Sea recreational region

The territory of the southern part of Ukraine is known for its unique complex of natural resources, has broad access to the Black and Azov Sea basins and the majority of Ukrainian rivers – the Danube, the Dniester, the Dnipro, the South Bough. Because of exceptional natural conditions (warm sea with sand beaches, medicinal resources), this region is highly developed for vacation and treatment at health resorts, becoming particularly attractive to international tourism.

There are a couple of hundred environmental protection objects in the region, the most well known among them are: the Black Sea and the Danube biosphere reserves. The flora and fauna have specific features intrinsic in the Black Sea steppe and Eastern – European forest geobotanical provinces. Rich vegetation and the diversity of animals (roe deer, elk, wild boar), birds (falcon, pheasant, great bustard), fish (anchovy, sturgeon, gray mullet) contribute to the quality of the area.

There are unique natural monuments in the region- the Odessa catacombs, cliffs, historical and cultural monuments, including the State archeological reserve ancient "Olviya".

The tourist infrastructure has been developed well, and there is a powerful transport potential, a network of tourist establishments, especially in the administrative centers of the region. In Odessa there is a sea port and a tourist center of international importance; in Mykolayiv and Kherson there is tourist centers and hotels, the most comfortable among them being "Southern Boug", "Ochakiv" and others.



The Danube delta, second largest in Europe, is a natural body of water of global significance. The rare, natural richness and particular quality of this locality create unique conditions for scientific work, amateur fishing and hunting, ecological education of the population and ecotourism development in the system of the international Danube shipping route.

The Crimea recreational region

The Crimea is the most famous for its natural recreational potential not only among Ukrainian regions, but also among the countries of the Mediterranean and Black seas. This peninsula has a combination of unique recreational resources: the sea, the mountains, beaches, picturesque landscapes, historical monuments and natural reserve objects.

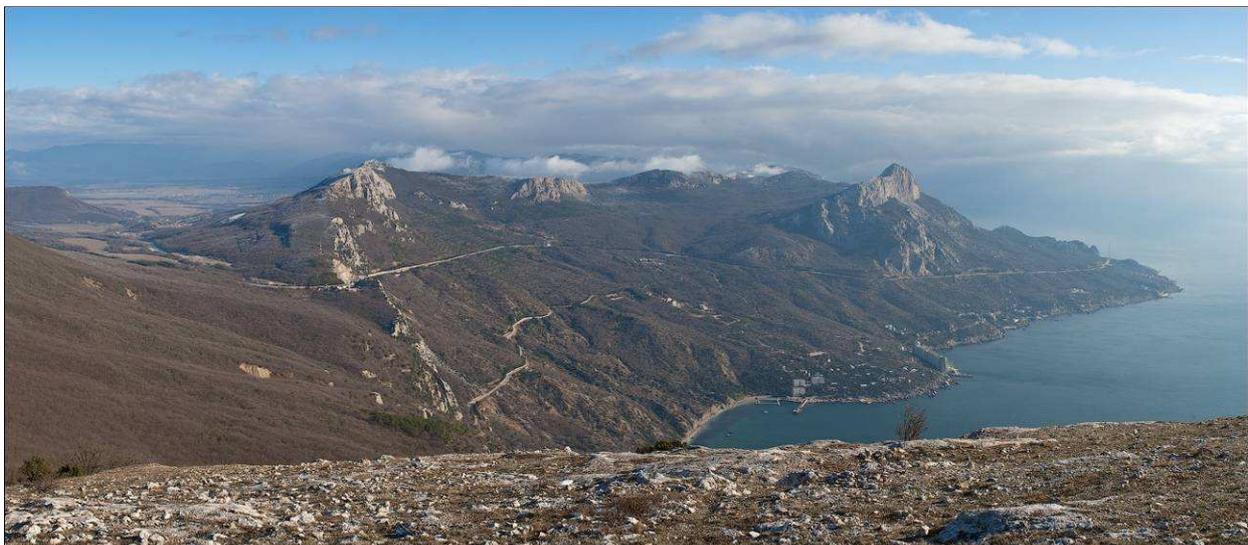
The Yalta Mountain-Forest, Crimean,

Karadakh and other natural reserves, which are unique in their natural value, are situated in the Crimea. There have been proposals raised for creating a national natural park called "Chatyrdag".

The Crimea mountains, specifically mountains Roman-Kosh (1545m) and Ai-Petri (1334m), the steep cliffs in the region, the Great Canyon, the Baydaro-Kostropilsky wall, and Chatyrdag slopes offer great opportunities for ecological, mountain tourism, cliffhanging, speleotourism, and gliding in Crimea. Other unique places for such outdoor recreation opportunities include the caves and cave cities (where ancient people used to dwell), and many landscape resources such as 1000 year old yew tree and beech forests. There are also a lot of water marsh territories, ornithological zakaznyks in Crimea. In sea-shore territories, the Kerch strait in particular, there exist trout and clam cultivation farms [22].

The most attractive for ecotourism conditions exist where there is a combination of different natural peculiarities: eloquent mountain relief forms, Mediterranean flora, southern fauna, historical-cultural monuments. Among such cities are Yalta, Gurzuf, Noviy Svit, Bahchisarai and others.

In the region's borders excursion for tourists have been developed, and appropriate infrastructure has been created in cities and villages, situated along the shore. Tourist routes have been organized, equipped with walk paths and viewpoints, and include places for





practicing speleotourism. In the region of the Uzun-Sirt Mountain gliding has been developed as a sport [23].

A network of tourist facilities exists in Simpheropol – the capital of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, Yalta, Sevastopol, Bahchisarai and other cities. For foreign tourists can stay in world standard hotels such as – "Yalta", "Oreanda", "Palace".

Recently necessary conditions for the formation of the national natural park "Turida" have been created. For the development of ethnic and historic-cultural tourism in the borders of this national park, the development of the "Great Tavriya Ring" is planned with the aim of the rebirth of cultural traditions in places of the Crimean national minorities' residence.

According to the Convention on Black Sea protection from pollution (1992) and Ministry Declaration on Black Sea protection (1993) the Crimea, Black Sea and Transazov are regions of special ecological status and international attention. They represent the recreation of resource potential, biological diversity of their unique ecosystems, as well as integrate the rational use of the natural – cultural resources of the shore line for all types of tourism.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The analysis of ecotourism development in Ukraine shows that the presence of great natural opportunities, which haven't been fully used. Due to the current difficult economic situation in Ukraine, the development of a national tourism system focused on eco-recreation and health-resorts is presently in a state of stagnation.

2. The main tasks which are necessary for the development of an ecotourism industry are:

- *restructuring* of the existing recreational, sanitary and tourist fund according to social needs of the population and market economy conditions;
- construction of new establishments, which answer *world standards*, for the development of the national tourism system and integration into international tourist structures;
- provision of vacation conditions of socially-sensitive categories of the population, especially those, *who were exposed to radiation* from the Chernobyl accident;
- creation of legislative conditions for the development of *ecotourism*, which will promote the rational use and protection of landscape resources.

3. The prognosis for tourism, recreation, health – resort system development determines

the main directions of solving the above mentioned problems during 3 stages: I stage (2001 – 2006) – the growth of the given branch fund is projected to be 1,2 times; II stage (2006 – 2016) – 1,5-2 times; III stage (2016 – 2026) – 2,1...3 times. These are the periods of implementing investment programs, modernization to the world standard levels of the existing tourism infrastructure and ecotourism development – internationally acclaimed phenomenon of the XXI century.

4. The priority directions of ecotourism development in Ukraine are:

- normative-legal provisions in this sphere, in particular, concerning the preservation and use of biodiversity, ecological entrepreneurship, international ecotourist activity;
- improvement of ecotourism territorial organization on the basis of international ecological existence of landscape complexes and quality assessment;
- solving the questions of financial and tax priorities concerning the use and protection of natural reserve areas, which fulfill ecotourism functions;
- norm development of ecological nature use, economical mechanisms of balanced ecotourism development, models of integrated management in the conditions of departmental management of ecotourism objects;
- creation and implementation of ecotourism development projects, broadening through mass media of ecotourism organization advantages.

5. International cooperation will play an important role in the development of ecotourism and problem solving in Ukraine. This cooperation is carried out in different programs in the regions of the Carpathians, the Black and Azov Sea shores, with assistance of the UN, the World Bank and other international organizations. The further activation of this cooperation and the development of external economic activity with a unique natural-cultural potential are designed to play a significant role in the international tourism system.

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Развитие экологического туризма в Украине

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Аннотация. Публикация является вкладом в рамках проекта Программы развития Организации Объединенных Наций UKR/95/003 «Внедрение принципов устойчивого развития в государственные учреждения». Целью этого проекта является внедрение принципов устойчивого развития в политику, программы и мероприятия по планированию деятельности крупных правительственных учреждений в Украине в соответствии с: а) приоритетами Правительства; б) резолюциями, принятыми на международных конференциях, в которых участвовала Украина; с) международными конвенциями или соглашениями, участником которых является Украина.

Проект осуществленный с использованием ресурсов ПРООН, призван стимулировать политический диалог высокого уровня по вопросам устойчивого развития в Украине и расширять участие в таком диалоге между государственными учреждениями, а также распространять знания и инструменты, необходимые для предварительной интеграции принципов устойчивого развития в политику и стратегии Правительства Украины. Главное внимание в данной публикации уделено проблеме устойчивого развития туризма в Украине и экотуризма в частности, учитывая требования охраны природы и Законов Украины «О природно-заповедном фонде», «О туризме» и «О курортах».

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Ключевые слова: типология туризма, природные и историко-культурные ресурсы, территориальная организация экотуризма.