

Tourist-Recreational Area of Upper Svaneti (Mestia-Ushguli Zone) Physical-Geographic Assessment of Capacity

Maia Japaridze

E-mail: maia.japaridze606@ens.tsu.edu.ge

Department of Geography, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

3, I. Chavchavadze Ave., Tbilisi, 0179, Georgia

Natural resources are basic resources that can be used to meet the needs of society, provided there is a certain level of development of productive forces. Classification of natural resources includes land, soil, climatic, mineral, water, forest, recreational groups. Natural resources are divided into three groups according to the possibility of restoration and consumption: mineral raw materials exhaustible non-renewable raw materials, exhaustible renewable biological resources and inexhaustible. An important feature of the economic classification of resources is their single-purpose and multi-purpose use. In order to increase the efficiency of the use of the resource base, it is necessary to objectively evaluate the existing natural resources, to spend them sparingly and rationally, to identify less demanding and less effective resources, to switch to alternative sources.

Georgia has significant tourism potential. In this regard, one of the outstanding regions is Upper Svaneti, and this is clearly seen from this quote: the British newspaper Guardian advises its readers to travel to Georgia, and when talking about the mountainous region of Georgia, the author of the article compares Svaneti to a fairy tale: "Svaneti, the most mysterious mountain region in Georgia, here fairy tales turn into real life. Svaneti is known for its stone-built houses and towers, which had a defense function. Svans, a people who love freedom, live in this region. Tourist routes are almost untraceable here. Lovers of wild and real nature travel to Svaneti. Of course, this tour is not limited to Svaneti. In general, Georgia is one of our favorites among different countries. Georgia is known for: food, wine, mountains, churches, hospitality, rich history. With all this, Georgia is the best for travel. It is better to visit and see for yourself." The 4 main chapters of this master's thesis are dedicated to the physical-geographical analysis of the touristic-recreational landscapes of this region: first - touristic-recreational geosystems – anthropogenic One of the cultural modifications of the landscape (shorthistorical review); Second - physical-geographical factors determining the capacity of tourist-recreational destinations of Upper Svaneti (Mestia-Ushguli zone); Third - regularities of spatial distribution of tourism-recreational resources of Upper Svaneti; Fourth - perspectives of sustainable tourism development of Upper Svaneti and optimization of landscapes.

Despite the fact that the natural and climatic conditions of the country, the historical prerequisites for the development of the territories, the level of their industrial development, the potential for tourism development and the tourism specialization of the regions are different, in general, the tourism industry contributes to increasing the efficiency of the existing material and technical base of the tourist-recreational complex, providing services creation of jobs in the field and increase of state and local budget revenues.