Introducing Ecotourism capacities of Iran & its rules and regulations

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Ecotourism:

A visit to any particular tourism area with the purpose to study, enjoy and appreciate the scenery:

- natural
- cultural
- as well as life style of the local people

Based on the knowledge about and responsibility for the ecological system of the area.
Ecotourism Resources of Iran

- **Historical and cultural Values**: Settled by Aryan from Aral Sea 3500-4000 years ago, Attractions from the viewpoint of archaeology, cultural and historical monuments
- **Nomadic tribal communities and diversity of life style**
- **Natural Gifts**: wide range in latitude and longitude (26 to 38 N, and 44 to 63 E) different physiography, very variable climate, contact point of 5 phytogeographical regions, high biodiversity and genetic resources, 2500 km sea frontiers, unique forests, natural monuments and so on
Ecotourism & philosophical tradition of Iranian

- Our Iranian forefathers conceived of the earth as a mother, nature as sacred, and the pollution of the environment as a sin.
Ecotourism & religion of Iranian

- Richard Ettinghausen points out; "It should be remembered that the earliest renditions of Persian paradise or Islamic garden predate the earliest, actually preserved areas. They assist us greatly in reconstructing the early history of landscape architecture."
Guideline to estimate of nature tourism carrying capacity

Specifying standards:

- Determine total area for each categories
- Determine Rec Area based on specified standards (10% of NP, WR, NM, FR and wet, 20% of PA, 60% FP & SS)
- Determine ORA (i.e. 12% for Camp, 16% for Pic and 10% for other activities)
- Determine number of Rec. U for each ORA (i.e. per each hec of ORA 8-14 CU, 20-30 PC and 10% PCU+10% CUU for OU)
- Each Recreation unit has potential of 5 persons then: (X) (5) = daily ecological carrying capacity of total area
- Recreation season depends upon climate (Recreation season) (XI) = Yearly Ecological carrying capacity of areas (days)
An estimate of nature tourism carrying capacity of Iran

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>T. Area</th>
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Eco-tourism regional system land use plan

Ecological Approach to Recreational use capability of Nature

Ecoregion

Ecosections

The Ecosites Layer
(Homogeneous Units of soil groups and vegetation types) of Study Area will be used as Reference Map
Monitor & Evaluate Existing Condition

- Based on Ecosite Polygons
  1. Specify point-rating system
  2. Evaluate VECs and label polygons
     - w.r.t. physical, biological, cultural & historical features and visual values
  3. Determine H.U. Disturbance, wilderness and natural attractiveness

Synthesis: Specify ROS classes of region level
Ecotourism Design of Individual ORA

RSOs & VECs

Base Map: Ecosites Map
Specify Standard Indicator

Ground Cover Index reduction leads to a decrease in diversity, water quality, and ecosystem health.

Required Criteria for Standard Indicator:

1. Specific
2. Objective
3. Relative and Repeatable
4. Related to Human Use
5. Sensitive
6. Manageable
7. Efficient and effective to Measure
8. Significant
Specify Independent Indicators

- Coarse Fragments
- Clay %
- Silt %
- Sand %
- Insolation
- Aspect
- Slope
- Elevation
- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Calcareous Level
- Tree Cover %
- Dicots %
- monocots %
- Moss %
- R Capacity
Ecological Human use capability spectrum mathematical model

\[ \hat{y} = 39.356 + 0.4297x_1 + 0.3035x_2 - 0.0336x_3 + 0.2412x_4 - 0.00038x_5 - 0.3471x_6 - 0.1029x_7 + 0.3824x_8 - 0.03855x_9 - 0.1443x_{10} - 0.2438x_{11} \]
Ecological Human use capability spectrum mathematical model: Hyrcanian Forests

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Backward Elimination
Predictors: (Constant), X7, X1, X4, X3, X6
Further Determination, Modifying & Planning

• Determine the EHUCSC Classes of Ecosites
• Define Evaluative Standards
  - Habitat and Corridor Effectiveness of Umbrella Species
  - Specify LACs for local Ecosystems
• Specify ROS for each EHUCS classes and Develop Standards Factors Delineation for human use (ERCC)
• Develop Management Plan
Thank you for your patience