

The Development of Natural Heritage Protectorates applied on Wadi el – Hitan Protectorate

Marwa Salah kaoud

Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University

Abstract

The main objective of the establishment of natural protectorates is to protect the natural and cultural heritage, the conservation of biodiversity and the preservation of the ecosystem of the current generations. The varied natural heritage sites in Fayoum are one of the best sites in Egypt. Fayoum also is considered the largest natural oasis in Egypt that is because of its proximity to lakes stunning scenery. In 1989, the Egyptian government announced the regions of Lake Qarun and Wadi Rayan protectorates as natural reserves to preserve the unique resources of Fayoum. They also confer an opportunity to support and develop eco-tourism in Fayoum. The region is the gateway to the North African desert oases. It is a typical example of the oasis in North-Saharan Africa in terms of its shape and origin and geological formations and its environmental and culture, besides the presence of the first Egyptian environmental site to join the World Natural Heritage List, Wadi el - Hitan protectorate, as well as the confluence of lakes greenery and desert land in a unique and fascinating picture of the varied landscape.

Hence, this paper aims to shed light on the need for the development of natural heritage sites in Fayoum, which are suffering from many problems in order to support sustainable tourism development in natural areas and world heritage Sites, as well as tourism promotion of the province of Fayoum in general and particular areas of natural heritage, and the development of tourist programs proposed contribute to shed light on Wadi Rayan and wadi el-Hitan protectorates, as well as reaching practical recommendations that can be implemented in the light of the results obtained.

In order to meet the above mentioned objectives, the descriptive analytical method was adopted. Such a method requires a comprehensive data analysis. The data were precisely and objectively compiled through questionnaire forms that were distributed to the employees in Wadi el - Hitan in Fayoum. Thirty questionnaires have been distributed to all workers to know their views on how to develop this pattern within the conservative from September 2014 to January 2015. The collected data were analyzed by the statistics program "SPSS Version16". The researcher has found a number of results such as:

1. Of the most remarkable ones was the lower numbers of visitors coming to the Wadi el - Hitan protectorate.
2. Most visitors came to the area for scientific research.
3. Lack of infrastructure elements and lack of presence of the means of convenient public transportation.
4. Limited availability of water sources and poor health services within the site.
5. The lack of availability of electricity on an ongoing basis within the site,
6. Poor sanitation networks site.
7. The lack of availability of communications networks within the Wadi el - Hitan protectorate.

The most important recommendation that must be followed for the development of the site are:

1. Imposing entry fees to the open museum,
2. Organizing conferences and inviting investors to familiar with the region.
3. Improving the infrastructure of the area.
4. Organizing introductory visits to the region.

5. Good Fayoum marketing through the Wadi el - Hitan as a world natural heritage area.
6. Spreading environmental awareness of local people.
Fayoum Governorate, heritage, Wadi el – Hitan, The elements of :**Key Words**
heritage tourism development, impediments to the development