

Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Vakhushti Bagrationi Institute of Geography

Scientific Conference

"Actual Problems of Geography"

Dedicated to Prof. Davit Ukleba's 100th anniversary

5-6 November, 2019

Tbilisi

ივ. ჯავახიშვილის სახელობის თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი
ვახუშტი ბაგრატიონის სახელობის გეოგრაფიის ინსტიტუტი

სამეცნიერო კონფერენცია

„გეოგრაფიის აქტუალური პრობლემები“

ეძღვნება პროფ. დავით უკლებას 100 წლის იუბილეს

2019 წლის 5-6 ნოემბერი

თბილისი

CONTENTS/შინაარსი

Davit Ukleba – A Short Survey of His Scientific, Educational, Pedagogical and Social Activity.....	11
დავით უკლება – სამეცნიერო, პედაგოგიური და საზოგადოებრივი მოღვაწეობის მოკლე მიმოხილვა	16
Davit Ukleba's Merit in the Study of Georgian-Russian Geographic Terminology	20
Marine Nalbandyan – Georgian-Russian Geographic Terminology Geographical Zonality, Modern Tendency (Review)	21
მარინე ნალბანდიანი – გეოგრაფიული ზონალობის თეორიის ფორმირებისა და განვითარების ისტორია, თანამედროვე ტენდენცია (მიმოხილვა)	25
Zaza Lezhava, Lasha Asanidze, Kukuri Tsikarishvili, Nino Chikhradze, Ani Sherozia, Giorgi Chartolani – Karst Caves Origination Conditions in the Zemo Imereti (Chiatura) Structural Plateau, Georgia	26
ზაზა ლეჟავა, ლაშა ასანიძე, კუკური წიქარიშვილი, ნინო ჩიხრადზე, ანი შეროზია, გიორგი ჩართოლანი – ზემო იმერეთის (ჭიათურის) სტრუქტურულ პლატოზე კარსტული მღვიმეების წარმოშობის პირობები, საქართველო.....	31
Avtandil Amiranashvili, Victor Chikhladze, Kukuri Tsikarishvili, Khatuna Tsiklauri – The History of Formation and Development of the Theory of On the Restoration of the Ionization Properties of Tetra Cave (Tskaltubo, Georgia)	33
ავთანდილ ამირანაშვილი, ვიქტორ ჩიხლადზე, კუკური წიქარიშვილი, ხატუნა წიკლაური – მღვიმე „თეთრას“ მაიონებელი თვისებების აღდგენის შესახებ (წყალტუბო, საქართველო)	36
Merab Gongadze, George Lominadze – Racha Range Karst and its Research Perspective.....	37
მერაბ გონგაძე, გიორგი ლომინაძე – რაჭის ქედის კარსტის კვლევის პერსპექტივები.....	40
Nugzar Archvadze – The Areas of the Tskaltubo (Prometheus) Cave System – a Wonder of Nature.....	41
ნუგზარ არჩვაძე – წყალტუბოს (პრომეთეს) მღვიმური სისტემის მიდამოები – ბუნების საოცრება	44
Hasmik Balyan – Caves of Vayots Dzor – Objects of the Geological Heritage of the Republic of Armenia as Prerequisite for the Organization of Geoparks	46
ჰასმიკ ბალიანი – ვაიოც ძორის მღვიმეები – სომხეთის რესპუბლიკის გეოლოგიური მემკვიდრეობის ობიექტები, როგორც გეოპარკის ორგანიზების წინაპირობა	48
Otar Chkheidze, Pikria Jinjikhadze – Geomorphological Peculiarities of Zemo (Upper) Imereti Plateau (Review).....	50
ოთარ ჩხეიძე, ფიქრია ჯინჯიხაძე – ზემო იმერეთის პლატოს გეომორფოლოგიური თავისებურებანი	53
Emil Tsereteli, George Gaprindashvili, Nana Bolashvili, Tinatin Nanobashvili – The Heterogeneous Nature of the Debris/Mudflows of the Central Caucasus and Disaster in riv. Amali-Devdoraki Basin in the Year 2014.....	54
ემილ წერეთელი, გიორგი გაფრინდაშვილი, ნანა ბოლაშვილი, თინათინ ნანობაშვილი – ცენტრალური კავკასიონის ღვარცოფების ჰეტეროგენული ხასიათი და კატასტროფა მდ. ამალი-დევდორაკის აუზში 2014 წელს.....	57
Guliko Liparteliani, Nato Sologashvili, Nikoloz Suknidze, Ani Sherozia – Constructing a Complex Profile Using Computer Programs	58

გულიკო ლიპარტელიანი, ნატო სოლოლაშვილი, ნიკა სუქნიძე, ანი შეროზია – კომპლექსური პროფილის აგება კომპიუტერული პროგრამებით.....	61
Ketevan Gogidze – The Soils of Pastures and Arable Lands in Khevi Region, the Problems of Their Using	63
ქეთევან გოგიძე – ხევის რეგიონის სახნავ-საძოვრების ნიადაგები, მათი გამოყენების პრობლემები	66
Nino Kezevadze – The Zonal Regularities of Differential Water Balance.....	67
ნინო კეზევადე – დიფერენცირებული წყლის ბალანსის ზონალური კანონზომიერებები	70
Garry Gunia, Zizi Svanidze – Evaluation of the Ecological - Economic Efficiency of Artificial Reservoir Construction in Mountainous Regions	71
გარი გუნია, ზიზი სვანიძე – მთიან რეგიონებში ხელოვნური წყალსაცავების აგების ეფექტურობის ეკოლოგიურ-ეკონომიკური შეფასებები	75
Marika Tatishvili, Nato Kutaladze, Inga Samkharadze, Davit Loladze, Ana Palavandishvili – Use of geomagnetic indices in weather issues	76
მარიკა ტატიშვილი, ნატო კუტალაძე, ინგა სამხარაძე, დავით ლოლაძე, ანა ფალავანდიშვილი გეომაგნიტური ინდექსების გამოყენება ამინდის ამოცანებში.....	80
Liana Kartvelishvili – Influence of Climate Parameters in the Building Industry of Georgia.....	81
ლიანა ქართველიშვილი – კლიმატის პარამეტრების გავლენა საქართველოს სამშენებლო ინდუსტრიაზე	85
Mariam Elizbarashvili, Tekla Gurgenidze, Tengiz Urushadze, Elizbar Elizbarashvili – Possible Impact of Global Warming on the Shifting of Soil Boundaries in Mountains (Trialeti Range Eastern Part Case Study).....	86
მარიამ ელიზბარაშვილი, თეკლა გურგენიძე, თენგიზ ურუშაძე, ელიზბარ ელიზბარაშვილი – გლობალური დათბობის შესაძლო გავლენა მთებში ნიადაგის საზღვრების შეცვლაზე (თრიალეთის ქედის აღმოსავლეთი ნაწილის მაგალითზე)	89
Giorgi Khomasuridze, Lamzira Lagidze – The Effects of Climate Change on Thermal Regime in Tbilisi City	91
გიორგი ხომასურიძე, ლამზირა ლაღიძე – კლიმატის ცვლილების გავლენა ქალაქ თბილისის ტემპერატურულ რეჟიმზე	95
Maia Meladze, Giorgi (Givi) Meladze – Transformation of Agroclimatic Zones of Samegrelo - Zemo Svaneti in Conditions of Global Warming.....	96
მაია მელაძე, გიორგი (გივი) მელაძე – სამეგრელო-ზემო სვანეთის აგროკლიმატური ზონების ტრანსფორმაცია გლობალური დათბობის პირობებში	102
Dali Mikautadze, Magdana Kvabziridze – The Influence of the Climatic Risks (Strong Winds) on City Microclimate Formation	103
დალი მიქაუტაძე, მაგდანა კვაბზირიძე – კლიმატური რისკების (ძლიერი ქარები) გავლენა ქალაქის მიკროკლიმატის ფორმირებაზე	106
Elene Salukvadze, Tamila Chaladze –Natural Resourceful Potential of Imereti Landscapes	108
ელენე სალუქვაძე, თამილა ჩალაძე – იმერეთის ლანდშაფტების ბუნებრივ-რესურსული პოტენციალი.....	113

Giorgi Meladze – Potential of Fertility in Georgia and it's Degree of Realization According to A. Coale's Indices	114
გიორგი მელაძე – შობადობის პოტენციალი საქართველოში და მისი რეალიზაციის ხარისხი ე. კოულის ინდექსების მიხედვით.....	118
Ia Iashvili, Tatia Doghonadze – Spa Tourism in Imereti Region: Trends and Prospects	119
ია იაშვილი, თათია დოღონაძე – სპა ტურიზმი იმერეთის რეგიონში: ტენდენციები და პერსპექტივები	122
Tsisana Basilashvili – The Importance of Forest and the Results of Anthropogenic Impact on the Mountainous Areas.....	123
ცისანა ბასილაშვილი – ტყის მნიშვნელობა და მასზე ანთროპოგენური ზემოქმედების შედეგები მთიან რეგიონებში	125
Zurab Seperteladze, Eter Davitaia, Tamar Aleksidze, Nino Rukhadze – Anthropogenic Modification of Georgian Natural Landscapes and Sustainable Development of Environment	126
ზურაბ სეფერელაძე, ეთერ დავითაია, თამარ ალექსიძე, ნინო რუხაძე – საქართველოს ბუნებრივი ლანდშაფტების ანთროპოგენური მოდიფიკაცია და გარემოს მდგრადი განვითარება.....	130
M. Misakyan, Kh. Meliksetian – Geological Tourism and Geopark Perspectives in Sevan Basin, Armenia.....	132
მ. მისაკიანი, ხ. მელიქსეტიანი – გეოლოგიური ტურიზმი და გეოპარკების პერსპექტივები სევანის აუზში, სომხეთი	137
Gohar Ghambaryan, Anzhela Ayriyants – Key Principles of Economic Development of Countries: Emulation Laws.....	138
გოჰარ ღამბარიანი, ანჟელა აირიანცი – ქვეყნების ეკონომიკური განვითარების ძირითადი პრინციპები: ემულაციის კანონები	140
Vazha Neidze, Nino Pavliashvili, Mzia Tutberidze, Giorgi Khomeriki, Giorgi Lominadze – Problems of Tourism Potential of Samegrelo	142
ვაჟა ნეიძე, ნინო პავლიაშვილი, მზია თუთბერიძე, გიორგი ხომერიკი, გიორგი ლომინაძე – სამეგრელოს ტურისტული პოტენციალის პრობლემები.....	147
Revaz Tolordava, Koba Korsantia – Environmental and Cartometric Analysis of the Part of Georgia- Azerbaijan State Border (Between Alazani and Iori rivers).....	148
რევაზ თოლორდავა, კობა კორსანტია – საქართველო აზერბაიჯანის საზღვრის (ალაზანი-იორის მონაკვეთის) ფიზიკურ-გეოგრაფიული და კარტომეტრიული ანალიზი.....	154
Koba Kharadze – Diversity in the Springs in “Geography of Georgia” by Vakhushti Bagrationi (XVIII) Review	155
კობა ხარაძე – წყაროთა მრავალფეროვნება ვახუშტი ბაგრატიონის „საქართველოს გეოგრაფიაში“ (XVIII ს.)	159
Davit Sartania, Dali Nikolaishvili, Avtandil Ujmajuridze – About some Georgian Toponyms in Historical Meskheti (as per the old Turkish registers)	160
დავით სართანია, დალი ნიკოლაიშვილი, ავთანდილ უჯმაჯურიძე – ზოგიერთი ქართული ტოპონიმის შესახებ ისტორიულ მესხეთში (ძველი თურქული დავთრების მიხედვით).....	164
Nikoloz Otinashvili – Agricultural-Geographical Terminology from Shida Kartli.....	165
ნიკოლოზ ოთინაშვილი – სამეურნეო-გეოგრაფიული ტერმინოლოგია შიდა ქართლიდან	166

D. Kirtadze – The Toponym of Chillidar Vilayat According to "Jaba Ledger"	167
დ. კირთაძე – ჩილდირის ვილაიეთის ტოპონიმია „ჯაბა დავთრის“ მიხედვით	172
Tsitsino Davituliani – Agricultural Landscapes of the Bordering Zone of Kutaisi and Dynamics of Their Change	173
ციცინო დავითულიანი – ქუთაისის მოსაზღვრე ზონის აგროლანდშაფტები და მათი ცვლილების დინამიკა	177

Problems of Tourism Potential of Samegrelo

Vazha Neidze^{1*}, Nino Pavliashvili², Mzia Tutberidze¹, Giorgi Khomeriki¹, Giorgi Lominadze¹

¹TSU, Vakhushti Bagrationi Institute of Geography, Tbilisi,
Georgia, neidze@gmail.com

²TSU, Social and Political Science Department, Tbilisi, Georgia

Abstract

The following article reviews tourism potential of Samegrelo – one of historical provinces of Georgia. Samegrelo is characterized by richness and diversity of resources necessary for tourism development. This mostly relates to its natural and cultural heritage, while the economic base of tourism is weak. Samegrelo has access to coastline, foothill and mountain resources, highland sights, picturesque valleys of rivers Tekhury, Abasha and Khobi and karst caves. Besides these, protected areas of the Colchis wetlands also play a significant role in the tourist potential. Ethnic and cultural characteristics of the local population is worthy of a separate focus as well. This work presents a scheme of area planning of tourist potential of Samegrelo. As a result of several years study of tourism potential of the region, authors have developed a scheme of subdivision of tourist-recreational potential of Samegrelo. Three tourist regions and eight zones were distinguished.

Key words: Tourism, Samegrelo, natural resources, tourism potential

Introduction

The territory of historical province of Samegrelo is spread from the Black Sea coast to the Caucasian range that provides the diversity of natural geographical conditions of the region, which is an important factor for tourism development. In particular, within the region limits there are coastal spacious, sandy beaches (Anaklia, Maltaqva), as well as the mineral waters of different composition and temperature (Menji, Tsaishi, Lugela, Skuri, Lebarde) and resorts created on them, karst caves (Shurubumu, Tobi, Nazodelao, Jortsku Caves, etc.), lakes (Paliastomi, Papantskviri, Tobavarchkhili, Little Toba, etc.), canyons (Gachedili, Balda, Intsra, etc.), river gorges (Khobi, Abasha, Chanistskali, etc.) waterfalls (Intsra, Ochkhomuri, Oniore), protected areas (Kolkheti National Park, Katsoburi Managed Reserve). Samegrelo is rich also in historic and cultural monuments: fortress-city Nokalakevi, Dadianis' Palace, Shkhapi, Chakvinji, Rukhi and other castles, Martvili, Tsaishi, Khobi, Tsalenjikha and other churches and monasteries, and ethnographic museums and memorial houses. Nevertheless, only several individual attractions are used in tourism industry. These are Gachedili Canyon, resort Anaklia and Dadianis' Palace, Kolkheti National Park and Paliastomi Lake. Accordingly, tourism types are represented by cognitive, recreational, ecological tourism. Despite the abundance of resorts, especially of balneological resources, medical tourism, that has been an important part of the region's economic sector in the 1990s, is now disorganized. The infrastructure of the resort is totally destroyed and mineral waters are used for greenhouses, or simply poured out. In the case of the high-mountain resort of Lebarde, the problem of the lack of good roads is more crucial than the ruined tourist infrastructure.

As a result of several years study of tourism potential of the region, authors have developed a scheme of subdivision of tourist-recreational potential of Samegrelo (Fig. 1). Three tourist regions and eight zones were distinguished. Taxonomic units differ from each other by concentration of recreational resources, specificity and perspective types of tourism.

Methods and Materials

The regions were singled out on the basis of common natural-geographical characteristics (proximity to the sea, altitude above the sea level, relief, landscapes), territorial concentration of tourist attractions was taken as the principle of separation of zones; the exception is the protected areas (Kolkheti National Park, Katsoburi Managed Reserve) zone, where some of the spots have been united by their specialization.

Results and Discussions

Finally, the regions are as follows:

I. Seaside Region

1. 1. Anaklia zone

1. 2. Poti zone

II. Kolkheti Lowland Region

2. 1. Zugdidi-Khobi zone

2. 2. Abasha-Senaki zone

2. 3. Four zones of protected areas.

III. Mountain and Foothills Region

3. 1. Martvili zone

3. 2. Chkhorotsku-Tsalenjikha zone

3. 3. Jvari zone

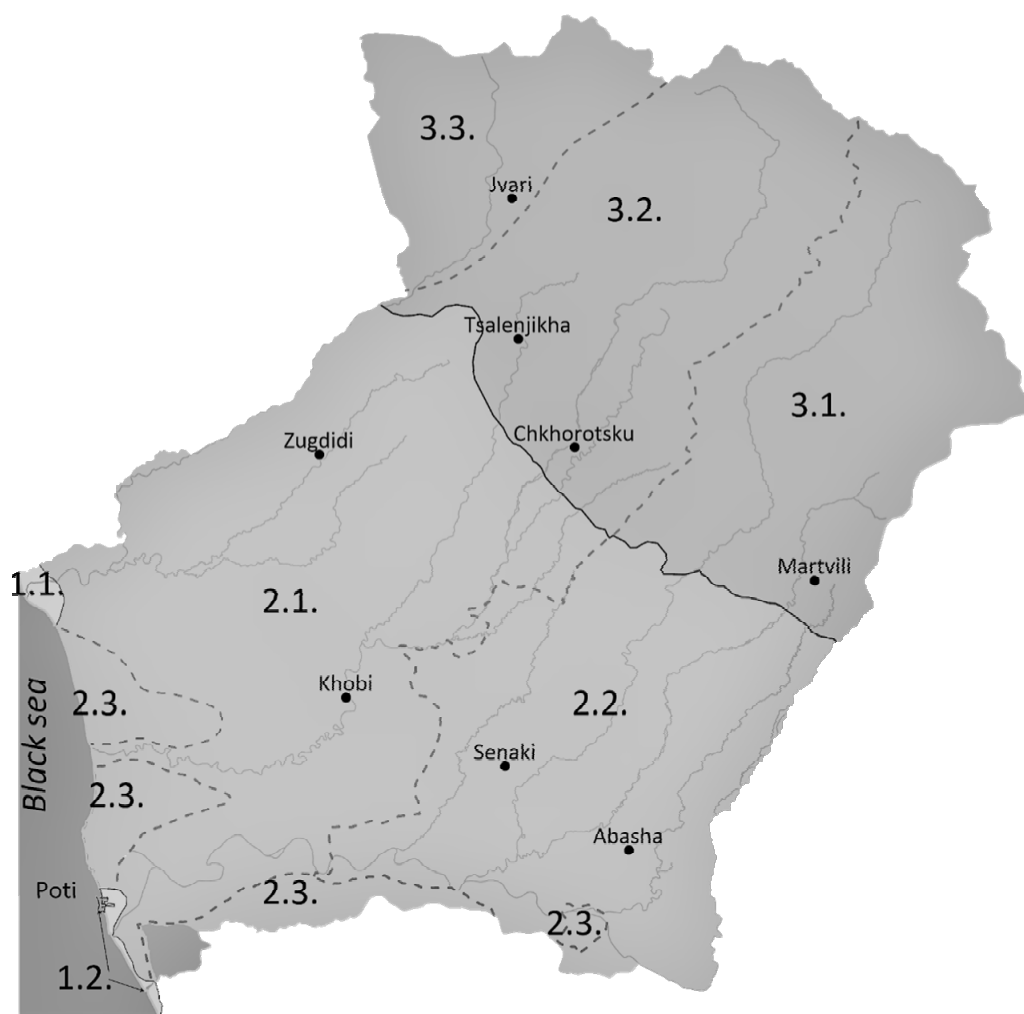


Fig. 1. Regions and zones of tourist potential of Samegrelo

I. Seaside District

Samegrelo seaside district can be divided into three tourist zones, which differ by their specific tourism resources and, consequently, by types of tourism activities.

1.1. Anaklia zone is the area of prospective medical and recreational tourism. Anaklia is a seaside climatic resort, with sandy beach, bicycle lanes and three high-class hotels with 392 beds. In the territory of the village, there are 167 guesthouses for 1774 persons [1]. It is connected with the village of Ganmukhuri by means of the 552-meter pedestrian bridge. Here is also a water park with many different types of entertainment attractions.

1.2. The Poti zone covers city of Poti itself and the territory extended to the south, including Maltaqva. Maltaqva is a seaside climatic resort, included within the limits of Poti. The marine resort has a wide sandy beach, characterized by high insolation, surplus of chemical microelements of marine origin with

medical health-improving effects. In the past, Maltaqva was a water sports centre. Okros Tba (the Golden Lake) near the River Maltaqva is practically a channel for rowing. At this moment, they are redeveloping the beach. In Maltaqva, there are 3 hotels for 175 persons and in Poti - 5 hotels for 114 persons. The main types of tourism activities in this zone are relaxation and recovery.

II. Colchic Lowland Region

2.1. Zugdidi-Khobi Zone

The main tourist attractions of Zugdidi-Khobi Zone are: Zugdidi, Dadianis' Palace and Botanical Garden, Resort Tsaishi, also Tsaishi Cathedral, Rukhi Fortress, Khobi Monastery, Lake of Papantskviri, Kvaloni resort place.

Zugdidi is located on the Odishi lowland, on the bank of Chkhoushi River. It is first mentioned in the sources of the beginning of the 17th century. During this period it represented the political, administrative and cultural center of the Odishi Principality.

Dadiani Palace's historic and architectural museum includes: Queen's Palace, Nico's Palace, the Principal's Cathedral and the Botanical Garden at the Palace.

The German architect rebuilt the Queen's Palace in the 60s of the 19th century. Russian architect Vasiliev builds Niko's Palace in the 80s of the XIX century. The treasure of the Zugdidi museum is the great Christian holiness of the Holy Virgin Mary's robe, brought to Georgia in 1453, after the fall of the Byzantine Empire. First it was in the Cathedral of Bedia and then in the church of Khobi. From 1533 onwards, Levan the I Dadiani had brought it to the Principality Palace. In addition to the Virgin Mary's robe in Zugdidi museum, there are still lots of holinesses.

There are 3 hotels in the city, 14 guesthouses and 2 hostels, for the total number of 261 visitors.

Tsaishi is a balneological resort with the arthrologic, neuralgic, gynecologic and dermatologic profile, with sulphide mineral water. Some sanatoriums and recreation houses were still functioning until the 90s of the last century.

Tsaishi is known for its hyperthermic and hypothermic mineral waters, whose medical properties were described even by Vakhushiti Batonishvili. On the depth of 5-6 meters at the site of one of the springs, there is found a pool made of the hewn stone that was supposedly used B.C. Today 18 mineral sources of Tsaishi are studied and it is estimated that the local hypothermic mineral water (24-26°C) has a unique composition: it contains a large amount of silicic acid. Such kind of water is characterized by antitoxic, antiseptic action, it regulates the metabolism process, improves bone-cartilage tissue and skin condition, reduces the risk of development of atherosclerosis. They have rediscovered Tsaishi mineral waters at the beginning of the XX century. The resort obtained particular popularity in 1956 after the discovery of hyperthermic (82°C) water. During the 1990s crisis the infrastructure was destroyed. Today, part of the hot mineral water is used only for heating of greenhouses and flats, and most of it is lost [2].

The Tsaishi Cathedral of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary is the Cathedral of Zugdidi and Tsaishi eparchy and is one of the oldest Episcopal cathedrals of Georgia.

The domed cathedral, located today in Tsaishi, is built at the threshold of the XIII-XIV centuries. Prior to that, here was a basilica church, built in the X-XI centuries.

Rukhi Fortress is a medieval castle fortress in the territory of the village of Rukhi on the left bank of the Enguri River. It was built by Levan the II Dadiani, the head of Samegrelo and consists of the citadel and the lower yard. A 10-12 m high wall surrounds the castle.

Khobi Monastery is one of the most important architectural complexes in Georgia, including the temple, palace, bell tower and wall. The basilica type temple has three naves. It is constructed in the XIII-XIV centuries and is connected with the names of King Gubaz, Davit Aghmashenebeli, Queen Tamar and Tsotne Dadiani. The temple is decorated with fretworks and frescoes. In the Middle Ages Khobi Monastery was a residence of the Catholicos of Western Georgia.

Some of the natural sites of Khobi municipality - Urta Mountain, Lake Papantskvire, Lake Nazmakhu, Khamiskuri and Kheta environs have some tourist potential.

Resort place Kvaloni with methan mineral water has arthrologic, neuralgic, gynecologic profile. In Khobi there is only one hotel for 22 tourists.

Priority types of tourism in the zone are medical and cognitive tourism.

2.2. Abasha-Senaki Zone

The main tourist attractions of the zone are: Senaki town, resorts Menji and Nokalakevi, also Nokalakevi archaeological monument, Shkhepi fortress, Sepieti and Sujuni churches in Abasha municipality.

Red brick houses, built in the 60-70s and small, nice yards that are spread throughout the whole city are characteristic for Senaki. The central part of the city is distinguished by regular planning and development of European type.

Senaki's main architectural landmark is Akaki Khorava Senaki Drama Theater, which is constructed in Neo-Baroque style with classicism elements. In the same architectural style is built also Buildings of Senaki Railway Station, Art School (now Zhiuli Shartava Museum) and so called Railway Hospital. There are three hotels for 116 visitors in Senaki.

Menji (in Megrelian - sour water) was declared a republican resort in 1938 and there started construction of the appropriate infrastructure. In 1940, tens of thousands of people visited arthralgic, neuralgic and gynecologic resort. According to specialists, high temperature water can be obtained here by drilling. The resort has not functioned since the 1990s and restoring of its infrastructure seems already impossible [2].

In Senaki municipality there are several deposits of thermal mineral water: in Sakharbedio, Ledzadzame, Zani, Potskho, Akhalsopeli. Nokalakevi, the oldest capital of the Egrisi Kingdom, is known by mineral waters. There are several thermal sources near the fortress. The temperature of the water reaches 70-80°C and is recommended for the treatment of cardiovascular, osteoarticular and gynecologic diseases.

According to historical sources, Nokalakevi (in Greek Archaeopolis) was built by Quji, Eristavi of Egrisi and Svaneti (beginning of the 3rd century BC). Tsikhegoji was the capital of Egrisi (Lazika) kingdom of Western Georgia in the IV-VIII centuries. In 737-738 the city was destroyed by the Arab commander, Murvan Ibn-Mohammad (Murvan the deaf). As a result of continuous destruction and desolation, Tsikhegoji declined and turned into a small village. For the second time it flourished in the 16th century, when the Samegrelo ruler built his own palace here. In the XVI-XVIII centuries, it was a residence of Odishi rulers - Dadiani.

Khorga is the resort area, with arthralgic, neuralgic and gynecologic healing profile.

The Shkhepi fortress is built in the early middle ages. A trace of remodeling of further periods can be seen there. Two towers and fence wall are well preserved. There are three hotels for 116 persons in Senaki, and only one hotel for 20 tourists in Abasha.

The zone has conditions for both, medical/health improving and cognitive tourism development.

2.3. Protected Areas Zone

The main tourist attractions of the zone are: three sections of Kolkheti National Park, their adjacent wetlands, excreted by Ramsar Convention and Katsoburi Managed Natural Reserve.

Georgia joined the Ramsar Convention in 1996. Protected areas of resident water birds were excreted; in consequence, they obtained international importance. In Kolkheti Lowland, this is the central part of the Black Sea coast, the confluence of river Rioni, the territory of Khobi municipality and the town of Poti. It includes the Churia, Nabada and Pichora-Paliastomi neighborhoods and the Paliastomi Lake.

The Kolkheti National Park, created in 1998, includes the Black Sea east coastline and the Paliastomi lake basin. It is designed for the protection and preservation of Kolkheti wetland ecosystems with the international significance. Tourists are offered here rowing, also sport fishing, bird watching and eco-educational tours on the Paliastomi Lake and in the Pichora River gorge.

The Katsoburi Managed Reserve was established in 1996. It is located in the southwestern part of Abasha municipality. The reserve area is mainly plain with maximum height about 40 meters above sea level. Here predominantly are spread alluvial clay and sand, and on small areas are found alumina soils. River Rioni flows into the territory of Katsoburi Managed Reserve. Tourism types are ecological, scientific tourism, bird watching.

III. Mountain and Foothills Region

3.1. Martvili Zone

The zone includes the rivers Tekhura and Abasha's upper parts' basins. It is distinguished by the abundance of natural monuments; the most popular among them is the Martvili or Gachedili's canyon, which is a gorge, cut canyonlike by the River Abasha in the Abedati limestone anticline. The length of the canyon is 2400 m, the depth - 20-30 m, and the width is 5-10 m. In two places of the canyon there are preserved natural limestone bridges, which indicate that once the karst cave was collapsed here. In addition, in the middle of the canyon there are small waterfalls of 12-15 m height. One section is distinguished by its special beauty. This is Oputskhole, known by the name of "Dadiani bathing place". Here the passage trail goes down along with a limestone stairway, built centuries ago of big limestone quadrels. On weekends in summer time, 2-2.5 thousand people visit the canyon. The canyon tourism infrastructure is gradually improving and soon the zipline will be added to it.

Besides, it is worth mentioning the natural monuments: Abasha, Oniore, Ochkhomuri, Tobi waterfalls; Caves of Zesnakhe, Potoltsvana, Khaverdovana, Migaria, Jortsku; Balda canyon.

The Tekhura Valley (in the middle and upper parts) is distinguished by relief complexity and landscape diversity. Resort of Lebarde (1600 m above the sea level), rich in mineral and sour waters of various compositions, is located in the valley. The main medical factors are: average height mountain climate and carbonic acid mineral water. Therapeutic indication is: chronic illnesses of respiratory and digestive organs. The resort currently is not functioning due to the difficult transportation conditions and infrastructure decay [3].

The Chkondidi Eparchy Center, Martvili Monastery of the Assumption of Virgin Mary (VII-XII Centuries) is located on the mountain top in the north of the city. The complex includes several churches and a bell tower.

The summer residence of Dadianis (XVIII-XIX centuries) and the Church of Nativity of Virgin Mary (XVIII century) are located in Salkhino.

In Martvili G. Eliava Museum is functioning, which is distinguished by compliance of its services and amenities with modern museum standards. There are 10 hotels in the city (including 7 family hotels) for 195 visitors in total.

The perspective tourism types are: medical, adventure, cognitive, religious tourism.

3.2. Chkhorotsku-Tsalenjikha zone

The zone includes the rivers - Chanistskali and Khobi upper parts' basins. The nature of this zone provides unique conditions for the development of tourism and healthcare.

A resort of Skuri is located in the upper part of the River Chanistskali. It is created on the sulfate-chloride sodium-calcium mineral water base. The mine is located in the valley of the river Abanosghele (Chanistskali left confluent). Therapeutic indication is diseases of the digestive organs, locomotor apparatus and peripheral nervous system. In 2007-2008 a youth camp was functioning here. Now the resort is almost destroyed. Other attractions are: Skuri Church, Jgali Church and tower, Lesale fortress, Tsalenjikha X-XI Century Cathedral, ethnographic museum, Terenti Graneli House Museum.

The upper part of the river Khobi gorge (till Chkhorotsku) has a great potential. It is likely that in the future, along with the growth of number of tourists in the gorge, the importance of the village Mukhuri as a tourist center will increase. The resort place Mukhuri is located on the River Khobi. The upper part of the valley begins here. From the north and northeast Mukhuri is surrounded by Tarzeni and Otsindale Mountains of Samegrelo highlands. The middle part passes into the open valley. The most interesting natural monument of Mukhuri is the karst cave "Shurubumu", which is located in the limestone massif and is decorated with various karst limestone formations (stalactites, stalagmites, travertines etc). Once a year a strong stream of water appears suddenly in the Shurubumu Gorge, the locals call it "Deizaxi" (giant's call) because of the strong sound. From other tourist attractions of Khobistskali Gorge are worth mentioning: Khobistskali Canyon, erratic boulder, Gvalashara and Ghunji waterfalls [4].

Mineral water Lugela, which contains 9.5% solution of calcium chloride, is important for the development of tourism. Therapeutic indications: tuberculosis, fracture of bones, rickets, allergic, decreased blood clotting diseases and so on. Now they take the mineral water with tanks to Zugdidi, where it is bottled. Near the village of Taya, on the mountain Otsindale St. George's one-naved monastery (11th century) is located, which was the most important religious center for centuries, where the people of all parts of Samegrelo region gathered during the St. George's Day.

Chkhorotsku ethnographic Museum is famous for its collection of interesting exhibits. Some of the exhibits require proper study from the specialists and the conditions of their storage are to be improved.

In Chkhorotsku and Tsalenjikha there are single hotels in each, accordingly for 12 and 10 visitors.

The perspective types of tourism are medical, adventure and cognitive tourism.

3.3. Jvari Zone

The tourism potential of this zone is mainly related to rivers Enguri (in the middle) and Magana valleys. The main tourist-recreational facility is the mountainous area of Egrisi ridge with the main peaks Chitagvara (Chitagvala) and Tsashkibuli. The lakes Tobavarchkhili, Tsashkibuli's Tobavarchkhili, Little Toba are especially popular. There are also separate attractions: Kuakantsalia, Okalmakhe Vacluse, Magana Waterfall, Tsozne Dadiani Cave, Intsra Canyon and Waterfall, Muzhava Monastery.

The crucial component of the tourism potential is the Jvari water reservoir and the Enguri dam, for which an interesting multi-functional tourism development project has been designed, providing the modern types of tourism.

In Potskho there is one 42-bed hotel.

Prospective types of tourism are: natural-cognitive and adventure tourism.

As mentioned above, the main types of tourism in Samegrelo are cognitive, adventure, ecological tourism. In the opinion of the authors, Samegrelo may be of interest also to those local and foreign tourists, who are fond of gastronomic and agro-tourism.

Conclusions

Overall, it can be said that Samegrelo, where tourism development enters into the active phase, despite the weak economic base and inarranged infrastructure, tourism has significant potential.

სამეგრელოს ტურისტული პოტენციალის პრობლემები

ვაჟა ნეიძე¹, ნინო პავლიაშვილი², მზია თუთბერიძე¹, გიორგი ხომერიკი¹, გიორგი ლომინაძე¹

¹ თსუ, ვახუშტი ბაგრატიონის სახელობის გეოგრაფიის ინსტიტუტი, თბილისი, საქართველო, neidze@gmail.com

² თსუ, სოციალურ და პოლიტუკურ მეცნიერებათა დეპარტამენტი, თბილისი, საქართველო

რეზიუმე

სტატიაში განხილულია საქართველოს ერთ-ერთი ისტორიული პროვინციის, სამეგრელოს ტურისტული პოტენციალის საკითხები. ამ მხარეს გამორჩეულად ახასიათებს ტურიზმის განვითარებისათვის აუცილებელი რესურსების სიმდიდრე და მრავალფეროვნება. ძირითადად, ეს ეხება მის ბუნებას და კულტურულ მემკვიდრეობას. საკუთრივ ტურიზმის ეკონომიკური ბაზა სუსტია. სამეგრელოს მოეპოვება როგორც ზღვის სანაპირო (ზღვისპირა ტურისტული ცენტრები ანაკლია და მალთაყვა), ასევე - მთისწინეთისა და საშუალო მთების რესურსები: კურორტები: მენჯი, სქური, ცაიში; მაღალი მთის სანახაობები (ტობავარჩხილი, ჩაშვიბული, ომაიანცალია); მდინარეთა, - ტეხურის, აბაშის და ხობის მიმ-ზიდველი ხეობები, კარსტული მღვიმეები. მათ გარდა, პოტენციალის მნიშვნელოვან ნაწილს შეადგენს კოლხეთის ჭარბტენიანი დაბლობის დაცული ტერიტორიები (კოლხეთის, კაცობურის). ცალკე აღსანიშნავია ამ მხარეში მცხოვრები მოსახლეობის ეთნიკური, კულტურული გამორჩეული თავისებურებები. ნაშრომში მოტანილია სამეგრელოს ტურისტული პოტენციალის დარაიონების სქემა.

Reference

- [1] Georgian Tourism in Figures. Structure and Industry Data. 2017.
- [2] Neidze V, Pavliashvili N, Tutberidze M. Trends of Development of Resort Tourism in Georgia. Science and Technologies. # 2 (725), 60-69, Tbilisi, 2017.
- [3] Samegrelo. Nature, Population, Economy (Geographical Aspects). Edited by Murman Ardia, Chichiko Janelidze. 293-297, Tbilisi-Sugdidi, 1999.
- [4] Lezhava Z, Tsikarishvili K, Bolashvili N, Tsereteli E, Pichkhaia I, Tolordava R. Deidzakhi Boulder - the Phenomenon of the Nature. Science and Technologies. # 2 (719) 19-25 Tbilisi, 2015.