

## The importance of sustainable tourism for ecology

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

The primary focus for ecological tourism in Ukraine is on recreational activity; however it is limited by the need to meet environmental protection demands. The legislative pre-conditions for ecotourism organization are stated in the laws, on the natural reserve fund of Ukraine (1992) and on tourism (1995).

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

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

The prognosis for tourism, recreation, health- resort system development determines the main directions of solving the above mentioned problems during three stages: I stage (2001-2006)- the growth of the given branch fund is projected to be 1.2 times; II stage (2006-2016) - 1,5.2 times; III stage (2016-2026)- 2,1.3 times. These are the periods of implementing investment programs, modernization to the world standard levels of the existing tourism infrastructure and ecotourism development - internationally acclaimed phenomenon of the XXI century.

The priority directions of ecotourism development in Ukraine are:

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

The area of potential recreational territories in Ukraine comprises 12,8% of the country's area and is divided accordingly to the natural peculiarities of the regions.

The health-improving resources are unique, since more than 500 mineral water and clay deposits have been found. Beaches comprise 47% of the seashore territory of the Black Sea and Azov Sea. This natural potential needs to be protected, reserved and rationally used because it forms the basis of sustainable development of health-resorts, recreational zones, and tourism.

Ecological tourism in Ukraine has developed within the territory of the natural reserve, in the boundaries of which people can take long-term or short-term vacations, acquaint with the flora and fauna. To the categories of the national reserve fund of Ukraine, where ecological tourism can be developed, belong: national natural parks (Carpathian, Shatsky, Sinevirsky, Azov-Sivashsky and others), regional landscape parks (Dnister Canyon, Kinburn Split, Dikansky and others), and biosphere reserves (Carpathian, Askaniya Nova, Black Sea, Danube).

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