

Development of Hunting Tourism in Ukraine: Organizational, Economic and Legal Aspects

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Abstract

Modern approaches to the definition of “hunting tourism” are analyzed in the article. It is proposed to consider hunting tourism as an organized paid trip aimed on satisfying the needs of consumers (hunters) in services of extreme, sports & recreational or cognitive character in the process of their staying in the natural habitat of hunting animals. The main problems of organizational, economic and orientation legal, which hinder the development of hunting tourism in Ukraine, are considered. The resource support of hunting tourism development in Ukraine is analyzed. Organizational and management aspects of hunting economy in European Countries (Germany, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland) are investigated. The directions for solving of basic problems of organizational and legal support, as well as incentives for further development of hunting tourism in Ukraine are offered. The basic principles on which hunting tourism should be based are formed, in particular: the principle of preservation of biodiversity in the animal and plant life of hunting grounds; the principle of sustainable ecologically balanced of using the hunting resources for tourism purposes; the principle of observance of ethical norms and national traditions in the process of organizing hunting tourism; the principle of preservation of the cultural heritage in the areas, which are reserved for the organization of hunting tourism; the principle of promoting the development of alternative types of hunting tourism; the principle of integration of hunting tourism with hunting, forestry and agrarian enterprises; the principle of state support in the development of hunting tourism.

Keywords: Tourism, Hunting Tourism, Hunting Economy, Hunting Industry.

Introduction

The process of Ukraine's integration with the European community involves conducting a series of political, economic and social measures. Reformation of the national economy is possible only by reviewing existing approaches to the process of using and reproducing the country's resource and raw material potential, as well as finding new ideas for the development of entrepreneurial activity. Formation of regulatory and legal support, stimulation of the development of new areas of entrepreneurship in Ukraine should be reflected in the list of main tasks of the state policy on the development of small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs).

In developed countries, SMBs are considered as the subjects, which are forming the basis for the establishment of democratic relations; it's simultaneously aimed at solving the social employment policy. Significant potential for economic and social growth through the development of SMBs is hidden in one of the priority sectors of the national economy – tourism industry, which was repeatedly noted and considered in various regulatory and legal documents both nationally and internationally levels.

Inherently, modern tourism is defined as a multifaceted phenomenon, which is closely related with economics, history, culture, geography, medicine, ecology etc. In addition, tourism is largely characterized as one of the traditional forms of nature use, which is manifested in the using of natural resources for recreational purposes, including using the resources of hunting fauna.

Insufficient attention of scientists, business entities, governmental and non-governmental organizations to the problems of involvement of hunting fauna resources for tourist purposes is determined the relevance of this scientific research.

Literature Review

Organizational and economic aspects, analysis of foreign and domestic experience of organization, management and development of hunting tourism are highlighted in the scientific works of many scientists. Organizational basis of formation and development of international hunting tourism in the independent Ukraine and in conditions of a market economy are covered in the science works of Bondarenko V. (Bondarenko, 1993). Delehan I. is one of the first scientists who distinguished the hunting tourism as a profitable component of the tourism industry in Ukraine; in particular, based on foreign experience, he indicated that hunting tourism can gives such profits, which in magnitude will be higher than the cost of annual allowable cut wood at the average European prices (Delehan, 1994). The analysis of the main ecological and economic trends in the development of hunting tourism in developed countries, the typical forms of hunting tourism in these countries and their economic role in the national and regional context are reflected in the science work of Kulchytska E. (Kulchytska, 2014).

The main directions of development of hunting tourism at the regional level in Ukraine, the current state of hunting tours and trends in tourism industry are considered in the science works of Banderych V. (Banderych, Pryndak & Khoietskyi, 2011) and Yachniuk M. (Yachniuk, 2010). The main provisions of the ecological and economic assessment and economic incentives for the using, protection and reproduction of hunting fauna resources, as well as the determination of payment standards for the special using of resources of the hunting economy are disclosed in the works of Vovchenko V. (Vovchenko, Malevanova & Domnich, 2005), Dynka P. (Dynka, 1992), Koval Ya. (Koval, Antonenko, & Shadura, 2000), Muraviov Yu. (Muraviov, 2001), Syniakovych I. (Syniakovych, 2000) etc.

The grounded analysis of environmental legislation, studying the problem issues of the property right on the resources of the animal world, their rational using, protection, reproduction, regulation of hunting and the development of hunting tourism at different time periods were researched by such scientists as Muntian V. (Muntian, 1982), Tomyň O. (Tomyň, 2009), Klapchuk V. and Protsiv O. (Klapchuk & Protsiv, 2011), Cherkashyna M. (Cherkashyna, 2011), Tykhyj V. (Tykhyj, 2000) and others.

The international aspects of the sustainable development of hunting tourism in the European countries are reflected in the “European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity” (Strasbourg, 2007), which was approved at the 27th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. This document combines the main aspects of European and international policy on sustainable realization of hunting, ecotourism, biodiversity conservation in the context of ecological, economic and socio-cultural problems of sustainable development: also it provides three main interrelated directions for the development of hunting economy (http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Hunting_Charter_EN.pdf): 1) the development of principles and practical

recommendations for the sustainable using of wildlife resources and biodiversity in Europe, especially through hunting; 2) the development of principles and practical recommendations for sustainable hunting tourism in Europe; 3) the assistance in raising awareness of the hunter in the issues of weapons handling, safety and adherence of ethical standards in the hunting process.

Also, the “European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity” contains 12 principles, 47 practical guidelines for natural resource management bodies and 59 practical recommendations for hunters and tour operators, which take into account existing works in this area, in particular the principles and recommendations adopted in Berne (1979), Rio de Janeiro (1992), Malawi (1998), Addis Ababa (2004).

Using of hunting fauna resources as an object of tourism activity is a fairly widespread phenomenon in developed countries. At the same time, the specificity and individual approaches to the using of hunting fauna resources determine hunting tourism as one of the most expensive and elite types of tourism. Hunting tourism in Ukraine is on the formation stage and requires a grounded scientific substantiation in the order to determine the effective organizational, economic and legal mechanism for its functioning. The issues of definition, economic and legislative regulation of hunting tourism in Ukraine still are unresolved and open.

Materials and Methods

The theoretical basis of this research are the fundamental provisions of tourism science, economics of hunting, tourism and nature management, ecological economics, the theory of sustainable development, normative and legal support of activities in the field of hunting tourism. The methodological basis of the study consists of a set of such methods and techniques: induction and deduction – to generalize the basic theoretical principles of the study, as well as the formulation of conclusions and recommendations; monographic – for studying and generalization of scientific approaches to the definition of “hunting tourism”; institutional analysis, comparative analysis, generalization and abstraction – for studying foreign experience of hunting industry and hunting tourism development; integrated and systematic approaches – for the formation of principles of hunting tourism; economic and statistical methods for analysis the potential of hunting fauna resources, hunting production markets, ecological and economic efficiency of reproduction and using of hunting resources for tourist purposes in the European countries and Ukraine.

The information basis for this research were legal and normative acts: the Constitution of Ukraine, Laws of Ukraine, Decrees of the President of Ukraine, resolutions of the Government of Ukraine, normative acts of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, State Agency of Forest Resources of Ukraine, international legal documents in the field of environmental policy and environmental protection, adopted at international conferences and laid down in international agreements. The official statistics and information from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the State Agency of Forest Resources of Ukraine were used in the work.

The aim of this article is to substantiate scientifically the definition and essence of “hunting tourism” and make an assessment of legal, organizational and economic provision for its development in Ukraine.

To achieve the aim we have solved the following *tasks*:

1. to analyze modern approaches to the definition of “hunting tourism” on the basis of foreign and domestic scientific works, legal & normative support;
2. to investigate organizational and management aspects of hunting economy in European Countries (Germany, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland);
3. to determine the organizational, economic and legal problems of the formation and development of hunting tourism in Ukraine;
4. to offer the incentives for further development of hunting tourism in Ukraine;

cognitive. These should include the following forms of hunting tourism: walks in the woods for monitoring wildlife, photo and video hunting, trophy case, hunting dog breeding, taxidermy (making stuffed of animals) etc. Thus, hunting tourism should be considered not only from the standpoint of consumption, but also as an activity aimed at satisfying the needs of hunters in the services of aesthetic, moral, recreational and cultural character in the process of their staying in the natural habitat of hunting animals. It should be noted that exactly the alternative types of hunting tourism are becoming more and more popular in the countries of Central and South Africa and in the future can completely replace the traditional safari.

Taking into account the above statements, authors' propose the following definition of hunting tourism: an organized paid trip aimed on satisfying the needs of consumers (hunters) in services of extreme, sports & recreational or cognitive character in the process of their staying in the natural habitat of hunting animals.

Organizational and economic provision of hunting tours in the territory of Ukraine for both foreigners and citizens of Ukraine involves solving a sufficiently large number of problem tasks. Hunting tourism is at the junction of hunting, forest, agriculture, water and tourism industries in general. It is obvious that the closest and interconnected relationship is between hunting tourism and hunting economy, which in perspective may lead to conflict of interests between hunters, users of hunting grounds, the state and private landowners. This is confirmed by the fact that in accordance with the National Classifier of Ukraine DK 009: 2010 "Classification of Types of Economic Activities", tourist and hunting activities are classified in different sections, in particular: hunting industry - section A "Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Industry", issue 01 "Agriculture, hunting and related services"; tourist activities - section N "Activities in the field of administrative and support services", issue 79 "Activities of travel agencies, tour operators, provision of other reservation services and related activities".

However, it should not be forgotten that hunting tourism for hunters, tourist enterprises (tour operators, travel agencies) is primarily an economic activity related to the provision of services to hunters-tourists in the order to generate income and increase the efficiency of hunting activities. Such an approach was formed due to connection with the specific features of hunting tourism, which unites, on the one hand, the hunting industry features of the organization, management, using, reproduction and protection of hunter's resources, and, on the other, the constituent elements of tourism activity (formation of tourist product, search, reception, transfer and placement of customers and other related services).

Like any industrial or commercial activity that is connected to several branches of the national economy, hunting industry should be regulated by relevant related legal norms. Organizational, legal and economic relations in the field of hunting industry and tourism activities in Ukraine are regulated by a number of legislative acts, the main of which are: the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Protection", the Law of Ukraine "On the Fauna", the Law of Ukraine "On Hunting Economy and hunting", the Forestry Code of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine "On the Red Book of Ukraine", the Law of Ukraine "On Tourism" etc.

The analysis of regulatory and legal support in the field of hunting industry and tourism in Ukraine confirms the existence of unresolved and problematic issues regarding the functioning and development of hunting tourism. In particular, in the Law of Ukraine "On Tourism" (1995) (<http://zakon.rada.gov.ua>), such a notion as "hunting tourism" occurs only in the list as one of the types of tourism. In the Law of Ukraine "On Hunting Economy and Hunting" (2000) (<http://zakon.rada.gov.ua>), hunting tourism even isn't mentioned in general as a promising area of economic activity, which contradicts the main international agreements in the field of protection, reproduction and using of hunting fauna resources.

Although some normative legal acts in Ukraine operate on this notion, they don't give it a legal definition. since hunting tourism has specific features that distinguish it from other types of tourism. Unlike Ukraine, the economic activity related to the provision of tourist services in the field of

hunting is reflected in the legislation of developed countries and is regulated by a number of subordinate legal acts. For example, you can refer to the experience of Poland. In the Polish Law “On Hunting” (1995) (<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl>) hunting tourism takes a whole section. According to Polish law, hunting activities related to the provision of tourist services include: 1) hunting conducted by foreigners in the territory of Poland; 2) hunting abroad.

Over the last few years, Ukraine has been intensifying the efforts of academics and NGOs for improving regulatory and legal support and effective management in the area of protection, reproduction and using of hunting economy resources. In particular, problems of state regulation and enforcement, increasing the economic efficiency of hunting economy, including hunting tourism, as well as proposals for their solution were discussed and published in the framework of the Regional Program “European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance II Program” (FLEG II 2014-2017), which the co-authored of this research was participated in (Myronenko, 2015).

Since the foreign hunters-tourists become as a basis for the development of hunting tourism, another legal problem there is – the regulation of documentary support of foreign citizens in Ukraine. Article 13 the Law of Ukraine “On Hunting Economy and Hunting” (<http://zakon.rada.gov.ua>) allows foreigners to hunt in Ukraine due to hunting rights documents (hunter's certificate, corresponding permission for using the firearms, passport for dogs hunting breeds etc.) issued by appropriate authorities of other states. However, the norms for determining the equivalence of documents for the right to hunt abroad, which citizens of Ukraine must obtain, are not fully defined. One of the objectives of the adopted resolution of Regional Program FLEG II was to develop measures for the development of foreign hunting tourism, minimizing the number of bureaucratic procedures for the admission of foreign hunters, in particular (Myronenko, 2015):

- to grant the right to the user of hunting grounds independently, without intermediaries, to accept hunters from abroad;
- to eliminate the corruption of users from all kinds of permits from other departments (permissive system of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine, veterinary service);
- to simplify customs procedures for the export/import of legally acquired trophies and hunting weapons (excessive and unreasonable requirements for the list of documents for customs clearance);
- to streamline and improve licensing systems for foreign hunters in Ukraine: the registration of license for trophies, the lease of local weapons etc.

We should note that except this initiative, significant progress hasn't taken place in this direction over the past few years.

The success in the development of hunting tourism directly depends on the level of organization and management of hunting economy. The centuries-old culture of hunting and forestry management in the European Union countries allows not only effectively protect forest, field and wetlands, but also increase the livestock of hunting fauna and biodiversity as an integral part of improving the wildlife habitat. According to various data, the prices for hunting tours in different countries fluctuate within the limits (Table 2):

Table 2: Prices for hunting tours

Wildlife	Price, USD
Mountain ram	12000-50000
Snow ram	7000-15000
Mountain goat	up to 5000
Chamois	1500-2500
Noble deer	2000-8000
Spotted deer	up to 4000
Wild reindeer	up to 2000
Elk	1000-5000
European roe deer	500-2500
Wild boar	400-2000
Brown bear	1500-8000
Lynx	1500-3000
Wolf	200-1500

*Source: (Danylykyn, 2010).

Hunting tourism in Europe is particularly popular among hunters in Germany. There are 369 300 hunters in Germany, and it's of the lowest indicator in Europe in terms of population. Despite the fair amount of wild game and the high quality of related services, almost half (48.7%) of German hunters used international hunting tourism services, while 38% use these services once a year or several times a year (Haakana, 2007). In the 2017/2018 season, hunters in Germany gained 1948.95 thousands heads of small wild game and 2182.1 thousands heads of hoof wild game, which is almost in 8 times more than total number and in 140 times more than number of hoofed animals in Ukraine. Basically, hunters in Germany gain: roe deer – 1 199 000 heads, wild boar 837 000 heads, noble deer – 77 000 heads, fallow deer – 63 000 heads, moufflon – 7 200 heads, chamois – 4 900 heads, spotted deer – 2 400 heads. It should be noted that the amount of hunting livestock in Germany is high and grows by 5-10% each year (<http://www.jagdverband.de>). But, in most European countries, the hunter owns only trophies (horns, skin, fangs), and other hunting products are the property of the hunting economy, the owner of the hunting grounds or local people. From hunting products sales (meat, leather, down) 266.39 million EUR was received in 2018, which is on 47.45 million EUR more than in 2014 (218.94 million EUR) and on 88.59 million EUR more than in 2010 (177.8 million EUR). The largest revenues were getting from sales meat and skin of ungulates – 251.71 million EUR (94%) (<http://www.jagdverband.de>). We should pay attention on the fact that the cost of meat and skin of ungulates and the cost of small wild game is unchanged over the past ten years, which indicates the stability of the industry and the economy as a whole.

The experience of organizing of hunting tourism in the northern European countries (Sweden, Finland) shows that: the system of hunting management is mainly based on a private ownership form; a rental income from hunting grounds and the organization of hunting tourism are the main part of the income of most landowners (Urszula, Törmä, Kinnunen & Rautiainen, 2015). 37 species of animals and birds are the objects of hunting in Finland. In general, hunters are hunted ungulates animals (elk, roe deer, and white - tailed deer) and a variety of small wild game. The average annual extraction of elk is 38 000 heads, deer – more than 12 000 heads, and roe deer – more than 90 000. In a small amount, they hunt fallow deer, wild pig and moufflon (Khoietskyi & Pokhaliuk, 2014). The fee for the right to hunt small wild game varies from 5 EUR/day to 170 EUR/year. For foreign hunters, the cost can be revised and varies from 7 to 400 EUR (Matilainen & Keskinarkaus, 2010). This money (about 5.5 million EUR per year) is accumulated by the state and is used to prevent the negative impact of hunting animals on the environment and to compensate the damage done by them to forestry and agriculture (Matilainen & Keskinarkaus, 2010).

Almost identical system of organization and management of hunting economy is used in Sweden. The main licensed species of animals are elk and noble deer. Most of all, in Sweden, they hunt such

ungulates animals as a roe deer and elk. In modern conditions, more than 100 000 specimens of elk and about 200 000 individuals of roe deer are extracted in Sweden (Khoietskyi & Pokhaliuk, 2014).

For considering the organizational aspects of organizing hunting tourism and hunting economy, the most interesting for Ukraine is the experience of Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland. Despite the fact that the area of hunting grounds of Hungary is in six times smaller than the Ukrainian ones, annually there are hunting over 250 000 heads of ungulates animals and 800 000 heads of small wild game (<http://www.menr.gov.ua>). Hunting tourism in Hungary (according to various estimates) brings near 60 million EUR to the state budget every year (Danylkin, 2010). In the Czech Republic, hunters annually obtain about 300 000 heads of ungulates animals and about 1 million heads of small wild game (<http://www.czso.cz>). Every year, Polish hunters obtain more than 100 000 wild boars, 30 000-40 000 deer, 120 000-160 000 European chamois (Delehan & Shpilchak, 2008).

The main problem of hunting tourism in the organizational and economic direction in Ukraine is its resource support. Forest-game zoning of the territory of Ukraine is divided into five natural zones (<http://zakon.rada.gov.ua/cgi-bin/laws/main.cgi?page=1&nreg=z0771-01>):

1. Polissya Zone (Volyn Region, Zhytomyr Region, Kyiv Region, Lviv Region, Rivne Region, Sumy Region, Khmelnytskyi Region and Chernihiv Regions);
2. Forest-steppe Zone: right-bank (Vinnytsia Region, Volyn Region, Zhytomyr Region, Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Kyiv Region, Kropyvnytskyi Region, Lviv Region, Odessa Region, Rivne Region, Ternopil Region, Khmelnytskyi Region, Cherkasy and Chernivtsi Regions); left-bank (Kyiv Region, Poltava Region, Sumy Region, Kharkiv Region, Cherkasy and Chernihiv Regions);
3. Steppe Zone: northern (Dnipro Region, Donetsk Region, Zaporizhya Region, Kropyvnytskyi Region, Lugansk Region, Mykolayiv Region, Odessa and Kharkiv Regions); Southern (Crimea, Zaporizhya Region, Mykolayiv Region, Odessa and Kherson Regions);
4. Carpathian (Zakarpattia Region, Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Lviv and Chernivtsi Regions);
5. Crimean Mountains (Crimea).

According to the statistical data, the area of hunting grounds in Ukraine is 38 779.9 thousands of hectares. The largest part in the structure of Ukrainian hunting grounds is occupied by field lands – 28721.0 thousands of hectares (74.1%), as well as forest lands – 7931.9 thousands of hectares (20.4%) and wetlands – 1796.2 thousands of hectares (4.6%). 1077 users work in the management of hunting industry. There are about 780 000 hunters in Ukraine, but only 300 000-350 000 annually participate in the hunt (http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/publ7_u.htm). Total expenses from hunting in 2017 amounted 360.75 million UAH and the revenues 160.68 million UAH (http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/publ7_u.htm). Proceeds from hunting economy are mainly formed due to the implementation by the users of hunting grounds of licenses, shooting cards, products obtained from the extraction of hunting animals (meat, leather, trophies) and the provision of services to hunters in the process of obtaining hunting animals.

One of the main factors in the successful development of hunting tourism is the availability of a sufficient amount of hunting resources. In the category of hunting animals in Ukraine are classified 34 species of mammals, 25 of them are found in the Carpathian forests (Bondarenko, 2011).

The end of XX – beginning of XXI century, is characterized by a steady tendency to reduce the number of most valuable hunting species of animals. 217.1 thousands of heads of ungulates animals, 1716.6 thousands of fur animals and 10388.2 thousands of birds were registered in hunting grounds of Ukraine (http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/publ7_u.htm). The main indicators of the total number of wild game animals is presented in Table 3 and the dynamics of their extraction are shown the Figure 1.

Table 3: The number of hunting animals and harvested hunting animals in Ukraine, thousands of heads

Years	Number of hunting animals			Number of harvested (removed) hunting animals		
	Ungulates animals	Fur animals	Birds	Ungulates animals	Fur animals	Birds
2011	244,4	2189,2	10592,0	13,3	288,9	1914,0
2012	239,6	2070,8	10523,5	12,8	273,7	1827,7
2013	238,3	1944,2	10202,9	12,8	244,8	1912,7
2014 *	233,6	1747,5	9169,3	13,9	207,6	1479,1
2015 *	231,3	1705,5	9756,2	18,6	198,8	1513,0
2016 *	220,2	1675,4	9888,4	14,7	211,7	1595,3
2017 *	221,0	1728,1	9982,0	13,3	219,0	1627,6
2018 *	217,1	1716,6	10388,2	13,0	213,6	1702,5

* Data exclude the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and a part of temporarily occupied territories in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Despite the implementation of some biotechnical and organizational measures, the number of certain types of hunting animals remains without significant changes, the volumes of rendered services by hunting farms is not enough for the fulfilling the needs of the hunters market. Ukraine stands on the one of the last places in Europe in terms of production of hunting products, but has an extremely high potential for the development of hunting tourism, since the density of wild animals in hunting grounds is significantly lower than scientifically based indicators of their optimal capacity. If we compare the indicators of the number and, especially, the extraction of game in Ukraine with the indicators of developed countries, we can state that these indicators are tens, and sometimes hundreds of times larger.

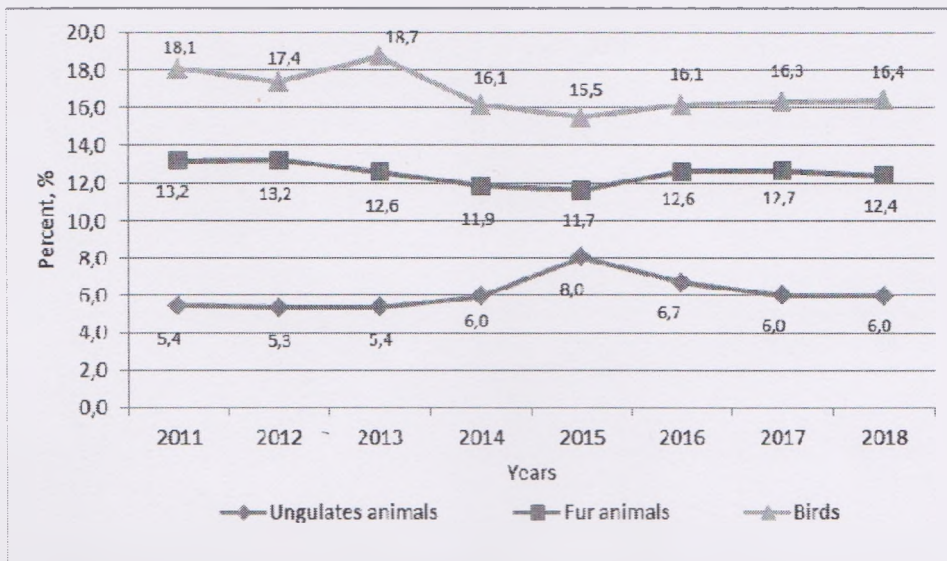


Fig. 1: Dynamics of extraction of hunting animals in relation to their total number

We must admit, that large ecological and economic losses of hunting farms are caused by poaching, which slow down development of hunting tourism. In European countries poaching is considered as a major crime. The detection of cases of violation of the legislation in the field of hunting industry and hunting in Ukraine remains at a rather low level, namely poaching has become a common and

everyday occurrence and doesn't encounter any particular resistance from both law enforcement and society.

As you can see, the development of hunting tourism mainly depends on the effectiveness of hunting. In Ukraine, hunting industry is unprofitable and needs fundamental changes. The ineffective using of the potential hunting grounds, which are not able even for the simple reproduction of wild animals, confirms the neediness of a new model of hunting management that would function on the basis of a market economy.

These and many others organizational and legal problems create obstacles for the successful development of hunting tourism in Ukraine, as it falls into the sphere of regulation of a large number of legal acts and administrative structures.

Despite the existence of a sufficient number of problems, which require immediate solution, hunting tourism has a number of advantages and incentives for Ukraine and especially for the rural population, in particular:

- conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems;
- income generation and job creation in poor and deprived regions;
- replacement of potentially devastating forms of nature management on the management of hunting fauna resources, using of which is less environmentally harmful form of nature management;
- cost-effective using of unsustainable natural resources for agriculture or conventional tourism;
- raising the environmental awareness of the local population about the value of the fauna, as a hunting tourism is associated with harm, problems and costs;
- decreasing the level of poaching, thanks to the joint efforts of all sides interested in obtaining incomes from hunting tourism.

Conclusions

Leaving aside the controversy, hunting tourism remains a little investigated, but a perspective area of tourism activity. Despite the great popularity and level of hunting tourism development in the European Union countries, Ukraine possesses a wide array of competitive advantages that can be effectively used in the conditions of modern European integration changes. The problems of the Ukrainian services market in the field of hunting tourism are manifested in the imperfection of environmental protection, hunting and tourism regulatory and law enforcement, as well as in the absence of a clear state policy in this area. For developing effective legal rules in the field of hunting tourism, it is necessary to consider an international experience and historical features of national hunting, taking into account also the principles of sustainable ecologically balanced development.

As a result of our research the basic principles on which hunting tourism should be based are formed, in particular: the principle of preservation of biodiversity in the animal and plant life of hunting grounds; the principle of sustainable ecologically balanced of using the hunting resources for tourism purposes; the principle of observance of ethical norms and national traditions in the process of organizing hunting tourism; the principle of preservation of the cultural heritage in the areas, which are reserved for the organization of hunting tourism; the principle of promoting the development of alternative types of hunting tourism; the principle of integration of hunting tourism with hunting, forestry and agrarian enterprises; the principle of state support in the development of hunting tourism.

The prospects for the further investigations are in the creation of economic instruments and incentives for the effective development of hunting tourism on a market basis in the process of decentralization of the Ukrainian economy.

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