

Recreational use of natural resources and tourism development in cross-border territories in the areas inhabited by indigenous peoples of the Altai region

N G Prudnikova^{1*}, N N Prazdnikova¹ and M N Ignatenko¹

¹ Altai State University, 61 Lenina pr., Barnaul 656049 Russia

E-mail: belukha@mail.ru

Abstract. The article studies the development of tourism in transboundary territories in the places of residence of indigenous peoples of the Altai region. Places of Kumandins' compact residence are in the Krasnogorsk, Salton, Altai districts of the Altai Region and Turochaksky, Mayminsky regions of the Altai Republic. The places are analyzed in terms accommodation and the number of tourists in the districts in 2018.

Keywords: recreational use, natural resources, tourism, indigenous peoples, cross-border territory

1. Introduction

The Altai region (Krai) and the Altai Republic possess significant natural and recreational resources, rich cultural and historical heritage, and extensive transboundary territories. Consequently, the need to study and clarify the considered processes within the cross-border territories of the Altai region. A recreational use of natural resources in cross-border territories was analyzed using the cases of the Krasnogorsk, Solton, Altai districts of the Altai Region and Turochaksky, Maiminsky districts of the Altai Republic.

The possibility of using the potential of traditional environmental management of indigenous peoples in cross-border tourism gives the opportunity to solve economic problems of the traditional residence's areas. Currently, the urgent task is to develop concepts for the sustainable development of individual regions. Creation of promising strategies is based on an analysis of the ethno-demographic and ethno-social situation in local communities, and in this connection, the problems of the indigenous peoples of our region are interesting from the perspective of obtaining new knowledge.

For several years, the regulatory framework for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples was formed in Russia. In 2018, the Federal Law *On Guarantees of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation* was adopted. In 2016, the *Concept of Sustainable Development of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East* was adopted. Indigenous peoples of the Northern Altai – Tubalars, Chelkans, and Kumandins – are among these indigenous peoples [1]. They received the status of indigenous peoples, standing out from the Altai ethnic group to which they were ranked (as subethnos) during the 20th century.

2. Materials and Methods

The study was conducted on the basis of materials and statistical data of the Altai Region Administration for External Relations, Tourism, and Resort Business [2] and the Office of the Federal State Statistics Service for the Altai Region and the Altai Republic [3]. The subject of the research is the recreational use of natural resources and indigenous small peoples in the cross-border area of the considered regions, which are part not only of the subjects of the Federation, but also part of the Bolshoi Altai. Each of the studied areas has a certain set of natural-recreational resources and the Kumandins living in this area. An analysis of these resources, as well as the degree of their involvement in recreational nature management and the opportunity to use the Kumandins cultural traditions in the development of tourism, is one of the most important tasks of the study. Research methods include descriptive, comparative, and statistical.

3. Results

The Altai Territory and the Altai Republic are among the most interesting regions of the Russian Federation for developing tourism. To study the recreational use of natural resources in the cross-border territory of the Altai Region and the Altai Republic, we selected the following adjacent areas: Krasnogorsk, Solton, Altai, Turochaksky, and Mayminsky districts. These are the places of compact residence for Kumandins. These areas fit the definition of a cross-border territory. A cross-border territory is a complex geographical structure that combines certain natural resources, infrastructure facilities, population settlement, as well as its economic activities within the boundaries of a large geosystem [4].

The selected areas have a common border between the subjects of the Federation, natural and recreational resources and cultural and historical attractions that are interesting in tourist activities, good transport accessibility and infrastructure. These areas are one of the most visited areas, and these are one of the most compactly populated areas by the indigenous peoples, Kumandins.

In Russia, the number of Kumandins is 2,892 people, in the Altai Region live 1,401 people (in 2010, in 2002 is 1663), in the Altai Republic is 1,062 people [3]. According to the materials of the Mayminsky and Turochaksky districts of the Altai Republic, it can be seen that in the period from 1940-1943 to 2000-2018, the trends of ethno-demographic and ethno-social development were characteristic for the region's indigenous peoples. In many ways, these trends are common to the entire population of Siberia. For a number of demographic components (population, natural growth, birth rate, age structure of the population, mortality), the Altai Republic has the best indicators in comparison with Western Siberia. But the Choysky and Turochaksky districts are problematic, because their demographic situation is much worse than in the Republic as a whole. The processes of forgetting traditions are observed in the sphere of ethno-linguistic and ethno-cultural processes. During the 20th century, the significance of the languages of the autochthonous population decreased. 45.7% of Kumandins had their own language in 1926, and already 30.2% of Kumandins spoke that language in 2018 [3; 5].

But despite this, the research areas allow developing many types of tourist-excursion, ethnographic, and cultural-historical services.

One of the most intensively developing tourist and recreational areas of the Altai Region (which has a cross-border position) is the Altai district. It is included in the routes "Big Golden Ring of Altai" and "Small Golden Ring of Altai". 231 tourist and recreation facilities received tourists and vacationers in 2018. In the summer season, up to 6,000 people daily rest on tourist enterprises of the Altai district. And that's not counting a huge number of tent camps that grow every summer on the shores of the Katun. And up to 10,000 people gather on summer weekends at the artificial lake "Biryuzovaya Katun" [2, 3, 6, 7].

Also, tourism is one of the priorities of the socio-economic development of the Altai Republic. The main part of the tourist infrastructure is concentrated in the territory of the Chemalsky, Maiminsky, and Turochaksky districts. A great contribution to the development of recreational environmental management makes Maiminsky district. The district was the second one in terms of the number of

tourist visits (557.2 thousand) in the Altai Republic in 2018 (Table 1). The data presented in Table 1 shows that the most developed in the recreational and tourist relation are the areas located on the federal highway. These areas have a fairly advantageous transport location, have a large concentration of natural and recreational resources, and have the most developed infrastructure, simultaneously being located close to cross-border neighbors. Consequently, tourist-recreational activities are intensively developed in them. As a result, the exchange and migration of residents takes place, which has a positive effect on the development of tourism in both regions.

Table 1. Locations on tourist sites and the number of tourists in the studied areas in 2018 [2, 3].

Municipality (District)	Number of tourist facilities	Number of placements in them		Number of tourists, thousand people		
		Total	Number of year- round placements of them	Total	Altai region	Other regions
Mayminsky district	52	3450	1500	157.2	68.5	88.7
Turochaksky district	25	1300	670	0.987	0.456	0.531
Krasnogorsk	7	456	150	9.95	9.35	0.6
Solton	2	60	12	0.475	0.475	0
Altai	87	10997	2923	218.1	152.4	65.7

All of the above factors have led to the intensive development of recreational and tourist activities in these areas. And every year, a number of tourists and vacationers only grows, with an annual increase in the tourist flow being about 11% [8].

Comparing the Altai and Mayminsky districts, we see that the first one surpasses the second one in terms of accommodation and the largest tourist flow. The tourist and recreation complex “Biryuzovaya Katun” made a great contribution to this. More than 800 locations of various categories were created on its territory. In addition, their number is growing annually. The artificial lake located on the territory of the complex attracts a large number of tourists not only from the territory of the Altai region, but also from the Altai Republic, in particular from the Mayminsky district.

Consequently, considerable attention is paid to the development of recreational and tourist activities in both areas. The following natural and recreational resources are attracted for this purpose: landscapes, mountains and mountain peaks, passes, forests, lakes and rivers, caves and mines, water sources that have a therapeutic and recreational value. Most of the tourist sites are the nature monuments of regional and republican significance. Almost every one of them is unique and inimitable, which attracts so much attention from tourists.

Based on the recreational environmental management, the increased scale of intensification of the recreational process should create the need for environmental and resource-reproducing activities aimed at preserving the quality of the recreational environment. Since the number of recreants depends on the quality of the recreational environment.

4. Discussion

This potential can be actively used in the development of tourism in the direction of the rational use of the indigenous peoples’ regional heritage. Also, it is to be used in developing ways of intelligently applying the ethnocultural potential, taking into account the tourists’ cognitive and cultural needs and the development trends of their new preferences.

Many problems can be solved through the development of tourism, it is possible to provide ordinary people with an opportunity to independently achieve a decent standard of living. Moreover, in many countries, tourism is based on the use of cultural heritage and includes visits to ancient archaeological monuments, museums, memorials, making souvenirs, conducting theatrical performances, and other events. Almost half of the global tourist flow is driven by cultural motivations, and not only by the love of nature and interest in extreme situations.

Thus, the identification of prospects for cooperation in preserving the culture of indigenous peoples in the areas of their compact residence, which have become a traditional tourist destination (Mayminsky, Chemalsky, Choysky, and Turachaksky districts), is relevant. The following points are important to determine for this: a legal status of the objects of ethnocultural heritage, their importance for the local population, the degree of their use. Monitoring the quality of excursion services being provided must be carried out. Then, development of tourism will give local people a real chance to solve employment issues, to improve living standards, to become representatives of small and medium-sized businesses, to preserve their culture and unique natural objects, and to ensure the future of their children.

This can be achieved only if it is possible to create effective mechanisms for the integration of tourism, agriculture and forestry, environmental activities and various crafts. On the one hand, a detailed study of the legislative framework that opens up the possibility of implementing profitable projects and the use of all opportunities to attract and serve tourists (creating the most comfortable conditions for them) is necessary for this. On the other hand, a regulatory mechanism for the use of natural objects is necessary, i.e. It is very important to take care of preserving the uniqueness and ecological purity of rivers, lakes, taiga, etc. The legal framework should help the local population to integrate into tourism activities through rural tourism and small tourist business.

5. Conclusion

Sustainable development of nature management using the ethnic culture of small indigenous peoples can only be achieved by creating a constant high level of recreational potential, by maintaining an ecological balance between the natural environment and developed territories, taking into account the conservation and restoration of recreational resources. And a transboundary factor of the studied areas is a positive factor for development.

During the study, we found that not all areas of the cross-border territory are recreational environmental management and not all areas can develop ethnic tourism using the heritage of the Kumandins people. But the districts have experience in recreational activities. There is a system of interaction in the field of recreational and tourist activities in the cross-border area of these areas. They are located within the same state and have a uniform legislation in the field of recreation and tourism, as well as in the field of environmental management.

In recent years, there has been a certain rise in the provision of tourist and excursion services in the Altai region. At the same time, the development of tourism is a poorly managed process, largely spontaneous despite a wide discussion on the problems of its development. In addition to the legislative framework that allows making tourism one of the most important revenue items for budget replenishment, a well-thought-out strategy is needed. It should include not only the implementation of expensive investment projects, but also projects involving more active participation of the population, solving employment problems, preserving nature and increasing the comfort of living.

Thus, at present, experts pay considerable attention to the study, establishment, and development of recreational environmental management in cross-border territories. Tourist activity is intensively developing in these territories, and it simultaneously becomes an economically advantageous model of recreational ethnic nature management.

Under these conditions of active exploration by tourists of the natural resources of the republic, the problems of such socially vulnerable ethnic groups as indigenous peoples require more close attention. Their existence as independent ethnic communities directly depends on the opportunities to engage in folk crafts and to preserve traditional economic systems.

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