

## Article

# International National Park For The Development Of International Ecotourism In The Zarafshan Valley Apply Models

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**Abstract:** With the increasing global interest in ecotourism, projected to grow at an average annual rate of 16.13% from 2023 to 2028, Uzbekistan aims to position the Zarafshan Valley as a significant ecotourism destination. The government's commitment is reflected in initiatives like the Presidential Decree No. PF-9, which sets ambitious targets for international tourism. The study focuses on adopting and adapting global ecotourism models to develop an International National Park in the Zarafshan Valley, aligning it with the region's ecological and cultural characteristics. A multi-dimensional approach was employed to design the park, encompassing biodiversity studies, socio-cultural assessments, and economic feasibility analyses. The research involved identifying conservation priorities, tourist potential, and funding sources. The planning process adhered to international guidelines, leveraging frameworks from UNESCO and IUCN. Strategic land-use zoning, stakeholder engagement, and infrastructure development were pivotal, with inspirations drawn from successful models in the United States, Europe, and emerging ecotourism destinations. The study identifies the American, European, and park-reserve models as adaptable frameworks for the Zarafshan Valley. Key features, such as collaborative management, community participation, and eco-friendly infrastructure, were highlighted. Challenges such as insufficient infrastructure and limited local entrepreneurship were noted, with strategies proposed to address these gaps. The research underscores the potential for sustainable tourism to foster biodiversity conservation and socio-economic benefits. The establishment of an International National Park in the Zarafshan Valley presents a transformative opportunity for Uzbekistan's ecotourism. By integrating global best practices and ensuring local community involvement, the initiative can enhance regional economic development, environmental conservation, and international recognition. Future research should focus on monitoring the park's environmental and socio-economic impact, refining management practices, and scaling sustainable ecotourism models.

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## 1. Introduction

Global experts predict that foreign tourist arrivals would reach 1.809 billion by 2030.[11]. Trip Advisor reports that ecotourists comprise 30% of the global tourist influx, with 70% of tourists indicating a preference for safe ecotours in the forthcoming years. In 2022, the volume of ecotourism within international tourism reached \$215.76 billion, with projections indicating an average annual growth rate of 16.13% from 2023 to 2028.[6].

The swift advancement of global ecotourism will certainly impact the influx of international ecotourists to Uzbekistan. According to Presidential Decree No. PF-9 of January 12, 2024, titled "On measures to significantly enhance the influx of foreign tourists to the Republic and expedite domestic tourism," the objective is to raise the number of international tourists to 10.5 million this year. 1 Consequently, the advancement of ecotourism in our nation is a critical concern in national tourism.

To establish the primary trajectories for the advancement of international ecotourism in the Zarafshan Valley, it is essential to first examine and apply contemporary technology and the scientific and practical outcomes from nations with established ecotourism sectors. The examination of the subject. A multitude of technologies, approaches, and standards for ecotourism development have been established globally. Simultaneously, numerous countries globally are cultivating ecotourism through their own approaches, considering their natural and climatic circumstances. The implementation of the American model in the advancement of worldwide ecotourism in various nations was the first instance globally where this model addressed the recreational and leisure wants of the local populace. The role of national parks and state nature reserves in the advancement of ecotourism is extensively researched in European nations [2.3.5.8].

Presently, six approaches for utilising national parks in the advancement of ecotourism and recreational tourism are acknowledged globally. The implementation of worldwide models in the advancement of ecotourism in the Zeravshan Valley is advised, following the identification of these models as distinct entities and the examination of their particular characteristics [9.10].

## 2. Materials and Methods

The development of an international national park in the Zarafshan Valley to foster ecotourism necessitates a comprehensive methodology that integrates environmental, social, and economic frameworks. The process begins with thorough preliminary research, including biodiversity studies to identify key species, mapping natural resources, and assessing ecological vulnerabilities. This research helps identify high-value conservation areas and potential tourist attractions. Simultaneously, socio-cultural studies are essential to understand the traditions, cultural heritage, and environmental connections of local communities, as well as to evaluate how ecotourism might impact their livelihoods. Economic feasibility analysis should examine current economic activities, potential synergies with tourism, and identify funding sources such as international donors, government programs, and private investments [12].

Strategic planning is the next step, focusing on defining clear objectives, such as promoting biodiversity conservation, fostering sustainable tourism, and encouraging international collaboration. Land use planning involves zoning the park into core conservation areas, buffer zones, and transition areas designated for tourism and sustainable development. The strategy should also align with international frameworks, leveraging guidelines from UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and IUCN protected area categories while integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Active stakeholder engagement is critical for success. Local stakeholders, including indigenous groups, must be involved in decision-making through public consultations and workshops to ensure that park objectives align with community needs. Capacity-building programs should provide training in skills related to ecotourism, such as hospitality, wildlife management, and guiding, while partnerships with international NGOs can offer technical support [13].

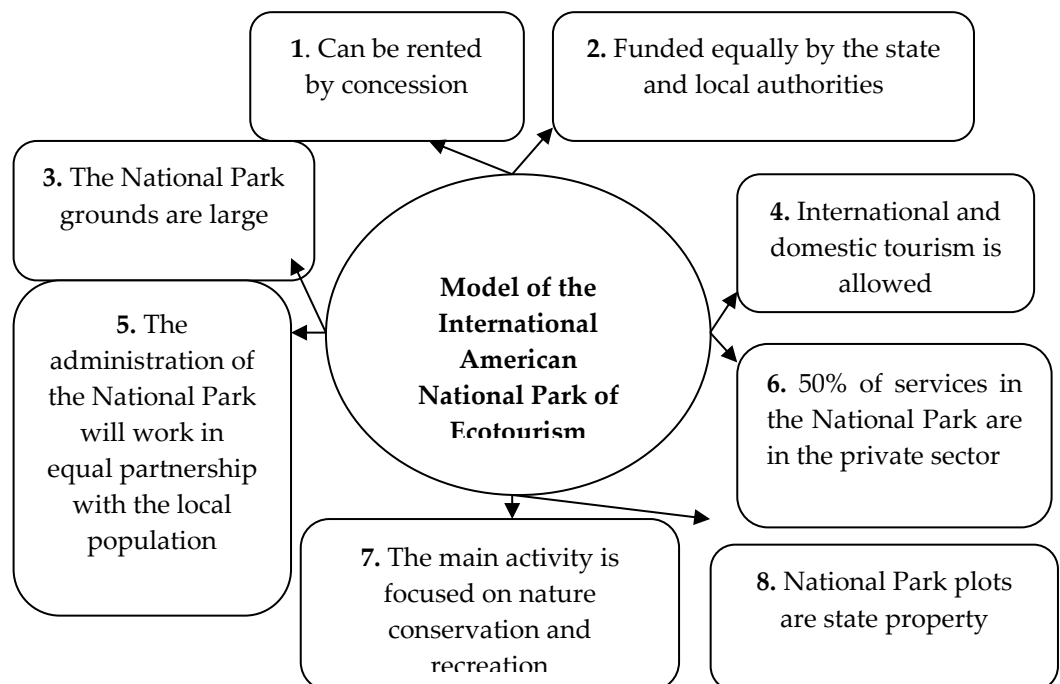
Drawing inspiration from global best practices, the project should adapt successful ecotourism models, such as Costa Rica's balanced approach to conservation and economic development or Nepal's frameworks for community-based tourism that integrate local communities into management and profit-sharing. Infrastructure development should prioritize eco-friendly facilities like lodges, trails, and visitor centers while incorporating

renewable energy solutions and effective waste management systems to minimize environmental impact. Finally, robust monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management processes must be implemented. Metrics for success should include biodiversity indicators and socio-economic outcomes, such as increased community income and visitor satisfaction. Regular monitoring using tools like GIS and remote sensing, along with community surveys, will inform adaptive management practices to refine policies and ensure that the park's development remains sustainable and beneficial for all stakeholders [14]

### 3. Results

The international model of American National Parks of Ecotourism, established in 1982, is distinguished by extensive protected areas, distinctive natural features, diverse ecosystems, and the development of recreational infrastructure [15]. Furthermore, the extensive territories of the United States and Canada, coupled with their substantial populations, the escalation of hunting activities, and the enhancement of international nature conservation efforts, alongside their pioneering collaboration in establishing and advancing national parks, have underscored the timely necessity for the development of ecotourism within the realm of environmental protection. Thirdly, they recognised that the establishment of a park-reserve system is essential for preserving Europe's existing natural environment, which is significantly influenced by contemporary industry, and for ensuring its continuity for future generations [16].

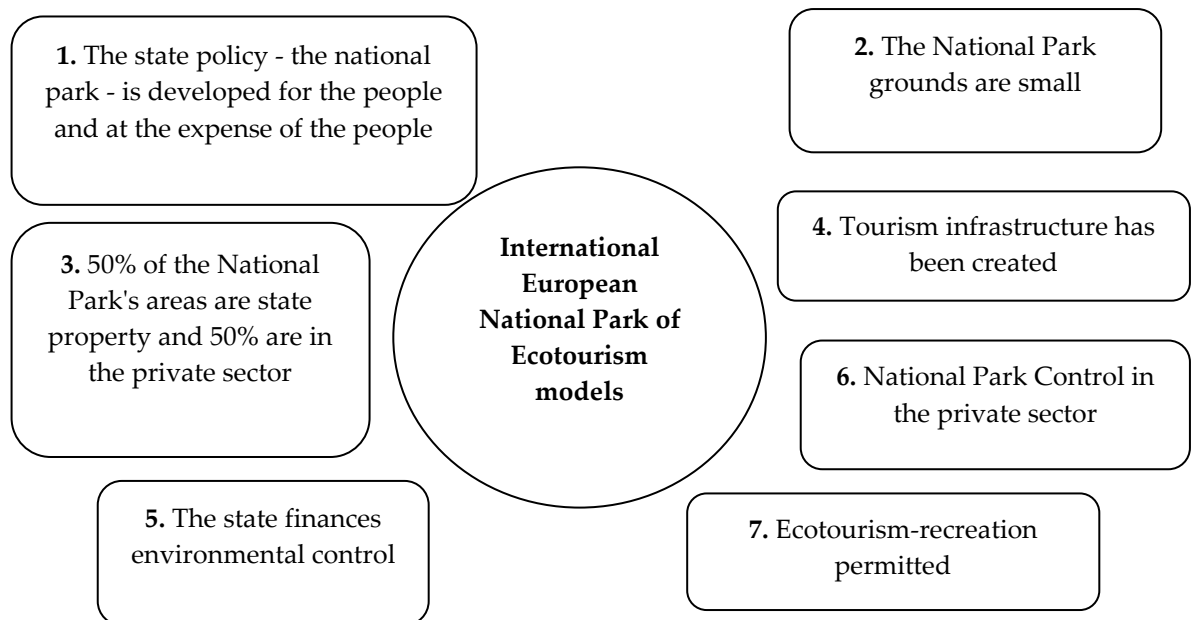
Fourthly, Europeans are among the pioneers in researching methods to conserve and safeguard nature and its resources. The study and instruction of ecological culture within European families is incorporated into preschool education. Consequently, state initiatives for the advancement of ecotourism on a worldwide scale have been established to conserve nature and its resources, addressing a significant global issue, and to ensure their availability for future generations. The creation of ecotourism development models for the execution of these initiatives was a necessity of the era. Since the 1960s, the instruction of courses such as "Communology," "Natural Science," and "Excursion to Nature" in basic education has been augmented in European countries. Europeans are taught from an early age that humanity has an affinity for nature and values it. Their educational framework ought to evolve into a global system focused on environmental conservation for future generations. The largest national parks globally, encompassing several million hectares, effectively operate under this approach. The principal programs in this model are as follows (Fig. 1):



**Figure 1.** Model of the International American National Park of Ecotourism

In advancing international ecotourism inside Uzbekistan's national ecotourism framework, we can implement programs 2, 4, 5, and 7 of this model, which are partially operational in the ecotourism initiatives of our national parks. The subsequent duty is to meticulously examine the programs of the international American national park model of ecotourism and implement them in the national parks of our country. European paradigm. The inaugural European national park was founded in Sweden in 1909 [17]. A actual evaluation of this model was executed in England, and it is now implemented in European nations and Japanese ecotourism. It is significant that although the inaugural European national park was founded in Sweden, its development was pragmatically influenced by Great Britain. The model has undergone testing in Europe and Japan, demonstrating successful operation. We ought to emulate the collaborative efforts among nations in advancing ecotourism. We must emulate the collaborative efforts across nations in advancing ecotourism [18]. This concept is characterised by the limited amount of national park areas and the elevated level of environmental awareness and culture within the populace. The state provides funding for this scheme. As a result, transit, road networks, and ecotourism infrastructure are created to an exceptionally high degree [19].

Another characteristic of national parks in the European model is that over 50% are privately owned. The principal aim of national parks is to enhance the well-being of the populace and facilitate recreational opportunities. Consequently, there is a considerable influx of domestic ecotourists, while the number of international ecotourists remains strong. The principal programs in this paradigm are as follows (Figure 2):



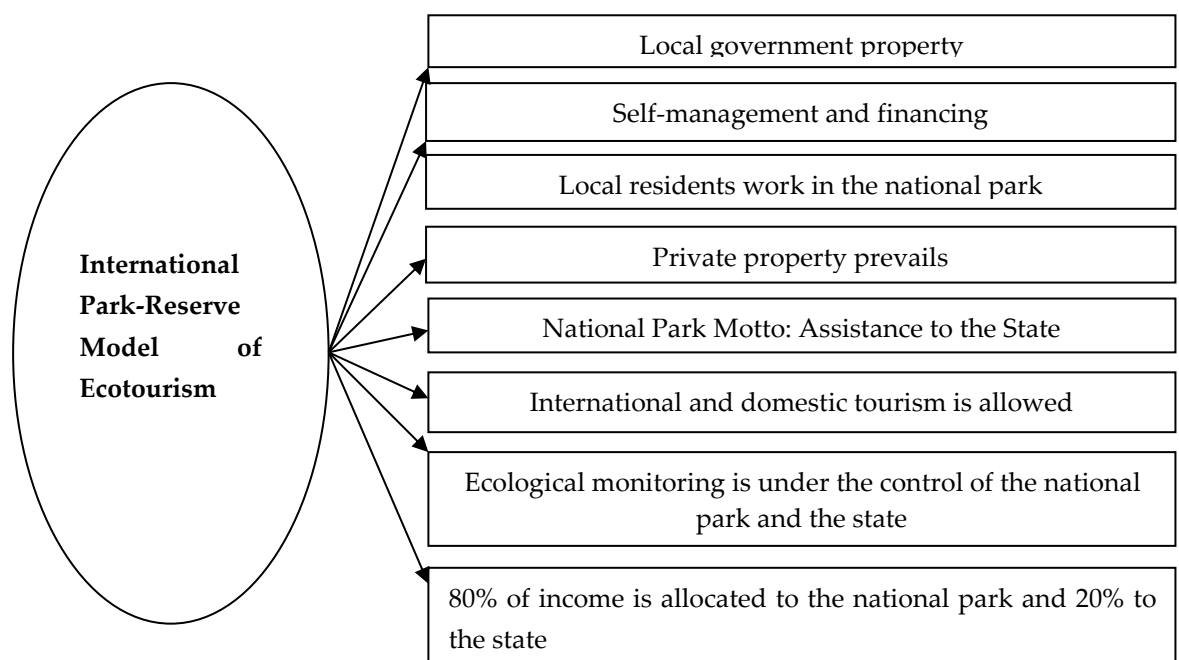
**Figure 2.** Model of the International European National Park of Ecotourism

In the advancement of international ecotourism inside Uzbekistan's national ecotourism framework, we may implement programs 1, 3, and 5 of this model. Programs 4, 5, and 7 are currently operational in our nation's ecotourism sector, and we must surmount numerous challenges to implement the program. The development model of the park's reserve is fundamentally distinct, indicating that the financing of national parks

is not derived from the state but rather supported by it. The fundamental principle of national parks in their operations is the conviction in one's own capabilities and the concept of self-sufficiency. This concept was established in the mid-20th century and is currently prevalent in emerging nations. The nominal fee for accessing the national park is minimal, resulting in significant visitation by both local and international ecotourists (Fig. 3).

The nominal entry fee for the national park attracts a significant number of both domestic and international tourists. The paramount component in the reserve park model is the elevated degree of ecological knowledge and culture among Europeans. The operation of this national park system holds substantial importance. Many decades have elapsed since Europeans embraced the adage "Keep your home clean." The global populace is acutely aware, through historical lessons, that Europeans exhibit steadfastness in collaboration and camaraderie [20].

Furthermore, the inhabitants of Europe recognise that life's challenges cannot be addressed without collaboration. Thirdly, they recognised early on that the establishment of a park-reserve system is essential for preserving Europe's existing natural environment, which is significantly impacted by contemporary industry, and for ensuring its transmission to future generations. Fourthly, Europeans are among the pioneers in researching methods to conserve and safeguard nature and its resources. The study and instruction of ecological culture within the European context is incorporated into preschool education.



**Figure 3.** International Park Reserve Model in the Development of Ecotourism

The implementation of this model's programs in the advancement of international ecotourism within Uzbekistan's national ecotourism is now regarded as quite intricate. An examination of the model programs reveals substantial disparities between Europeans and ourselves regarding environmental conservation and recreational practices in nature. We must commence the development of programs based on this approach. Methods for using worldwide ecotourism paradigms in the advancement of global ecotourism inside the Zeravshan Valley. Following an analysis of research findings regarding the application of international models in the Zeravshan Valley for the advancement of international ecotourism objectives in Uzbekistan, several promising possibilities can be identified.

Formulation of legislative and regulatory instruments at the state level for the advancement of international ecotourism in designated protected areas, natural reserves, and national parks within the Zeravshan Valley.

A critical issue in the advancement of international ecotourism in the Zeravshan Valley is the establishment of frameworks for the "System of Organisation and Management of Ecotourism" within the departments and administrations of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its regional entities in the Zeravshan Valley.

A critical challenge in the advancement of international ecotourism in the Zeravshan Valley is the insufficient tourist infrastructure, attributable to the remoteness of ecotourism resources from cultural hubs. Consequently, it is imperative to provide a framework of infrastructure and services for ecotourists in designated protected areas, state nature reserves, and national parks, while advancing ecotourism initiatives. A significant challenge in advancing international ecotourism in the Zeravshan Valley is fostering interest, entrepreneurship, and initiative among the local population, alongside the formulation of preferential state policies that safeguard the social and economic interests of the community.

A significant challenge in the advancement of international ecotourism in the Zeravshan Valley is the absence of specialised tourism enterprises or organisations dedicated to ecotourism. Consequently, establishing tourism enterprises that facilitate ecotourism and offer related services in valley regions is a critical objective in the advancement of ecotourism.

#### **4. Discussion**

The solution to the problem of the development of ecotourism in Zarafshan Valley consists of a complex range of factors, since it is a many faceted one. International models, which are as useful as they are distinct from one another, offer insight and opportunities for the proper exploitation of local advantages as well as potential absences or gaps. Large-scale protected areas and funding partnership is the major principle of the American model of nature conservation that could be effective for the long-term perspective, but the approach needs intensive state support. The European methods emphasise small parks and local private sector participation which brings in improved community participation but requires cooperation both in matters of environmental education as well as cultural compatibility. The reserve model that implied self-governing and financial autonomy might encourage entrepreneurial activity among indigenous peoples, but it requires sound legal and institutional frameworks and increased environmental sensitivity to avoid depletion of resources.

Each model has its benefits and drawbacks, but all are poised with the valley's problems including lack of basic infrastructure, physical access to the area, and organizing local endeavors for the global eco-tourism market. Using critical evaluation and incorporation of factors from these models, the Zarafshan Valley is in a position to develop a sustainable tourism model that suits the ecological, ethno-cultural and social niche. In order for sustainable tourism to be efficiently implemented a collaborative effort from the local government, private businessmen and, international organizations and the people of the area with enabled the formulation of an integrated plan for the development of sustainable tourism meeting social, economic, and environmental conservation and cultural values. This balance is crucial for the stabilization of the desired duration of ecotourism in the Zarafshan Valley and for making a positive impact on the environmental welfare of the region as a part of Uzbekistan's development.

#### **5. Conclusion**

In essence, the formation of the international national park of Zarafshan valley is an opportunity for a promotion of ecotourism to a new level of development of the

Uzbekistan's ecotourism business. Creation of this park can be beneficial such as supporting the economy base of countries, encouraging countries to take care of our environment, as well as increasing international recognition. To achieve this the following strategies about ecotourism must be implemented Uzbekistan should use models from other region while developing its park strategies and this should be in consideration with the ecological and cultural structure of the region.

Arguably, for Uzbekistan to successfully promote the Zarafshan Valley as an important ecotourism destination, it has to major on the question of the community. It can be driven by enhancing awareness, skills development, promoting establishment of businesses as well as provision of rewards to enhance benefits of the local populace from the success of the park. It is also important for a good governance structure that will deal with conservation and tourism development.

To address these problems certain steps need to be taken to make it easier and easier for the tourist to have easy access to the areas they wish to visit and improve the existing tourist amenities. This entails creating proper transport networks, environmental friendly lodging facilities, and the interaction through web 2.0 tools. Additionally, it is important to promote the use of financial resources to promote sustainability and knowledge exchange relating to international organizations and private investors.

Future research studies should aim at establishing the impact of the park on the physical environment together with the sustainability of the integrated ecotourism models within the Zarafshan Valley. The constant evaluation of both the measures and new challenges leads to the scaling up and application of monitoring and other adaptive management practices critical for improving the effectiveness of the measures. If all these strategic investments, community participation, and planning are in place, the Zarafshan Valley presents the opportunity to be model for ecotravel and tourists, simultaneously, embracing both cultural and natural resource preservation.

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