

Ecotourism as a tool for Biodiversity conservation

Lusine Aghajanyan

“Young Biologists Associatio” @ NGO

“Ecotour” LLC

What is Ecotourism?

Ecotourism is a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people. Its purposes are

- to educate the traveler
- to provide funds for ecological conservation
- to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities (Boo, 1992)
- to foster respect for different cultures and for human right (Honey, 1999)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7ldQ0Bm_a0

Ecotourism - Conservation

Conservational Ecotourism

Ecotourism is conservational, when the economical benefits of it are lead to create a protected area, migration corridor, cleaning the are from trash, etc.

Non-conservational Ecotourism

Ecotourism is non-conservational, when the economical benefits of it are lead **only** to local community support and education.

Successful ecotourism

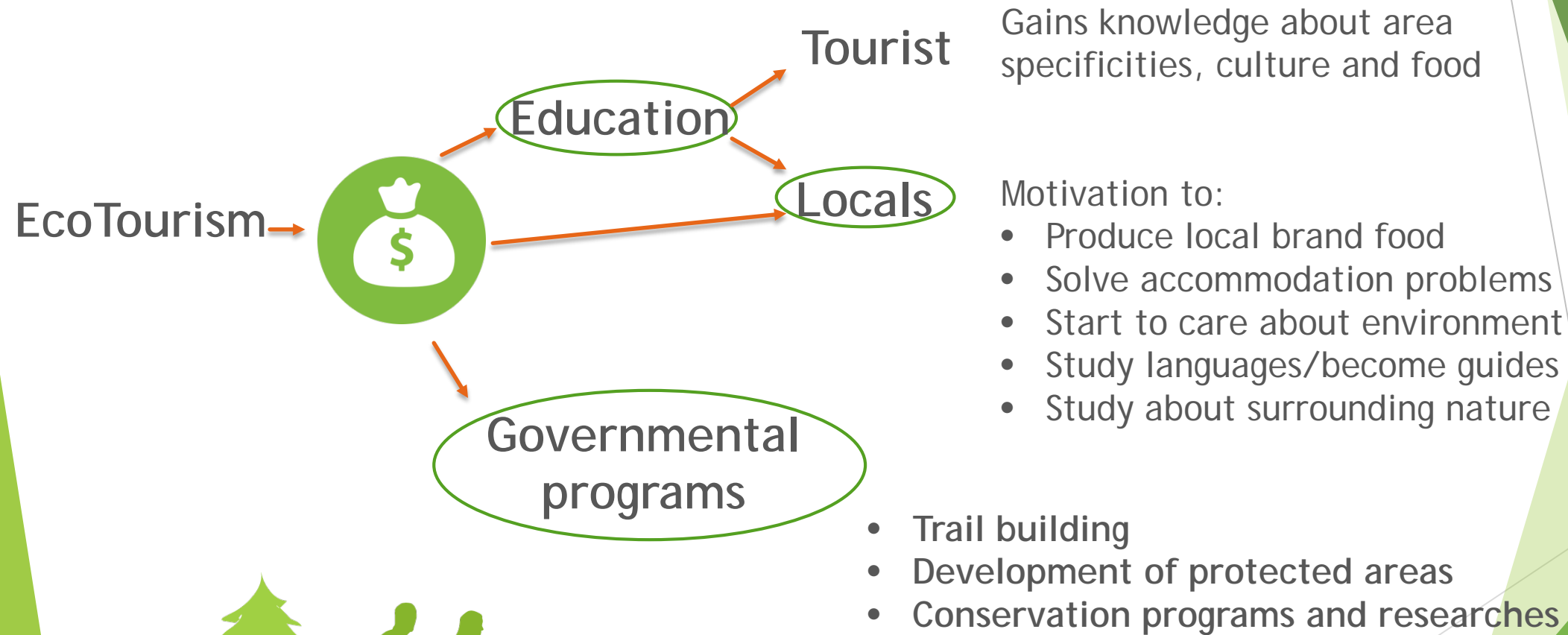
Highly successful ecotourism can support biodiversity conservation by influencing national policy.

Good examples for that are:

- ▶ Ecuador (resisted efforts of government to start an oil exploration in a biodiversity rich area),
- ▶ Mozambique (establishment of large conservational areas as a key element of it's tourism development),
- ▶ Israel (resisted installation of wind turbines in the are of the bird migration bottleneck - Eilat)



How does it work?



Ecotourism in Developing countries

CBET

Community based ecotourism (CBET) - biodiversity must pay for itself by generating economic benefits, particularly for local people.



There is a huge support from international organizations to provide CBET culture in developing countries.

The idea is that the
local community should
care about surrounding
environment

The attraction is



Tourist - Local

- Tourists point out local problems:
- Accommodation
 - Garbage
 - Transportation
 - Trails
 - Food

Two way track
Two way education
Two way benefits
Solution

- Locals show the benefits of the area
- Biodiversity
 - Food
 - Culture
 - Specificities of environment



Ecotourism - Protected area correlation

Israel

150 protected areas



20.770 km²

Armenia

33 protected areas



29.743 km²

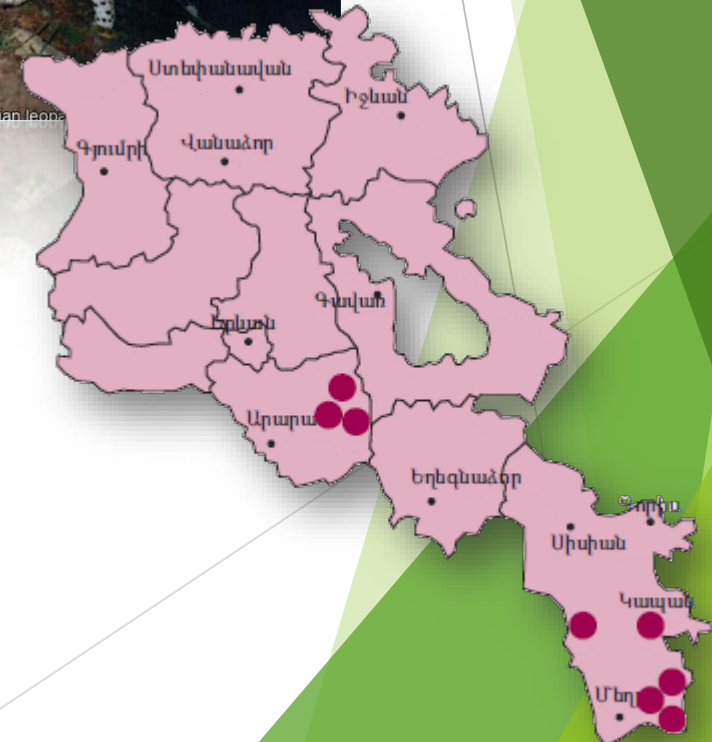
Problems of Armenia regarding Ecotourism development

- Absence or lack of trails
- Garbage recycling
- Public toilet
- Roads
- Public transportation
- Absence of local English speaking guides
- ETC

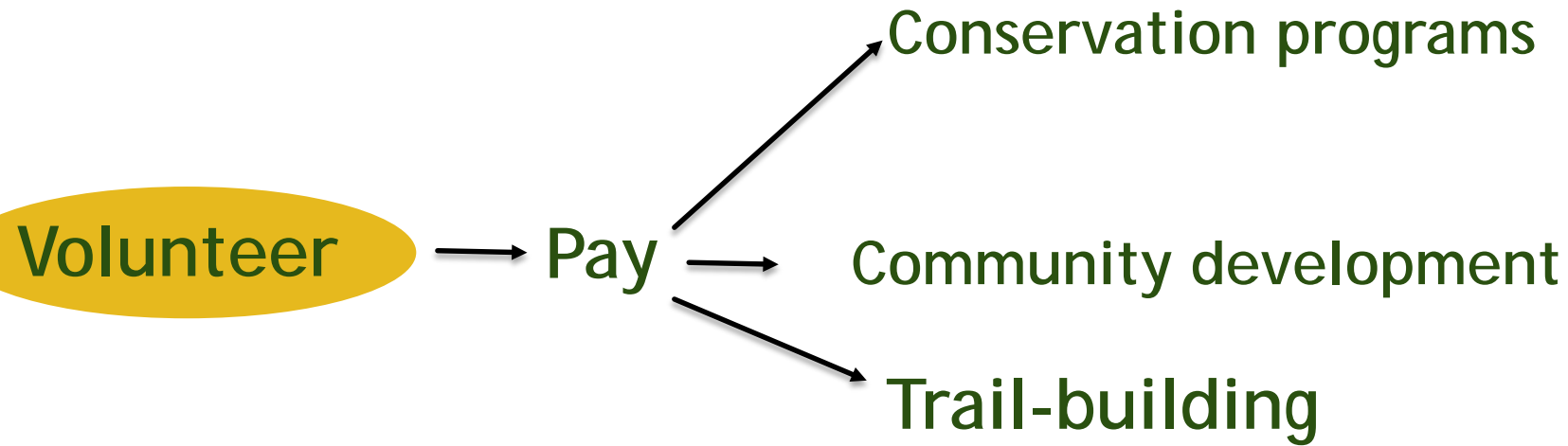


Benefits of Armenia

- ▶ Rich biodiversity
- ▶ Interesting culture
- ▶ Tasty food
- ▶ Non-explored nature areas
- ▶ Prices
- ▶ Country size



Volunteering - Ecotourism - Nature conservation



Armenia has a chance
to become one of the
most visited Eco-
touristic places



SO LET'S JUST DO IT

Thank you!

