

Natural Parks and Ecotourism in the Region of Gjirokastra in the Southern of Albania

Albina Sinani

University "Eqrem Çabej", Gjirokastër, Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, History/ Geography Department.

Important elements of tourist supply Gjirokastra district are protected areas (national and regional parks). After 1993, with the emergence of environmental law, in Gjirokastra district was created Protected Areas system, according to the criteria of the International Union on conservation of Nature (IUCN). Natural Parks District exercises the main functions of the protected area, as areas where traditional activities can be performed and as a space for recreation and entertainment. Rural space tourist district has precious assets, such as the local market, regional and national, as well as the international. This property presents special interest due to positioning the county in a region with tourist tradition and the important movement corridors tourist. Movements across space tourist place and are perennial, so restful (in the form of picnics and excursions), health, cultural, political, social, educational, economic, etc. Prior to 1990, foreign tourists came from Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Turkey, Greece etc. Opening Kaka vies customs point in 1984 brought the addition of foreign tourists (mostly Greek) and revival of tourism. In the early 1990s there was a genuine tourist development, due to lack of political stability, order and safety, damage to infrastructure and tourism values, etc. Later political factors and socio-economic reassessment affected the tourism sector, development of family tourism and transit (hours or several days), increasing number and expanded the geography of tourists, opening new jobs and increase incomes. To date the region's tourism assets are not used effectively. Rural communities are not yet aware of the importance of development of this sector. However, natural parks and rural tourism offers the opportunity to attract tourist groups to show interest in the nature of the county, rural life, customs, culture, lifestyle and nutrition. This reinforces the fact that the original values that carries natural, eco-tourism in Gjirokastra district is unique.

Keywords: conservation of natural resources, environmental law, landscape protection, multiple use zones, a catalyst of economic growth.

Corresponding author: sinaniaalbina@yahoo.com