Identification of Climatourism Regions in West of Iran

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction
Climatourism studies the relationship between the quality of a region's climate and the satisfaction and comfort of tourists in a region. The tourism industry is very close to the climate, and many regions have become thriving as a tourist center due to the favorite weather in the special seasons. Matzarakis believes the climate is important for tourism and tourism planning (Matzarakis, 2001: 34). De Freitaset believes the climate is a key resource for all types of tourism (De Freitaset et al, 2008: 207). One of the commonly used models in this regard is the TCI model. So far, many studies have been carried out on it abroad and inside Iran to determine the time and place of the tourist destination. But the disadvantage of the TCI index is that it does not determine the thermal physiology or temperature balance of the human body (Hoppe, 1999: 71). Knowledge of climate change changes in different regions is useful for successful tourism planning and management. Knowing the changes in the comfort climate indicator of tourism and identifying the best tourist destinations for each month is useful for tourists in choosing the time and place and equipment suitable for all types of tourism. Therefore, the main objectives of this research are to determine the time and place of tourism in the western regions of Iran.

In this regard, the TCI index is used and then, based on TCI input coefficients and the technique of geographic information systems, the climatic characteristics of the research stations are mapped for each month.

Methodology
In order to evaluate the conditions of the tourism climate of the research area, the TCI index has been used. According to the model, different coefficients are obtained and finally the score of each month is calculated. At first, the average statistics for the relevant climate indices are extracted. Then, to calculate the coefficient of each element, there is a special table or graph, and the coefficient of each element is extracted from them. Finally, the coefficients obtained from the tourism climate formula are plotted and computed. The numbers obtained vary between 0 and 100. The numbers are examined with the final table of determining the quality of climatourism, and ultimately, the characteristics of the climatourism of the region are attained at that time. Mieczkowski initially presented 12 climate variables in relation to this issue, which then fell to 7 climatic variables. Subsequently, by combining some of the variables, the factors were reduced to 5 indicators. To calculate the climatourism index, calculate 5 components and indicators and be placed in the final formulation of the TCI. The 5 components take a 0 to 5 coefficient that the 0 coefficient means inappropriate conditions and the coefficient 5 means the ideal condition.

Results and discussion
Tourist resources are categorized into one of the six classes of TCI. By calculating the amount of TCI monthly, it was revealed that there are six modes, two modes of two exponential and winter peaks between stations and except Dezful's station there is a two exponential mode at all stations. The first

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exponential is matched with May, June and July, and the second exponential is matched with September and October. The two exponential created at all stations are fit with the ideal and excellent conditions. Therefore, spring and late summer and early fall are considered as suitable months for tourism and nature tourism. Also, the sub-index share is calculated in the TCI's main index score. The score for each of the sub-indicators varies from 1 to 5, and their monthly changes are evidence of that. The highest score sub-index is related to the warm months of the year and gradually decreases in the cold months. The zoning map shows the most ideal conditions for tourism there is in the months of June and September, especially in the northern areas of region. The value of Z index shows the changes in the TCI value from the average of each month. The results show that Dezful station has more Z than other stations.

**Conclusion**

Analytical results indicate that favorable and very favorable conditions have not been repeated in any of the months and at any station. In the warm season (April-October), there is a better climate for all tourists except Dezful. Of course, the fluctuation of the TCI index in SarpolZahab is less volatile than other stations. The Dezful station has a fairly reversible behavior compared to other stations, which means good and very good weather conditions in the cold season. The TCI zoning shows that most of the area has a peripheral and acceptable condition in winter. In the spring, the conditions are very good, excellent and ideal in more parts of the region. In the summer, conditions are good, very good, excellent and ideal in the area. Ultimately, the climate conditions are favorable until October, and tourism conditions since November have moved to inappropriate conditions and continue until March.

**Key Words:** Climatourism, TCI, GIS, West of Iran