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**TOURISM
IN FUNCTION OF DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

Spa Tourism in Serbia and Experiences of Other Countries



**THEMATIC
PROCEEDINGS**

II



**UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC
FACULTY OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
AND TOURISM IN VRNJAČKA BANJA**



PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS A PARADIGM OF MODERN TRENDS IN TOURISM

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Abstract

Tourism as the most developed branch of industry, today is a direct beneficiary of natural resources, what is make unbreakable bond with the environment. Nowadays tourists search places with untouched nature or at least preserved and high valued environment, and it is not surprising the fact of increasing ecotourism development, especially travel in preserved areas for the enjoyment of nature. According to this, tourism has the greatest interest to sustain the quality of the environment at a high level. Potential negative impacts that tourism may have on the environment are reflected in pressures on natural resources, emissions of pollutants, waste generatio and climate changes at the global level. The aim of this paper is to describe the environmental situation in the Republic of Serbia in the terms of current state and quality of natural resources, and climate characteristics of the study area as a basic prerequisite for the further development of tourism.

Keywords: *environment, natural resources, quality, tourism*

Introduction

Tourism as an economic activity more than the others depends on the quality of the environment. On the other hand, the only way of valorization of certain natural resources is precisely through tourism. This indicates the unbreakable relationship between tourism and the environment which can be considered almost symbiotic.

The development of tourism is certainly changing the environment in which it is developing and these changes can be both positive and negative. Negative changes brought by tourism in tourist destinations are

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becoming more visible with the advent of mass tourism. Tourism is one of the largest and fastest growing global industries and represents a significant contribution to national and local economies around the world (Scott & Lemieux, 2010). According to the UNWTO data, the number of international tourists is constantly increasing, from 200 million in 1980, up to an impressive 1.2 billion in 2015 (UNWTO, 2016), with predictions that this number will amount to even 1.6 billion by 2020 (UNWTO, 2001). The economic importance of the tourism sector in the world is best described by the report of the World Travel and Tourism Council, which estimates that in 2015 the global tourism and travel industry has contributed with 9.8% of the world's gross domestic product and that it employs even 284 million people (WTTC, 2016).

In contrast to all the aforementioned positive economic parameters, tourism development also brings numerous negative effects that primarily concern degradation of the environment. For the development of tourism and its infrastructure, the initial look of nature is disrupted, the landscapes are changed, deforestation and unplanned construction occur, the soil is disrupted, air and water pollution occur. Uncontrolled tourism development can lead to excessive pressure on the given environment and cause effects such as soil erosion, increasing pollution, natural habitat destruction, landscape damaging. Tourism activities can affect the environment to the extent that they threaten further development of tourism in a given area. Finding a balance between tourism development and preservation of the environment is a key task of all stakeholders in the tourism industry. The Republic of Serbia is under severe challenges of sustainable growth and development, but at the same time before it opens new opportunities for growth and development model based on the "green economy", "green investments", energy efficiency and social inclusion (Durkalić et al., 2015). Sustainable tourism has a key role here, which in a rational way takes care of natural resources and enables them to be used by present and future generations.

The aim of the paper is to emphasize the negative effects of tourism on the basic elements of the environment: air, water, soil and biodiversity, as well as to use illustrative examples to highlight the fact that the degree of tourism impact also depends on the type of tourist region. Positive examples from practice will suggest the possibility that proper planning and adherence to the principles of sustainable tourism can achieve a harmony between tourism development and preserved environment.

The state and quality of the environment in the Republic of Serbia

Today it is almost unthinkable to talk about tourism and tourism development of a region without a previous display of the quality of the environment in it or more often for improvement of the existing factors.

A complete analysis of the environmental situation in the Republic of Serbia as well as monitoring of environmental indicators is carried out and published by the Environmental Protection Agency, which operates within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, whose data have been used for writing this paper. However, it is important to mention that environmental management in Serbia is not satisfactory, since nearly all adopted laws or any other regulations are mostly not implemented, and the economic instruments of environmental protection are still insufficiently developed (Kanjevac et al., 2006).

Today, at the beginning of the third millennium, we can only conclude that almost all nations and nationalities have realized that the issue of protection and improvement of the environment is a priority. Given that Serbia wants to be involved in all world trends, indicators of the environmental quality in Serbia have been created based on the methodology of the European Environmental Agency – EEA, which is based on the relation of the environment and all human activities of a certain area. These relations are shown by the DPSIR model (Driving Forces, Pressure, State, Impact, Response), where the causal relationships are reflected precisely by the indicators within this model (Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, 2007). These sets of environmental quality indicators relate to: air, water, soil, biodiversity and sustainability. All the aforementioned indicators are shown in the paper for the period of the last 10 years, i.e. the period from 2005-2014.

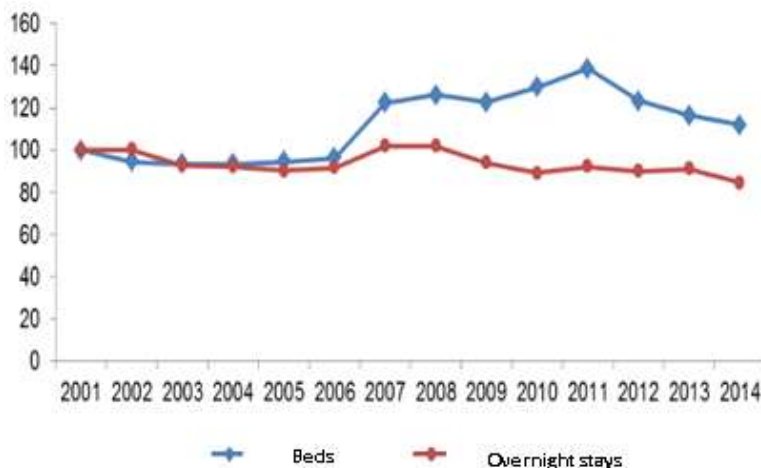
The impacts of tourism on the environment

We have already pointed out earlier in this paper that the relationship between tourism and the environment is unbreakable. It is of great importance for the tourism industry to maintain the quality of the environment at a high level, because tourism activities will certainly not be conducted in an unhealthy environment. On the other hand, it is an imperative for tourism to build hotels, villas and other accommodation facilities as well as other accompanying infrastructures, with the

inevitable segment of travel to the destinations themselves, which is closely related to the quality of air at the destination itself. At the same time, it is also the manufacturer of large amounts of waste and emitter of different pollutants. Having all this in mind, it is clear that tourism negatively affects the environment to a great extent through constant pressure on natural resources, wildlife and their habitats, as well as the emissions of pollutants into all elements of the environment, air, water and soil.

On the other hand, numerous studies by various authors indicate that there is an increasing number of tourists all over the world, to whom a healthy environment is a very important criterion when choosing vacation sites. Also, there is an increasing number of programs that involve the tourists themselves in active environmental protection, and even there are those in which the tourists are willing to pay symbolic amounts to the final bill, in order to help preserve the destinations where they have stayed.

Graph 1: *The trends in the number of available beds and the number of overnight stays*



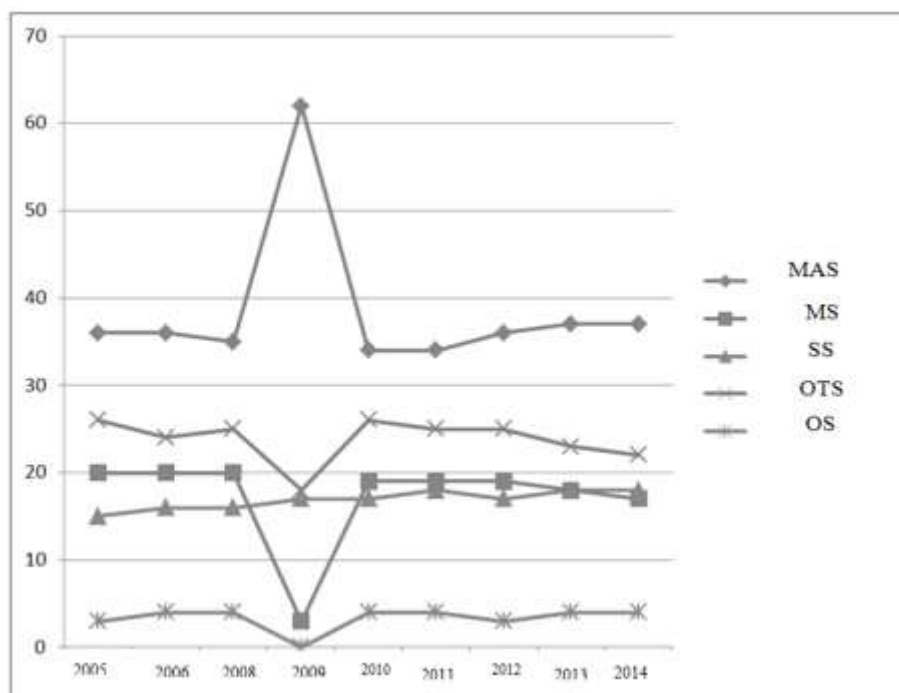
Source: *Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, Agencija za zaštitu životne sredine (2015)*

Analyzing the period of the last 10 years, from 2005-2014, it was observed that the tourist traffic in the Republic of Serbia was almost unchanged. The number of arrivals is around 2.1 million tourists per year, and the number of overnight stays around 6.7 million per year (Ministarstvo poljoprivrede i zaštite životne sredine, 2015). Only in 2009 there was a decline of tourist arrivals by 11% and overnight stays by 8%,

which was certainly a result of the global economic crisis, which of course did not bypass our country. However, it is interesting that in the period from 2006 to 2008 there was an increased number of tourist facilities and beds for even 30% (Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, 2010), which was an additional pressure of tourism on the environment. At the same time, when analyzing the data for the aforementioned period, the trends in the number of beds and the number of overnight stays in Serbia indicated that the capacities were developing much faster than the tourist stays, which certainly should be a warning for the future (Graph 1).

In Serbia, according to the established criteria, all tourist sites are classified into five categories (Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, 2015): main administrative centers (MAS), spa sites (SS), mountain sites (MS), other tourist sites (OTS) and other sites (OS), Graph 2.

Graph 2: *Tourist arrivals according to the types of tourist sites 2005-2014.*



Source: *The authors on the basis of the Environmental Protection Agency's report*

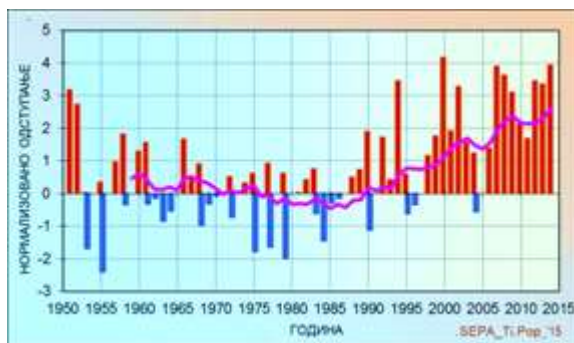
The climate change in the Republic of Serbia

The climate change implies a change of climate which is directly or indirectly caused by human activities that cause changes in the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is superimposed on natural climate fluctuations, observed during the comparable time periods. Climate changes have affected the entire planet, and Serbia is not an exception. The risks that they carry with them are realistic and their impacts are already largely present. We are all witnessing an increase in annual temperatures, melting of glaciers, and we have already witnessed the extreme adverse weather conditions. This means that the climate changes in the future will even further intensify the existing conflicts over natural resources. These pressures will only be more prominent in the tourism sector where the climate is one of the basic resources and very often a limiting factor in the planning of tourist offer of a destination (Adžić et al., 2015). In relation to the national product according to the purchasing power parity, the carbon dioxide emission generated in Serbia puts the country among the top ten most important emitters in the world (Kovačević, 2010). These data indicate that much more attention in the future should be paid to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate changes.

Predictions for the future are also not very good, it is assumed that the average temperature increase in the Balkans could reach even $+6^{\circ}\text{C}$, which would lead to even more dramatic consequences. On the other hand, one can think positively. Given that future tourism trends will be focused towards northern regions of Europe, precisely because of the climate changes in action, as well as towards the areas with a more moderate climate, it can be an advantage for Serbia's tourism industry. It is increasingly evident that it is difficult for tourists to bear high temperatures of certain tourist destinations in which they reach up to 40°C (Stojanović, 2011). These data are in favor of Serbia, as already indicated in this paper that for the last 10 years the highest number of overnight stays has been achieved in mountain centers and spa sites, which are also the largest tourist centers of our country, so it can be assumed that this increase will also be recorded in the future, precisely because of the increase in annual temperatures, which are still constantly increasing in the territory of Serbia (Graph 3). The year of 2014 was extremely warm in Serbia, and the summer was the twenty-fifth warmer summer than the average, consecutively since 1990 (Ministarstvo poljoprivrede i zaštite

životne sredine, 2015). At the same time, it was the rainiest year since 1951, as well as the rainiest spring in the last 120 years.

Graph 3: *Tourist arrivals according to the types of tourist sites 2005-2014.*



Source: *Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, Agencija za zaštitu životne sredine (2015)*

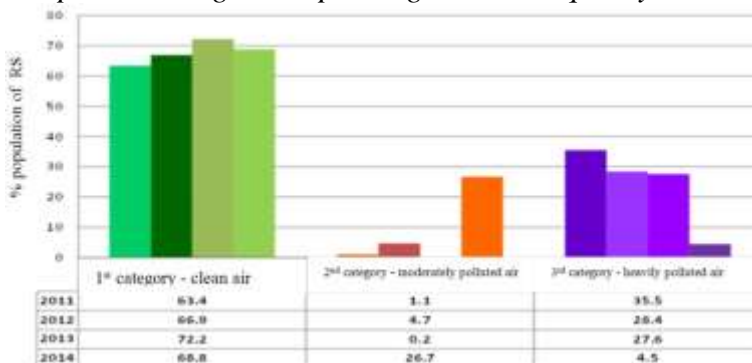
The assessment of air quality

A significant industrial development, the increasing growth of the world's population, and therefore the greater use of energy, which largely contributed to the emission of gases and particles that affect human health, was recorded in recent decades. Deteriorating air quality causes and worsens asthma, heart diseases, lung cancer and many other diseases. In addition, air pollution also affects the global economy, availability of food and water and sustainable development, by damaging plants, crops and ecosystems (Kokić Arsić et al., 2009). Impurities in the atmosphere, which, depending on the chemical composition and concentration, can represent air pollution, originate from natural and anthropogenic sources. Natural pollution sources are mostly considered to be the volcano activities, wind effects, forest fires and the like, while anthropogenic sources are numerous human activities that include industry, energy generation, transport, agriculture, use of various products, household heating (Ministarstvo održivog razvoja i turizma, 2012).

Air pollution is considered to be the concentration of pollutants in the air which, according to the current scientific findings, has an adverse impact on human health and the environment or poses a serious threat that these impacts will occur. Impurities in the atmosphere can be various gases and micro particles of different chemical composition. All these activities

emit different pollutants such as sulfur (IV) oxide, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter. Other significant pollutants include persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (Ministarstvo održivog razvoja i turizma, 2012). According to the analysis of the air quality monitoring results in the national air quality monitoring network, contained in the Quality Status Reports in the Republic of Serbia, as well as the published papers, particulate pollution has a dominant impact on air quality. The Environmental Protection Agency implements operational air quality monitoring in the network of automatic stations for air quality monitoring. In accordance with the Regulation on the Establishment of Air Quality Control Programs in National Network (Official Gazette of RS, No. 58/11), the aforementioned network represents the national network for air quality monitoring in the Republic of Serbia (Radosavljevic et al., 2014). Air quality monitoring stations are mostly placed in urban areas and thus we have a lack of data on air quality in rural areas, as well as important tourist sites such as mountains, lakes, spas, etc. Daily concentration values of basic pollutants (carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ground-level ozone, nitrogen dioxide and PM10), analyzed by subliming the air quality measurement results on the entire territory of Serbia, showed that 69% of the population during 2014 had clean or slightly polluted air, while 1/3 was located in agglomerations whose quality needs to be improved (Ministarstvo poljoprivrede i zaštite životne sredine, 2015).

Graph 4: *The percentage of population of the Republic of Serbia exposed to different pollution degrees depending on the air quality assessment*



Source: *Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, Agencija za zaštitu životne sredine (2015)*

During the analysis of the period since 2010, the trend of air quality in Belgrade, Niš, Pančevo and Kosjerić agglomerations in 2014 showed an improvement worth mentioning (Table 1). Here we should definitely mention the improvements evident for the territory of the city of Belgrade in the last year, as well as a drastic improvement of air quality in the territory of Novi Sad and even in the last three years, having in mind that these cities, as the largest administrative centers, are visited by the largest number of tourists. The territory of the city of Užice is a concern, because it records even the negative trend, especially having in mind that in the vicinity of the city there are two very significant mountains, Zlatibor and Tara, as very important tourism centers of our country.

Table 1: *The trend of air quality by zones and agglomerations*

		Population	CATEGORIES OF AIR QUALITY				
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ZONE	SRBIJA	2.818.693	II	I	I	I	I
	Kragujevac	179.417					II
	Valjevo	90.312			III	III	III
	Vojvodina	1.386.830	II	I	I	I	I
	Sr.Mitrovica	79.940					II
AGGLOMERATIONS	Novi Sad	341.625	III	III	I	I	I
	Beograd	1.659.440	III	III	III	III	II
	Pančevo	123.414		III	III	I	I
	Smederevo	108.209		III	III	III	III
	Bor	48.615	III	III	III	III	III
	Kosjerić	12.090		III	III	II	I
	Užice	78.040		II	II	III	III
	Niš	260.237	III	III	II	I	I

Source: *Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine, Agencija za zaštitu životne sredine (2015)*

Evaluation of water quality

Water is the most spreaded substances on the planet Earth. In nature, it occurs in three aggregate states (water vapor and clouds), solid (icebergs and glaciers) and the liquid (water phenomena such as oceans, seas, lakes, rivers). Besides the amount of water what is available to man, its quality is very important. Under the quality of water it is considered the state of the water system, expressed through the physical-chemical, chemical and biological indicators. Water as fundamental material that has immeasurable significance for wildlife, ecosystems and the planet Earth.

Water molecules represent liquids that are valuable for dissolution and transport of materials in the ecosystem, and through the live organisms. In the organisms, water is the ideal environment and it is necessary for the process of normal functioning. In addition, the role that water plays in maintaining life functions, for a man it has a major role as a source of energy and raw materials, and it is also used for hygiene purposes, agriculture and transport, fishing, tourism and recreation (Damjanov et al., 2011). In the 21st century water has become the most important strategic natural resource, and it is believed that the 21st century is century of struggle for control of the remaining sources of clean water. It is known that water circulates in nature and constantly going through cycles of exploitation, usage, discharge after use and return to the cycle as atmospheric or running water. However, the water through those ways, passes the cycles of changes, mostly in a negative way, that burden by harmful substances and pollutants of biological, chemical or radiological origin (although according to the chemical composition of water (H₂O) is a compound of hydrogen and oxygen, it is not occurring naturally in such a composition. (Živojinović, 2013). It means that "pure" water there is not in nature, but it contains a variety of substances dissolved in it. Save the remaining clean water and reduce pollution in the process of exploitation are basic aims of this century, because the human species and whole life on our planet depends directly on the quantity and quality of water. Since the ancient times, man used the water for healing, therapy, relaxation and recreation. Mineral waters of different characteristics are used to drinking the healing waters or medicinal baths in the treatment of various diseases and disorders, to improve the psycho-physical condition. Water as a great source of entertainment and recreation, represents a place where a man is engaged in numerous activities such as swimming, rafting, skiing, sailing, fishing, etc. In Serbia, there are several hundred springs of cold and hot mineral water, 40 spas and 25 rehabilitation centers. But, the capacity that our country own has not been used enough. Of over 300 thermal springs, it was used less than 5% (Damjanov et al., 2011).

According to data from the National Statistics Office has compiled a list of the most important rivers and lakes in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, which are also at the same time the most important tourist sites in terms of turisam activities and recreation. All rivers in Serbia belong to one of the basins: the Black Sea, the Adriatic and Aegean. Tourist major rivers such as the Tisa, Sava, Velika Morava, Drina, they are all together through the Danube flow into the Black Sea and form the make backbone of river tourism of the Republic of Serbia. In addition, it is important to

mention some less water streams (South Morava, Ibar, Mlava, Rzav, Lim, Nišava, etc.) on which tourism is also intense take a place in terms of fishing, beach, recreation and other water tourism activities. Also, it is important to note ecologically valorised rivers, perhaps the cleanest in Europe and touristic very attractive due to their floristically- fauna diversity, such as Gradac, Zasavica, Uvac, Bega, Jerma, Crni Timok and etc. Also, the lakes represent a great potential for tourism and are considered highly exploited water bodies. Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia has compiled list of the most important lakes in the Republic of Serbia. According to its ecological status, high turistic valuation we have to mention some of the most attractive lakes such as Đerdap lake with gorge, Vlasina lake, Slano kopovo, Obetska bara, Belocrkvanska lakes, Perućac and many others.

The importance natural resources conservation in terms of tourism development

Tourism represents one of the strategic sectors of economic development of the Republic of Serbia and its planning and implementing require special attention. The fact is that the Republic of Serbia has a very rich tourism potential, where natural resources are traditionally make the basis of tourism. The growth of tourism demand for clean and preserved nature encourages continuous quest for the high quality environmental sites, which leads to the tourism development limits because of deficient of natural resources. It follows that an environmentally responsible practice becomes an important factor as the basis for the existence and development of tourism (Liović, 2012). The most important natural resources are the beaches, coral reefs, mountains, deserts, forests, protected areas, waterfalls, lakes, rivers, caves, flora and fauna and others. In the third millennium, one of the most important natural resource is water (Miletić et al., 2011).

Such a like other industries, the tourism affects the quality of the environment as a consumer of natural resources: soil, water, fuel, electricity and food, but also as a producer of significant amounts of waste and emissions. The negative impact of tourism on the environment are expressed through the pressure on natural resources, wildlife and habitats, as well as the production of waste and pollution. The tourism has great interest to keep quality of nature at the high level, what is important prediction for its successful development. The positive effects of tourism related to the environment is reflected in the fact that this is the activity

which tends to adequate use of natural resources, improvement of the landscape and maintaining the environmental, economic and socio-cultural values of the local community. The current negative impacts of tourism activities on environmental quality caused by weak implementation of planning regulations, a lack of infrastructure for waste water purification, uncontrolled disposal of waste, and ineffective management of protected areas (<http://www.kombeg.org.rs/>).

A particular problem is the tourism in and around protected areas, which is in the Republic of Serbia at a very low level. In order to promote sustainable tourism, it is necessary to use the experience of developed countries (environmental education and information, managing the movement of visitors in and around protected areas, the hotel business in a manner that minimizes impact to the environment, etc.) (<http://www.kombeg.org.rs/>). The most common causes of the problem are insufficient implementation of spatial and urban plans, illegal construction of buildings in protected areas, unsustainable use of natural resources, inadequate management of protected areas, unsatisfactory communal and traffic infrastructure, insufficient cross-sectoral cooperation. These problems have far-reaching consequences on the environment and its elements reflected the pressures on natural resources and biodiversity locating inappropriate, illegal construction of tourist facilities, discharge of untreated waste water, improper waste disposal, emissions into the air from traffic and heating boiler, emission of noise from traffic and other sources (restaurants, events), uncontrolled and environmentally unacceptable tourism development in protected areas and other valuable natural resources, destruction of habitats and disturbance of wildlife by visitors (Nacionalni program zaštite životne sredine, 2010). Regardless of the type, structure and individual amounts of natural resources they are the basis for the forthcoming commercial and economic development of each country, as well as Serbia. Of course, there is also a part of the natural resources that must remain outside the economic and commercial flows, which should be preserved for present and future generations, and this is especially for those resources which are not renewable (Pinter, 2015). Analyzing the characteristics of tourism development before and after the 90-ies of XX century, it noted that until the 80s the attention of most tourist countries focused on the economic aspects of tourism development, thus creating space for criticism regarding the impact of tourism development on society and the tourists themselves. Based on these critics developed a movements named "humane tourism", "responsible tourism", "healthy tourism", "tourism with

the future", "tourism-oriented to nature", explained in one word "alternative tourism". In recent years, these terms are subsumed under the title of "eco-tourism or sustainable tourism". Concept of mass tourism development which aimed to be as large increase in foreign currency inflow as can, an increase in tourist traffic, more tourist facilities built and mass visits, caused problems in the natural environment, which is related to tourism. All this has led to the need to promote such a kind of tourism which will reduce its negative impact on the environment while greater economic sociological effects on tourist destinations. Finally, all the present trend of tourist visits is in unpolluted and naturally intouched destination. Holders of tourism policy must understand that today's tourists are willing to pay a relatively higher price for preserved and unpolluted environment In destinations where tourism is one of the dominant economic activities, and the physiognomy of the place is very different from urban and industrial areas (hotels, parks, sports and recreation facilities, transport infrastructure, various commercial facilities, catering facilities). If the development of tourism planned aimed to and controlled, it is also beneficial and leads to positive transformation and improving space. Generally positive impacts on the sustainability of tourism destinations can be the protection of nature in the terms of tourism (national parks, nature parks), raising awareness about the importance of environmental protection, protection of the environment in the terms of tourism, protection of natural resources in the terms of tourism (water, forests, vegetation), improving the aesthetic quality of the area in the terms of tourism (improving environmental conditions for tourist valorization, repair due to damage), ensuring the availability of specific sites for touristic valorization (parts of the mountains), as well as the restoration of cultural and historical monuments, old buildings and old parts of settlements for their tourist affirmation (Vujić, 2012).

Protected areas of the Republic of Serbia

Protected areas are the most actual destinations of moderan toursm (Stojanović, 2011). Serbia as a country with rich cultural and historical heritage and preserved natural resources, own competitive advantages for toursm development in these areas (Kostić et al., 2016b). Conservation of natural attractiveness within the protected landscape area, low density of population where nature is abundant and where built-up areas do not dominate, the development of small local businesses, as well as places for openair recreation that are designed to protect sensitive resources are just

some of the characteristics of ecotourism (Ilić et al., 2015), for which Serbia has potential.

Currently, in Serbia, it is protected 6.5% of its territory, according to the national classification of protected areas, the most common are nature parks, national parks and nature reserves which occupy about 90% of the territory. Overall, the analysis of trends of establishing protected areas can be seen that in the period 2005-2014., the total protected area shall be increased from year to year, with the exception of 2009 and 2010 (Table 5), when it declined on 27,875 ha because of revision of Nature Park Stara Planina.

Table 5: *The total protected area in the Republic of Serbia in the period of 2005-2014.*

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
% of territory	6,6	6,6	6,7	6,6	6,3	6	5,91	5,91	6	6,5

Source: *The authors on the basis of the Environmental Protection Agency's report*

Certainly, the spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia predict that by 2015 would be protected about 10% of the total area, and by 2021. about 12% of the territory is under some kind of protection, which are beautiful plans for the future, especially if we take into account that these sites could be some new tourist destinations in Serbia.

In this context it is important to emphasize that in the Republic of Serbia established ecological network which includes 101 an ecologically important area with EMERALD areas also. The total area is 1,019,269 hectares, what is make 11.54% of the territory of the Republic of Serbia. All these mentioned parts of the country are also very attractive for the tourist industry (51 area was declared as protected or is under the revision process for protection, one site of the Biosphere Reserve - UNESCO MAB, 9 areas as Ramsar sites, etc.). From the standpoint of tourism activity particularly actual areas on this list are: all the national parks of Serbia, Zasavica, Sargan-Mokra Gora, Pester, Ovcar-Kablar gorge, Palic, Uvac canyon and many others.

Conclusion

Tourism as an economic activity that is dependent on the quality of the environment is also one of the main factors disrupting its basic elements:

air, water, land and biodiversity. Irresponsible tourism development can bring into question the existence of tourism activities, with respect to the degraded environment does not have the element of attraction that contributes to the quality and experience of tourists who often represents the main factor of the attractiveness of a destination.

A reduction of the negative impact that tourism must be taken into account in all phases of tourism activities, starting with the construction of tourism infrastructure up to the final destination of the tourists stay. This article clearly shows that the landscape of the Republic of Serbia inevitably transformed in accordance with the requirements of tourism activity. Therefore, tourism development policies must be consistent with the type of destination. In our country, tourism is the most developed in the mountainous and spa centers and therefore special attention should be paid to the regulation of the process of urbanization of these areas, as well as the regulation of storage of waste materials from a different of tourist facilities. It is shown that the trend of development of mountain tourism in Serbia and outside of the winter season is certainly relieves the pressure on natural resources, but also imposes an obligation that during the summer tourist activities take place with a few negative effects. Protected natural resources in Serbia, as well as in the world, have chance to be spared the negative consequences of the development of tourist activities, because of their basic purpose. Constant education of all stakeholders in tourism, from organizers to tourists, about the methods for minimizing the negative effects of tourism activities, a better policy of state authorities regarding the tourism development, encouraging hoteliers to behave responsibly towards the environment (Kostić et al., 2016a).

Taking into consideration all the elements of this work in terms of environmental quality in the Republic of Serbia, it is evident that the environment is relatively well preserved, and that Serbia has good natural resources on which could be based further development of tourism. Also, the tourist activity in the Republic of Serbia does not threaten the environmental quality, but certainly a better policy of state authorities in connection with tourism development, encouraging all participants in tourism to behave responsible towards the environment, represent the only way to preserve sensitive natural resources in order to be available for future generations.

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