

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-ETHNO-VILLAGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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Key words. eco & ethno-village, agro-tourism, problems of the economic system, recreant, national ethno park.

Introduction. From the point of view of the development of the tourism sphere, the rural areas of the Republic of Armenia are considered realistic, which is conditioned by geographical location, landscape diversity, favorable climatological environment, abundance of mineral waters, natural monuments, forested areas, strong historical and cultural heritage, which is especially interesting for tourists. The latter are especially inclined to create conditions for their peaceful and harmonious old age to harmonize with nature. Taking into account the above-mentioned advantages of tourism development in the Republic of Armenia, the article aims to offer the idea of creating eco-ethno-villages in the country, which in turn will solve a number of problems related to tourism, economy and environment in Armenia. An eco-village is an ecological settlement located in a rural area, which is characterized as a settlement of reasonable size with all the features of human activity, which is safely integrated into the natural and/or historical environment, ensures healthy human development, can successfully survive indefinitely [Yearbooks 2020]. It can be created on the basis of an existing or abandoned village, or in a new place, the way of life of which is similar to the way of life of a normal (traditional) village, that is, the fact of being engaged mainly in agriculture, the existence of separate houses and plots of land for families. In this way, the eco-village differs from other types of eco-habitats: agricultural communes, urban cohousing, kibbutzim, summer-type eco-habitats (without permanent residence), ecological orientation of monasteries, and other communities of loners. At the same time, an eco-village differs from a traditional village in that it is an ideological community where people are united around certain ideas or principles, not because they were born or happened to be in a neighborhood [Gilman, 2020]. Often they are former urban dwellers who have chosen to be close to nature, and in ordinary villages the majority of the population is native to the countryside. The human scale is a mandatory characteristic of an eco-village. The latter is explained by the fact that all members of the community know each other, everyone feels that they can influence the development of the community. As a rule, the number of members of that community does not exceed 500-700 people. In its turn, Ethno-village is a real or artificially created settlement, which reflects the historical-ethnographic features of the life of a certain ethnic group. In eco-ethno-villages, all aspects of human

life must be represented in a balanced proportion. Another important aspect is the circulating use of materials . Use of renewable energy sources (solar, wind, tidal, etc.), fertilization of organic waste, return to soil, secondary wastewater treatment, non-use of toxic and harmful substances. The best model of an eco-village is the traditional village, in order to restore the pre-existing harmony of nature with each other, it is necessary to interest certain groups of people to live there.

Methodology. Many groups have been creating eco-villages for decades. In order to assess difficulties faced by pioneers, let's discuss their problems [Stroyizdat, 1984].

Bio system issues. In order to ensure the safe inclusion of the eco-ethno-village in the natural environment, it is required that:

- preserve the natural environment in its territory,
 - produce food, fuel and other living resources on the spot,
 - disinfect and recycle all its waste,
 - avoid adverse effects on other parts of the environment through products produced outside the village,
 - preserve rituals, traditions, costumes, crafts of given ethnic group and cuisine.
- Problems of construction environment.* It is necessary that eco and ethno village:
- be made of environmentally friendly materials,
 - use renewable energy sources,
 - minimize the use of mechanized vehicles,
 - be constructed to minimize the impact on the local ecosystem,
 - develop the road network using secondary raw materials of the Republic of Armenia's masonry ores.

Due to the current globalization conditions, the expand of the escalating scale of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the socio-economic situation of the population of Armenia will worsen, especially from April 1, 2022, the rise in gas prices, electricity, as well as the volume of mainly imported grain, fertilizers, combined food will be in a sharp decrease. The situation of the Armenian village will deteriorate, which will be similar to the Energy Crisis of 1992-1996, when the forest and the green areas of the cities will once again bear the full weight of the energy-fuel crisis. In order to prevent and neutralize the new threat to the forest, the inhabitants of the mountain villages, by being involved in recreational activities, routes, organization of resources, operation and maintenance, will use their lands, providing the benefits from them to recreational farms. The villagers (residents of eco-ethno-villages), loving their natural environment, will not allow illegal logging, unnecessary change of natural landscape, exercise self-control, as all resources for recreation are dual in nature, as a recreational resource, and as a condition for the development of recreational activities. Due to contractual care with forestry, sani-

tary felling, ruthless illegal logging, legalized logging will eliminate the accumulation of large amount of timber (100-200 thousand cubic meters of timber) per year. To take care of the personal needs of the recreants, as well as the areas for the organization, furnishing of future routes, cleaning, preparing new areas.

Analysis. Taking into account the above-mentioned, it is proposed to organize a key route from the north-west to the south-east with the conditional name of the key route "Solar" from "Lake Arpi" National Park to "Areviq" National Park [Futuro-pa-Naturopa, 2016-17, 86-89]. Branches to eco-ethno-villages will be separated from the main route. Topographic extraction will be carried out along all the routes, the routes will include history, architecture and natural monuments, will include various recreational activities. The routes will be equipped with mobile modules (recreation cottages) every 10-15 km, and the overnight stay will be organized in the recreational farms of the above-mentioned villages (overnight, breakfast, guest houses, tent stations), which is directly related to the recreational burden of the landscape. The landscape capacity of an eco- or ethno-village is determined by the maximum number of vacationers living in the area who can be in recreational areas at the same time without established nature conservation rules and violation of the psychological comfort of rest due to overcrowding. The basic data for determining the capacity of eco-ethnic villages are:

1. quality and capacity of recreational resources approved by one person,
2. the size of the areas allocated for organization or formation per capita,
3. permissible load norms on different landscapes, taking into account the size of the areas allocated in natural landscapes,
4. the size of natural and artificial beach resources and their surface coastline,
5. existence of objects of natural-historical attraction.

The total recreational load of the area is determined taking into account the allowable load on the natural landscape. Below are the indicators of recreational allowable loads on the natural landscape (man / ha). Based on the above, it is proposed to create a network of eco-ethno-villages in all regions of Armenia, which will be based on the Pan-Armenian route from "Lake Arpi" National Park to "Areviq" National Park, which will provide recreational services to recreants. Moreover, the abandoned villages with a small population will be divided into categories (eco-villages and ethno-villages) according to location, rituals, customs, biodiversity. The latter can later be united in national ethno-parks. Border eco-villages must be provided with individual self-defense measures. Thus, "Argina" and "Lernamerdz" settlements with a population of 534 people and 384 people were selected as an example of an eco-village from Armavir region (respectively, according to the 2011 census) [Statistics, 2012]. "Shenik" and "Yervandashat" settlements (respectively 975 people and 654 people as of 2011) were chosen as an example of an ethno-village from the same region, one as representing the traditions, rituals, cos-

tumes and cuisine of the ethnographic regions of the emigrants from Western Armenia, the other as one of the former royal capitals of Greater Armenia, with its archeological excavations and minerals. “Vardashat” settlement with a population of 178 people (as of 2011) was chosen as an example of an eco-village from Ararat region. “Hnaberd” settlement (611 people, as of 2011) was chosen as an example of an ethno-village from the same region, as the royal capital of Dvin, Greater Armenia, with its archeological excavations and minerals. In the above-mentioned ecological villages, the future inhabitants can be engaged in fruit growing, vegetable growing, animal husbandry, the ecologically clean products of which will provide the needs of the recreants.

Table 1. Indicators of recreational allowable loads on the natural landscape

The normalized component of the landscape and the type of its use	Criterion (man/ha)		
	biological	technological	psychological
Forests (for walks) - pine forest on extremely dry soils - dry mixed broadband forest on fertile lands	0,5 – 1 2 – 3 3 - 5	-	0,5 - 1
1. Meadows (for walks) - dry valley and other dry meadows, - other meadows of low, flood and moderate humidity	5 – 10 10 - 20	-	-
2. Beaches (for sunbathing) - natural beaches	-	1000 - 1700	100 - 200
3. River and lake water (for swimming)	-	500 - 600	100 - 200
4. Coastal water for amateur fishing - for fishing from a boat (2 people / boat) - for shore fishing (man / km)	-	10 – 20 50 - 100	-
5. For tent camps (people / km) - for deep areas - for coastal areas	-	250 – 300 300 - 400	15 – 30 50 - 100

“Getik” and “Daranak” settlements with population of 370 people and 168 people were selected as an example of an eco-village from Gegharkunik region, respectively. From the same region, Akhpradzor (355 people) and Martuni (521 people as of 2020) settlements were chosen as locals, representing the ethnographic regions of Western Armenia and Persian-Armenia [3]. “Ahnidzor” and “Antaramut” settlements with a population of 180 people (2018 .) and 306 people (2011) were selected as example of an eco-village from Lori region. “Ardvi” (177 people as of 2011) and “Tumanyan” (1600 people as of 2015) settlements from the same region were chosen as examples of ethno-villages as settlements representing the rituals, costumes, cuisine and traditions of surrounding areas of Lori, the homeland of the all-Armenian poet Hovhannes Tumanyan. “Lor”, “Shurnukh” and “Kuris” settlements with a population of 365 people (2011.), 224 (2010) and 44 people (2011) were selected as an example of an eco-village from Syunik

region. “Khoznavar” (396 people) and “Tatev” (864 people as of 2011) settlements from the same region were chosen as an example of an ethno-village as settlements representing the rituals, costumes, cuisine and traditions of the Syunik world, Artsakh and neighboring regions. “Alvar”, “Byurakn” settlements with population of 140 people (2011) and 921 (2012) were selected as an example of an eco-village from Shirak region. “Anipemza” (505 people in 2012) and “Norshen” (Kharkov) (1 person as of 2019) settlements from the same region were chosen as examples of ethno-villages as settlements representing Shirak rituals, costumes, cuisine and traditions [3]. The latter is located directly in front of the medieval capital of the Armenian state, Ani. “Chknagh” and “Ghazaravan” settlements with a population of 239 people (2011) and 450 (2011) were selected as an example of an eco-village from Aragatsotn region. From the same region, “Mughni” (781 people in 2011) and “Tlik” (123 people, as of 2011) settlements were selected as an example of an ethno-village. The settlements of “Acharkut”, “Yenokavan” and “Hovk” from Tavush region were chosen as an example of an eco-village with a population of 200 people (2011), 537 (2011) and 435 people (2011). “Chinchin” (646 people), “Nerkin Gosh” (281 people) and “Voskepar” (819 people as of 2011) were selected as an example of an ethno-village in the same region as settlements with rituals, costumes, cuisine, traditions of Tavush, Artsakh and surrounding regions of the world.

Finally, “Horbategh” and “Gnishik” settlements with a population of 242 people (2011) and 44 people (2011) were selected as an example of an eco-village from Vayots Dzor region. “Yeghegis” (369 people) and “Gndevaz” (829 people as of 2011) settlements as Vayots Dzor and settlements representing the customs, costumes, cuisine and traditions of Persian-Armenians in general were chosen as an example of an ethno-village from the same region. “Geghard” and “Hankavan” settlements with a population of 399 people (2012) and 6116 people (2012) were selected as an example of an eco-village from Kotayk region [State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Armenia, 2012].

Scientific novelty. Taking into account the opportunities for tourism development in Armenia, the article proposes the idea of establishing eco-ethno villages. The latter can be considered as a scientific novelty, as such an idea has not been developed in our country yet. Moreover, our research work proposes the establishment of an Armenian trail route, which will run from Lake Arpi National Park to Areviq National Park, including certain villages from all regions of the Republic. Finally, the above-mentioned novelty in its turn will solve a number of social, economic-recreational problems.

Conclusion. All the above-mentioned villages with their various recreational resources can help the people, first of all the poor, who have many health problems. Some of the listed settlements are known to both local and foreign tourists for their recreational resources. Agrotourism has been developing in these settlements for 10-15 years, and ethnotourism needs rapid development. That is why the list includes settlements with a

population of more than a thousand, where the established agro-tourism infrastructure can be a stimulus for the further development of ethnotourism. The creation of an Armenian trail, the organization of infrastructure, the furnishing will contribute to the development of ecotourism (agro tourism) and especially ethno tourism, the formation of sustainable flows of tourists, recreation, especially the stabilization of abandoned or aging populations, as well as the stabilization of urban settlements. Future eco-villages and ethno-villages created in the proposed settlements will be established by applying the norms of the presented landscape capacity and recreational load. Finally, the creation of eco-villages and ethno-villages will solve the housing, social, economic, as well as health problems of the population returning to those settlements, will create an additional source of income from the service of recreants and the sale of food.

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