

**DIFFERENTIATING LOCAL RECREATIONAL POLICIES IN THE ECOSYSTEM
APPROACH FRAMEWORK**

**ДИФЕРЕНЦІАЦІЯ ЛОКАЛЬНОЇ РЕКРЕАЦІЙНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ В РАМКАХ
ЕКОСИСТЕМНОГО ПІДХОДУ**

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Представлено деякі підходи до розробки національної та місцевої політики використання рекреаційних природних ресурсів з урахуванням локального рекреаційного потенціалу, демографічних та економічних особливостей розвитку різних територій. Розробку місцевої політики рекреаційного природокористування запропоновано здійснювати на основі екосистемного підходу. Екосистемний підхід до управління рекреаційними ресурсами відображає стратегію забезпечення сталого способу використання ресурсів з урахуванням усіх зв'язків і відносин всередині та поза безпосередньо залученими екосистемами. Рекреаційне природокористування є складовою національної політики використання природних ресурсів. Управління рекреаційними природними ресурсами є ширшим терміном, аніж управління рекреаційною сферою, оскільки перше включає охорону та відновлення ресурсів. Мультиплікативний економічний ефект і спільне використання рекреаційних ресурсів з іншими природокористувачами є основними рисами сфери рекреації. Для всіх регіонів України притаманна значна розбіжність між обсягом наявних рекреаційних ресурсів та ефективністю їх використання.

Розроблено багаторівневий алгоритм рекреаційно-ресурсної та галузевої класифікації територій. На основі алгоритму запропоновано декілька моделей політики використання й управління рекреаційними природними ресурсами з урахуванням основних типів поселень (міських, сільських, проміжних), близькості поселень до міських центрів (урбанізованих та периферійних), рекреаційної ємності територій (висока, середня, низька) та економічної ефективності місцевої рекреаційної індустрії (ефективна, помірно ефективна, неефективна). Відповідно визначено три типи стратегії розвитку громад: центр рекреації і туризму, домінування рекреаційної сфери та рекреація для місцевих мешканців. Новизна дослідження полягає у диференціюванні політики використання рекреаційних ресурсів на основі оцінки їх ємності та потужності індустрії. Таким чином багаторівневий алгоритм класифікації територій за рекреаційними характеристиками дає змогу визначити ключові моделі місцевої політики.

Ключові слова: рекреаційні ресурси; рекреаційно-туристична сфера; рекреаційна потужність; екосистемний підхід; алгоритм.

This paper presents some approaches to develop national and local policy of recreational natural resources use based on zonal recreational capacity, demographic properties and economic peculiarities of different areas, including mountains. Ecosystem approach is applied for the differentiation. Recreational natural resources management is the component of national policy of natural resources use. The recreational natural resources management is broader term than the recreational industry management, since the first one includes protection and restoration of the resources. The multiplicative economic effect and joint use of recreational resources with other

users are key features of the industry. Significant discrepancy between the scope of available recreational resources and efficiency of their use are inherent for all Ukraine's regions.

The multilevel algorithm of the recreational resources and industry classification of areas is developed. The algorithm concludes with several policy models of the recreational natural resources use and management taking into account types of settlements (urban, rural, and intermediate), proximity of settlements to urban centres (urbanized and peripheral), recreational capacity of areas (high, medium, and low), and economic efficiency of the local recreational industry (efficient, moderately efficient, and inefficient). Accordingly, the three types of communities' development strategy have been identified like the recreational centre, dominant recreational industry, and recreations for locals. The novelty of this research consists in representation of approaches depicting the structure and assessing the capacity of local recreational resources and the industry. Consequently, the multilevel algorithm classifying areas by recreational capacities and capabilities assist to define models of the local policies.

Key words: recreational resources; recreation-and-tourism industry; recreational capacity; ecosystem approach; algorithm.

Problem Statement. Attributes of ecosystems determines economic efficiency of recreational activities and services which consequently depend a lot on the environment's quality and approaches to its management. It makes the ecosystem approach to management of recreational resources is appropriate way to provide sustainable use of natural resources. The recreational usage of natural resources is the kind of economic activities providing spa, sanatorium and resort services. Tourism and recreation industry is important for economic, social and ecological goals defining by national, regional and local policy papers. Recreation and tourism industry is an integral part of the economy of many countries, including mountain areas. Typically, local strategies to use recreational natural resources do not much depend on the resource's capacity, facilities, staff and supplying industries. Especially it is distinctive for mountain regions like Carpathians. This practice results underuse of the recreation resources or, conversely, there depletion. If locals disregard recreational capacities of the environment, tourist and recreational resources are lost, people get less incomes and the resources worsen.

Review of Previous Researches and Publications. Studies on the sustainable use of recreational natural resources mostly are interdisciplinary. Mainly they are academicians in economics and economic geography who elaborate theory and methods to systematize and evaluate recreational resources and practices of their usage. M. Rutinsky, N. Fomenko, and V. Shtukmeister developed theory of recreational natural resources use. They also worked out maps of the resources allocation and outlined the structure [1]. M. Krachylo, S. Gensiruk, and V. Rudenko defined what is

the natural and recreational capacities of an area [2]; V. Matsola evaluated economic effects of recreational and tourism industry [3]. O. Beidyk, F. Mazur, and I. Sinyakevych looked into approaches to manage natural recreational resources and studied various types of recreational activities [4]. Ukrainian academicians Z. Gerasymchuk, S. Kharichkova, L. Cherchyk [5], as well as foreign S. Bernini [6], F. Kotler, S. Massida [7] studied how to protect and develop natural recreational resources sustainably. Ukrainians also study nature management differed by area types [8] and develop the strategies [9]. At the same time, there is no practice to differ approaches to recreational resources use based on economic, demographic, and geographical status of areas. The issue is important for Ukraine considering administrative and territorial reform, which supports territorial communities with extra power in the context of natural resources use. The ecosystem approach is relevant for the environmental policy due to Convention on biodiversity [10].

Goal of the research. Purpose of the paper is to discover how the ecosystem approach can be applied to classify areas depending on recreational natural resources in order to get better economic, social and ecological results. Firstly, we are going to define the ecosystem approach to management of recreational natural resources. Further it is planned to assess recreational and tourism capacity of communities' areas and classify the areas supplying models of the recreational natural resources' usage. Finally, we will substantiate regional and local strategies of recreation and tourism industry's development.

Key results and the discussion. Several methods were applied in the survey course. With

the structural analysis we composed recreational resources capacities, defined recreational activities, and assessed the industry's current status. With math approach we assessed recreational capacity of communities' areas and calculated indices of their social and ecological status. Statistics facilitated classifying areas with indicators of the recreation industry's economic efficiency. Graph and synthetic methods were applied to depict the multilevel algorithm of areas' tourism-and-recreation classification. State Statistical Service of Ukraine and the World Tourism Organization compiled the survey's data base.

The research results are the following. Recreational natural resources management is the component of the general system of nature management. The last one reflects interactions of a society with the environment and is specified with contemporary dominant socio-ecological paradigm. Recreational activities mean supply of recreational services on areas where necessary natural and manufactured resources are located outside the permanent settlements of vacationers. Instead, the recreational natural resources use is the broader concept, since it additionally embraces exploration of new recreational zones and resources, forms the recreational environment, provides its protection, restoration, and the rational use. If these tasks have been performed, the recreational nature management is considered to be rational. The recreational resources management is sustainable if it concurrently takes into account social and economic requests of people and considers constraints of the environment. Key challenge for the sustainable recreational natural resources management is to match growing demand for recreational services with the goal to preserve recreational resources and treasured historical and cultural sites.

Ecosystem approach to recreational resources management is the policy providing the sustainable manner of the resources usage with consideration of all ties and relations inside and outside of the involved ecosystems. Consequently, recreational resources have some specificities. Firstly, recreational resources cannot be separated from the environment or extracted. Secondly, they define range and types of recreational activities. Thirdly, the resources are multifunctional since they provide various health and recreation services. Fourthly, the economic effect is multiple if the resources are used in full [11]. Fifthly, the recreational nature

use can be coordinated with other fields of nature management. Sixthly, the recreation industry is priority comparing to other economic activities if natural recreational resources is not used otherwise. Economic, social and environmental impact of the recreational natural resources use relate to the ability to catalyse economic growth and incomes, add to employment of people who supply recreational and related services, and causal relationship between revenues of recreational entrepreneurs and quality of the environment [12].

Recreational and tourism capacity of an area is a set of available natural, socio-economic and historical and cultural resources, which are the prerequisite for production and supply of recreational and tourist services. Usually, certain mismatch between the capacity and efficiency of its use exists and is the intrinsic feature of the industry. Therefore, the sustainability of the recreational and tourism industry means the most appropriate use and preservation of the resources with taking into account social needs and economic benefits. Recreational resources include areas and facilities where vacationers can restore their health, get recovery and rest.

Usually the resources differ on natural (climate, land, water, landscape, flora, fauna, natural reserves, and mountains), historical and cultural (architecture, archaeology sites) and facilities (sanatoriums, resort centres, hotels, farms, camps). Resources of the recreation-and-tourism industry include nature, buildings, logistics, finances, and personnel. Subjects of the recreational natural resources use are primarily entities, which produce and supply recreational services or are engaged into the production and supply.

In Ukraine some gap in regulation over the tourism and recreation industry exists and impedes the development of the industry. In our opinion, the policy should focus primarily on providing equal opportunities for all suppliers of the recreational and tourist services. According to I. Yakovenko, many natural, demographic and economic factors cause spatial recreational inequality. Jointly those factors make the recreational resources capacity is different for unlike areas. It results different opportunities for unlike areas if developing tourism and recreation industry [8]. It is agreed that targeted policy is required in order to overcome such the differences and support locals. The policy instruments should intensify recreations in areas with high demand for the services and provide

extra stimulus in areas where the recreational industry bases a local economy.

In this survey we evaluated natural and recreational capacity of communities' areas. We chose indicators to assess the industry and introduced them into the evaluation scheme. Further we grouped Ukraine's regions based on the indicators. We modified well-known and comprehensive approach of V. Rudenko [2] who assessed natural and recreational potential based on recreational zones' area, range of supplied services, natural reserves and facilities for extraction of mineral waters and mud. Also, we performed comprehensive assessment of the recreation industry by regions. For that we used the following groups of indicators: natural resources state and scope, facilities and logistics, economic and social efficiency of the industry, and ecological status of the areas. Index method was applied [13]. Key indicators to assess the tourism industry are the assets (number, status and capacity of hotels), production (value of all the supplied services), and economic efficiency (incomes, costs, benefits) [14].

The set of variables and indicators of the recreational capacity is concurrent with international [15] and includes values on the environment since it adds a lot to efficiency of the recreational industry [16]. Thus we pointed out several indicators (stimuli and di-stimuli) identifying the environmental local policy. They are setting ecological routes, informing locals on benefits associated with recreational affiliation of an area, and regulation over number of vacationers (visitors).

In Ukraine unlike settlement areas (urban and rural) are inherent in significant differences on the environment, facilities and economic efficiency of the recreational industry. Therefore, for the recreational classification of areas we divided them by types of settlements. With variables of rural population share and road availability of urban centres we distinguished rural, urban, intermediate areas and mountainous. Rural areas in Ukraine occupy over 90 % of the country's area with 52 % of the total population. And rural areas additionally were divided by urban-like and remote based on variables of the population density and average road distance to cities.

With the next step we classified the areas based on recreational and tourist capacity (RTC) and the efficiency of recreation-and-tourism industry (RTI). The approach helps to define better policies of the recreational nature resources use for urban, rural urban-like and

rural remote areas. For the advantageous areas we recommend focus of the recreations, for moderately favourable – prioritizing recreations in concurrency with other industries, and for discouraging – use of the recreational resources for local needs only. The approach is consistent with the sustainable nature management principles. It is to support relations between locals and businesses and solve conflicts between nature users (e.g., manufactures and agricultural producers, local people and visitors). The methodology of areas classification based on variables of the recreational natural resources use and strategies of the communities' development is presented as the algorithm (Fig.).

With the above-mentioned comprehensive algorithm, we identified four groups of Ukraine's regions based on status and capacity of the recreation and tourism industry. The first group has the lowest values of the variables and was attributed as of depressed regions. The fourth one has the highest indicators and was defined as of leading regions. The second and the third groups have intermediate variables values and were identified as below average and above average. The table below presents the four regions' groups formed based on the aggregated scores of the recreation and tourism industry where 1 is the highest and zero is the lowest.

The low values of the recreation and tourism industry' capacity happen mostly because of poor facilities. There are sanatoriums and health resorts in Zhytomyrska (0.051), Sumska (0.077), Ternopilska (0.100) and Chernihivska (0.089) regions, hotels in Kirovohradska (0.154) and Kharkivska (0.214) regions. Poor recreational natural resources are in Zhytomyrska (0.133), Kirovohradska (0.132), Sumska (0.153), and Ternopilska (0.195) regions.

Air pollution is one of the environment's indicators. Poor air is the recreation industry's di-stimulus for Dnipropetrovska (0.047) and Luhanska regions (0.076). Because of small number of vacationers, the industry is inefficient in Zhytomyrska (0.123), Kirovohradska (0.210), Luhanska (0.149), and Ternopilska (0.194) regions. The reasons are a few travellers and underuse of sanatoriums, hotels and health resorts.

The highest values of the recreational and tourism industry are inherent to Zakarpatska (0.601), Odeska (0.564), and Khersonska (0.546) regions. In the same time the mentioned regions have low enough values of natural and

recreational resources capacities and number of summer camps for children (in Khersonska 0.139 and 0.290 respectively) as well as sanatoriums and resorts (in Zakarpatska 0.370).

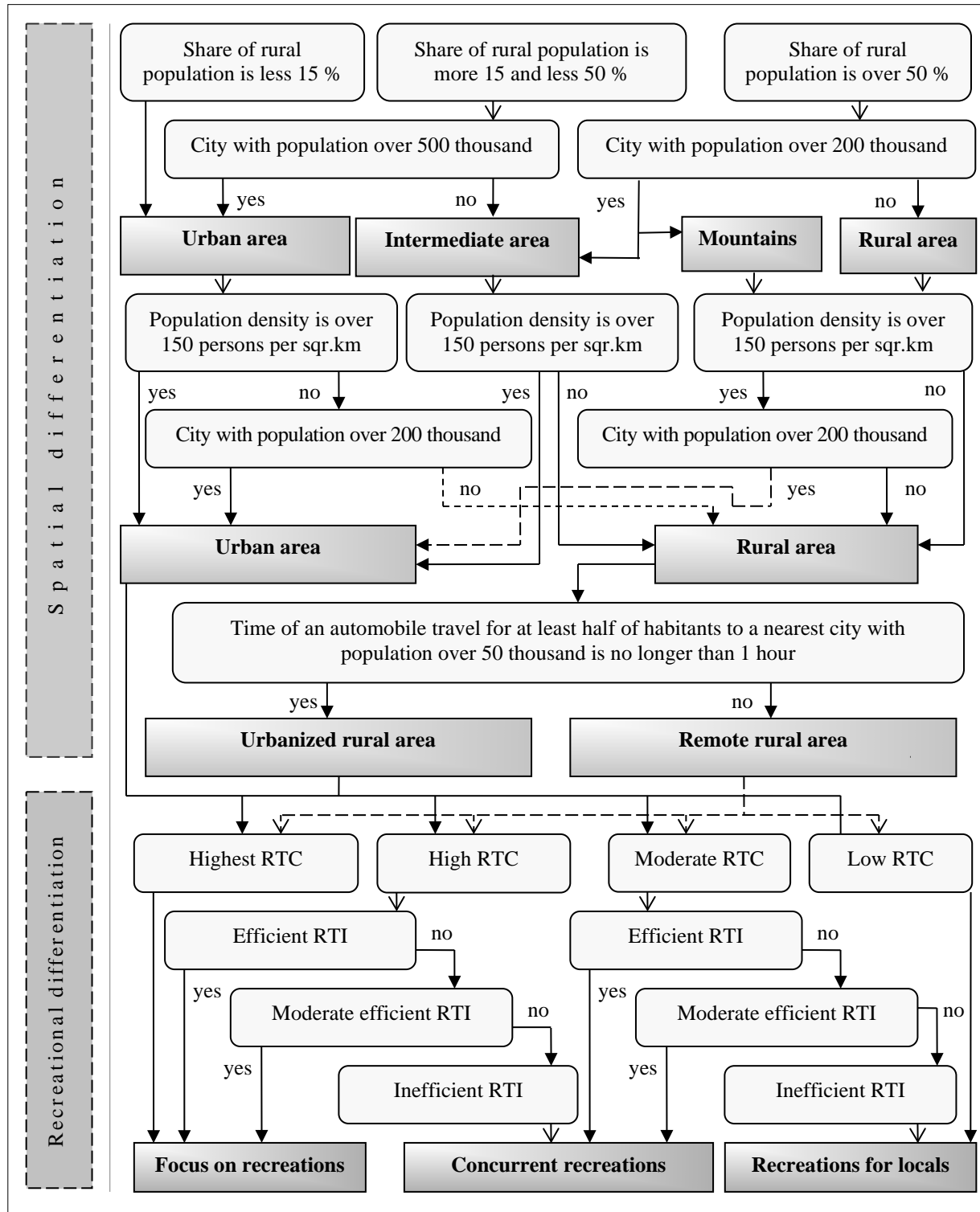


Figure – Algorithm of the comprehensive classification of areas based on the recreation industry’s status and the development strategy (author’s)

These reasons may cut the recreational capacity of the regions down since the situation means the available recreational resources are not used profoundly.

The research results have been discussed. It is concluded in Ukraine the recreation and tourism industry’s capacities are underused. The tourists and recreators numbers is small. Since

2000 the steady descending trend is inherent to the arriving tourism (14 % less yearly) and domestic (7 % less yearly). Number of departing tourists increases by 13 % every year [17]. It means Ukraine as the recreational and tourist site becomes less attractive for both foreign and Ukrainian citizens. Solely the coastal regions

and cities with historical, cultural and architectural sites like Kyivska, Lvivska, Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, and Zakarpatska regions still have some prospects for the recreational industry's development. It is easy to note the last four of the mentioned regions are mountain zones of Carpathians.

Table – Comprehensive assessment of tourism and recreation industry in Ukraine's regions, 2020*

Region	Variables				Indices
	Supply of		Efficiency		
	Natural resources	Facilities	Economic	Social	
Ukraine **	0.249	0.515	0.471	0.453	0.418
<i>1st group</i>					
Dnipropetrovska	0.202	0.558	0.225	0.202	0.289
Zhytomyrska	0.341	0.232	0.197	0.323	0.272
Kirovogradska	0.340	0.212	0.451	0.288	0.320
Sumska	0.297	0.286	0.278	0.254	0.279
Ternopilska	0.279	0.353	0.338	0.218	0.296
Kharkivska	0.330	0.297	0.358	0.224	0.301
Chernigivska	0.392	0.219	0.269	0.228	0.275
<i>2nd group</i>					
Vinnyska	0.198	0.221	0.456	0.502	0.337
Zaporizka	0.207	0.326	0.512	0.464	0.372
Kyivska	0.278	0.308	0.376	0.378	0.334
Poltavska	0.218	0.275	0.498	0.347	0.331
Rivnenska	0.357	0.278	0.397	0.540	0.390
Khmelnyska	0.283	0.302	0.644	0.312	0.378
Cherkaska	0.270	0.533	0.347	0.383	0.380
<i>3rd group</i>					
Volynska	0.381	0.335	0.425	0.525	0.415
Ivano-Frankivska	0.295	0.553	0.439	0.435	0.427
Lvivska	0.304	0.569	0.635	0.527	0.503
Mykolayivska	0.323	0.626	0.394	0.402	0.432
Chernivetska	0.424	0.593	0.336	0.356	0.424
Kyiv city	0.418	1.000	0.606	0.101	0.496
<i>4th group</i>					
Zakarpatska	0.581	0.666	0.614	0.547	0.601
Odeska	0.478	0.682	0.474	0.635	0.564
Khersonska	0.372	0.615	0.608	0.603	0.546

* Source: author's assessments based on [17].

** Excluding temporarily occupied territories of Crimea, Sevastopol city, and parts of Donetsk and Luganska regions.

The sustainable recreational natural resources management in the ecosystem approach framework presumes efficient use of the resources, safety provision and better spatial planning for recreational and tourist zones. Therefore, national and regional policies have to support preservation and restoration of valuable natural recreational areas, muds, mineral waters sources and historical and cultural heritage sites.

The task is to establish the network of enterprises supplying spa and resort services and develop recreation and tourism industry in rural areas. Monitoring and control over the state of recreational resources make implementation of inventories, records, accounting and forecasting systems urgent [18].

Tourism and recreations in mountain regions need more contributions. The first reason is

extended distances between high-altitude villages and urban centres. Remote alpine areas usually are less appropriate for businesses and regular recreational services supply, although unique landscapes in high mountains frequently are fascinating and out-of-the-way hills attract ecotourists and slow life followers. Secondly, poor routes, out-of-date house utilities and scarce daily services usually are inherent to mountainous villages. The third reason is low incomes and poverty of locals. Economic deprivation of people living on highlands is common for major alpine areas in Europe, and signing of several mountain conventions supporting the habitants is the prove.

The mentioned reasons restrict the development of tourism and recreation businesses on alpiners. It means additional efforts should be made to support the industry. The development strategy should be flexible and the above depicted algorithm can be applied to modify the policy. Focus on recreations should be made if an alpine area is surrounded with attractive landscapes and the industry is well developed. Recreational entrepreneurs have capacities to compete with agri-industries if the natural environment is friendly and economic policy is supportive. It is important the network of facilities like hotels, spa resorts, camps and other entities supplying services is sustain and continuous. Any the gaps or insufficiency turn areas into recreational zones for locals only even if landscapes are unique and attractive for visitors.

Conclusions. Discussions about the recreation and tourism industry in Ukraine reveal some discrepancy between the available recreational capacities and efficiency of the resources usage. The ecosystem approach to recreational natural resources management has been applied to the development of the multilevel algorithm of the comprehensive classification of areas. That is the methodological framework to differ communities by type of settlements (urban, rural, intermediate or mountainous), proximity to urban centres (urbanized or remote rural areas), recreational resources capacities (high, medium, or low), and economic impact of the industry (efficient, moderately efficient, or inefficient). In order to complicate the algorithm, we propose three strategies of local policy of the recreational natural resources use. They are the recreational focus, the recreational concurrency and recreations for locals.

Tourism and recreations in vulnerable areas like alpiners are complicated and constrained. The development strategy should be modified and the proposed algorithm can be applied for the purpose. Similarly for recreations in mountain regions we propose the three alternatives. They are focus on recreations if alpine areas are surrounded with attractive landscapes and the industry is well developed; rival recreations if the industry is capacitive and the environment is friendly; and recreations for locals if no steady networks of entities supplying recreational services operate in the region.

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