

Tourism development plan in the natural area of integrated management ANMI El Palmar

Plan de desarrollo turístico en el área natural de manejo integrado ANMI El Palmar

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Abstract

Tourism development is one of the major axes for the Natural Area of Integrated Management (ANMI), El Palmar, compared to a tourist potential of high value and a demand in permanent ascension. When the supply is insufficient and poorly organized, there is an urgent implementation of planning actions in order to respond to the increasing pressure from tourism with a comprehensive proposal, in the medium to long term, subject to the principles of conservation and protection of the heritage of the area. The growth of tourism in the ANMI, El Palmar will allow you to discover and promote the andean culture, which has as a basic principle the harmonious relationship between man and nature; enjoy the cultural and natural riches of the area, contributing at the same time to the preservation of its heritage.

Tourism, Nature, Patrimony, Development, Conservation

Resumen

El desarrollo turístico es uno de los grandes ejes para el Área Natural de Manejo Integrado (ANMI), El Palmar, frente a un potencial turístico de alto valor y una demanda en permanente ascenso, cuando la oferta es insuficiente y mal organizada, hay una implementación urgente de planificar acciones para dar respuesta a la creciente presión del turismo con una propuesta integral, en el mediano y largo plazo, sujeta a los principios de conservación y protección del patrimonio de la zona. El crecimiento del turismo en la ANMI, El Palmar le permitirá descubrir y promover la cultura andina, que tiene como principio básico la relación armoniosa entre el hombre y la naturaleza; disfrutar de las riquezas culturales y naturales de la zona, contribuyendo al mismo tiempo a la preservación de su patrimonio.

Turismo, Naturaleza, Patrimonio, Desarrollo, Conservación

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Introduction

Ecotourism was born in North America in the eighties as a result of the development of nature tourism in the most remote and fragile places on the planet. The environmental associations, NGOs and the tourism industry then wanted to promote an awareness movement to limit the impact of visitors on these natural environments and the communities residing there and ensure that the foreign exchange obtained by these flows would be consolidated protection actions of local places and cultures (BCEOM-CONICOM, 1998).

The El Palmar Integrated Management Natural Area, located in the department of Chuquisaca, in the Zudáñez province, Municipality of Presto, mainly in the Rodeo and Pasopaya cantons. Declared by means of DS 24623 of May 20, 1997, being administered by the National Service of Protected Areas of Bolivia SERNAP, whose category is Natural Area of Integrated Management, whose objective is to make the conservation of natural resources compatible with the development of the population local (Sernap, 2004).

The geography of ANMI El Palmar corresponds to a part of the eastern mountain range, the region is typically mountainous with deep canyons, it occupies the region of the inter-Andean dry valleys, having humid montane forests on slopes, in the area there is a diversity of flora and fauna, as well as endemic species.

Material and methodology

For this study, field visits were made to gather information, and exchange criteria with people regarding the expectations and possibilities of tourism development in this protected area. The field work also included taking photographs and evaluating the tourism potential of the El Palmar Integrated Management Natural Area. Authorities were interviewed such as the Mayor of Presto José Santos Romero Espindola, the administrator of the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNAP) in the office of the city of Sucre Lic. José Luis Conchari, the park rangers of the ANMI El Palmar with knowledge on the subject and in this way it was possible to obtain adequate and detailed information.

Results obtained

There are several activities based on nature that visitors can do in the El Palmar Integrated Management Natural Area: Anthropology, archeology, bird watching, horse-riding bike tours, hiking, camping, peasant communities, ecotourism, environmental education, student trips, scientific studies, rock climbing, cultural and photographic expeditions, walking tours, traditional festivals, mountaineering, swimming, cave paintings and hiking.

The natural aspects of flora and fauna are highly interesting, the biodiversity that the inter-Andean dry valleys and the relict forests of the Tucumano Boliviano formation present and the possible character of a speciation zone, gives a character of extraordinary scientific interest, certain species such as the red-fronted paraba, endemic to the dry valleys, the discovery of endemic plants can motivate the visit of botanists and ornithologists.

The threatened and endemic fauna species of Bolivia present in the area: Red-fronted paraba, *Ara rubrogenis* endemic species, the condor's common name Mallcu, *Vultus gryphus* registered in La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Tarija, observed in solitary flight, in pairs or in groups of three (Photo N°1).

There are endemic and threatened flora species of Bolivia present in the area: Quebrachos, *Aspidosperma quebracho blanco*, soto, *Schinopsis haenkeana*, Monte pine *Podocarpus parlatorei* and endemic janchi coco *Parajubaea torrallyi* (Photo N°2), which grows approximately 2400 - 3200 meters above sea level., It grows on steep rocky slopes, occupying an area of approximately 34 km². The Andean bears *tremarctus ornatus* (Photo N°3), a threatened species, was also observed in its own habitat Jukumari or ukumari, for which it has been protected in Bolivia since 1973.

Discussion

A visible problem is the road connection to the area, due to the poor condition of the road, especially the last one from Presto to Rodeo. The improvement of the road is expected, which will considerably reduce travel time and allow access throughout the year.

According to FUNDESNA, the existence of two patches of *Parajubaea torallyi* (C. Martius) Burret palm forest, this relatively good state of conservation, relict forests of mountain pine, constitute a high potential for research, with the work of the plan of Tourism development shows that the palm forest is being conserved, but at present the local use of the fruits of the *Parajubaea torallyi* palm, makes an accomplice of the exploitation, manipulation, commercialization of this species (Photo N°4), but there is also a very strong pressure on the mountain pine (*Podocarpus parlatorei*), by the extraction of wood for domestic use and by livestock in natural regeneration.

The IMNA El palmar is one of the protected areas very forgotten by the government authorities. Since the other areas of Bolivia have improvements in every aspect, this is due to the different projects that their authorities' channel to improve their areas.

Conclusions

The ANMI El Palmar must prepare promotional material (posters, videos, brochures, brochures, etc.), together with private companies (main receptive agencies and hotels), tourist promotion briefcase distributed in all the important representations of the country abroad.

The modalities of tourism developed in this protected area are still very limited and are restricted to simple visits to contemplate some nearby sites within the El Palmar ANMI, such as the observation of wild palm trees, fauna and flora of the place.

In this sense, it is urgent to develop and implement different mechanisms that lead to creating a tourist plant in this place so that local community's benefit, either directly or indirectly, being these of an economic, social, and labor nature.

Little knowledge of the ANMI El Palmar as a potential tourist resource, lack of promotion of this protected area as a tourist attraction and the incipient support of the municipal government of Presto for the promotion of Tourism in this place. Because through Tourism in the ANMI El Palmar crafts can be promoted, the provision of services, there is great potential to develop tourism, canyons, waterfalls (Photo N°5), hills, existing vegetation, fauna.

A craft museum should be created, a biological station, where flora and fauna research is carried out. Regarding the research topic, it has been determined that the ANMI El Palmar has problems of economic and social development where its inhabitants contemplate low levels of poverty. One of the key issues facing the ANMI El Palmar is access, as the seasonal rains continually deteriorate the dirt roads, and this is the great problem that the ANMI El Palmar has. Another problem is the accommodation, it does not have the appropriate services.

The IMNA El Palmar, which is located in the inter-Andean dry valleys where there is a great diversity of species groups in flora and fauna, the characteristic of this type of vegetation and the environmental conditions that the IMNA El Palmar has, is very important to create a botanical garden where you can see species from the dry valleys of Bolivia as well as a live cactus plant in order to make known the diversity of plant species.

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