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# Ecotourism and Its Impact on Development in Karbala Governorate Green Tourism as an Example

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In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

"It is He who made the earth a cradle for you and traced out paths for you in it, and sent down water from the sky, with which We brought forth diverse pairs of plants." (Surah Taha, 20:53)

**Abstract:** Ecotourism is one of the best global tourism styles at present because of its advantages that have made it at the forefront of Tourism styles, being a clean tourism that works to preserve natural areas and try to be environmentally sustainable and invest them optimally for the great benefit of all parties involved in the tourism process. The importance of ecotourism is manifested through the positive effects it provides, such as increasing the revenues of the local community, preserving natural areas, improving the level of the environment, developing infrastructure, improving and developing tourist attractions, as well as preventing its negative effects, such as destroying the quality of the environment, defacing tourist areas, water and air pollution, the Holy province of Karbala has the components of ecotourism, which qualifies it to be an excellent tourist interface, which is reflected in increasing national income and achieving community well-being, as well as being one of the factors of recreation and relaxation a large and important segment of society

The research was based on the premise that it is necessary to activate and apply the concept of ecotourism from During the increase of environmental awareness of citizens and relevant authorities using the correct policies and criteria to pay attention to this type of tourism, the research found that there is no clear strategy for ecotourism, which has the components of ecotourism and the weak location of Tourism Development in development plans, which reduces its importance on an ongoing basis, and then developed

some recommendations and proposals that would develop ecotourism to achieve development in the province, it should be noted that the research has been divided into two researches in which the researcher dealt with the concept of ecotourism, the geographical components of the city of Karbala and the extent of its impact on development.

**Keywords:** Target Costing Technique, Quality Function, Improving Product Value, Production Costs.

**Introduction:** Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing types of tourism in many countries of the world. Developed countries have been seeking for three decades to apply the concept of tourism sustainability, which depends on three important aspects, first: the material returns of entrepreneurs, and the social dimension, considering that these institutions are part of the local community.

Second: benefiting from local expertise and competencies as much as possible, in addition to involving the local community in the environment; attractive tourist elements are part of the environment, and therefore tourism planning should be third: Therefore, Karbala governorate has important and significant tourist attractions with its civilized and natural environment, but it is a spring that pulsates with history, heritage and beauty, which are represented by the Tar caves, akhidar Fort, Khan al-Rabi, Lake Razzaza, water eyes, Imam Ali's Katara and its large agricultural areas and farms, and these tourist elements are available only in a few regions of the world, and if attention is paid to them and study ways to establish ecotourism in the province and benefit from the experiences of others and the application of international standards, the results will be accordingly, the research focused on highlighting the concept of ecotourism and the geographical distribution of the most important regions Tourism in Karbala governorate, in addition to the impact that tourism can have on the local economy.

### The Research Problems

The research proceeds from the following main problem, from which a group of sub-problems emerge. ecotourism is one of the most important tourist styles currently, but it has not taken its place and its natural role in the city of Karbala, despite the fact that it has multiple and diverse natural tourist attractions that are suitable for practicing ecotourism in various forms, as well as the lack of studies that deal with ecotourism in the city of Karbala), the secondary problems are as follows:

1. What is the concept of ecotourism?
2. What is the impact of ecotourism on development?
3. What are the elements of ecotourism?
4. How does ecotourism affect Karbala governorate?
5. What types of ecotourism in Karbala governorate?

### Research Hypothesis

The hypothesis is represented by the following answers that were put forward by the researcher, which are as follows:

1. the environment and tourism are united by an integration and interdependence relationship. Without a sound environment, tourism cannot exist, and without organized eco-tourism planning, the environment will disappear.
2. there are many features and benefits that ecotourism achieves, the most important of which is that it works to preserve the environmental heritage from loss.
3. the province of Karbala abounds in a diverse biological environment that can be exploited by creating nature reserves that contribute to activating ecotourism in the province.

### The Importance of Research

1. to explain the concept of ecotourism and its types and to indicate the extent of its impact on development.
2. the importance of this research is manifested by the importance of ecotourism as it highlights ecotourism as one of the most important types of modern tourism in the world.
3. statement of the most important types and elements of attracting ecotourism in Karbala governorate.
4. highlighting this type of Tourism for the purpose of attracting tourists from all social strata.

### Research objectives

1. Identify the concept of ecotourism and its impact on the development process.
2. introducing the importance of ecotourism as it is one of the most important types of modern tourism.
3. highlighting the elements of natural tourist attractions in the city of Karbala and the multiple and diverse tourist elements that this city enjoys.
4. investing the positive effects of eco-tourism in the city of Karbala and preventing the negative effects

of it.

5. preserving the components of natural tourist attractions through their environmental sustainability.

### Research Methodology

The nature of the research required the use of a descriptive analytical approach by explaining the concept of ecotourism and its types, as well as the most important geographical distribution of types of ecotourism in Karbala governorate and their impact on

development, so the study included this vocabulary and was discussed in detail.

### Spatial and temporal boundaries

The reason for choosing this time period is the emergence of many environmental development projects in the city of Karbala after this date, while the spatial boundaries are represented by the Karbala governorate as shown in map No. (1).



### The First Search

#### Eco-tourism

#### Preparation

Ecotourism with ecological balance is a new phenomenon that aims to research, study and reflect on nature, flora and fauna, provide comfort to humans and contribute to sustainable development. the advantage offered by ecotourism is to link investment and productive projects of the local community with the protection of the environment and the biological and cultural diversity of tourist areas, according to a single development equation, by preparing tourism programs based on directing tourism towards ecologically distinctive sites, with emphasis on creative and entertaining tourist behavioral practices, without

compromising the quality of the environment or affecting it, hence it is necessary to mention:

#### First: the concept of ecotourism

Ecotourism is a concept that has not been defined accurately and in detail until now, as it is constantly being reviewed and analyzed due to the difference in the period and time of the appearance of this term, as some attribute its origin to the English writer and sociologist William Morris, being the first to advocate ecotourism by paying attention to the cleanliness of cities and the Climate, others attribute it to Hector lascorin, a Mexican architect and one environmentalist in 1983.(1)

It is tourism, which concerns the implementation of the

rules of sustainable tourism in general and Environmental Protection at the destination in particular, and therefore it includes all types and forms of tourism in order for the destination to be suitable for visiting on the one hand and the consequent development of approved behavioral controls and instructions to be implemented and adhered to by the tourist and visitor in the field of Environmental Conservation on the other hand. (1).

Ecotourism is a process of learning, culture and education about the components of the environment, and therefore it is a way to introduce tourism to the environment and engage in it. therefore, the World Tourism Organization has defined it as tourism that is practiced in Virgin natural areas to enjoy and increase knowledge about it. (2).

The International Society for the conservation of nature and Natural Resources has defined ecotourism for a year 1999 as responsible travel to natural areas that preserves the environment and ensures the continued well-being of its indigenous people".(3).

Hassan Abd-el-Kader also defined it in general and considered it as" a geographical phenomenon, its natural environmental base, its economic structure, its human-driven and its pioneer psychological and mental pleasure" (4).

Ceballos Laskurin defined it as tourism that requires traveling to unspoiled natural sites in order to study, appreciate and enjoy these sites, as well as benefit from the cultural heritage of the areas that include these sites". The World Environment Fund defined it as "traveling to natural areas that have not been affected by pollution and their natural balance has not been disturbed in order to enjoy their landscapes, wild plants and manifestations of civilization past and present. This type of tourism is very important for developing countries because it represents a source of income in addition to its role in preserving the environment and consolidating the culture and practices of sustainable development".(1)

The researcher believes that the concept of ecotourism is (traveling to natural areas that have not been affected by pollution and their natural balance has not been disturbed in order to enjoy their manifestations, plants, wild animals and manifestations of civilization in the past and present).(2)

## Second: Types of ecotourism

There are several types of tourism that can be exploited and benefited from, they may be related to nature or cultural heritage, it is a tourism that depends on nature primarily with its picturesque scenery, so we find that the activities related to eco-tourism are represented by (1):

1. Land hunting for birds and sea fishing for fish
2. Green tourism in the steppes, forests, parks and zoos.
3. Contemplate nature and explore everything in it.
4. Underwater diving tourism, water games, coral reef watching and hiking on the beaches
5. Excursions in the forests, observation of birds and animals.
6. Explore the valleys and mountains.
7. Desert tourism where there is tranquility, Bird and reptile watching, sand skiing and desert racing.
8. Setting up campsites and camps.
9. Mountain climbing.

## Third: Tourism and its impact on development

Ecotourism in particular has received great attention from those working on environmental issues, which has resulted in a number of studies in this field, and many studies have shown that ecotourism activity, just as it achieves various economic and social benefits, can at the same time cause environmental damage that may be difficult to remedy when not taken into account when planning ecotourism, and ecotourism has many effects:

\* Environmental impacts: if tourism development is planned well and tourists are monitored in a successful way, the environment can be preserved and improved in various ways, namely:

1.Preservation of important natural data: tourism helps to justify the payment of costs for the preservation of important natural sites, such as the development of operations for the region and the establishment of national and regional parks, as they are elements of tourist attraction.(1)

2.Financial contributions tourism can directly contribute to the conservation of sensitive areas and habitats revenues from the park entrance fees and similar sources can be specifically allocated to pay for the protection and management of sensitive areas between special fees for park operations or



conservation activities can be collected from tourists or tour operators. (2)

3.Improving the quality of the environment: tourism provides incentives to clean up the environment by monitoring air, water, pollution, noise, waste disposal and other problems, as well as tourism contributes to improving the image.

Aesthetics of the environment through landscaping programmers, appropriate structural designs, the use of signage and building maintenance. (1)

**Economic impacts:** Tourism is important in the economies of many countries, and the economic effects of ecotourism are summarized as follows:

1. Increased employment opportunities Tourism has a positive impact on increasing employment and employment opportunities in tourist countries because it is often associated with development because tourism is a complex industry that includes many industries and commercial activities that still depend on the human factor mainly, and therefore proper tourism planning and tourism development of tourism projects have a significant economic impact related to work because the increase in tourism movement creates job opportunities for a large number of people and as a result, tourism absorbs a large part of the labor force either directly through work in hotels, restaurants and tourist villages.(2)

2.Creating economic balance within one country: tourism leads to economic balance within one country. Ecotourism usually escapes from areas of industrial concentration and commercial recovery to tourist areas that are areas of economic and social underdevelopment, thereby solving the problem of this underdevelopment. (1)

3.Providing hard currency and the resulting improvements in the quality of life and standard of living of the local community and support for comprehensive development at the national and regional levels. (2)

The tourism sector contributes significantly to the provision of a part of foreign exchange for the implementation of development plans.

4.Improving the balance of payments tourism, as an export industry, contributes to improving the state's balance of payments. This is achieved as a result of the inflow of foreign capital invested in tourism projects and tourist revenues. tourist revenues represent the value of services provided to tourists within countries, such as accommodation, food, beverages, gifts and purchases. these items help to stimulate the national economy in various fields, such as food and postal telephony. their impact extends to agricultural and

industrial products. tourism also leads to an increase in banking activities in terms of transactions, transfers and the sale and purchase of foreign currency. (3)

- Social effects: tourism leads to many social effects through mixing with tourists with different languages and Customs, and these effects are:

1- Cultural exchange: awareness of cultural exchange is one of the most positive effects of tourism, as local traditional communities are tourist attractions for many

visitors to learn about their lifestyles, and this participation may generate for local communities the issue of self-esteem as a result of the attention and respect they have touched from visitors (1)

2-Ecotourism works to improve, develop, maintain and restore tourist attractions such as religious, historical and archaeological places and display them within the product of the tourist destination (2).

3-Cultural growth: creates a social movement, which means the influx of foreign tourists to various countries of the world or the tourist moving from one region to another to stay there for a certain period for rest and recreation, as well as determining the human energy to face working life immediately after the expiration of holidays. This movement leads to the generalization of relations between tourists and local citizens in the receiving country of tourists and encourage social borrowing and cultural exchange between them, which leads to building bridges of good relations (3)

### Elements of ecotourism

Ecotourism in its practice has its own system, which derives its specificity from the nature of this practice, its field, methods and tools, where it is subject to each of the following elements: (1).

1.Mental and intellectual well-being resulting from maturity, awareness and awareness of the importance of preserving the integrity of the environment and the importance of living in a healthy environment free from pollution.

2.The Environmental return, return and gain, and its superiority over any other material and moral return, and the extent of its sustainability and continuity for present and future generations.

3.Instrumental and developmental environmental-kinetic balance and its effectiveness in achieving security, safety and environmental health.

4.Spreading the culture of Islam and the collective sense of responsibility towards the world's issues in order to commit to the benefit of all mankind, and that pollution is a danger that threatens the entire world

and that the responsibility is comprehensive and includes all individuals, as it includes all countries and organizations.

5. Ecotourism is a permanent and continuous connection between a person and an individual and the surrounding place, and therefore it is a permanent and continuous relationship between a framework for movement and moving elements.

## The Second Topic

### Geographical Features of Karbala Governorate

#### First: The City of Karbala Geographically

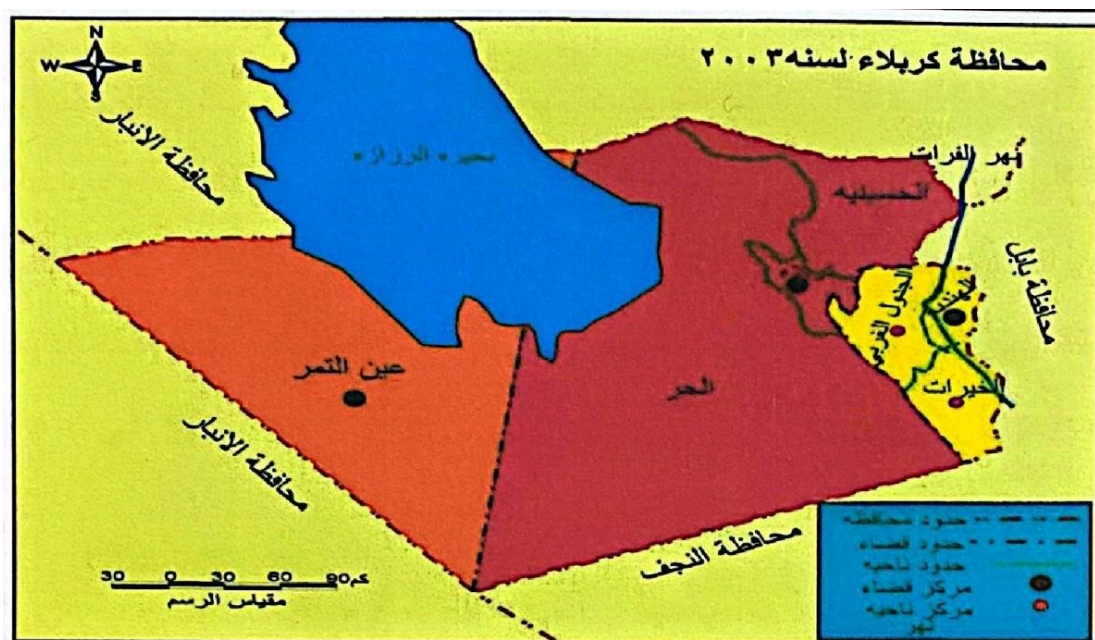
Sees a team of historians and linguists, including son you're the reflection of Mary remembered I the word of Karbala mentioned in the books of researchers and sculpted from two words Ashur two (crappy) at a temple or denied and the second (th) in the sense of God in the Aramaic language and the (temple of God), and Karbala province in the central region of Iraq at the eastern edge of the Plateau, Western, west of the Euphrates River confined between latitudes 30-40) and (26-44) (0) To the East is bordered to the North and west of Anbar province in the eastern province of Babylon, and on the south, the province of Najaf and

Karbala is an area of (104) south of Baghdad, looking at map (2) in the West

The Western Sahara, which include Lake razzaza and the city of appointed dates and Fort Archaeological techniques have revealed the ancient man lived in the Tar caves near Karbala during the modern era, and it ends with the civilization of the Semitic peoples in Iraq, especially the Babylonians, because of its proximity to Babylon, it was also a bridge for Semitic and Arab migrations between the Levant and the Arabian Peninsula and the blackness of Iraq, and the peoples who inhabited it were dependent on agriculture, fertility, soil, abundance of water and scattered throughout (1).

Despite the small area of Karbala governorate, which is estimated at (٥٠٣٤) km<sup>2</sup>, which constitutes (1.1%) of the total area of Iraq, the surface of the governorate is a wide and undulating plateau and empty desert lands due to its location within the hot and dry desert climate zone in summer, and in some areas many valleys were formed not by torrents formed by rainwater, which falls in winter permanently and at intervals (1).

Map number (2) Karbala governorate



Source: Ministry of municipalities and Works Department of administrative units" <https://moen.gov.iq>

One of the most prominent features of the climate of Karbala governorate is that it is hot and dry in summer and the average monthly temperature reached (23.8) degrees Celsius and the average temperature for the

month of July is (32.2) degrees Celsius and the average annual temperature reached (30.8) degrees Celsius and the highest rate in July is (42.9) degrees.

The region's winter is characterized by mildness, with

an average temperature of (10.5) degrees Celsius for the month of January, an average maximum temperature of (170) degrees Celsius and an average minimum temperature of (4.1) degrees Celsius. The amount of rainfall is low, as the rainy period extends between December and May, and the highest amount of rain fell in January (31.4 mm), while the relative humidity varies between winter and summer, with the highest rate in January (70%) and the lowest rate in July (28%). (1)

### **Second: Geographical distribution of the types of ecotourism in Karbala Governorate**

Karbala Governorate abounds with many natural environmental tourism sites, as it is the mine and safe of antiquities as they say, and despite the presence of the religious factor and its direct impact on the quality

of tourists, it must be said that this is a strength of the city that allows millions of visitors and tourists to come to it, and this means, of course, the contribution of developing ecotourism with developing religious tourism will provide us with an integrated tourist region that achieves the desired benefit, and in this axis we will show the most important types of ecotourism in Karbala Governorate:

- Hussaini and Abbasiya Shrine Nurseries: The Holy Shrine of Al-Husseiniya has established nurseries whose purpose was to take care of the gardens surrounding the Holy Mosque and the facilities and installations of the Holy Shrines, in addition to the main streets leading to the city and the main streets of the city's neighborhoods.

**Image (1) Al-Kafeel Nursery of the Abbasiya Threshold**



**Source:- Fadak Palm Cultivation Project**

The Fadak Palm Cultivation Project is located in the western side of Karbala Governorate, 23 km away from the city center near Lake Razzazah, the project area is (2000) dunums and the work is divided into a series of phases, the first phase of which has been implemented (400) dunums planted with palm seedlings and work has started on the second phase (another 400) dunums and the number of seedlings planted has reached (13,000) so far, which are rare species such as Barhi, Maktoum and others. The number of seedlings planted

so far (13,000), which are rare species such as Barhi, Maktoum and others, and the source of the seedlings is the United Arab Emirates as well as Iraq, and the method of tissue culture is used in the production process of the seedlings, as for the financing of the project is from the agricultural initiative launched by the government in 2014, and the spaces between the rows of palm trees will be planted with fruit trees such as figs.



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Pomegranates, olives, olives and Sidr, and irrigation is carried out according to a modern drip irrigation system. The main objective of the project was to employ labour, exploit desert lands and develop the agricultural reality in Karbala, in addition to the strategic objective of preserving the rare and good varieties of Iraqi dates from extinction and producing new varieties of dates(1) . See image (2)

**Image (2) Fadak Palm Cultivation Project:**



**Source:- Abu Al-Ahrar Agricultural City**

The land is located on the Karbala-Razza road, 10 kilometres from the centre of Karbala.) It has an area of (1499) dunums, and the land has fresh water from the Euphrates River, which is fed in the form of main, sub and secondary lined channels according to scientific sizes and lengths distributed evenly over the land, as well as buried field sluices, and the soil is good for agriculture and has good drainage. (2)

For water, the project is divided into three branches, namely; plant production: It is a multi-unit project divided into seven main projects, namely: Wheat crop cultivation project, yellow maize crop cultivation project, barley crop cultivation project, sorghum

(fodder) crop cultivation project, alfalfa crop cultivation project, mash crop cultivation project and jat crop cultivation project, in which the cultivation is staggered between one crop and another, thus optimising the use of land and time.(1)

- Imam Hussein Agricultural City: Located on the Karbala-Najaf road, 12 km away from Karbala city centre, it has an area of (1000) dunums, and the land and water are suitable for the establishment of agricultural projects, and the project includes the production of strategic crops such as wheat and barley, and fodder crops such as jat, alfalfa and white corn.(2)



These crops are used as feed for the sheep breeding and fattening station project, which increases the production of fresh meat and knowledge of the source of nutrition, and this project contains greenhouses with an area of (2500) m<sup>2</sup> each, i.e. a whole dunum, and is

divided into five overlapping houses (2500). All kinds of crops are grown in the off-season, by controlling the temperature and humidity, and the first crops grown are tomatoes and cucumbers. See image (3)

**Image (3) Image of Imam Hussein Agricultural City**



**Source: Lake Al-Razzaza**

One of the largest bodies of water in Iraq and the Arab world and the eighth in the world, it was formed in its current state in 3013 AD after the flooding of the Euphrates River as the Abu Dabis and Salt Sea depressions merged. The lake is located south of Lake Habbaniyah, northwest of Karbala and thus falls within the administrative borders of Anbar and Karbala governorates, the area of the lake at its highest level (42 m) is (1810) km with a water volume of (25,750) billion cubic meters and a percentage (46, (6) % within the boundaries of Karbala Governorate and (534) % within the administrative boundaries of Anbar Governorate, noting that the lowest level is (17) meters

above sea level Lake Razaza is one of the most important natural formations in the research area and is considered an attractive area for ecotourism and tourists throughout the year, especially in the spring and summer seasons. In particular, the southern and western coast of the lake, which is suitable for tourism, including swimming, boating, fishing, etc.

The length of the indicated coastline is (42) km, which is characterized by blue waters and picturesque geomorphological formations ( ). See image (4)

**Image (4) View from the western coast of Lake Al-Razaza**



<https://www.alhurra.com/iraq>

- Orchards: The lands of lush orchards are spread along the Husseinia and Bani Hassan irrigation streams and the streams that branch off from them, which take water from the right side of the Hindiya dam on the Euphrates River.(1) The area of these lands is 132,000 dunums for the Husseinia irrigation project and 128,000 dunums for the Bani Hassan irrigation project. The lands of these two projects are located in the eastern parts of the province and make up 15% of the area of the province, and these lands abound with

scenic landscapes, as they are characterised by the density of palm trees, fruits and citrus, good soil and flat lands, which enable them to

They are very suitable for receiving tourists and providing comfort for them, as well as the availability of spacious spaces and their distance from the noise of the city and the congestion of the streets with the availability of tourist restaurants and others.(1)

**Map No. (3) Orchards of Al-Husseiniya and Bani Hassan projects in the east of Karbala city**



Source: Directorate of Water Resources, Land Reclamation Department, Karbala Governorate

- Khayrat Abi al-Fadl Farms: The project is located on the Karbala-Najaf road with a land area of (1500000) m

containing a number of (9) greenhouses with an area of (2500) m each, planted with various crops and



vegetables (2).

### **Third: The impact of ecotourism in Karbala Governorate on development**

Ecotourism plays a prominent role in the development of all different sectors, perhaps the most prominent of which is the economic sector through the financial income it generates through investments that contribute to the development of tourism facilities and according to the reports of the World Travel and Tourism Council, tourism creates 12.8% job opportunities, so we see a prominent interest in the field of ecotourism in Karbala Governorate, whether by the public sector government or private for what this tourism contributes to supporting the province at all levels and developing it from the urban aspect and making it an attractive area.

In particular, ecotourism has received great attention from those working on environmental issues, which resulted in a number of studies in this field, and many of these studies have shown that ecotourism activity, just as it achieves various economic and social benefits, can at the same time cause environmental damage that may be difficult to remedy when not taken into account when planning ecotourism, and ecotourism has many effects, namely:

#### **- Positive Impacts of Ecotourism**

a. Increased revenue for local communities: Ecotourism is an opportunity for business development and job creation as well as stimulating tourism investment and supporting local services even in remote communities. (1)

B. Decrease in important natural resources: Natural resources are one of the most important tourist attractions, and without exploiting these areas for tourism, they can be left to the hand of neglect, and the region loses an important environmental heritage, the most prominent example being East Africa, where the preservation of the natural environment led to the demand for tourists to visit this region (1).

Improving the quality of the environment: Improving the quality of the environment is one of the positive effects of tourism activity that appears through interest in the environment and showing how to preserve and upgrade its components and prevent its degradation or pollution because the clean and beautiful environment is the primary material for environmental tourism activity, and it is also a major factor in the establishment of tourism activity in general (2).

C- Raising the level of inter-tourism awareness that ecotourism works to create a state of ecotourism

awareness at various levels so that it has enacted laws to preserve, protect and maintain ecotourism sites ( 3).

D- Infrastructure development Eco-tourism activity often has a good impact on the environment and its elements, as this requires man to intervene with his modern techniques and good planning to beautify, improve, prepare and prepare the environment appropriately with the inter-tourism activity through the development of infrastructures that are compatible with this tourism activity and environmentally friendly (4 ).

E- Improving and developing tourist attractions Ecotourism works to improve and develop tourist attractions, maintain and restore them, such as religious, historical and archaeological places, and display them within the tourist product of the tourist destination (1).

#### **Negative effects of ecotourism**

A- -A- Destruction of the quality of the natural environment The use of natural sites by tourists leads to the destruction of the quality of the natural environment, whether due to excessive use, such as the increase in the number of tourists, which represents a burden on tourist facilities such as tourist transport or hotels, or on public facilities such as transport roads, water, electricity and others. (2)

B-. Distortion of tourist areas: The defacement of tourist areas comes from the failure to treat the waste of tourists, i.e. waste by feeding animals or bad behavior towards public property such as picking flowers and trees, lighting fires or collecting shells and coral and others, and it is worth noting that tourism produces (35) tonnes of solid waste annually according to the United Nations Environment Programmed (UNEP). (3)

Water pollution Water is polluted by directing wastewater to rivers, lakes and seas, which contaminates the water with germs and substances hazardous to public health and environmental health due to the lack of application of

Salt water and sewage treatment systems for all tourist facilities, which leads to water pollution (1).

Air pollution: Air pollution may result from the maximum use of tourist transport used by tourists in some tourist areas, and carbon dioxide emissions from transport in the tourism sector, accommodation and other activities are estimated at about (4-6%) of the total global emissions (2).



## Conclusions and Recommendations

The researcher has reached a set of conclusions and recommendations:

### First: Conclusions

1. Ecotourism is one of the best types of tourism in the city of Karbala.
2. The city of Karbala is characterized by the presence of multiple and diverse natural tourist attractions such as farms, parks, nurseries and caves such as Al-Tar Caves.
3. The importance of ecotourism stems from the fact that it is a clean tourism based on visiting, preserving and sustaining natural areas.
4. Lack of interest in the principles of ecotourism in the city of Karbala, despite the importance of these principles in the development of ecotourism.
5. Neglecting the application of ecotourism rules in the city of Karbala because these rules represent an understanding of the pillars of ecotourism as an optimal approach to the exploitation of ecotourism.
6. Lack of attention to the negative effects of ecotourism, such as destroying the quality of the natural environment, defacing tourist areas, and water and air pollution.
7. Lack of attention to the positive effects of ecotourism, such as increasing the revenues of local communities, preserving natural resources, improving environmental quality, developing infrastructure, and improving and developing tourist attractions.
8. The lack of a clear strategy for ecotourism in Karbala Governorate, and thus the lack of development in areas that have potential for ecotourism.

### Second: Recommendations

1. The researcher recommends the need to pay attention to ecotourism as it is one of the most important and most recent types of tourism in Karbala.
2. Work to develop the importance of ecotourism from the environmental, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian aspects.
3. Focusing on the rules of ecotourism in the city of Karbala as it is the optimal approach to invest in ecotourism.
4. The researcher recommends the need to pay attention to and capitalise on the positive effects of

ecotourism.

5. Increasing cooperation and coordination between official and unofficial bodies and institutions concerned with ecotourism.
6. The need to use the expertise of the World Tourism Organisation in the field of ecotourism.
7. The need to utilise the experiences of tourism countries in the development of ecotourism in Karbala.
8. The need to spread tourism awareness and the culture of ecotourism among members of the Karbala community.

## CONCLUSION

The level of advancement and development progress in any society is measured by the changes that development brings in the social and economic life of members of society without the negative impact on the environment. From this point of view, the importance of this study was the adoption of the tourism sector, which is one of the activities that have an important impact on the global economy and control the livelihood of millions of people around the world. Tourism can have major impacts in combating poverty and achieving progress towards the desired development goals. Due to the dependence of tourism on a healthy global environment, it is therefore highly sensitive to changes and degradation caused by several factors such as chemicals, waste, increased pressure on Water Resources and the effects of climate change.

Through this study, it was concluded that excessive dependence on tourism, especially in some developing countries, and their lack of consideration for the tourism potential of natural environments highlights the need to strive to achieve balanced growth, as unsustainable tourism would create environmental problems for tourist regions. Thus, they negatively affect the natural, cultural and physical environment, and the cultures of local communities are endangered, disappearing over time. This study also found the need to preserve the environment with all its elements. By using it rationally, it ensures the needs of man today and for a longer period, while at the same time preserving the share of this stock for future generations.

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