ECO-TOURISM AS A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT: CASE STUDY OF UAE.

Dr. Saber Yahia

Abstract - Ecotourism is a reduction of the word “Ecological tourism”. Consequently, its chief emphasis is on the association between tourism and the environments. Ecotourism alternatively, has the probability to generate positive impacts on the environment by participating in environmental safety and protection. Ecotourism can enhance consciousness of environmental principles by instructive programs and proficiencies. It can also assist as an instrument to shelter natural regions and upsurge their economic rank.

This research examines literature on possibility to develop this tourism type in Egypt and make it one of the tourist attractions by comparing it the UAE in general as it has accomplished an active existence and effect on the global tourism. UAE is presently exercising its greatest role in promoting eco-tourism through enactment of laws and legislation that protect the environment particularly regulation concerning the founding of nature assets, the regulations, guidelines and conclusions governing the labor of eco-tourism.

The study explores the objectives, and factors affecting the progress of that type in Egypt as there is a large marketplace emerging for this type of tourism. There are diverse ecologies in Egypt that profit from tourism, but can possibly be unintentionally damaged by tourists who travel to visit those distinct areas. The research then investigates potentialities of developing that type in Egypt and its effects on improving the tourist experience in Egypt and increasing the tourist flow into Egypt. Results indicated that ecotourism could face several obstacles in practical performance, but it could be very helpful in supporting the tourism industry in Egypt especially at the time of deterioration. However, Ecotourism can play a vital role in Egypt’s economic development by connecting its traditional antiquities based tourism with recreational attractions. These connections have the potential to both increase the number of quality attractions for the tourists and improve Egypt’s economic well-being. In this way, the National Strategic Objective of tourism diversification can be achieved.

Key words: Ecotourism, Climate, Environment, Ecological, UAE.

I. Introduction

Tourism is an influential social and economic power and an aspect in the environment too. It has the force to develop the environment, reserve culture and history, and safeguard natural attractions. Ecotourism has faced important socioeconomic fluctuations in many countries. The concept of tourist destination has shifted from traditional notion that concentrates on a period of relaxation and pleasure to one more responsive to the environment. Ecotourism is now defined as "responsible travel to natural areas that
conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education”.

Ecotourism is a misrepresented type on tourism and has a specific significance among tourists, especially among those who even have special attention for the environment, and want the best potential shelter and preservation of it.

Ecotourism is always associated to the critical, unique nature of its location. It is also addressed as a prospective sustainable development instrument resultant from the increasing risk to traditional and natural multiplicity modeled by the progress of international tourism. The announcement of the year 2002 as International Year of Ecotourism by World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) reveals the significance of ecotourism in universal tourism

Ecotourism and nature tourism both embrace enjoying natural sightseeing, but there is a variance between the two in terms of their purposes and activities practiced.

Nature-based tourism composing a big scale of events, such as: bird watching, stargazing, biking, scuba diving, fishing, camping, hiking, but ecotourism is aware of natural zones that preserves the environment and develops the welfare of native societies.

Unrestrained traditional tourism results destruction to natural ranges, by laying extra density on the region. This can then lead to influences such as augmented pollution, soil corrosion, damage of natural habitations and vanishing species. It lays burden on water assets, and it can lead native people to strive for the use of crucial properties.

Eventually, ecotourism offers more than environmental welfares, such as economic and sociocultural profits. Ecotourism generates job vacancies for citizens, making a more varied economy.

Ecotourism can also support conserve the region’s culture and afford larger collaboration with local people.

II. General Characteristics of Ecotourism

Common features of Ecotourism can be summed as follows:-

- It encompasses all natural types of tourism where the chief motivation of the tourists is the reflection and obligation of nature and the customary traditions dominant in natural zones.

- It comprises instructive and clarification aspects and upsurges the consciousness and appreciation of natural and cultural structures of a region and the consequent participation of tourists in many topics that are touching those schemes.

- It is commonly, but not entirely structured for minor groups by expert and small, locally possessed agencies. Foreign operators of variable scopes also operate and/or promote ecotourism sights.

- It reduces destructive effects upon the natural and socio-cultural environment.

- It encourages the conservation of natural ranges and supports the preservation and administration of legitimately preserved natural zones.

- It offers remarkable prospects for native people andv nature tourism personnel to develop and stay in natural regions and exploit the prompt and lasting contribution of native societies in tourism decision-making procedure.

III. Eco-Tourism in UAE.

UAE wishes to guarantee sustainable development by conserving the environment, and to attain a perfect equilibrium between economic and social development. The UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda concentrates on refining the quality of air, conserving water sources, enhancing the involvement of hygienic energy and executing green growth strategies.
In the UAE, most countryside ranges are within a short distance from main cities. The zones located east of Dubai and Sharjah are well-known sightseeing. On the way to al–Ain tourists can observe traditional rural life. Here most native populations as well as tourists from other countries enjoy relaxing in Massafi, a village bounded by mountains. The UAE has paid attention to developing the rural areas and wildlife. The government selected the lower end of the Dubai Creek as a natural preserve for sea birds and established recreation centers.

Abu Dhabi Vision 2030 in 2007 was planned to support the emirate react to existing and future development needs, announce solid guidelines for sustainable development. Fundamental to the Vision 2030 is the conversion of the capital into a sustainable city constructed around lively districts. This reflects focused growth, offering travel alternatives, generating multi-use, pedestrian friendly areas, applying more sustainable, cost-effective infrastructure, and preserving and improving the natural environment.

Al Maha in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a 27 km2 resort within the 225 km2 Dubai Desert Conservation Zone, provides deluxe lodging in 40 suites, each adjacent to a swimming pool. It provides visions into desert philosophy, inheritance and the fauna and flora of the Arabian Desert.

In Sharjah, The Kalba Eco-Tourism Project is an ambitious program that will conserve the rich and diverse habitats found on Sharjah’s east coast, as well as educating visitors.

A key component of the project is a turtle rehabilitation centre for green, loggerhead and hawksbill sea turtles. Kalba beach is a chief nesting location for the hawksbill sea turtle in particular and visitors will be able to observe these turtles digging nests and laying eggs. The Birds of Prey Centre is already open, and a Visitors’ Centre is planned, which will display some of the region’s mountain flora and fauna like reptiles and foxes. Outdoor adventurers will be in their element.

2016 welcomes the Al Jabal Resort, The Chedi Khorfakkan. Located on a natural hill next to a secluded bay with a white, sandy beach, Al Jabal Resort is a five-star hotel motivated by the area’s traditional architecture and lifestyle, offering the perfect break for those seeking to get away from the city. The resort will feature a wide range of sporting and relaxing activities, with diving and snorkelling, high-end restaurants and a destination spa. situated on the summit.

IV. Ecotourism in Egypt

Egypt’s world-renowned cultural heritage advanced from the extraordinary variety of natural and human resources that are exclusive to this habitat. The Nile River, the Red Sea, the Western Desert with its vast deserts and beautiful oases, and the Eastern Desert with its dramatic mountains and wadis (valleys that extend from the mountains to the sea) have continued and motivated the Egyptian people for more than five thousand years. This persistent legacy of diverse natural and cultural resources has confirmed to be a prevailing attraction to tourists all over the world.

Egypt is ironic with an unbelievable collection of precious flora and fauna that is as diverse as its several topographical territories: from the Fennec Fox of the Western Desert to the Cattle Egret of the luxurious Nile Valley, the Nile Crocodile in Lake Nasser to the feeding Dugong of the Red Sea.

V. Ecotourism Obstacles in Egypt

Several environmental difficulties related to tourism face developing countries like Egypt as follows:

-Absence of applying concrete phases to accomplish a useful equilibrium between tourism and environment.
Lack of sustainable development in diverse kind of tourism like ecotourism, natural, adventure tourism over observance to universal principles and codes.

Shortage in creating collaboration amongst shareholders who are concerned with tourism and environment and their joint attentiveness in the reinforcement of natural tourism.

Weakness in teaching tourists and native societies about the importance of natural resorts and traditional inheritances.

Lack of monitoring travel interrelated effects of enlarged natural tourism on the environment such as aviation, urban overcrowding and the related pollution and impacts on weather.

Shortage in incorporating tourism and environment into geographic organisms or alignment, and launching quality criterions.

Weakness of discovery of equilibrium between reassuring the growth of tourism and conservation of the environment.

The difficulties that obstruct ecotourism in Egypt are the following:

1. Outdated Planning and Development Procedure
2. The Lack of a Special Style
3. Weakness of Local Community Awareness
4. Absence of Marketing and Knowledge Features
5. Weakness of Governmental Incentive

There are also some Ecotourism promotion difficulties in Egypt as follows:

1. Absence of the appropriate data about ecotourism destinations
2. Lack in tourism services.
3. Absence of ecotourism guides.
4. Shortage of ecotourism facilities suppliers like carriers and desert escorts.
5. Travel agencies confront problems in issuing security permits.

6. Absence of flyers and maps associated with ecotourism destinations.
7. Shortage of talents for planning ecotourism packages.

VI. Study Findings

The major findings of this study are given below:

1. Ecotourism brings awareness and responsibility for visitors, communities, management and operators towards the environment and its maintenance through a concrete collaboration.

2. Ecotourism concept depends mainly on using the environmental elements in planning and designing or the use of materials and elements which matches with the local environment in a way that goes with the nature recycling and the ecological order and the use of the renewable energy sources and the decrease of the harmful out-puts which go to the sinks causing its pollution.

3. The UAE has made great efforts towards sustainability as it works according to a strategic framework to preserve the environment.

4. The UAE current portfolio of programs could turn it into an environmentally conscious tourism hub.

5. The success of UAE regarding ecotourism depends mainly on government efforts, people awareness, strategic planning and the coordination among all sectors.

6. Egypt is a very rich destination of Ecotourism places, but the problem is not about how many places, but about how to manage or how to make use of these places.

7. The absence of suitable environmental policies has strongly affected natural Egyptian resources.

8. Marketing problem is one of the most dangerous problems that facing the development of ecotourism pattern in Egypt.
9. The adoption of inappropriate tourist planning strategies is considered one of the main challenges facing the development of ecotourism in Egypt.

VII. Recommendations
The success of developing and promoting Ecotourism in Egypt depends mainly on achieving the following items:

1. Raising the awareness of local people towards the importance of ecotourism.
2. Training tourism guides in the field of ecotourism activities.
3. Developing superstructure and infrastructure in ecotourism areas.
4. Preparing an effective system for providing suitable transport modes and ecotourism services.
5. Designing a suitable information system for ecotourism services and facilities.
6. Creating a kind of cooperation between ecotourism stakeholders in Egypt.
7. Providing the required support for the implementation of national policies and legislations in support of ecotourism activities in biosphere reserves and natural parks in Egypt.
8. There is a continuous need to extend the natural protective areas and its surrounding regions.
9. The national development plan of Egypt should include ecotourism as a key element of development not only for the present generation, but also for the future generations.
10. Tourism should be planned and managed within environmental limits and with due regard to the long-term appropriate use of natural and human resources.
11. Tourist bodies have to do their best to promote ecotourism in Egypt through web portals, Emails and social media.

VIII. References:
- Kiper, T. et al, Environmental, socio-cultural and economical effects of ecotourism perceived by the local people in the northwestern Turkey: Kiyiköy case, Scientific Research and Essays, Vol. 6, No.19, 8 September, 2011, Available online at http://www.academicjournals.org/SRE


http://docplayer.net/40346652-Tourism-in-theunited-arab-emirates.html

http://sharjahmydestination.ae/ar-ae/