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Best examples of tourism environmental management at the destinations: Integrative literature review

Abstract. *The article considers the studies and researches in the best examples of tourism environmental management at the tourism destinations and the important issues that have emerged. This work is found on an integrative literature review on tourism, sustainability policy and involvement of local communities at decision-making processes which connected with the tourism environmental management. Furthermore, major 50 research themes have been categorized and research frameworks have been developed based on literature gaps.*

Previous studies have investigated the different reasons for adopting sustainability experience and practices, such as the local communities' influence on environmental management, personal advantages, and knowledge of environmental problems. The findings of the article are reviewing best environmental management case studies, including Australia, Malaysia, Ecuador, South Africa etc. and using them for the future research in different countries. The originality of the research lies in giving the compressed overview on the tourism environmental management for 20-year publications. The impact of this study might provide guidance in this area and help develop the future research.

Keywords: *environmental management, sustainability, environmental regulations, ecotourism, local communities.*

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Introduction

Concerned about the negative actions in the tourism industry development have led to calls for tourism businesses to hold responsibility for the environmental and social impact, which they have on the tourist destinations they rely on.

Tourism industry impacts have been underestimated due to the multiplicity of service sector suppliers it involves; making it harder to measure influences and attribute responsibilities [1,2].

The purpose of the article is to look at the actual development stage of the best examples of tourism environmental management research

and some of major issues, which received the attention. The object of the research is best environmental management case studies, including Australia, Malaysia etc. The subject of the paper is features of development of a mechanism for environmental regulating the recreational impact of state and local government at the destinations.

Best examples of tourism environmental management at the destinations chosen for the research, however, even though the authors consider some examples as 'best', there is still a problems there.

As it turns out, the tourism industry has a significant negative impact on the environment at tourist destinations, including pollution and waste. However, countries can reap several benefits from environmental management and ecotourism development: a first step is to make sure that both local residents and tourists are aware of conservation efforts in the tourism destinations. This creates employment opportunities for the local population while also helping them to better understand why ecotourism is important in preserving the environment. For tourists from other countries, tourism environmental management promotes the local culture. Natural and cultural resources

may not be available to residents of tourist areas, particularly those who live in rural areas. Community and park authorities have less trust in each other, less communication, more conflict, and fewer opportunities to participate in environmental management decision-making activities as a result of this situation. When indigenous people and tourism goals are not closely linked, the tourism sector faces significant challenges to its survival and growth. In addition, international involvement and participation on tourism industry could have negative consequences for travel destinations [3,4,5].

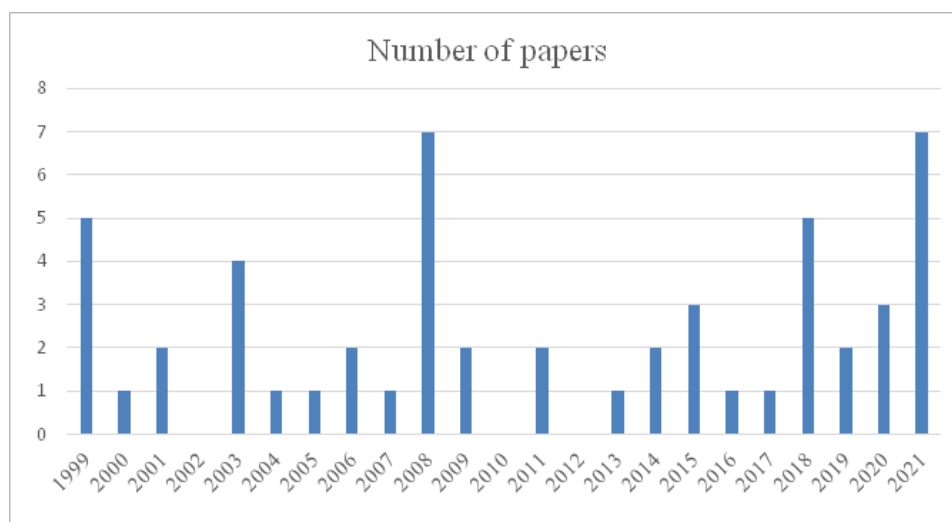
Methodology

The methodology as integrative literature review covered such authors papers as Cabral C., Dhar R., Chang, W., Katrichis, J. [4,5], which considered through the bibliographic databases, Scopus, and Web of Sciences services including, books, electronic journals, guidelines of tourism organizations, and various Internet search engines over a 20-year period. Overall, more than 150 papers found, and over 50 were selected for the research. The following steps have done through the article:

- Create a classification framework for categorizing existing knowledge on topics.

Figure 1

Number-year: papers considered for research



Note – compiled by the authors based on [4,5]

- Extensive search in the science database for published papers on the best examples of the tourism environmental management.
- Based on the findings, create a research gap and present it as an impact on the research.

Results and discussion

Classification framework

The period under review was between 1999 and 2021. Thus, over 50 studies were analyzed during this research (figure 1). During the research the main authors in sustainable tourism, Fennell D.A., Honey M., Higginbottom K., Scott N. [2,3,6] works considered.

The latest articles on the tourism environmental management written by also included into the paper. Giglio V.J., Luiz O.J., Ferreira C., Groselj P., Stirn L.Z., Gülsen U., Yolcu H., Ataker P., Erçakar I., Acar S., Kornilakia M., Font X., and Liu S., Wang X., Guo G., Yan Z. wrote about problematic issues on the environmental management in tourism industry [1,7-10]. Other researchers, Ferreira, S., Harmse, A., Machado V., Contreiras J.P., Duarte A.P., Nguyen M.H.T., Hodgetts D.J., Carr S.C., Fennell D.A., Mbaiwa J.E., Pegas F.V., Castley J.G., Stronza A., Perni A., Martínez-Paz J.M. etc. [11-18] focused on the tourism environment work

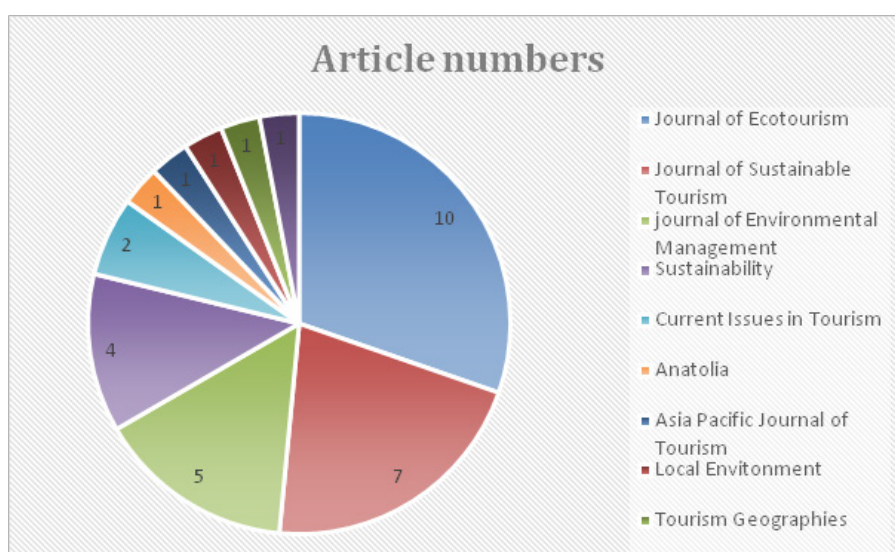
management in various countries. There are benefits to using secondary data in the article (for example, to save research time) because theme of the article needs case studies compares.

Extensive search

Moreover, electronic journals such as the Journal of Ecotourism, Sustainability, and Journal of Environmental Management can help the researchers to get the information they need (figure 2). In addition, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) [19] includes some case studies of equatorial ecotourism initiatives that are useful for research. As several authors as Holden A., Zeppel H., Barter M., Newsome D., Calver, M., Hall D., Richards G., Firth L., Timothy J.D., Boyd W.S., Black R., Crabtree A., Ryan C. take different approaches to the importance of ecotourism in countries that are prone to ecotourism in the tourism industry [20-27].

Tourism industries that emphasize ecotourism and environmental management have adopted a new definition of what it means to be a tourist in order to expand their economic opportunities. Environmental protection and sensitivity to the needs of the host community

Figure 2 Journals name



Note – compiled by the authors based on [4,5]

are often viewed as ancillary to sustainability and environmental management, leading to a muddled understanding of ecotourism's core principles of protection and consideration. There are countries that prioritize financial gain over environmental and social benefits because of this. Environmental habitats are harmed, regardless of the economic status of the countries involved in ecotourism and environmental management development [28-33].

Ecotourism is a growing industry in places like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and elsewhere because it helps preserve natural landscapes and indigenous cultures by integrating environmental and cultural management. Yet, the lack of regulations and restrictions that govern the ecotourism industry and environmental management in developed countries has a negative impact. They also say that without monitoring, ecotourism development is impossible [33,34,35].

Tourist-friendly countries should learn from those that have a long history of environmental success. Best practices should include the participation of local communities in environmental management, flora conservation, educational activities, partnerships with local tourism companies, promotion of wildlife laws (regulations, guidelines), and control of tourism activities by local authorities, according to Ferreira S., Harmse S., and Swarbrooke J. [11,35]. Ecotourism and long-term development contribute to the sustainable development and environmental management of destinations. Community involvement and protecting tourist destinations' environment and culture have also been discussed by Fennell D.A. and Honey M. [2,3]. Also covered in these examples were the destination regulations and restrictions mentioned in the work of Fennell D.A., UNEP, Hall D., Kirkpatrick I., Mitchell M., Heslinga H.J., Hartman S. [8,36-38]. They also said that because different countries' ecotourism and environmental management regulations and laws are not always the same, different countries have come up with different solutions to the problem (nature conservation, environmental management, and community welfare).

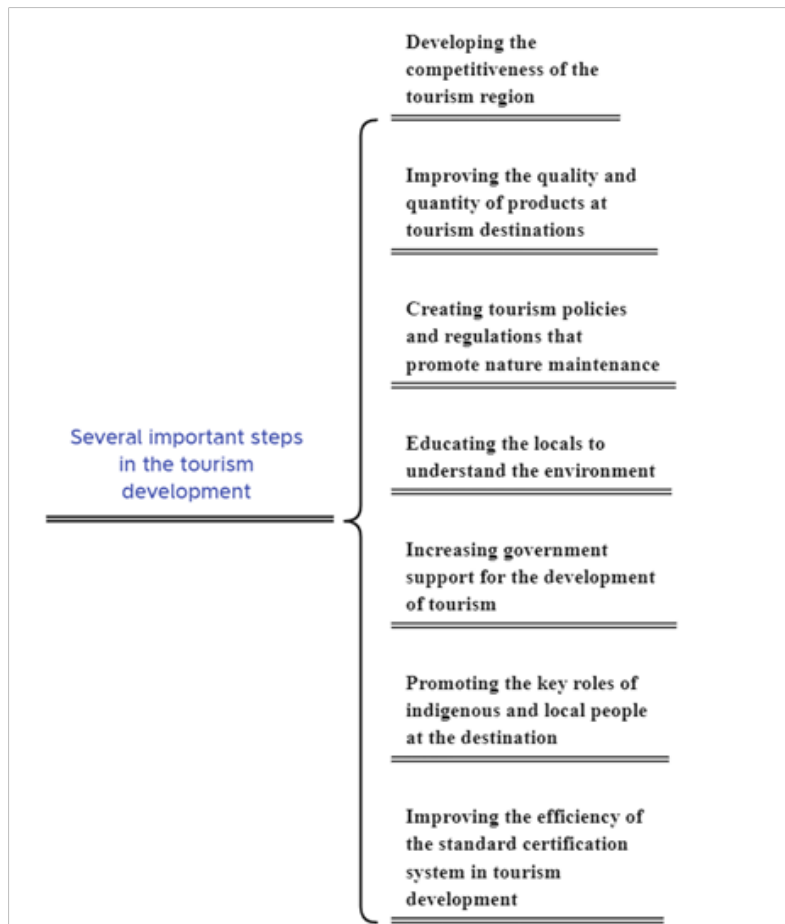
Developing ecotourism in some countries will have a significant impact on their economic future. Nations ready for change should implement more conservation-friendly regulations (policies and laws), use high-tech technology and involve children and younger generations in the development process. Unmanned aerial vehicles (small planes) could be used in ecotourism and environmental management in Malaysia, for example. Airplanes use video and photography from a variety of heights to promote the activities of potential tourists in the natural landscape. Drones can also serve as a tour guide [39-42].

Educational activities on environmental protection in tourist destinations facilitates to the growth of ecotourism and environmental management through sustainable development according to Fennell D.A., Liu Zh., Yin J., Huang S., Zhong L., Sun S., Li X. [14,41,42]. If children are given awards for their efforts to protect different species, they will be more inspiring and the majority of their efforts will be long-lasting. Electives on travel can also be offered by schools, so that students can learn more about the subject without damaging the environment or the culture of the destination. Sustainable ecotourism and environmental management can be achieved by establishing long-term strategies and plans for the development of tourism [43,44].

Australia's National Ecotourism Programme, which helps improve Australia's tourism, also enhances the development of the ecotourism industry as a whole. The essential importance of this strategy lies not only in the one-sided advantage, but also in the fact that it is handled in this task. Ecotourism and environmental management practices show that future improvements in tourism can improve the well-being of neighboring communities through ecotourism without harming the environment and can be fruitful in the long run. Recommendations for reducing turbulence in feathered in Australia, as visitor ecotourism practices, such as observing feathered creatures, antagonize the reproduction and behavior of feathered creatures. Finally, the researchers proposed visitor management with two basic goals. One is to reduce the negative impact that visitors have on their normal lives,

Figure 3

Strategic steps in the tourism development



Note – compiled by the authors based on [35]

especially poultry. The other is to spare no time for visitors to meet [43,44].

Birdwatching should be done at a distance from the species during the breeding season for these reasons, so as to avoid any misunderstandings. Additional requirements include a safe distance from any remaining time to avoid interruptions [45,46].

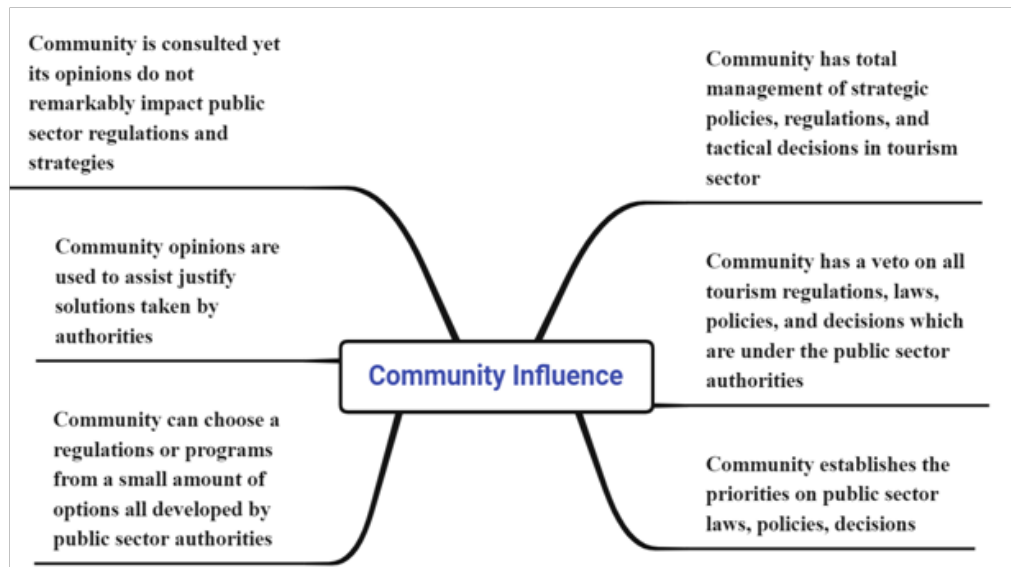
Ecotourism and environmental management in Australia is advancing at a rapid pace, as illustrated in figure 3. As a result, the authors believe that these steps are crucial to Australia's tourism environmental management strategy and that they help the country reap the benefits of the tourism industry. The Australian government adopted Ecotourism Strategy. Public consultations with Australian tour operators, conservation groups, local communities, and

officials from local governments were held by the federal government as part of the strategy preparation process. The strategy's ultimate goal was unanimously agreed upon. People who are part of this process are able to incorporate their own ideas into the final plan [45].

So that it can preserve its advantages, attract tourists, and remain sustainable, the ecotourism industry and environmental management should be subject to regulations or limitations. Regulations, according to Fennell D.A., Lee S., and Jamal T. [14,46], could reduce environmental damage caused by ecotourism. In Canada, tourism activities such as watching marine mammals have a significant negative impact on the whale population. Whale behavior is affected by the large number of whale-watching trips. In order to keep the tourism industry in this area

Figure 4

The ladder of community influence



Note – compiled by the authors based on [17,35]

under control, some restrictions must be put in place. For example, boat speeds should be limited, the number of tour operators should be restricted, and the vessels used for tours should be required to maintain a safe distance from wildlife [47,48,49].

There are a few examples of long-term ecotourism initiatives that consider the welfare of the local communities and environmental conservation at the ecotourism destinations, according to the United Nations Environment Program [36].

Ecuador's Ecotourism Federation has launched around 100 community tourism initiatives to improve local communities and indigenous people's well-being, while also preserving nature at ecotourism destinations over a fifteen year period. More local communities should be involved in ecotourism development, and want to make community-managed tourism financially self-sustaining. Local communities in Ecuador will eventually be able to protect their land, wildlife, and culture while also increasing their own well-being through ecotourism revenue. Strategic Tourism Plan includes a strategy for community-managed tourism, which is one of the state's primary tourism strategies [50].

Second, the United Nations Environment Program concluded that the Pafuri Camp community-managed initiative started by the local community, a Safaris private company, and the local government in South Africa, to protect the wildlife and ecosystem in the region and to improve the welfare of the local people. The community-managed initiative aims to involve the local community in ecotourism development while also generating revenue from the ecolodge's construction and ecotourism activities (such as night walks, bird watching, game drives, and wildlife hides); in addition, the community-managed initiative aims to reinvest ecotourism income in the community's conservation biodiversity projects and the community we serve.

Locals also work ninety percent of the time in the ecotourism sector. The initiative resulted in the community receiving roughly eight percent of the ecolodge income, with most of the funds reinvested in improving local social development, developing local businesses, and conserving wildlife and ecosystems [51].

Eventually, the example of both South Africa and Ecuador presents community-led ecotourism and environmental management projects can be

successful without hurting nature or the people who live in the places where they happen. People started to think about how to get more people to help with tourism in their community (figure 4).

Research gap

Despite the best examples of environmental management in the tourism industry, there are still some negative experiences. According to Fennell D.A. and Mbaiwa J.E. [14,15], countries like Botswana that have made ecotourism a priority in their environmental management development have done so primarily because of the economic benefits it brings. They do not adhere to the principles of tourism, which are designed to protect the environment and those who live in and around tourist attractions. Many studies have criticized the idea of only profiting from ecotourism and environmental management, and they recommend limiting the participation of ecotourism and environmental management participants with regulations and restrictions. As a result, the local people, the environment, and its habitats will be safeguarded.

When it comes to developing countries like this African country and other places where ecotourism and environmental management is prevalent, the local people who participate in this sector receive very little in return. To ensure long-term success, it is critical to involve residents in planning for the future of their communities. Domestic communities also play an important role in protecting their local environment and culture. Fennell D.A.'s works include examples of regulations and restrictions at the destinations mentioned in these examples [14].

In fact, promoting tourism is a common strategy employed by many countries in an effort to broaden their economies. There are no mandatory environmental and community welfare regulations in the country, for example. A number of multinational tourism companies (such as safaris) also manages state's national parks and reserves. The term "exit tourism" refers to the fact that the tourism industry is owned by foreigners or businesses. Ultimately,

these businesses only benefit the country in one way: by paying taxes. As a result of lax regulation and widespread corruption, ecotourism benefits such as environmental preservation and local economic development are largely being ignored. The state's environmental management is also hampered by poaching, local and regional management failures, and a scarcity of marketing expertise among residents [50,52].

Conclusions and recommendations

The article examines studies and research on best practices in tourism environmental management at tourism destinations, as well as significant issues that have appeared. This work is based on an integrative literature review on tourism, sustainability policy, and local community involvement in decision-making processes, and major 50 research themes, as well as research frameworks developed based on literature gaps, have been categorized. Therefore, composing a classification framework for categorizing existing knowledge on themes; extensive search in the science database for published papers on the best examples of the tourism environmental management; based on the findings, creating a research gap and present it as an impact on the research are covered in this paper.

Previous researches have investigated the various reasons for adopting sustainability experiences and practices, such as the influence of local communities on environmental management, personal benefits, and knowledge of environmental problems. The findings of the article include reviewing best environmental management case studies from Australia, Malaysia, Ecuador, and South Africa, among others, and using them for future research in different countries.

Many tourism industry authors have written that if the tourism sector damages environment at the destinations without any protection, so in the future the local government has to spend a lot of money in order to restore it. There is no doubt that the environmental management would

be the perfect decision to solve this problem. Therefore, development of a mechanism for environmental regulating the recreational impact of state and local government for the sustainable development is important.

Sustainable tourism is becoming increasingly popular as a means of economic diversification for many countries. As a result, key terms in tourism, such as "environmental protection" and "consideration for the interests of local residents," are often interpreted differently because they are considered dependent factors of "sustainability". Therefore, governments in certain countries are more concerned with the financial benefits of tourism than with the environmental and social benefits.

Some developing countries with weak economies may therefore have a successful model of ecotourism development (with the local communities' participation in environmental conservation and long-term decision-making) in the future. Countries that are already developed may not be evolving. Environmental protection and community well-being at ecotourism destinations are rarely jeopardized by a focus on financial gain alone.

- To develop natural resource management (e.g. admission benefits) and cooperation with the ecotourism and environmental management (to train tour operators on sustainable development).
- To improve environmental and business policies and regulations, especially environmental protection and conservation.
- To control the impact of visitors on nature (to create basic electronic data).
- To develop the marketing development in lesser-known ecotourism destinations.
- To empower the local community to manage ecotourism sites (to give local people more freedom of self-determination).

That sounds common, but why do neighboring communities need to follow the instructions and rules of external and internal stakeholders in domestic tourism development? In this case, the partner means some kind of budgetary benefit (in the case of Botswana), but the neighboring community is not only interested in payments, but

also in the protection of the environment, culture and heritage. Unlike when tourist destinations experience the challenges and declines of tourist entry, only the inhabitants with these problems remain and continue to live.

Neighboring communities are forced to participate in feasible tourism improvements for external and internal controls (government, multinational corporations, etc.). The example in the article shows that while the government is trying to differentiate its financial problems through ecotourism, it faces some pitfalls. Overall, developing them on the theme of ecotourism could be a cure, as these countries seem to have some advantages. First, the location of the ecotourism sector allows the state to give social and natural considerations. Neighbors and travelers are aware of almost every species and region in these areas. Also, as a form of tourism, ecotourism creates jobs for neighbors and makes a difference in their natural education. Finally, ecotourism promotes nearby cultures for outside visitors.

This paper could be useful for the future research on this topic for the specific country or region. Consequently, more journals and books can be searched, also finding other best example of tourism environmental management in different countries would be valuable.

There are some limitations to current research that must be addressed in the further research. Firstly, the article was discovered through specific database and library service. For the future research, search may be expanded to include services other than Scopus and Web of Science. Secondly, studies were classified based on sustainability factors such as economic, social and environmental impacts at the destinations that chosen as best examples. As a result, future research can concentrate on other implications such as technical, legal, and political issues. Thirdly, in order to gain different perspectives on best examples research, both the positive and negative aspects of each tourism environmental management aspect must be considered. Finally, future research can be conducted in areas as supply and demand on tourism environmental management, as well as institutional aspects.

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Дестинациялардағы экологиялық туризм менеджментінің ең үздік үлгілері: Әдебиетке интегративті шолу

Аннотация. Мақалада туристік бағыттардағы туризмді экологиялық басқару саласындағы ең үздік үлгілеріндегі зерттеулер мен әзірлемелер және туындаған маңызды мәселелер қарастырылған. Бұл жұмыс туризм, тұрақты даму саясаты және жергілікті халықты шешім қабылдау процестеріне тарту туралы әдебиеттерге жан-жақты шолу жасауға негізделген. Сонымен қатар, 50 зерттеудің негізгі тақырыптары жіктеліп, зерттеу аясы әдебиеттегі олқылықтар негізінде жасалды.

Алдыңғы зерттеулер жергілікті халықтың қоршаған ортаны басқаруға әсері, жеке құндылықтар және экологиялық проблемалар туралы білім сияқты тұрақты даму тәжірибесін енгізудің әртүрлі себептерін қарастырды. Мақаланың нәтижелері туризмді экологиялық басқару бойынша үздік кейс-стади шолу қоса алғанда, қоршаған ортаны басқару бойынша үздік үлгілеріне соның ішінде Аустралия, Малайзия, Эквадор, Оңтүстік Африка және т.б. мысалға шолу және әр түрлі елдерде болашақ зерттеулер үшін оларды пайдалану болып табылады. Зерттеудің өзіндік ерекшелігі 20 жылдық басылымдар үшін туризмдегі қоршаған ортаны басқаруға қысқаша шолу жасау. Осы зерттеудің нәтижелері осы салада басшылық бола алады және болашақ зерттеулерді дамытуға көмектеседі.

Түйін сөздер: қоршаған ортаны басқару, тұрақты даму, экологиялық нормалар, экотуризм, жергілікті халық.

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Лучшие примеры экологического менеджмента туризма в дестинациях: интегративный обзор литературы

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются исследования и разработки в рамках лучших примеров управления окружающей средой в сфере туризма и возникающие при этом наиболее важные проблемы. Данная работа основана на интегративном обзоре литературы по туризму, политике устойчивого развития и вовлечения местных сообществ в процессы принятия решений. Кроме того, здесь классифицированы

основные темы 50-ти ранее опубликованных исследований, а рамки настоящего исследования определены на основе пробелов в литературе.

В предыдущих исследованиях изучались различные причины внедрения опыта и практики устойчивого развития, такие как влияние местных сообществ на управление окружающей средой, личные ценности и знание об экологических проблемах. Результаты статьи представляют собой обзор лучших тематических материалов по управлению окружающей средой, включая Австралию, Малайзию, Эквадор, Южную Африку и т.д., и перспективы использования их для будущих исследований в разных странах. Оригинальность исследования заключается в предоставлении сжатого обзора по управлению окружающей средой в сфере туризма за период 20-летних публикаций. Результаты этих изысканий могут послужить руководством в данной изучаемой области и помочь в разработке будущих исследований.

Ключевые слова: управление окружающей средой, устойчивое развитие, экологические нормы, эко-туризм, местные сообщества.

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