

# ROLE OF SPACE AND STABILITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

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## ABSTRACT

*In this paper tourism is considered by the authors as a geographical phenomenon which can be evaluated and used in a geographical perspective for understanding the forms and functions of tourism resources, together with the features of the demand for tourism. Tourism is one of the tools to achieve stable and balanced regional development. Separately, the authors consider the concept of "tourism space" and "tourism industry", as a result of analysis of which the authors have made the conclusion that essentially they are in very long standing and close connection with the locally-spatial aspects and elements. The paper discusses various approaches to the study of tourism development sustainability, their relationship with spatial concepts. In order to put into circulation and to assess such complex concepts as stability or sustainable development, the paper has been used already accepted structures such as a prism of stability. In particular, we have considered the indicators proposed by the United Nations (UN CSD), and the World Tourism Organization. The analysis allowed us to define the concept of "stability of a system" as its ability to remain relatively unchanged (save its structure and functional features) within a certain time frame regardless of external and internal perturbation actions. At the same time, we have distinguished three types of stability related with taking into account the spatial factors: 1) positional stability - relatively static notion which reflects fixity of elements of the system in a given area; the existence of systems and their components is related with this; 2) structural stability - a concept that reflects availability of the links (real and potential) between the elements of the system or different systems and having a static-dynamic nature; 3) the functional stability which defines the dynamics of systems, the actual existence of spatial interactions between elements of the system and other systems.*

**Key Words:** *Stability, Tourism, Development, Space, Territorial System, Prism of Stability, Stability Standards*

## INTRODUCTION

The term "region" has different definitions and interpretations, but in most cases it means "a space limited by certain borders". In tourism, this space is a complex of tourist destinations each of which has its own characteristics and capabilities. Therefore, the study of sustainable development of tourism should be carried out in accordance with these features, as well as fit into the more general program and be based on a balanced, rather than a partial development.

According to Formica, tourism is a geographical phenomenon which can be evaluated and used in a geographical perspective for understanding the forms and functions of tourism resources, together with the features of the demand for tourism. In addition, a regional analysis

can help to determine the important variables that affect the tourism attraction in the region, as well as to organize the space in the region, and if, moreover, to take into account the characteristics of supply and demand in the tourism industry of a given region, then all this will allow also to achieve a sustainable tourism development. Upon the spatial approach development of the tourism industry can be an effective factor which will accelerate achievement of the objectives of sustainable and balanced development. Goals achievement of which is expected in this industry are go far beyond only economic or social purposes, and require a common pan-industry orientation (Gey O'Chak, 2003), i.e. an integrated territorial approach.

If to consider about the concepts of "tourism space" and "tourism industry", we could understand that essentially tourism is in a very long-standing and close connection with the locally-spatial aspects and elements. Similarly, in its interaction with the natural ecological environment and cultural heritage, tourism is formed in close contact with invisible - and sometimes quite visible - aspects of culture that is connected with human civilization or man-made environment.

Therefore, if we take into account the concept and essence of space, having started to develop the tourism industry, it is necessary not only to create the grounds to satisfy the diverse needs of a wide range of tourists, but also have an impact on a significant proportion of the local population and a vast part of the geographic space in this area causing positive socio-economic and environmental changes with it. For example, by establishing a balance in the spatial distribution of the obtained positive effects of tourism development (Birzhakov, 2006). Such an approach will ultimately lead to sustainable tourism which will bring the space-time and the social equilibrium in conjunction with security, economic stability and preservation of environment.

In order to put into circulation and to assess such complex concepts as stability or sustainable development, it would be useful to draw on the adopted structures such as a prism of stability. This structure was designed to move away from the definition of sustainable development represented in the report by Brundtland. The prism was built based on four interrelated dimensions: (a) environmental stability, (b) economic stability, (c) socio-cultural stability, and (g) institutional stability (Figure 1).

Issues of environmental stability are related with a natural capital and the dominance / conditions of renewable and non-renewable resources. Economic stability includes a man-made capital (natural capital) including most forms of infrastructure (including roads, railways, buildings); it contributes to the improvement of human material, increase in employment and income. The socio-cultural stability includes human capital (e.g., consciousness, experience, knowledge, skills and behavior) including also fundamental human rights. Finally, institutional stability focuses on social capital which includes public institutions, government organizations, and interpersonal relationships, the processes on involvement in planning, partnership / collaboration and power relations.

**Figure 1**  
**PRISM OF STABILITY (SPANGENBERG, VALENTIN)**

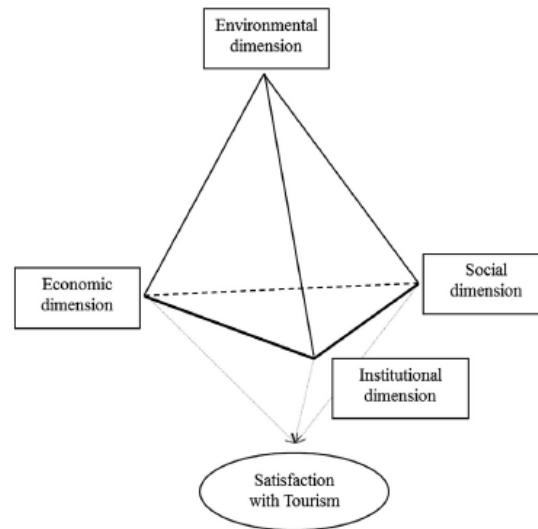


Figure 1 shows a structure consisting of four edges which can be used to develop stability indicators. It is based on such fundamental principles as "people / profit / planet" in the capacity of the main frame of reference, although it includes an institutional perspective as a key dimension.

## METHODS

Prism of stability allows setting stability indicators and standards for the needs of planning and management of local communities. The indicators are biophysical, social, administrative and other conditions that afflict people in some situations. Standards also formulate management objectives in terms of numerical values and determine the appropriate level of acceptable limits for the ultimate efficiency indicators, i.e., what final performance will be too high for each indicator. The standards define the conditions that are desired in nature, and the conditions which administrators do not want to exceed.

Indicators and standards for sustainable tourism have been proposed by several organizations. For example, in 1995 g. the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (UN CSD) took the initiative of the five-year program for the development of stability indicators. These figures, though, were centered on a global (not local) level and environmental (rather than cultural, economic or institutional) aspects of stability.

World Tourism Organization has also developed 11 key indicators for sustainable development of tourism which are divided into four categories: (a) environmental, (b) social, (c) economic, and (d) planned. Unfortunately, these figures included only two psychological indicators; they did not leave the choice of opportunities, limit the degree of involvement of all interested parties, are not focused on the local level, and do not offer anything for data tracking.

Other researchers have developed stability indicators for specific geographic areas such as Chongming County, the city of Shanghai in China, the island state of Samoa, and New

Zealand. Modern attempts to define stability indicators focus on the creation of special practical indicators for private communities included in an overall social context.

## RESULTS

Thus, the problem of stability of regional socio-economic systems (Gladkiy and Chistobaev, 2002), including tourism and recreation, arose as a result of the space-time conditioning of living, continuity of its stretch, and discontinuity of organization.

As noted above, in the 1980s the concept of "sustainable development" was put into circulation in the sense that unlimited economic growth will lead to undesirable environmental and social impacts, and it challenged the pre-existing model of economic development. After the so-called "Brundtland Report" in 1987, the sustainable development concept began its long journey to become a modern age development paradigm. The analysis of scientific literature has shown that no concept has not been given to as much attention as to "stability".

Initially, for the territorial systems, including for recreational, they tried to use the concepts of stability developed in physics, mathematics, and biology (Armand, 1983). A.L.Serebryanny and A.Yu.Skopin examined the origins of the term and the meaning put in it, and came to the conclusion about the need to replace the term by a "sustained development". Some authors, for example, A.M.Trofimov, V.M. Kotlyakov, Yu.P.Seliverstov, V.A.Rubtsov, R. G. Huzeev consider the concept of "stability" in terms of efficiency and strength structure of the system, search for compromises, the taking into account of the interests of the various components in territorial systems in conditions of uncertainty.

In general systems theory the stability refers to the ability of a system to keep moving on the intended trajectory (to maintain the intended mode of operation) despite the impacts of perturbation actions. It is possible to represent the following definition based on the concept of socio-economic systems. Stability of a system (Gladkiy and Chistobaev, 2002) is its ability to remain relatively unchanged (save its structure and functional features) within a certain time frame in spite of external and internal perturbation actions.

Currently, there are dozens of definitions of sustainability. Upon that, only some of them the state of stability in certain specific respect. This includes the presence of many synonyms (Batoyan, 1989).

In turn, a number of researchers classified the process of sustainable development into categories (e.g., absolutely stable, intermittently-stable, cyclically unstable), or try to beat the terms (for example, whether it is sustainable or balanced, or some other, or simply to justify the term.

No matter how much inconsistent were determinations of sustainability of territorial systems (Kasimov, et. al., 2004), quite obvious unity can be traced there.

The concept of "sustainable development" (Animitsa, 1996, p. 194 - 204) is greatly blurred in its content. For example, the overall stability of territorial systems consists in stability of economic growth (production and consumption levels), stability of economic development (per capita welfare), stability of natural resources (reserves of these resources in the environment) (Gorlinsky, 1994), etc.

However, two semantic components can be distinguished in the definition of sustainable development: the essence of development and the conditions necessary for realization of stability.

In general, the development involves a process aimed at improving human life. According to Dudley, "development is not just the increase in wealth. It means a change: change

in behavior, aspirations and way of perception of the world". "Economic growth in itself does not determine the development. Development is a broad concept which includes changes in the human and institutional levels, as well as economic growth ". It involves a wide range of issues related to quality of life such as average-expectancy life, infant mortality, education level, access to fundamental freedoms, the composition of food, and spiritual well-being.

In other words, a development should not be seen as a problem for technicians and engineers, it is necessary to pay more attention to the historical, cultural, social, economic and political reality. In addition, the main focus of sustainable development is made on transfer of achievements in the future, so that future generations would not left at a disadvantage. In this context, sustainable development has received the following definition of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED): "development that meets the needs of the present time and without prejudicing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In the work of D. Reid, the sustainable development refers to a development strategy covering all the assets (natural, human resources, financial and other), so that to increase the wealth and prosperity in the long term perspective. Sustainable development as the goal reject policy and practices that support the existing standard of living at the expense of depletion of the production base, including natural resources, and leave future generations in the face of less rosy prospects and greater risks than they have themselves.

## CONCLUSIONS

Above context of understanding of sustainable development focuses on the following criteria. Firstly, sustainable development primarily regarded as a long-term environmental preservation and conservation strategy without ignoring the present time. Secondly, it offers a balanced level of prosperity for generations at all levels. Thirdly, it is perceived as a universal setting which is applied to all countries regardless of their level of development, socio-cultural and political conditions.

At the same time, we can distinguish three types of stability related to accounting of the spatial factors: 1) positional stability - relatively static concept which reflects fixity of system elements in a given area, it is related to existence of systems and their components; 2) structural stability - the concept that reflects the availability of links (real and potential) between the elements of the system or different systems and having a static-dynamic nature; 3) functional stability which defines the dynamics of systems, the actual existence of spatial interactions between elements of the system and other systems (Lipetz, 1983).

## RESUME

To sum up the above, we can say that stability is an ability to maintain qualitative distinctiveness, i.e. the structure of the territorial system being in a certain state, while a sustainable environmental and socio-economic development (Agafonov, 2000, p. 110 - 118) refers to a forward movement along the chosen strategic path that allows to reach the objectively progressive social goals of the system.

Responding to the question in relation to what this property is considered, it is noted the ability to withstand stresses, environmental changes, perturbation actions, and extreme conditions for a specified length of time. But there is a problem how to evaluate a stability margin of a territorial system. By and large, an estimation of a stability margin by various sub-

systems cannot be reduced to an integral parameter characterizing any mean value. In each case, the territorial system stability margin can be measured:

- 1) In terms of the intensity of the impact, including the temporal characteristics - duration of continuous exposure period;
- 2) In terms of the indicators tracking a status of the changes under the influence of anthropogenic impact on the territorial system;
- 3) In terms of the indicators reflecting the effects of social and economic nature resulting from the impact of changes of the territorial system.

An important notice here is that the stability limits are very mobile, so a stability margin should be constantly updated for monitoring.

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