



THE ROLE OF NATURAL FORESTS IN PROMOTING ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN NINEVEH GOVERNORATE

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 10th June 2023 Accepted: 11th July 2023 Published: 14th August 2023</p>	<p>The role of the tourism sector and its development at the global level has a great impact on the development of national income, as well as being a relaxing factor for members of society to spend time and gain and develop experiences. Perhaps one of the most prominent types of tourism is ecotourism, which depends on the element of nature and environmental sustainability as its basis. Forests have long been associated with recreational and tourism experiences around the world, where relaxing outdoors is an important part of the daily lives of most of the world's population. Since Mosul's forests cover the largest area of the city, it is important to highlight the importance of exploiting this green space in promoting ecotourism in the city of Mosul. The research aims to highlight the importance of natural resources in the city of Mosul represented in forests to achieve ecotourism from the definition of ecotourism, its concepts, objectives, conditions of application and its economic, environmental and social impact. This leads to realistic development at the environmental, local and national levels, as well as a positive impact on sustainable development .</p>

Keywords:

The first topic (Tourism Concepts)

• Tourism:

Tourism is one of the most developed industries in the world, as it has become the most important sector in international trade, which economically represents a productive sector that affects the improvement of national income and contributes to addressing the problem of unemployment, as well as a source of hard currency and the achievement of development programs on the ground (Tawfiq, 1997). The first attempts to define the concept of tourism appeared in the eighties of the nineteenth century, where the German scientist Guyer Freuler described it as a modern phenomenon that arose due to the increased need to feel the beauty of nature and the human need to feel comfortable, joy and pleasure by staying in areas characterized by their own nature, and tourism is a product of the development of transportation (Badhadho, 2010). As for the social and civilizational aspect, it represents a dynamic movement linked to the cultural and civilizational aspects of man, that is, it represents a civilized message and a way of communication between cultures and human knowledge of peoples and nations, as well as a natural product of the development of tourist communities and the high standard of living of the individual (Tawfiq, 1997).

While the modern concept of tourism is defined as a social phenomenon that includes the movement of an individual or a group of individuals from their usual place of residence to places outside or within their countries, the World Tourism Organization has given another definition of tourism represented in "the movement of a person from one place to another for different goals and periods, where the time period exceeds twenty-four hours and less than the year (Ayachi, 2013). Its original environment (Al-nesoor, 2007). Tourism contributes significantly to the creation of civilizational communication through knowledge and cultural exchange and what is built upon it to spread peace and love between communities. This made tourism services receive great attention by developing countries that have natural human and tourist attractions of all kinds, as countries resorted to developing tourism facilities in an effort to catch up with developed countries (Karim, 2012).

• Ecotourism:

A- Definition of ecotourism

Ecotourism is defined as the activity of visiting natural areas with the aim of studying, learning or carrying out environmentally friendly activities, which contribute to the economic and social development of local communities. As it represents a branch of sustainable tourism, where ecotourism is an important tool in sustainable development, so developing countries have



resorted to paying attention to it and including it in economic development strategies (Kiper, 2013), as it defines it as a tourism pattern that aims to preserve tourism resources and ensure their sustainability for as long as possible by contributing to the development and support of the positive effects of tourism activities, and reducing the negative effects of these environmental activities (Al Qasimi, 2014). Ecotourism is also defined as a geographical phenomenon based on the natural environment, its economic structure, its human engine and its pioneer psychological and mental pleasure (Abdelkader, 1975).

It reflects the spirit of shared responsibility between the environment and local cultures, as ecotourism includes several aspects including hiking, diving, nature and wildlife watching as well as cultural tourism with attention to the ecosystem, biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable development (McKinney, 2016).

B- The roots and origins of ecotourism:

The eighties of the twentieth century witnessed the emergence of the term eco-tourism, which represents one of the modern trends of global tourism, as one of the environmentally friendly tourism patterns that emerged as a result of natural and cultural heritage and fungal communities in accordance with the controls of preserving environmental resources and developing local communities. Some of the activities that characterize these environments (Ibrahim, et al. 2019)

Mexican architect Ceballos-Lascurain used the term ecotourism for the first time in the early eighties of the twentieth century, and he also referred to himself that he used the term in 1983 for the first time when he was working on the development of the NGO PRONATURA, which supported wetland conservation activities to ensure and ensure the continuity of bird breeding in their habitats, such as the American flamingo, after noticing that there are increasing numbers of tourists interested in bird watching, especially from North America, where he reached These tourists can boost and encourage the local rural economy, create new jobs and preserve the environment in the region.

Ceballos-Lascurain described ecotourism as travel to relatively unpolluted and tranquil natural areas for the purpose of studying wild flora and fauna and enjoying the landscapes and cultural manifestations found in those areas, whether ancient or modern (Daoudi, 2010). The World Environment Fund has defined ecotourism as tourism that depends primarily on nature and travel to natural areas that have not been polluted and whose natural balance has not been

disturbed to enjoy their picturesque scenery (Rawashdeh, 2009). There are also several names for ecotourism, including: alternative tourism, responsible tourism, and sustainable tourism (Mirsanjari, 2012).

It is also defined as practicing activities that are not harmful to the environment to deepen knowledge of natural environments and their components and ways to deal with them carefully and honestly, as well as awareness and sense of their characteristics and requirements, and these activities include: walking in a valley or coast and frequenting forests, river banks, highlands and prairies (Bouakrif, et al. 2016). It can be said that ecotourism includes environmentally friendly tourism activities that aim to preserve natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity. As well as being an important factor in the development of communities and maintaining the well-being of the local population to live for the local community and gain economic benefits. As well as raising environmental awareness by exploring the environment, providing environmental experiments and participating in environmental science through activities that give direct impressions of how ecosystems work which in turn affect people's ways of thinking in a positive way (Kiper, 2013). Through the above definitions, we can conclude that the success of ecotourism depends on the state's focus on supporting environmentally friendly tourism by protecting and preserving nature so that it has a low negative impact on the environment to achieve environmental sustainability, as well as supporting meaningful community participation by educating people and raising their awareness of the importance of the environment and their active participation in preserving it.

C- Characteristics of ecotourism:

There are several characteristics that distinguish ecotourism from other types of tourism, as ecotourism should have very little negative impact on the natural resources and recreation technologies of the region. It should also be emphasized that nature represents the essential element of this type of tourism, as well as highlighting the role of individuals, communities, ecotourists, tour operators and government institutions by involving them in the stages of planning, development, implementation, monitoring, respect for the privacy and culture of the local population, as well as employing them and relying on local supplies if available (Kiper, 2013). It should also be a tourism bounded by responsibility and awareness of how to preserve the environment and the sustainability of resources and constantly renew them in order to achieve positive results in the ecotourism industry in



the long term. As well as being a tourism aimed at promoting and choosing the different and personal and psychological relaxation as it combines originality and nature in the cultural heritage and modernity associated with developments in the tourism industry. In addition to the ethical nature, which includes adherence to laws and legislation that contribute to preserving the environment (Saeedani, et al. 2018).

D- The rules of ecotourism:

Ecotourism depends on several rules, including reliance on nature by relying on vital, physical (natural physical) and cultural attractions. By not disturbing the environmental balance resulting from the actions of the tourist and the pollution it may cause in it, and thus we see that there is another relationship between tourism and the environment as a whole and the concept of sustainable development, which represents one of the most important ways for human advancement, but what happened is the opposite as development contributed to the depletion of environmental resources And pollution events in it (Saedani, et al. 2018). Ecotourism also requires the development of strict and effective laws to protect the environment and educate tourists about the importance of preserving natural areas, as well as emphasizing cooperation with local authorities to emphasize the importance of responsible investment in order to meet the needs of the local population and preserve their customs and traditions. It is also necessary to rely on infrastructure that is commensurate with environmental conditions while reducing the consumption of trees for heating and preserving wildlife and cultural life, as well as sound management of natural resources and biodiversity in environmentally sustainable ways (Khan, et al., 2013). This type of tourism must also achieve tourist satisfaction, which is essential for the success of ecotourism in terms of politics and security, to ensure the safety of tourists, potential risks must be effectively managed. The provision of information directed to potential tourists about ecotourism must be accurate (Sufyan, 2023).

E- Types of eco-tourism:

There are different forms of ecotourism that aim to satisfy the needs and motives of the tourist. Therefore, ecotourism has been classified into several categories, including (Saedani, et al. 2018):

1. Exploration tourism: It is one of the most important and dangerous types of ecotourism, because it is a tourism that searches for the unknown and frequenting uninhabited places in order to gain access to new knowledge, verify questionable information, or complete information that has not yet been completed,

and the natural environment is considered the fertile field that explorers visit. To search, study, know the facts, and deal with what is available in the environment in terms of creatures, systems, laws, customs and traditions of the peoples in the tourist destination;

2. Recreation and leisure tourism: It is tourism that aims to search for the necessary rest to restore the psychological and physical powers of the individual, because a person needs diversity in his life and activities to escape from routine and daily work, by going to natural tourist sites and destinations far from the hustle and bustle of the city and its problems for relaxation and recreation. ;

3. Therapeutic eco-tourism: Its purpose is to travel for health or psychological treatment, or to spend a period of convalescence, by visiting areas that have natural healing properties for many diseases, using mineral water, springs of hot water, mud baths or sunlight, sea water and sand.

4. Wildlife observation tourism: in which the tourist watches what happens in the wild, monitors, tracks and studies the life of birds, wild animals and reptiles in their native environment and tries to identify their secrets and understand their behavior and how these creatures adapt to the variables of wildlife, often out of curiosity or Enjoying or developing and acquiring knowledge.

5. Sports tourism: It is related to participation in sporting events, and it is in several forms, such as water sports that are practiced on the sandy sea coasts that are safe from dangers, swimming, diving, boating...etc. And do not forget the sport of skiing and mountaineering. This type of tourism attracts a number of Lots of tourists to watch and encourage.

6. Hunting tourism: This tourism depends on organized hunting under the supervision of the concerned authorities, as it is subject to laws aimed at protecting the environment and biodiversity, by protecting some species of animals threatened with extinction and preventing hunting in some forbidden areas such as natural reserves and also in breeding seasons and preventing the use of some dangerous fishing gear;

7. Seasonal tourism: it is that which takes place in certain seasons of the year and in tourist areas that have appropriate climatic conditions that distinguish them from other regions, and this type of tourism differs according to the season with which it is associated, such as summer tourism, which is often in cold regions Or areas that are available on beaches and winter tourism, and they are in warm areas to enjoy the sun or cold areas in order to enjoy the snow;



8. Eco-tourism according to the tourist area: It is tourism that is linked to the geographical location, features and topography of the tourist destination, and it differs from one region to another, such as beaches, deserts, oases, mountains, countryside, villages...etc.;

9. Domestic or local tourism: It is the type of tourism in which the tourist travels within the borders of his state or country and spends the local currency on it.

10. Foreign or international tourism: It represents the movement of the individual tourist across the borders of different countries and temporary residence in them.

11. Eco-tourism according to the place of accommodation and residence: In this type, the element of accommodation and residence plays an important role in attracting the tourist, as whenever the place is environmentally sound and healthy, the tourist destination is effective, and this type of eco-tourism takes many forms such as resort tourism and it is based on the resort Rural, mountainous or coastal in a quiet and beautiful place, motel tourism and camps, which is economic tourism based on middle-aged youth and income, and it allows spending summer and winter vacations according to appropriate tourist standards, fixed or floating hotel tourism, which is tourism for the wealthy who want to enjoy high-cost services where it is The eco-hotel is small in size, and receives only a limited number of hoteliers.

12. Cultural ecotourism: It is considered one of the most important traditional ecotourism patterns in which the tourist seeks to learn about new things, enrich his information and expand his circle of thought by visiting other regions, studying the conditions of their people and their characteristics. He also seeks to visit cultural, historical and archaeological landmarks and participate in events. Cultural, and this results in tourists coming into contact with other cultures, learning about them, and respecting them. Ecotourism as an entry point for achieving sustainable development

13. Social eco-tourism: This type of eco-tourism aims to get to know people and get close to each other, especially those who share the same hobbies, opinions, and interests. This tourism also aims to maintain social relations, kinship and friendship, and it also allows social scientists to learn about the habits of the inhabitants of the region. Where the tourist destination is located, their nature and characteristics, and how to strengthen social ties between them.

The importance of ecotourism:

Ecotourism has gained great importance through its impact on all levels, where attention can be given to the environment to market a product, and attention

can be paid to monitoring the resources on which the product is based, and thus, preserving both the industry and the resource for a longer period of time, and from here the role of ecotourism emerges as a principle A basis for sustainable industry where resources must be preserved and developed in environmentally sound ways, and thus it supports local economic diversification, especially in rural areas, and stimulates profitable local industries for the sectors of the hospitality industry in terms of providing housing facilities, food services, transport systems and tour guides, as well as It stimulates the development and improvement of the basic infrastructure of society, and it creates local job opportunities, whether in the tourism sector or sectors supporting tourism and resource management, as well as feeding the state's economy with foreign currency and thus improving the local economy, (Stephen et.al 1999) and also contributes to the preservation And the growth of distinctive and endangered traditional handicrafts and souvenirs, through the exploitation of abundant resources and skilled labor by inheritance, which contributes to the optimal exploitation of environmental natural resources (wood, seashells, embroidery, leather) as well as it drives tourism to establish centers and exhibitions for the sale of antiques and gifts And national industries for tourists, especially since the tourist country is considered a permanent exhibition open to tourists. It also has a major role in caring for the restoration and maintenance of antiquities, and preserving them, which is an important element in the tourism environment. In addition to being a preventive approach to maintaining environmental balance (Khan et al., 2013), ecotourism also occupies a political importance: represented in environmental security by not exposing countries to disturbances due to individual dissatisfaction with pollution or damage to the environment, and this is corrected by ecotourism (Friha, 2019).).

• **Tourist and eco-tourist**

A- Tourist: It is a term applied to every person who resides in a place other than his home for various reasons, including travel for a visit, a festival, or treatment, and for a period between twenty-four hours and not more than a full year, meaning that it is not a permanent residence (Rawashdeh, 2009). As tourism represents an activity based on the individual's need to obtain comfort, regardless of the different goals of movement, except for obtaining a job in tourist countries. Therefore, due to the different goals of



movement, the tourist can be classified into the following (Gilani,):

1. The local tourist: a resident person who travels outside his place of residence to other places within the country for several reasons, including smell, entertainment, visiting relatives, treatment, and study.
2. Overnight tourist: means a visitor who uses private or group accommodation to spend at least one night or more outside his place of residence.
3. The daily tourist: He is the visitor who moves outside his place of residence without staying overnight or accommodating.
4. International tourist: He is the visitor who moves to a country other than his place of residence for work, treatment, study or other reasons, and for a period not exceeding one year.

b- The eco-tourist:

An ecotourist is defined as a consumer of tourism who prefers ecotourism over other types of tourism, due to their preferences, principles, tendencies, and psychological orientation (Perkins et al, 2009). Environmental as well as commitment to sustainability. As for the researcher (Abu Rumman, et al. 2009), he described the environmental tourist as a tourist who wants to get to know nature and aspires to obtain a real experience (personal and social) and bears the burdens of the journey to reach his goal, that is, he adapts to the circumstances He also interacts with the local people and draws from their cultures, as well as his willingness to spend money in exchange for his experience. (Al-Ayeb et al., 2016) defined the environmental tourist as a person who is distinguished by a special character, vision and environmental awareness, as well as his ability to take resolute and rejecting positions on the issue of increasing environmental pollution, and supportive of positions that are keen on the safety and protection of the environment.

c. Eco-tourist motives:

There are several motives that make the individual prefer ecotourism over other types of tourism, including (Eagles, 1992; Phan, 2010):

1. The physical impulse stemming from the need for some rest and relaxation
2. Personal motive, such as the need to achieve personal desires or a specific goal, or to visit relatives
3. Personal development motive, including the need to acquire knowledge
4. The emotional motive is strong, which is the emotional attachment to a specific place or to certain people
5. Social motivation, which includes the need to make new friends and interact with others

6. Status motive, which includes getting something exclusive, unique, and trendy

7. Cultural motivation, which includes interest in discovering new places and cultures (The environment and its relationship to ecotourism)

1. Definition of the environment

The environment is defined as the physical surroundings that a person takes as a place to live, which includes water, air, space, soil, and living organisms, as well as facilities that were built to satisfy his needs. The United Nations Conference on Humanitarian Organization (Stockholm 1972) defined it as "the stock of material and social resources available at a time and place with the aim of satisfying human needs and aspirations, Friha et al 2019). Living things to ensure its survival, as it depends on several elements to arrange the life of living organisms, including water, air, and systems. From the above, we can conclude that the environment includes three systems, which are (Ashi, 2010):

1. The natural system: which includes all the natural resources endowed by God, such as climate, land, mountains, seas, forests, valleys, animals and birds. It is also called the natural environment.

2. The artificial system: It includes the industries built by man, such as historical civilizations, buildings and museums, roads and bridges.

3. The social system: It includes the relationships and systems that build a lifestyle in any society and are represented by values, customs and morals that give character to human behavior over time.

2. The relationship between the environment and tourism:

The concept of the environment and tourism are closely related, as each depends on the other, and since ecotourism is a trip to natural areas aimed at understanding the culture and natural history of the environment, and taking care of the environmental system as well as its safety and providing economic opportunities to preserve the integrity and sustainability of natural resources, which in turn It is beneficial to the local population, hence we find that the success of ecotourism cannot be achieved without appropriate environmental awareness (Bhuiyan, et al 2010.). Therefore, the quality of the environment must be preserved, whether it is a natural or man-made environment, but there are many activities that may have a harmful impact on the environment, including public infrastructure such as roads, airports, and tourist facilities such as hotels, restaurants, stadiums, and resorts, which It may cause gradual damage to the environmental resources on which it rests. On the other hand, we find that tourism has the ability to



create opportunities with positive results on the environment, as it contributes to raising the level of awareness towards environmental values by increasing the public's appreciation for the environment and educating them about environmental problems by making people in close contact with nature and the environment as well as Being a means of financing the protection of natural areas, as well as providing tourism services that rely on cleaner production techniques in manufacturing in order to reduce the effects of industry on the environment, i. The nature that tourism highlights for any tourist attraction has a positive impact on the number of visitors to that landmark, and this gives a positive indication of the human relationship with the environment. The more healthy and clean the environment, the more tourism flourishes, and vice versa. We conclude from the above, that environmental degradation may be reflected in tourism in the first place. Therefore, new types of tourism activities have emerged as well as an increase in public awareness of the environment and its importance, which in turn has led tourism as an industry to reconcile with the environment through the development of environmentally friendly facilities aimed at Preserving the environment and satisfying the tourist. However, the expansion of the hospitality industry has a significant impact on the natural environmental biodiversity of the host countries as well as creating pressure on natural and protected areas, biodiversity, archaeological sites and cultural centers, and its negative effects are reflected on the cultural and social values of the local community. .

The third topic (Mosul Forest)

1. Mosul Forest:

The increase in urban expansion in the city of Mosul has a great impact on the city's climate due to the shrinking of green spaces. The city was characterized by its mild climate and clean air. Nineveh artificial forests, which are located in the northern part of the city of Mosul, with an area of 592 dunums, and a height of 220 meters above sea level (Al-Alusi, 2003), constitute one of the most beautiful tourist outlets for the residents of the city of Mosul, which was established in 1954 on the left coast of the city of Mosul. It was called (Typical humpback forests). An area of 10 acres. Where a limited nursery was established to produce forest seedlings, and work continued on it until 1955, and about 200 dunums of land were afforested on the eastern bank of the Tigris River in the northern side of the city with various trees, including (eucalyptus, aspen, juniper, elm, and pine) and then expanded to cover 900 Dunums, as

well as other types of trees that are compatible with the environmental conditions of the city of Mosul (Dar Al-Salam, 2021). Including the first and second Gulf wars 1980 and 1990, respectively. Also, the role of pastoralists and their contributions in unregulated felling led to the loss of natural and artificial trees in their afforestation sites, as well as the destruction of irrigation systems that had an impact on the destruction of forests in various regions of Iraq and natural forests in northern Mosul (Abdul Al-Qader, 2009). Following its occupation and control of the city of Mosul on June 10, 2014, ISIS terrorist gangs transformed the forests of Mosul's forests located on the banks of the Tigris and all its tourist sites into military barracks, after those criminal gangs burned trees and blew up large parts of the city. The tourist role in Al-Sadeer Tourist Complex, Al-Jazeera, the Tourist Village, and the casinos as well, as ISIS criminal gangs were working to transport their weapons and military equipment to the tourist sites in the Mosul forests, and after their withdrawal from the forests on the eve of the liberation of Mosul by the heroic Iraqi security forces, U on the act A huge fire broke out in the forests of Mosul, until it covered the land on the left bank of the Tigris River, causing damage and burning more than 500 trees distributed throughout the forests, which changed the features of the Mosul forests at that time (Dar Al-Salam, 2021)

Therefore, the local government in the city of Mosul, as well as its development departments, has devoted unprecedented efforts to reviving the city and highlighting its tourism role, as well as trying to return Mosul to the map of tourist cities by paying attention to tourist sites and highlighting the importance of the forests of the city of Mosul and rehabilitating them to be a tourist port that has an impact the city's economy and environment. By promoting parks, local services and cultural activities, as well as resorting to green investment to increase green spaces by converting swamps and rubble sites into gardens and parks.

2- The importance of the Mosul forests to the city
Mosul forests are characterized by an essential role in production, as they are used to provide wood that can be used in wood and paper industries, as well as the production of some plants that contribute to human, national nutrition, as well as their protective role for the environmental center in the city, as they prevent soil erosion as well as being functional It purifies the air, and is home to some rare animals, so it has a role in creating ecological balances for the city. Therefore, if this space is properly exploited, it will be a wealth supporting the Iraqi economy. However, there are



several factors that negatively affect the vegetation cover of forests, including:

1. Cutting trees: Trees in the forests of Mosul are exposed to unsystematic, unplanned and unlicensed cutting from time to time. Local citizens usually resort to using wood as fuel in times of war in the absence of oil products and their high prices.

2. Fires: 60 dunums of Mosul forests were exposed on 6/29/2022 to a fire that caused great material losses, as the fire devoured trees over 20 years old, and thus turned this area into charred spots, as this fire preceded, another fire in the Mosul forests. During its liberation operations from ISIS in 2017, followed by another fire in 2020 (kirkuknow, 2022).

3. Investment ambitions: Due to the vital location of the forests in the city, it has made many see it as an investment ambition with a great potential, so we find from time to time that this area is subjected to vandalism in order to bulldoze and seize it and turn it into restaurants and event halls (kirkuknow, 2022)

2- The environmental hotel and its importance:

The hostel and places of residence play a role in attracting the tourist. The more the place of residence is healthy and sound, it will reflect positively on the tourist destination. Therefore, global interest has emerged in recent years by applying one of the architectural theories that aims to achieve integration between architecture and the environment. It has been called Green Architecture. It is a design built in a manner that respects the environment and reduces energy consumption and effective resources and the impact of construction and use on the environment. Environmental architecture is the result of the full and close interaction between the citizen and the environmental factors around him and the environmental design team. The minimum level of environmental pollution and the acceptable limit of health conditions necessary for living, which in turn is reflected in the degree, quality and efficiency of the environment and the extent of the citizen's belonging to that environment and his commitment and awareness of preserving it (Marai, et al. 2020) The environmental hotel aims to diversify the environmental product as well as make tourism practices More in harmony with the environment, as the environmental hotel seeks to preserve the environment and the cultural and cultural heritage of local communities. It is necessary to provide accommodation near or within the natural areas that achieve sound eco-tourism and support the security of the tourist and fulfill his desires and safety.

An eco-lodge can be defined as tourist accommodations based on nature and the

environment that support ecotourism, as this hotel works in ways that preserve environmental resources by introducing the characteristics of nature, heritage, ecotourism paths, and community participation in that environmental system. An eco-hotel is defined as a financially sustainable accommodation facility with a low environmental impact, consisting of 5 to 75 rooms that help protect nearby sensitive areas, based on concepts of benefiting local communities and providing tourists with experiences of participation and interaction (Ahmed, 2017), eco-tourism hotels support activity In addition to achieving environmental sustainability for the local community through research and educational programs, the eco-hotel also plays a major role in preserving natural resources by providing its energy needs through natural designs and renewable sources such as solar energy, reducing energy consumption costs, and using alternatives and means. To obtain water, reduce waste from it, and reduce the costs of waste disposal by paying attention to methods of dealing with solid waste and sewage, as well as providing part of its revenues to spend on efforts to protect and protect the environment and preserve it in order to expand its audience (Thawamriya et al. 2018)

3- Conditions for eco-hotels

Eco-hotels rely on sound environmental practices and provide consumption activity according to innovative forms while encouraging production in order to achieve a set of goals that the environment seeks to achieve (Fogali, 2022), so the design and construction of an eco-hotel has several conditions and factors, including (Ahmed, 2017) (Thawamaria et al. 2018):

- 1- To preserve the surrounding environmental entities and increase their value
- 2- To benefit the local community
- 3- There should be interaction between the local environment entities, visitors and those in charge of the hotel work
- 4- To increase the value of natural resources
- 5- To use technology suitable for functional needs, using energy conservation strategies
- 6- To take care of the use of local resources in the site
- 7- Avoid the use of materials that consume energy and negatively affect the environment
- 8- To guide the use of spaces in a flexible manner without the need to resort to huge blocks
- 9- Dividing the project into implementation phases to provide an opportunity to monitor and follow up the environmental impact of each phase in order to amend the following phases in the light of it.



3- Obstacles facing the state in the environmental management of tourist areas

Despite the diversity of tourist sites in the city of Mosul, which can be invested in the field of eco-tourism, there are several challenges facing the state regions, which prevent the integrated application of environmental systems:

- Lack of sufficient awareness of the nature and importance of tourist areas by those interested in tourism, which makes them vulnerable to exploitation
- Indiscriminate commercial activities are not licensed in the forest area, the random construction of halls, and the use of forest areas as an area for throwing construction waste, in addition to not accounting and imposing fees commensurate with the environmental damage.
- Street vendors who use carts equipped with stoves to make fast food in a way that is not compatible with eco-tourism.
- Absence of domestic tourism programs that support eco-tourism in the city
- Absence of laws, controls and standards regulating environmental tourism activities and lack of local and regional coordination.
- The absence of a database on the status of tourism projects in the region and the absence of directing investment to support sustainable development
- Trespasses on public lands and their exploitation in the absence of the authority of the actual law.

Unconsidered urban expansion from an environmental point of view, as well as the fragmentation of some lands and their conversion into residential ones as a result of the migration of citizens from the right side of the city to the left side after the war on ISIS. The absence of companies or bodies that know the sites and destinations of environmentally friendly tourism that support the local community and contribute in nature conservation.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Tourism contributes economically, socially and environmentally to achieving economic sustainability in the region as well as protecting the social, environmental and cultural aspects.
2. Ecotourism plays an important role in preserving the environment and adds new skills and innovations to the tourism sector
3. Ecotourism encourages people to conserve natural resources and contribute to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage
4. Development must maintain a balance between economic goals and biodiversity through improving

livelihoods, raising awareness and reducing environmental damage.

5. Ecotourism contributes to the preservation and protection of local culture by promoting local products in the region

6. The main objective of ecotourism is to protect the natural environment and improve the sustainability of economic activities. It also introduces the tourist to nature and thus increases the tourist's appreciation of nature and thus increases the tourist's awareness of the importance of preserving and protecting the ecosystem and the sustainability of the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rationalizing the consumption of natural resources in the country and drawing up future plans to conserve natural resources
- Reducing air pollution in the city as well as water pollution by monitoring factories that direct their waste to water and urging citizens to reduce waste of water
- Expanding green spaces and urging citizens to preserve them and imposing financial fines for every act that may lead to their destruction because of their benefit to citizens
- Exploiting sustainable systems in the development of architecture by following design approaches that integrate natural systems and the human pattern

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