

Summary

The current study investigates Tourism of Coastal Protected Areas in Egypt geographically as numerous legislations had been slapped ever since the nineteenth century through the sixties in order to protect the coasts and beaches from waste to 1972. There has also been the cabinet decree N° (102) in 1983 to protect the natural. Thus, the legislative, political, economical, social and developmental attributes have been scientifically shaped so as to set up a uniform to preserve the nature in Egypt. This uniform represents the first brick in building up a national strategy to protect the nature.

Protecting the country's natural aquaria civilization is structured upon a net of sanctuaries within its land. a to this law, the number of sanctuaries has amounted to 27 in Egypt in 2009 which stretches as 140667.5 square kilometers that represent 13 percent of total Egyptian territories.

The study of sanctuaries is regarded as an important issue in protecting the national and international environment. This is because they reflect the desire of change in the land patterns in the richest regions in the world. Thus, there has been a dire need to set up sanctuaries to grantee the permanence of the living resources to keep protecting the various species that represent the living environment in their natural habitats. This also may preserve the biological and natural variation in the region. In addition, this protection keeps the inherited genes of the wilderness that maintain and support the resources for development.

Internationally, sanctuaries are classified in various ways according to type to the geographical classification in Egypt where they fetched 27 protected areas in 2008. They were classified as parks, aquaria and islands spread throughout the Egyptian territories. They amount to 100978 square kilometers. Thus, of the total Egyptian territories, the coastal protected areas represent 00.01% whereas the parks represent 07.8%. Meanwhile, according to the selected samples of the current study, the sanctuaries amount to 08.4% of the total protected coastal and park areas in Egypt.

Studying the external features of the sanctuaries to identify the extent and efficiency of protecting the ecology and the possibility of management and follow up, the study has revealed that most of the study samples are integrated or semi-integrated biologically in order to be sustainable for future implications.

Tourism in Coastal Protected Areas in Egypt

Egypt has several factors and potentialities that make her one of the first class tourist-attraction countries in the world. The relative geographical and astronomical location, in addition to the topographical features of landscape and natural formations represent the factors of tourist attraction for the coastal sanctuaries in Egypt.

Climate is also the most important factor affecting the fauna, plant and tourism in Egypt. It represents one of the main tourism magnets in a given region. Therefore, the Egyptian climate is distinguished generally and particularly in the sanctuaries.

The close link between the climate on the one hand and the fauna and plant life on the other is obvious that has led to the appearance of unique plants and animals which are endangered to be extinct; some of them are so rare that they are found only in those sanctuaries.

It seems that the effect of the oceanography on the marine life including sea level, temperature and water salinity have determined the type of marine life as to its density and distribution from one place to another.

The study also investigates the purposeful tourism as about 40% of tourists come for pleasure and fun, whereas the high cost of travel and tourism hinders about 95% of them.

The number of tourist from the Arab countries has declined about 15% generally and in those sanctuaries about 1% particularly. It is obvious also that the protected zones based by the Red Sea attract more tourist than those of the Mediterranean Sea.

Unlike The Red Sea coastal zones which have been distinguished with no specific period or season for tourism as the numbers of tourists are distributed on all the months, the Mediterranean Sea coastal zones enjoy the seasonal effects.

The internal tourism of the Egyptians tend to prefer the protected areas of the Mediterranean Sea that amount to 99%, whereas the influx of foreign tourism prefer The Red Sea coastal zones that amount to 98%.

The age average of the visitors is between 40 to 49 years old. The majority of them are males, university graduates, full-time employed. That slice of visitors tends to conduct arranged-package holidays.

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Expenditure on sanctuaries in Egypt is 99% less than the international standard of the developed countries. It is also 87% less than that of the average developing countries.

The protected areas of Ras Mohamed and Sanafir represent 62% of the total income of sanctuaries in Egypt. They also represent 99.96% of the sanctuaries in the study sample.

The number of work force in these sanctuaries amounts to 621 employees in 2008. This figure is less than that of the international standard of about 82.4% and 89%.

The number of studies that assess the environment and the effect of the industry, agriculture, tourism, and mining projects on those sanctuaries have increased recently.

The increase of CO_2 and the other harmful gases and compounds resulting from the burning of fossil fuel in the neighborhood leads to climate change what is called the greenhouse effect which spoils the environment.

Some aquaria have affected negatively on the coral reefs. Moreover, the environment has recently received some unknown exotic gases which have deeper effects on the region.

The amount of environmental penalties in the protected aquaria such as the filling up the sea with debris, sea sports, swage, water distillation plants, oil spillage and damaging the coral reefs affect the environment badly.

Safari tourism also has negatively affected the aquaria and fauna in those protected zones such as bird and animal poaching in addition to misuse of the rare endangered plants.

The study puts forward the suggestion of directing more tourists towards the alternative tourism (environment friendly) as a significant solution to avoid the problems of polluting and destroying those natural protected areas.