

FEATURES OF DOMESTIC, INBOUND AND OUTBOUND TOURISM IN CENTRAL ASIA.

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the specifics of domestic, inbound and outbound tourism in Central Asia, the internal and external capabilities of countries, as well as ways to achieve sustainable tourism development in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Domestic tourism, inbound tourism, outbound tourism, tourism strategy, domestic and foreign tourism opportunities, CAREC countries.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism in the CAREC region is represented mainly by domestic tourism, followed by tourists from neighboring countries¹⁷ and finally from geographically distant markets. In 2019, 424 million domestic tourists visited the region, mainly in Uzbekistan (29,9%) and two provinces of the People's Republic of China (PRC) - Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (53,4%).

Table-1 Distribution of domestic tourists in CAREC countries (2019 million trips, %)

Indicators	Million people	%
Uzbekistan	126,8	29,9
IMAR+CYAR	226,2	53,4
Other	70,7	16,7
Afghanistan		0,5
Azerbaijan		5,7
Georgia		3,2
Kazakhstan		2,6

In 2019, the region sent 70 million outbound tourists but received only 41 million tourists. International tourism in the region (both inbound and outbound) is highly concentrated in neighboring countries, especially in the Russian Federation. More than three quarters of the total number of arrivals from abroad are concentrated in four countries: Kazakhstan (23,6%), the Kyrgyz Republic (20,2%), According to the UNWTO International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS) 2008, domestic tourism includes in themselves tourism-related activities of a resident in their country; inbound tourism is tourism-related activities in a country by non-resident visitors; outbound tourism is tourism-related activities of residents outside their own country.

The country issues outgoing tourists and accepts incoming tourists. Inbound visitors (arrivals) include both tourists staying overnight at the place of arrival and tourists leaving the place of

visit on the day of arrival (sightseers). A neighboring country is one that is less than 3 flight hours away from each CAREC country. This includes other CAREC countries if they meet the 3-hour flight criteria.

Georgia (18,6%) and Uzbekistan (16,3%). Of the total tourist arrivals, 91% come from neighboring countries, of which two thirds of the total come from other CAREC countries.

Outbound tourism is less concentrated than inbound tourism, however, tourists from four CAREC countries make up two-thirds of the total: PRC (23,3%), 18 Uzbekistan (17,9%), Kazakhstan (15,6%), and Azerbaijan (10,2%). Of the total outbound tourists, 83% go to neighboring countries, although only half of them go to other CAREC countries. However, there are some notable differences between countries.

For example, almost all tourists leaving Uzbekistan travel to other CAREC countries, while in the case of Pakistan, only 4,5% travel within the region.

Other major destinations for outbound tourists include the Russian Federation, Turkey, Iran and the Republic of Korea.

Travel motives in CAREC countries differ significantly between domestic tourists and tourists from neighboring countries and distant markets. Domestic tourists and tourists from neighboring countries travel mainly for business purposes and to visit friends and relatives (VGDR), while foreign tourists from distant countries are usually motivated by culture and religion, and then by nature, adventure and business.

Table-2 Key Motives for Traveling to CAREC Countries

Market segment, 2019	arriving tourists, %		
	Domestic	From neighboring countries	Remote markets
Business	20,94	23,52	16,63
VSKM-tourism	20,01	20,85	7,40
Visiting Friends and Relatives (VGDR)	13,10	16,17	26,95
Nature/sport/adventure	13,63	15,82	32,80
Culture/religion	17,01	14,88	7,91
Leisure/Sun & Beach	13,31	8,76	8,31

Countries can increase the direct impact of tourism on GDP through two different strategies: a volume-based strategy (i.e. mass tourism with little input and value-added) or a high value strategy (i.e. low tourism volume but high costs and appropriation of added value).

While the effect on GDP from both strategies may be the same, its impact on social and environmental sustainability is quite different, as more tourists tend to cause more severe social and environmental negative externalities. Thus, well-designed tourism strategies strike a good balance between tourist volume, expenditure per tourist, value-added appropriation and social and environmental sustainability. Tourism is considered a priority sector in the strategies and plans of the CAREC countries.

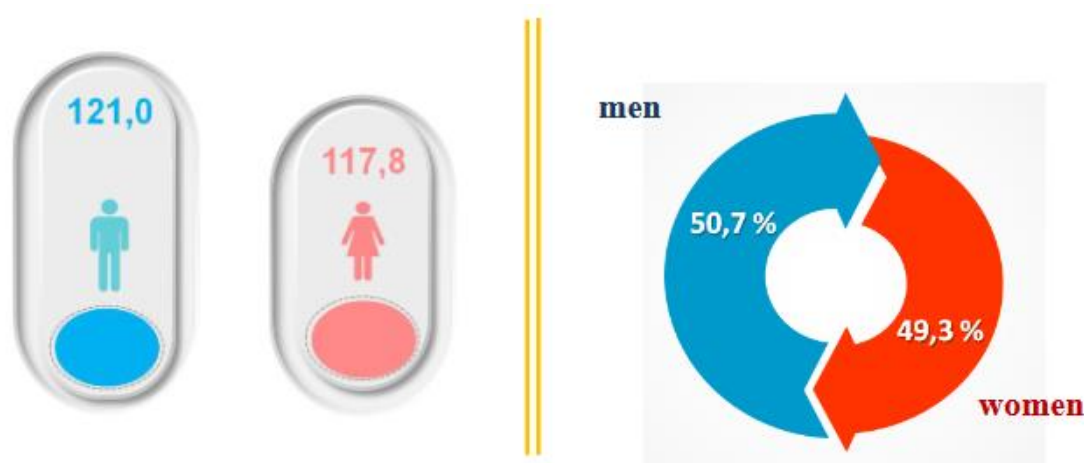
However, the current level of global competitiveness of their tourism sectors is quite. Although CAREC countries score high on the attractiveness of their natural and cultural assets, they perform very modestly in other important dimensions, such as transport infrastructure and tourism services. So addressing these issues is the key to increasing overall visits and spending.

Strengthening the tourism value chain by improving the range and quality of tourism services and increasing the participation of local SMEs and the private sector will improve the distribution of tourism revenues at the national level.

Socio-economic situation Republic of Uzbekistan Tourist flows Foreign citizens who entered the country, thousand people Outgoing citizens of Uzbekistan, thousand people. In January-March 2021, the number of foreign citizens who visited the Republic of Uzbekistan for tourism amounted to 238,8 thousand people). In January-March of the previous year, this indicator was recorded at the level of 1 214,0 thousand people. Compared to the same period last year, the number of foreigners who entered Uzbekistan decreased times.

Along with this, the number of citizens of Uzbekistan who left the republic for the purpose of tourism in January-March 2021 totaled 301,9 thousand people), in January-March last year, the same figure was 1 435,3 thousand people. Compared to the same period last year, the number of citizens who left for foreign countries decreased by 4,8 times.

The number of foreign citizens by gender who entered the Republic of Uzbekistan (in January-March 2021, thousand people).

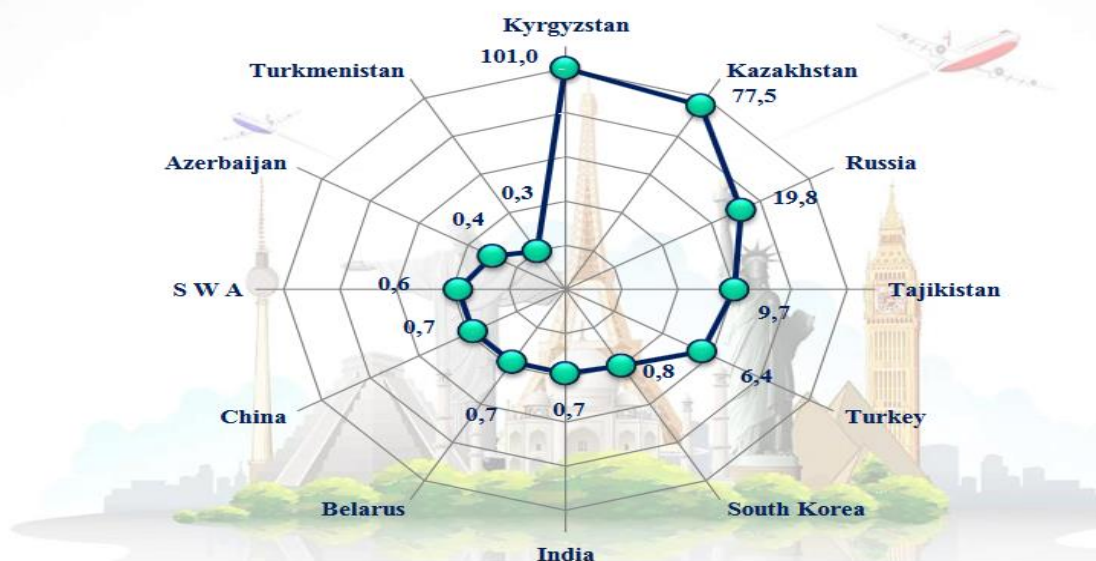


The World Tourism Organization has explored approaches to the formation of tourism strategies in different countries. Including what tasks are most often included in strategies, whose interests are taken into account and how all this is monitored and financed.

Considering that today the issue of tourism policy and strategy has become more relevant than ever in almost all countries of the post-Soviet space, it is at least interesting to look at world experience.

The study of tourism development policies in different countries has become part of a large UNWTO basic report "On the integration of the principles of sustainable consumption and production in the national tourism policy of various countries". And although the report is mainly devoted to the issues of sustainable and responsible tourism, the study touches on much broader issues - approaches to the formation and implementation of national tourism strategies in general.

The number of foreign citizens who arrived to the Republic of Uzbekistan (in January-March 2021, thousand people).



The largest flow of foreign citizens to our republic was noted from the following countries: Kyrgyzstan – 101,0 thousand people (42,3% of the total number of all arrivals), Kazakhstan – 77,5 thousand people (32,4%), Russia – 19,8 thousand people (8,3%), Tajikistan – 9,7 thousand people (4,0%), Belarus – 0,7 thousand people (0,3%), Azerbaijan – 0,4 thousand people (0,2%) and Turkmenistan – 0,3 thousand people (0,1%). The main contingent of Kyrgyz citizens came to Uzbekistan to visit relatives – 97,7%, for treatment – 1,2%, 91,4% of citizens of Kazakhstan also came to visit their relatives, 2,9% - for the purpose of rest and leisure. 38,4% of South Korean citizens came for rest and leisure, 17,8% - for business purposes.

The government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is attempting to raise global awareness about their cultural and heritage attractions through their recent tourism policies, to help protect and manage and protect outdoor natural areas, and to preserve their unique architectural monuments and mosques. The location of the area in the corridors on the Great Silk Road, with cities that were the main points of trade, make their destinations attractive for foreign tourists. Thus, there is no doubt that visitors who have decided to travel to Uzbekistan in recent times are mainly interested in the cultural and historical attractions and generally undertake the most popular tours provided by the local travel agencies, i.e., Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Kiva.

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