PROSPECTS FOR THE USE OF NATURAL MONUMENTS WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOURISM DESTINATIONS IN THE REGION (ON THE REPUBLIC TATARSTAN EXAMPLE)

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ABSTRACT

Today, there are problems associated with the need to preserve the natural and geographical landscape of the Republic of Tatarstan, with the disclosure and promotion of the tourism and recreational potential, as well as of the development of environmental education among all segments of the population. In this regard, there arose an urgent need to develop and to pay particular attention to the promotion of the unique nature of Tatarstan.

Among the methods used in the study a comparative analytical and scientific synthesis occupies an important place.

This paper shows the diversity and characteristics of natural monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan. We have determined the tourist and recreational potential (Gabdrakhmanov N.K., Vladimir, Rubtzov; Marat, Mustafin, 2014, p.247-253; Gabdrakhmanov N.K., Roshko, Mikhail, 2014, p.267-271) of the natural monuments of an individual region of Russia. We have assessed the prospects for the use of natural monuments with the development of new tourism destinations in the republic.

In this paper, we have conducted a spatial analysis of the distribution and development of natural monuments in the region, identified natural monuments with the greatest tourist potential, analyzed some of the historical events that had contributed to the creation of natural monuments and determined their diversity.

Unlocking the potential of natural monuments allows achieving a significant growth of tourist flows into the country and implementing various activities aimed at preservation of natural and landscaped areas. This development will enable a vast multilingual audience to read and join in the project of conservation of the native nature, to look from the new position at one of the economically emerging and well-known in the international arena huge republic. The development of this area will be also relevant for the youth of the Republic of Tatarstan in the implementation of the Republican target environmental education strengthening programme.

Key words: *tourism, historical monuments, monuments of culture, historical heritage, environmental monuments, sustainable development, the Republic of Tatarstan*

INTRODUCTION

The development of new forms of tourism, in particular, environmental one (Mocior, E., Kruse, M., 2016, p.137-151; Banos-González, I., Martínez-Fernández, J., Esteve-Selma, M.A., 2016, p. 565-576), which according to various estimates accounts already for 20% of the world market, increases the role and significance of natural environmental objects – the monuments of nature.

Natural monuments are unique or typical, valuable in all respects objects of an animate and inanimate nature, distinguished by the state as a specially protected small area (Gabdrakhmanov N.K., 2014, p. 202-205). These are the small tracts (forest or steppe areas, lakes, rivers, valleys, or part of them), or individual objects (geological outcrops, caves, waterfalls, springs, etc.) The main purpose of the monument of nature – its natural state preservation (Specially protected natural territories of the Republic of Tatarstan, 1994, p. 3).

Natural monuments are usually open to tourists (Rubtzov, V.A., Gabdrakhmanov N.K., Delabarr, O.A., Tyabina, D.V., 2015, p. 669-672). At the same time, they have some visit rules to be observed: move along special paths, stop for the night only at designated bivouac glades, etc. (Boo, E., 1991, p. 4-8).

For violation of the nature management rules, tourists can bear the administrative, financial and criminal responsibility.

Tourists should also report to the press on waterlogging of land, soil erosion, shallowing of rivers and reservoirs, liquidation of recreational forests, lakes and ponds near the settlements (Kolbovskoi E.Iu., 2008, p. 256).

The nature and status of the monument of nature determine the permitted types of use, indicated in the certificate of natural monument. Special protection, providing seasonal and other restrictions, may be introduced for permissible types of its use.

Other rules apply to the state reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.

To visit a state reserve, tourists must first contact the relevant directorate, find out the opportunities for visit and get permission therefor. Traveling within the protected area is possible only in strict accordance with the route determined in the reserve, strictly observing all the established rules of conduct. Reserves are not for mass tourism (Hernández, J.M., Suárez-Vega, R., Santana-Jiménez, Y., 2016, p. 43-57; Pyke, S., Hartwell, H., Blake, A., Hemingway, A., 2016, p.94-105).

Visiting the wildlife sanctuaries also requires approval of the route ant time of visit by the relevant environmental organizations.

Natural objects are declared natural monuments of federal importance of the Russian Federation. They are federal property and are under the responsibility of the federal authorities. Natural monuments of federal importance account for 28, with a total area of 34.3 thous. ha.

But the most common are regional natural monuments, which account for more than 9 thousand in the territory of Russia, with total area of 4.15 million ha (Gaisin I.T., Rafikova F.Z., Drochneva G.A., 2007, p.34).

Thus, natural monuments have a high tourist and recreational potential in Russia as a whole and in many of its regions. This potential is rather poorly used today.

METHODS

In this paper, we used the method of system-structural analysis, the comparative analytical and statistical methods.

A detailed study of monuments of nature requires studying the materials of the conference “Specially protected natural areas of the Republic of Tatarstan", the state report, and reviewing the works by Russian and foreign scientists.

RESULTS

The Republic of Tatarstan has 155 natural sites officially protected by the state. 132 natural sites have been declared natural monuments, 31 of them are botanical, 8 zoological, 11 geological, 11 integrated and 64 water objects, including 33 lakes with a total water surface area of 446.59 ha and 29 small rivers with a total length of 3004.9 km, and 2 springs. This includes almost all well-known common-to-region small rivers and lakes.

Within the republic, the natural monuments are located on the territory of 23 municipal districts. Their largest number is located in: Laishevsky - 13, Zelenodolsky - 9, Kama-Ustyinsky - 8, Arsky, and Verkhneuslonsky district - 6 (Mocior, E., Kruse, M., 2016, p.137-151).

Tatarstan is unique in that it is the territory of the confluence of two great rivers - the Volga river and the Kama river. Unique cuts provide a wealth of material not only for the study of geological laws, but also allow creating original geological parks in the republic – a new area in the development of a network of protected areas and ecological tourism.

There are about 500 small rivers and 8,000 lakes in Tatarstan. Their distribution on the territory of the republic is very uneven, depends on topography, geology and climate. The highest density of river network is in the Eastern Trans-Kama region, the lowest is in the Western part. It is moderate in the northern regions, in Pre-Kama. The Pre-Kama rivers are the rivers Kazanka, Mesha, Shoshma, Toima, Izh, etc. This region locates also the largest lakes: Kovalinskoe, Arkhiereiskoe (Tarlashinskoe), Raifskoe, etc.

Among them, lake Goluboe is remarkable for its distinction. The lake is of karst origin - about two hundred years ago, there occurred a failure, which further was filled with water. Until now, the remains of sunk trees stick out from its bottom.

In the cold days the water strongly soars, misting the shore. The lake is the traditional place of cold water swimmers, as well as diving enthusiasts.

In Pre-Volga region, the rivers Sviyaga and its tributaries and Sulitsa were declared the natural monuments. In West Trans-Kama region, the aquifers do not come out to the surface, so there is a few rivers and lakes.

Tatarstan lies on the border between the two zoogeographical zones – forest and steppe, which explains the great variety of both animal and plant life.

One of the most notable among the geological monuments is Pechischinsky geological section, a favorite object of both Russian and world scientists.

More than two hundred million years ago this area of modern Tatarstan was covered with a huge Kazan Sea, which stretched from the east of the Volga to the Cis-Ural region. For a long time, precious limestone, sand, and dolomite strata were washed over and deposited here. They occurred nearly 250-280 million years ago, during the formation process of the Ural Mountains on our continent, and the Appalachians in the United States.

Another geological monument of nature, namely, Yurievskaya Cave, is the only one in Tatarstan accessible to tourists (the others were flooded with reservoir water). Age of Yurievskaya Cave, which has a zero level of complexity resulting from natural processes, is nearly ten thousand years.

There are also complex natural monuments in Tatarstan, such as Sviazhsky Bay. This amazing place with unique ecological system has become home to many species of fish and waterfowl.

The river Sviyaga, Sviazhsky bay and the Sviyazhsk island as natural monuments are of federal significance and are among ten most beautiful views of Tatarstan.

The animal world of the region is highly diversified. It is considered, that today there is 419 species of vertebrate animals inhabiting the republic. There is only eight zoological natural monuments in the country. This is because the country has 20 state hunting reserves aimed at the protection of certain species of animals.

In 1983 the country's largest colony of gray herons, located in Zelenodolsk region of Tatarstan, was declared a natural monument. 383 nestles are located on the 98 pine-trees.

The area near Stolbishche village in Laishevsky district of the republic is a habitat of breeding colony of black-headed gulls, occupying Sukhoe lake and Chetovo lake. The largest colony of marmots in Tatarstan is in Leninogorsky district near the river Chershila.

The second largest colony of marmots inhabits Aznakaevsky district on the steppificated slopes of Chatyr Tau. Plowing and planting of slopes with crops has greatly disturbed marmots and forced them to settle in the forest outliers. The increase in the number of these animals up to 7 thousand allowed making a decision to exclude it from the list of species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The northernmost colony of marmots in Tatarstan is in Buinsky district near Utinka village. A small colony of marmots lives in Buinsky district near the village of Novye Tinchali.

Equally valuable are the zoological natural monuments located on the territory of the Volga-Kama region: Ivanovsky pine forest, state zoological natural monument of Alekseevsky district, and the Colony of steppe vipers "Spassk" of Spassky district.

The nature of Tatarstan is rich not only in wildlife, but also in plants. 31 botanical monuments were established for the conservation of vanishing plant species in the country.

The territory of the South-East region locates 4 botanical nature monuments: forest larch plantations of 1910-1913, Petrovka pines, Karabash Mountain, Tatar Dymskaya glade.

Natural monuments on the territory of Zavolzhsky region: state botanical nature monument "Keremet" - Novochekurskaya forest-steppe, Tenkovskaya feather grass steppe, Tarhanovskie oak forests, Kaibitskie oak forests, "Cedar Park" (Volga region), Nature monuments of Zelenodolsk region: "Semiozersky forest", “Artificial forest” in Baltasinsky district.

According to the Resolution (No. 22 of 18.01.1996) of the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan and the resolution of the head of administration of Kazan, the territory of the city locates seven natural monuments:

- “Kazan arboretum” (Vakhitovsky district),
- “Oak forestland” (Kirovsky district),
- “Cedar park” (Volga region),
- “Bestial mountains (Switzerland)" (Sovetsky district),
- “Quarry ravine” (Sovetsky district),
- Historical and natural monument "House-Museum of V.I. Lenin" (Vakhitovsky district),
- The river Kazanka natural monument.

Kazan arboretum, recognized as a natural monument in July 20, 1981, is located in the center of Kazan. This is a site of the forest experimental station of 1.2 ha in area. Green plantations here cover an area of 0.7 ha. The territory of the Republic of Tatarstan is located in two zoogeographic zones that determines the wealth and diversity of its flora and fauna. There is a constant mixing process of forest and steppe fauna, separated naturally by valleys of the rivers Volga and Kama. The great Russian plain in the east of the country approaches the foot of the Ural Mountains. All this together creates a diversity of natural conditions in a small area.

In the distant past, all the lands north of the Volga and Kama rivers were densely overgrown with taiga. Here grew dark coniferous spruce-fir-pine and various broad-leaved forests with an admixture of small-leaved species. To the south, they changed to the pine-deciduous forests. Further south, over the Volga and Kama rivers, there grew deciduous forests.

In the golden age of the Great Bulgars, these steppe areas were plowed, and the watershed areas of Trans-Kama region were cleaned of forests. The fall of Kazan in 1552 started a new phase of rampant expansion of the region and its deforestation. Total forest area as of 01.01.2015 amounted to 1,236.4 thous. ha (17.5%).

Tatarstan has little steppe nature monuments. Small natural areas have been preserved only on steep slopes or watersheds with thin soil level and indigenous limestone outcrops.

Total more than 225 species of higher vascular plants were found, including 72 species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Local fauna is also diversified. The slopes are inhabited with sand lizard, yellow wagtail, russet ground squirrel, great jerboa and steppe lemming, included in the Red Book of the Republic of Tajikistan as rare species with an unclear distribution pattern.

Scientists believe that the Urdaly-Tau monument has a great importance for the conservation of the southeast biodiversity of Tatarstan; this specially protected natural area is important both scientifically and historically. Therefore, the slope plowing here is prohibited, and grazing is restricted.

DISCUSSION

Thus, natural monuments are extremely non-uniformly located in the republic, and many of them are located near major cities such as Kazan, Naberezhnye Chelny, and Zelenodolsk.

For the most efficient use of tourist and recreational potential of the Republic of Tatarstan it is necessary to pay great attention to environmental education: conducting of educational tours, creation and improvement of education environmental paths, photographing with the purpose of issuing of printed products and the popularization of transit trips (Gaisin I.T., Rafikova F.Z., Drochneva G.A., 2007, p.34).

Their protection has its problems and requires large material costs from the public and state authorities. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct work among the population on environmental education, especially among young students. For this purpose, one should use the district, city or national media (internet, print, television, radio) (Kazan, 2015). These media need to regularly inform the public about the specially protected areas, their scientific and practical value, their state, attitude towards them, the cases of violations and the measures taken.

The work with the population on the formation of a careful attitude to the nature has been conducted in the Lower Kama region (conducting of and participation in various environmental and educational activities: thematic lectures - 98, seminars - 2 competitions - 6, conferences, etc.) (Sidorov V.P., Rubtsov V.A. Shabalina S.A., Bulatova G.N., 2013, p. 160-168).

During 2014, the environmental actions, environmental festivals were conducted: "Day of reserves and national parks of Russia", "Birds Day", "Day of the primrose", "March of Parks", "Day of the ecologist", "Clean up the planet from waste", "All-Russian ecological clean-up day - Green Russia", "Day of environmental knowledge", "Day of forest workers", "Feed the birds in winter", "Fire-tree"), participated by 14,594 people.

The Lower Kama region was visited for tourism and recreation by 8,440 people, including organized groups (tourists) - 1,429 people, the resort area visitors – 1,187 people, the recreational sites visitors – 1,429 people, the tourist and recreational complex "Malyi Bor" –

4,415 people. Total number of tourists in recreation camps and sanatoriums located within the boundaries of the National Park “Nizhniaia Kama" – 150 thousand people.

In our opinion, the following natural monuments in the republic have the greatest tourism potential: the Sviyaga river, Sviazhsky Bay, Sviyazhsk Island, Yurievskaya Cave, Goluboe Lake, Chatyr Tau, Gran-Tau, "Kazan Arboretum", "House-Museum of V.I. Lenin" and "Cedar park". Despite there is a change of two natural areas in Tatarstan (Rubtzov, V.A., Gabdrakhmanov N.K., Delabarr, O.A., Pratchenko, O.V., 2015, p. 681-684), the botanical and zoological geographical nature monuments have not yet received sufficient popularity. Some tourism areas such as air tourism, jeeping, cycling have started developing only recently in the region. Given that many monuments of nature are concentrated near large cities, in particular, the city of Kazan, and the most well-known tourist routes pass near them, we hope that they will also be given sufficient attention and not just for the sake of informative interest and the rest, but also of active participation in environmental protection.

Thus, the planning of the routes in new areas of tourism should consider a high tourist and recreational potential and diversity of the natural monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The growing importance and scale of the domestic tourism will promote further increase in the role of natural and environmental objects.

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