

The Role of Geotourism and Geoparks in the Geoheritage Conservation

Mahdiyeh Tavana¹, Sajad Ferdowsi*¹

With the development of tourism, we are gradually witnessing the emergence of different types of tourism based on varying interests and tastes. This is especially evident in nature-based tourism, where the conservation of biotic and abiotic species is a priority. In this regard, geological conservation and management have become increasingly important. Therefore, the current research was conducted to investigate the role of geotourism and geoparks, as well as the tools available in these areas, in geoheritage conservation. According to the nature of the subject and research objectives, the dominant approach is descriptive-analytical research. The required data and information were collected through archival sources and by referring to relevant journals and books. The results indicate that the expansion of geotourism and the creation of geoparks can contribute to achieving the goal of geoheritage conservation. Management in geoparks plays a key role in implementing conservation strategies and programs. As geotourism develops, geological education and activities in geoparks also expand, leading to increased public awareness. This increased awareness, along with proper management and appropriate investment, will ensure the long-term conservation of geoheritage.

Key words: Geotourism, Geopark, Geoheritage, Geoconservation

* Corresponding Author, Assistant Professor, Tel/Fax: +9821-66478552, E-mail: sajad.ferdowsi@ut.ac.ir

¹ Department of Tourism Management and Economics, Faculty of Tourism, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran