

Research on Nature-Based Tourism Literature: A Bibliometric Analysis in Scopus

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Abstract

The main aim of this study is to investigate the published studies on nature-based tourism in line with the criteria determined and to address them from a holistic perspective. In line with the criteria determined with the keyword “nature-based tourism”, 1571 data were obtained from the Scopus database. These data were analysed by using VOSviewer programme with bibliometric analysis technique. According to the results of the study, publications on nature-based tourism have increased regularly over the years. And it is predicted that these publications will continue to increase. The author who published the most on this subject was Peter Fredman, while the most cited author was Tsung Hung Lee. It was determined that the most publications were published in the “Journal of Sustainable Tourism”. United States was determined as the country with the most publications. In addition, Griffith University was identified as the institution with the highest number of publications. “Nature-based tourism” (705) is the most frequently used keyword, afterwards “ecotourism” (430), “tourism” (292), “tourism development” (203) and “protected area” (154). This is the study that deals only with the concept of “nature-based tourism” with bibliometric analysis, so it has contributed to this field in the literature.

Keywords: Nature-based Tourism, Tourism Sustainability, Bibliometric Analysis, Scopus

Doęa Temelli Turizm Literatürü Üzerine Arařtırma: Scopus'ta Bibliyometrik Bir İnceleme

Öz

Bu çalışmanın temel amacı, doğa temelli turizm konusunda yayınlanmış çalışmaları belirlenen kriterler doğrultusunda incelemek ve bütüncül bir bakış açısıyla ele almaktır. “Doęa temelli turizm” anahtar kelimesi ile belirlenen kriterler doğrultusunda Scopus veri tabanından 1571 veri elde edilmiştir. Bu veriler bibliyometrik analiz teknięi ile VOSviewer programı kullanılarak analiz edilmiştir. Çalışmanın sonuçlarına göre, doğa temelli turizmle ilgili yayınlar yıllar içinde düzenli olarak artmıştır. Ve bu yayınların artmaya devam edeceği öngörülmektedir. Bu konuda en çok yayın yapan yazar Peter Fredman olurken, en çok atıf alan yazar ise Tsung Hung Lee olarak belirlenmiştir. En çok yayının “Journal of Sustainable Tourism” dergisinde yayınlandığı belirlenmiştir. Amerika Birleşik Devletleri en çok yayın yapılan ülke olarak belirlenmiştir. Ayrıca Griffith Üniversitesi de en çok yayın yapan kurum olarak belirlenmiştir. “Doęa temelli turizm” (705) en sık kullanılan anahtar kelime olurken, bunu “ekoturizm” (430), “turizm” (292), “turizm gelişimi” (203) ve “korunan alan” (154) takip etmiştir. Bu çalışma, sadece “doęa temelli turizm” kavramını bibliyometrik analiz ile ele alan çalışma olduğu için literatüre bu alanda katkı sağlanmaya çalışılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Doęa Temelli Turizm, Turizmde Sürdürülebilirlik, Bibliyometrik Analiz, Scopus

Atıf İçin / Please Cite As:

Avşar, M. (2025). Research on nature-based tourism literature: A bibliometric analysis in Scopus. *Manas Sosyal Arařtırmalar Dergisi*, 14 (4), 1675-1691. doi:10.33206/mjss.1650576

Geliş Tarihi / Received Date: 03.03.2025

Kabul Tarihi / Accepted Date: 30.06.2025

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Introduction

Nature-based tourism is the developing and fast-growing areas of the tourism sector worldwide (Balmford et al., 2009; Karanth & DeFries, 2011; Björnsdóttir, 2018). Nature-based tourism generates over US\$ 600 billion annually, provides millions of jobs, protects countries' biodiversity and natural heritage, and offers opportunities to grow and diversify their economies (World Travel & Tourism Council, n.d.). Therefore, nature-based tourism, which constitutes an essential part of the tourism sector, has recorded remarkable growth in recent years (Naidoo et al., 2011). People who are bored with mass and urban tourism often want to spend their holidays in unspoilt natural environments with a unique local culture and increasing attractiveness (Lindberg, 1991). Increasing environmental consciousness, changing consumption preferences and the negative impacts of the mass tourism have increased the demand for nature-based tourism types (Mehmetoglu, 2007a). In addition, because of globalisation and urbanisation, the request for nature-based tourism is increasing (Lundmark & Müller, 2010).

There are studies on sustainable tourism, ecotourism and nature-based tourism (Esparza-Huamanchumo et al., 2024), nature-based sports tourism (Guntoro et al., 2024), nature-based tourism and protected areas (Silva et al., 2023), climate change and nature-based tourism (Ali et al., 2022) in the literature. It is noteworthy that these studies have been carried out especially in recent years. However, no study with the keyword "nature-based tourism" has been found in the literature. In addition, the tourism industry is one of the sectors that makes the most active use of nature (Atar, 2021). Kaymaz (2022) states that, due to increased interest in natural areas, nature-based tourism has grown rapidly within the industry. In this context, Güler (2024, p. 1677) states that "*people's desire to leave closed and crowded environments has increased, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, and as a result, they have started to spend time in nature*". Considering the global issues of overcrowded cities and changing tourist expectations, as well as the close relationship between tourism and nature, it can be said that nature-based tourism will continue to grow. From this point of view, considering the importance and characteristics of nature-based tourism, the significance of addressing this issue from a holistic perspective has emerged. According to Pirselimoglu Batman (2019), the most important features of nature-based tourism the main components of which are visitors and nature, are; the principle of using unspoilt natural resources by protecting and preserving them, diversifying tourism activities and extending them to 12 months of the year without concentrating tourism on a specific area, supporting economic development and local entrepreneurs, and being a tourism sensitive to socio-cultural values and the environment. In this context, considering the significance of nature-based tourism, another important motivation of this study is to contribute theoretically and practically to the field. Moreover, according to Mehmetoglu (2007b), it is very significant to understand nature-based tourism from a practical perspective. In line with the aim of the study, the following topics were focussed on; I) The rate of increase in the number of publications by years II) Which authors publish the most and which topics are covered III) Which keywords are used the most IV) Co-author relationship analysis and citation analysis V) Co-publication and citation analysis of countries.

Literature Review

Nature-Based Tourism

Nature has an important role in nature-based tourism (Fredman et al., 2012). Because nature is a very fundamental need for humans and is crucial for keeping people physically, psychologically and emotionally healthy (Mental Health Foundation, 2021). Nature is a crucial support system for human health as it supplies energy, air, water and food; nature contributes to quality of life (it provides inspiration, places to exercise, socialize and protects against the pressures of the modern world) and nature conserves (it mitigates climate change and contains dynamic systems that protect people against extreme events) (World Health Organization, 2021).

Nature-based tourism is also known as ecotourism and green tourism (Luzar et al., 1998). However, according to Wyman & Stein (2021), nature-based tourism is not ecotourism. According to Erdoğan (2010), ecotourism is a rapidly growing area in the nature-based tourism sector. Furthermore, Arnegger et al. (2010) argue that the definition of ecotourism is narrow as it does not fully reflect the reality in most natural sceneries and that the concept of nature-based tourism has a broader scope. In this context, according to Pirselimoglu Batman (2019), nature-based tourism is a general type of tourism that covers tourism types such as nature tourism, green tourism, soft tourism, rural tourism, ecotourism and responsible tourism. According to Vespestad & Lindberg (2011), nature-based tourism gains meaning through the perception of experiences through active participation in nature activities, and since the

production process here is based on the participation of people participating in the activities, nature-based experiences are both created and consumed simultaneously. According to Fredman & Tyrväinen (2010), nature-based tourism is both economic sector and land-use that can mostly take place in rural areas, is relatively small, involves different types of enterprise activities, and includes tourism activities combined with agriculture, forestry or other rural livelihoods. Metin (2019, p.175) defines nature-based tourism as “*a type of tourism that includes a large kind of activities such as swimming, diving, hiking, campfires, photography, picnics, spending time with families or friends, etc. in areas that are assumed to be different and purer natural areas*”. Also, Pirselimoglu Batman (2019) defines nature-based tourism as “*a type of tourism defined by nature-based activities carried out in natural areas, in unspoiled places such as scenery, flora and topography, with the use of various natural resources, particularly water and wildlife*”. Mehmetoglu & Normann (2013) investigated the link between travel motivations and activities in nature-based tourism and found that there is a strong connection between travel motivations and activities. According to Arnegger et al. (2010), nature-based tourism products are divided into four categories according to tourists’ motivations: firstly, consumers of nature protection-based tourism products (participating in conservation measures), secondly, nature experience (interesting in observing landscapes, wildlife, flora and habitats but do not actively participate in conservation measures), thirdly, nature-based tourists for sport and adventure (prefer to use the natural environment for activities such as hiking or rock climbing and for direct consumption of nature) and finally, hedonistic motivation (partly focused on nature experiences).

The preferences of nature-based tourists differ from mass tourists (Lanfranchi et al., 2014). Because a nature-based tourist can be described as a person who comments, implements or organises a nature-based tourism experience (Vespestad & Lindberg, 2011). Mehmetoglu (2005) divided nature-based tourists into two clusters as specialists and generalists according to their travel motivations; specialists represent people who state that they travel mainly for nature, while generalists refer to people who travel not only for nature but also for other reasons. Çiki & Tanrıverdi (2024) also state that there is a significant and positive relationship between nature-based tourists’ self-determined travel motivations, ecological responsibility attitudes and subjective well-being.

The Importance and Effects of Nature-Based Tourism

Nature-based tourism attraction centres create significant economic income for host communities (Naidoo et al., 2011). In the literature, there are studies indicating that nature-based tourism is significant for sustainable development (Font-Barnet & Nel-lo Andreu, 2023; Silva et al., 2023; Winter et al., 2019). Nature-based tourism activities in protected places of low-income countries can provide benefits such as contributing to regional economies, reducing poverty and helping the development of rural areas (Job & Paesler, 2013). Nature-based tourism has a significant impact in protecting the population in rural areas and providing additional employment in areas with high unemployment (Rinne & Saastamoinen, 2005). Nature-based tourism can help countries achieve their development goals, promote biodiversity conservation, create jobs, diversify rural economies and benefit local communities by encouraging investment and economic activity in and around protected areas (World Bank Group, 2024).

Nature-based tourism activities in protected areas can benefit society but can also create costs for local people as nature-based tourists experience local culture and nature (Thapa et al., 2022). These visits by nature-based tourists inevitably lead to the creation of roads, tracks and footpaths, with environmental impacts such as trampling of vegetation, soil erosion and the spread of resistant species such as weeds (Wolf et al., 2019). Because protected areas can both promote economic development through sustainable tourism and help prevent the loss of biodiversity by supporting conservation (Gupta et al., 2023). In this context, Fredman et al. (2012) emphasize the importance of supporting nature-based tourism through sustainable management of natural resources, nature protection, public infrastructures and open access of policies. In addition, according to Wyman & Stein (2021), if well planned and well managed, nature-based tourism can provide many benefits such as providing income to local people, protecting natural areas, and informing people about less known historical and natural values.

The issue of climate change is one of the major concerns of today (Arora, 2019). In the literature, there are studies on the effects of climate change on the nature-based tourism (Scott et al., 2007; Nyaupane & Chhetri, 2009; Han et al., 2016; De Urioste-Stone et al., 2020; Dube & Nhamo, 2020; Mushawemhuka et al., 2024). Especially affecting the protected areas and parks (De Urioste-Stone et al., 2020), timing of the season and tourist attractions (Mushawemhuka et al., 2024). This is because,

according to Dube & Nhamo (2020), nature tourism centres are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and weather events such as heat waves, forest fires, drought, flooding and extreme frost.

Bibliometric Analyses Related to Nature-Based Tourism

In the literature, there are studies conducted with bibliometric analysis related to nature-based tourism types. As a result of Esparza-Huamanchumo et al. (2024) conducted a comparative analysis of nature-based tourism, ecotourism and sustainable tourism to guide future research and provide insights into the field, they determined that the fields analysed were more prone to interdisciplinary approaches and more effective than tourism research. Silva et al. (2023) state that climate change is an effective factor in the tourism industry and that many studies focus on figure out the impact of climate change on protected areas and visitor behaviour.

Ng (2022) conducted a bibliometric review of the mountain tourism literature and concluded that the field of mountain tourism has three main research areas: sustainable development, tourism development and mountain destinations. Font-Barnet & Nel-lo Andreu (2023) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the terms tourism, well-being and nature and stated that connection with nature will support social well-being, protected areas are suitable places to provide this well-being, and this can be achieved thanks to tourism. Guntoro et al. (2024), to determine potential opportunities for sustainable sport tourism development in Papua, examined nature-based tourism and activity-based sport tourism in relation to government policies and concluded that local governments should be involved in nature-based sport tourism development and protection efforts. There are also studies related to eco-tourism in the literature (Shasha et al., 2020; Shi et al., 2023; Guerrero-Moreno & Oliveira-Junior, 2024; Khanra et al., 2021).

Materials and Methods

For the purpose of the study, bibliometric analysis was used. According to Donthu et al. (2021), bibliometric analysis is a both a well-known and rigorous method used to examine and analyse large amounts of scientific data. Data were obtained from the Scopus database. Because according to Guz & Rushchitsky (2009), Scopus is a recently popular international database that provides comprehensive, fast and easy access to scientific publications. In the Scopus database, 1571 documents were found in the “Title, Abstract, Keywords” search field with the keyword “nature-based tourism”. Scopus data limits are shown in Table 1. The types of documents accessed as a result of the search are given in Figure 1. It is seen that the publications are mainly articles (1226).

Table 1. *Scopus Data Search Limits*

Database	Scopus
Search field	Title, Abstract, Keywords
Keyword	“nature-based tourism”
Years	From March 1990 to 20 November 2024
Author name	Exclude “undefined” names
Subject area	Exclude “undefined” area
Document type	All
Source title	All
Publication stage	All
Affiliation	All
Funding sponsor	All
Country/ territory	Exclude “undefined” countries
Source type	All
Language	English
Open access	All

Source: The table was created by the author taking into account the limitations of the Scopus data search.

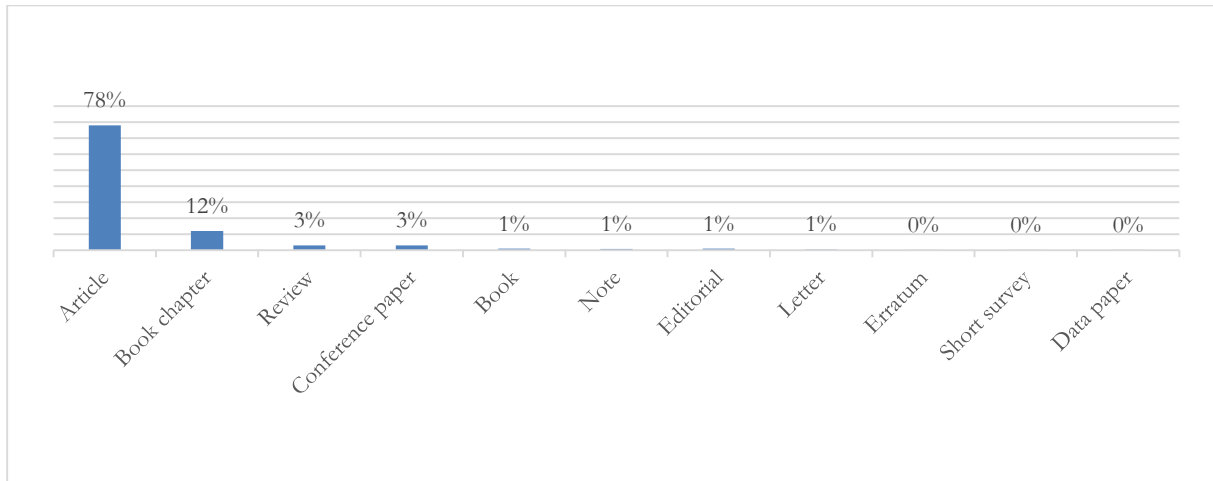


Figure 1. Document Type

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

VOSviewer package programme was used to analyse this data. VOSviewer is a highly functional programme for easy interpretation of large bibliometric maps, with special emphasis on graphical representation of bibliometric maps (van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

Results

It is seen that studies on nature-based tourism types continue to increase regularly every year (Figure 2). Peter Fredman and Liisa Tyrväinen have the most publications (Figure 3). It was determined that the most studies were in the fields of Social Science and Business, Management and Accounting (Figure 4). It was determined that the most publications were made in the Journal of Sustainable Tourism (Figure 5) and the most publishing country was United States (Figure 6). In addition, the top three institutions with the highest number of publications are Griffith University, University of Johannesburg and Oulun Yliopisto (Figure 7).

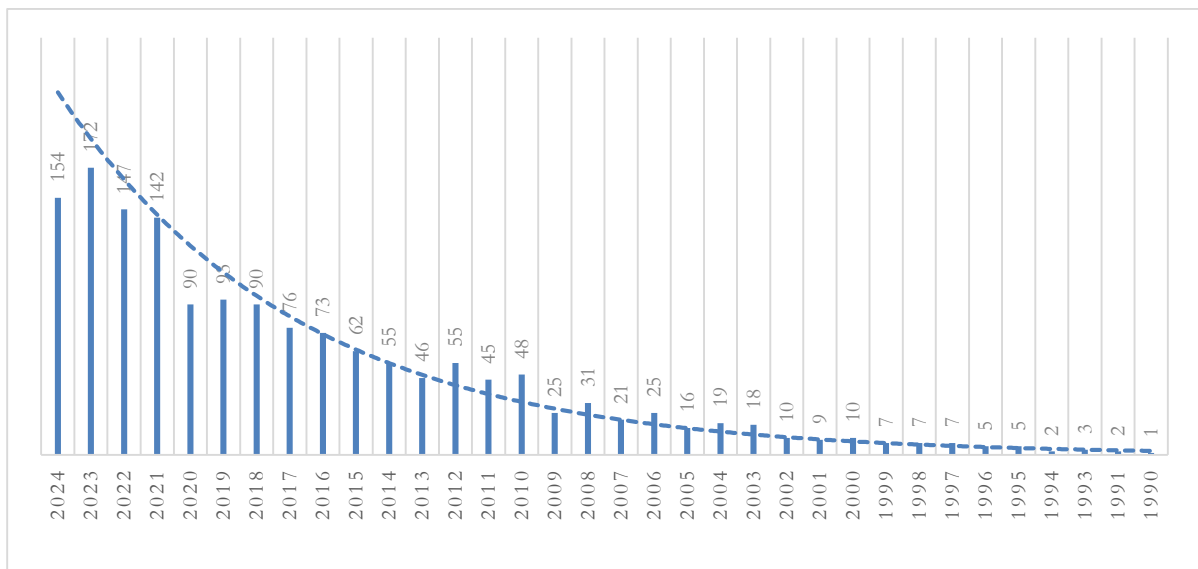


Figure 2. Documents by Years

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

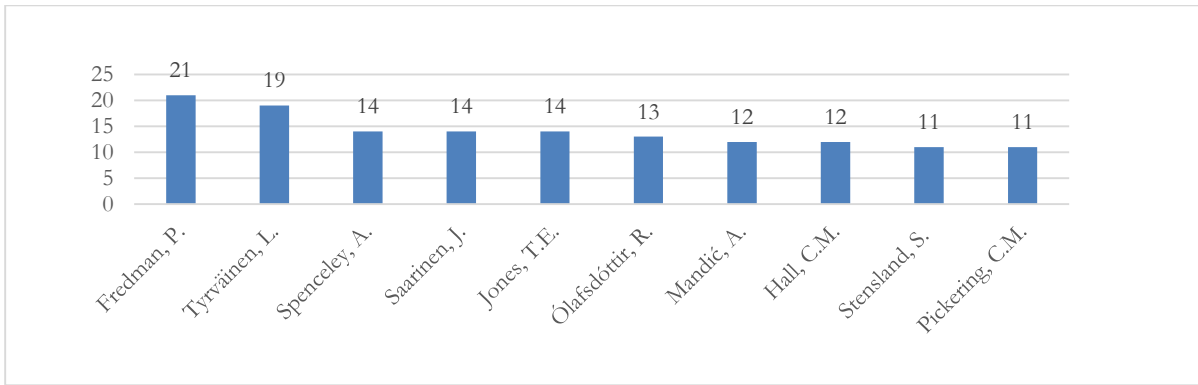


Figure 3. Documents by Authors (Top 10)

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

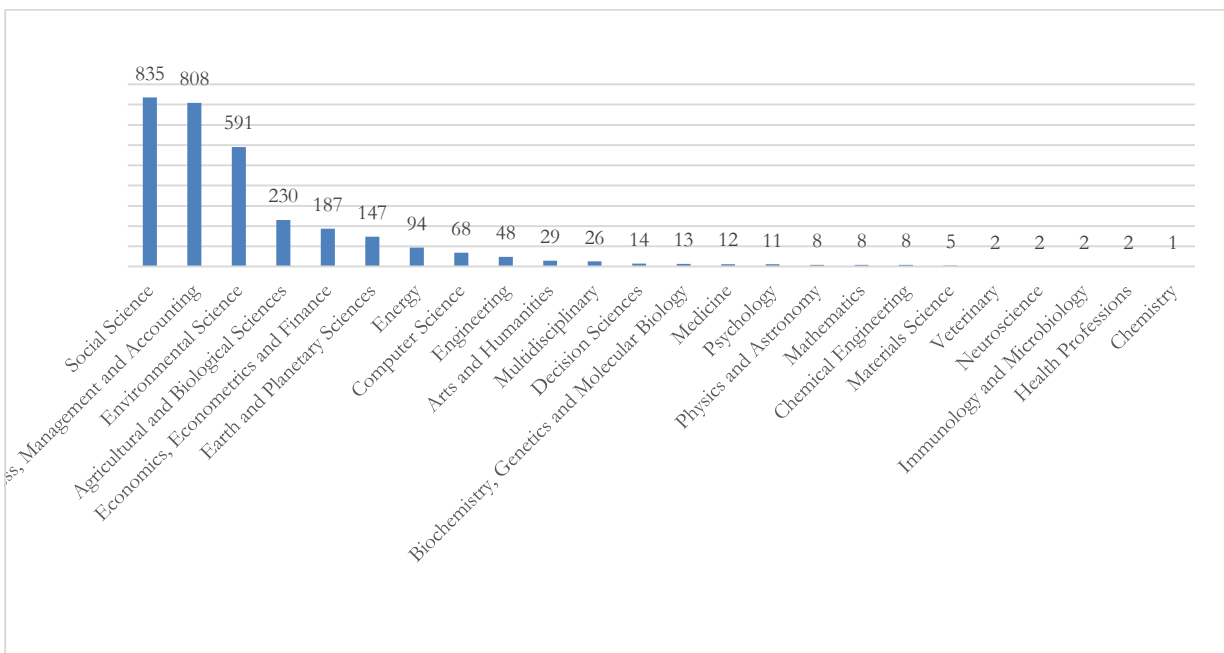


Figure 4. Documents by Subject Areas

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

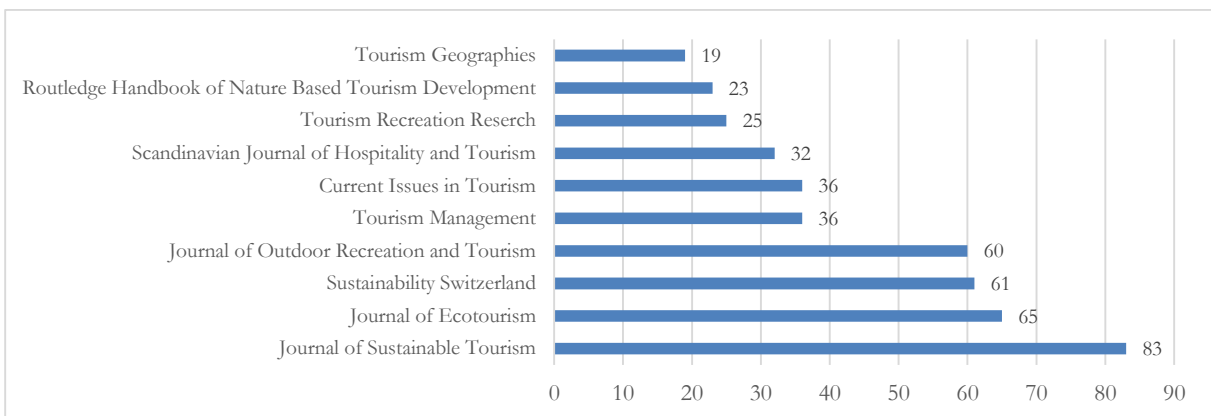


Figure 5. Documents by Source Title (Top 10)

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

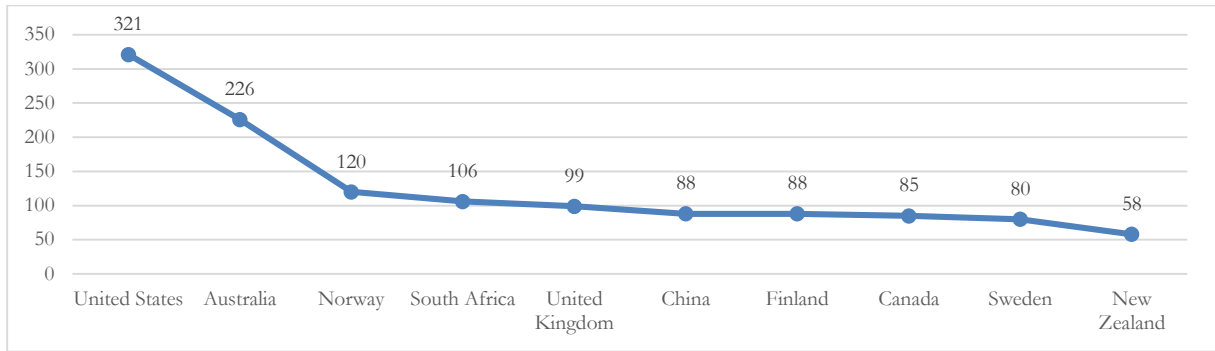


Figure 6. Documents by Countries/ Territories (Top 10)

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

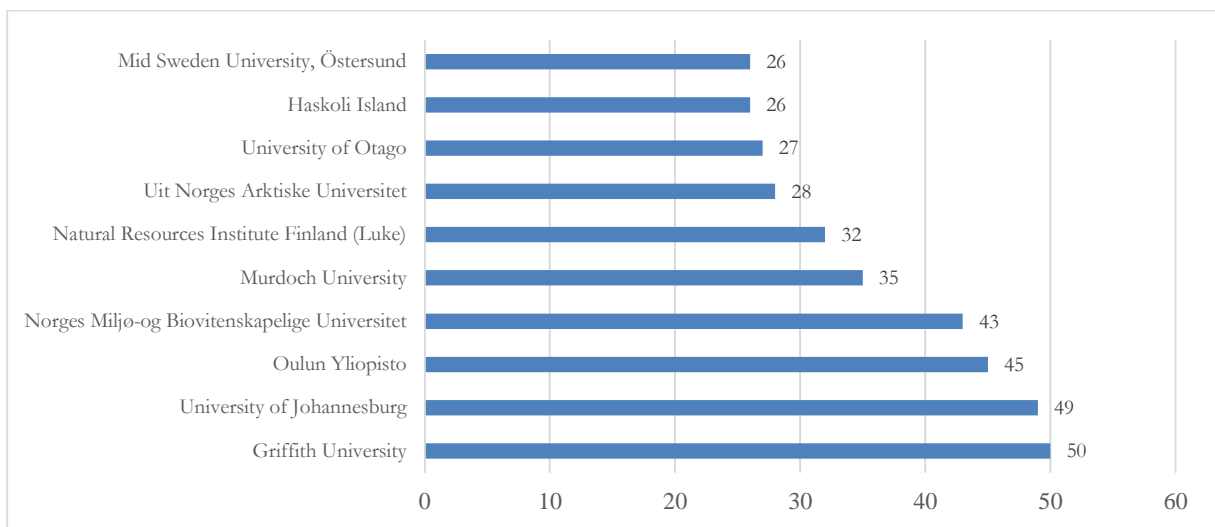


Figure 7. Documents by Affiliations (Top 10)

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

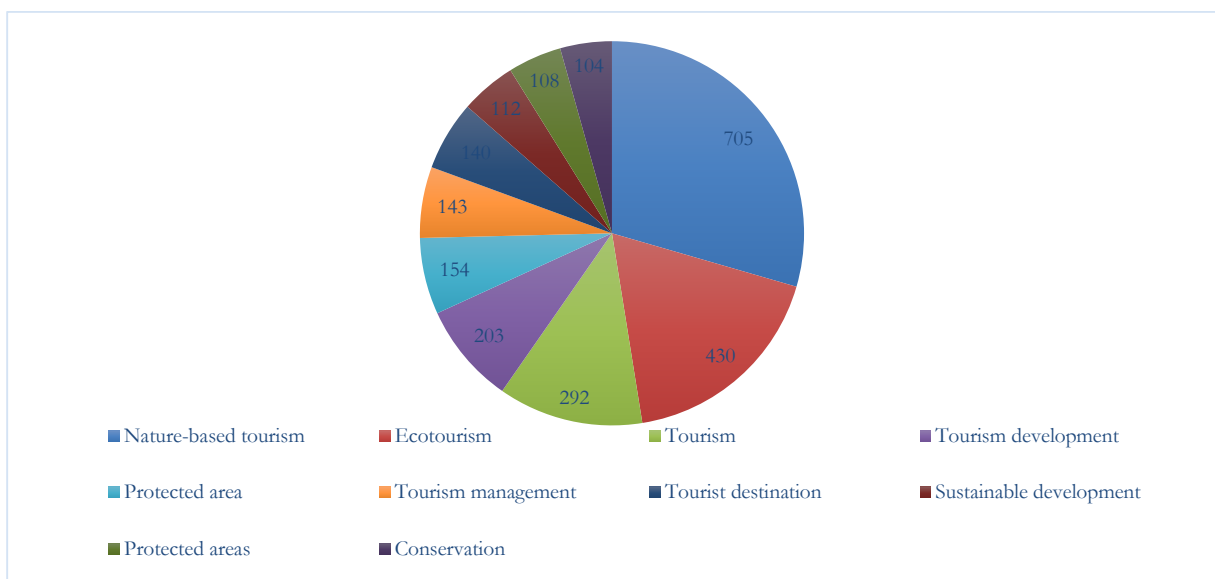


Figure 8. Keywords (Top 10)

Source: Adapted by the author from the Scopus database.

Nature-based tourism (705) was the most frequently used keyword, followed by ecotourism (430), tourism (292), tourism development (203) and protected area (154) (Figure 8). In the co-occurrence author keywords analysis, 3593 words met this criterion in the search made by selecting the minimum number of occurrences of a keyword 1 criterion. It was also determined that the same words were repeated most frequently (Figure 9). The keyword analysis relationship map is shown in Figure 9, and the keyword analysis (top 10) is shown in Table 2.



Figure 9. Keyword Analysis Relation Map

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Table 2. Keyword analysis (top 10)

Keyword	Occurrences	Total link strength
Nature-based tourism	652	3032
Ecotourism	144	713
Tourism	114	537
Protected areas	96	454
Sustainable tourism	91	406
Conservation	61	318
Climate change	61	292
National parks	50	248
Outdoor recreation	43	208
Sustainability	42	226

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

In the co-authorship authors analysis, the minimum number of documents belonging to an author was chosen as criterion 1 and 3585 authors met this criterion. As a result of the analysis, Peter Fredman (21) was determined as the author with the most publications. The co-author analysis relationship map is presented in Figure 10, and the co-authorship analysis (top 10) is presented in Table 3.

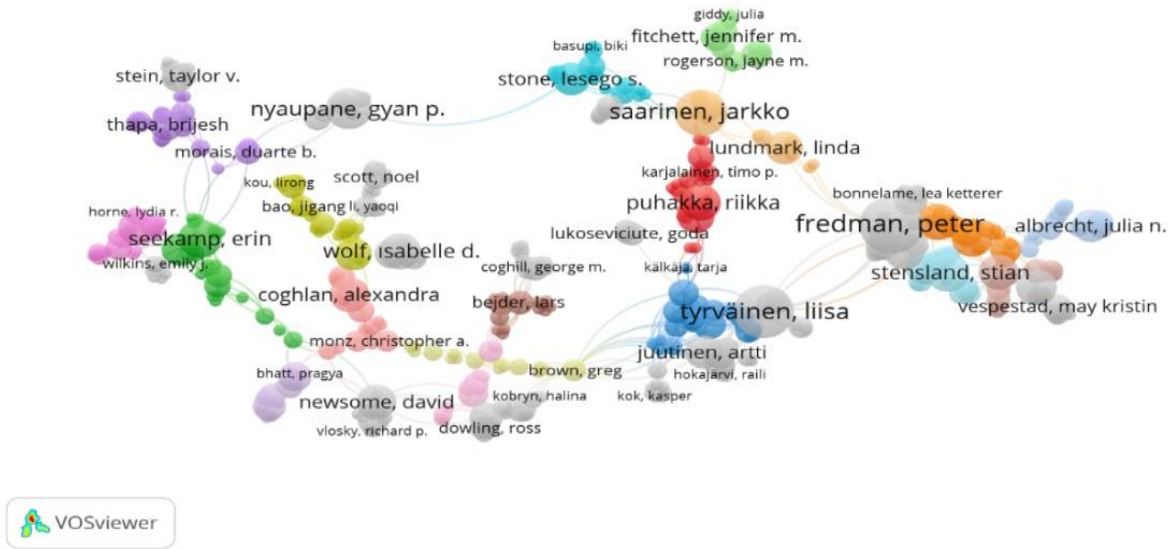


Figure 10. *Co-authorship Authors Analysis Relationship Map*

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Table 3. *Co-Authorship of Authors Analysed (Top 10)*

Author	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
Peter Fredman	21	662	39
Liisa Tyrväinen	19	647	71
Jarkko Saarinen	14	426	19
Anna Spenceley	14	354	18
Rannveig Ólafsdóttir	13	350	23
Thomas E. Jones	13	90	28
Ante Mandić	12	121	13
C. Michael Hall	11	601	21
Gyan P. Nyaupane	11	540	13
Igor Trišić	10	43	51

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

In the citation authors analysis, 3077 out of 3585 authors met this criterion in the search made by selecting the criteria of at least 1 document number for an author and 1 citation number for an author. As a result of the analysis, Tsung Hung Lee (1134) was determined as the most cited author. The citation analysis relationship map of the authors is presented in Figure 11, and the citation analysis of the authors (top 10) is presented in Table 4.

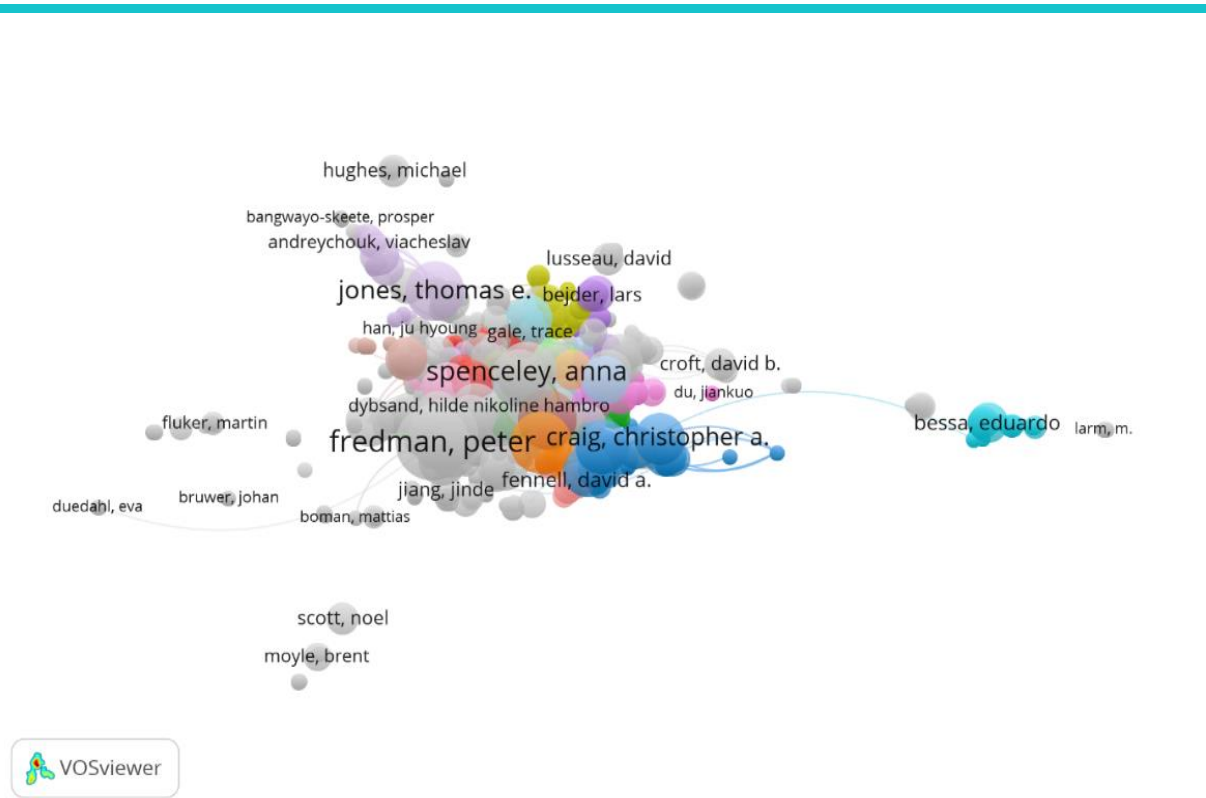


Figure 11. Citation Analysis Relationship Map of Authors

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Table 4. Citation Analysis of Authors (top 10)

Author	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
Tsung Hung Lee	7	1134	238
Spencer A. Wood	3	998	34
Fen-Hauh Jan	6	771	155
Daniel Scott	7	702	257
Peter Fredman	21	662	744
Liisa Tyrväinen	19	647	480
Robin Naidoo	3	625	114
C. Michael Hall	11	601	117
Anne D. Guerry	1	573	2
Martin Lacayo	1	573	2

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

In the analysis of co-authorship countries, the minimum number of documents for a country is determined to be 1 and 111 countries met this criterion. United States (320) was determined as the country with the most publications. The relationship map of the co-authorship analysis of countries is presented in Figure 12 and the co-authorship analysis of countries (top 10) is presented in Table 5.

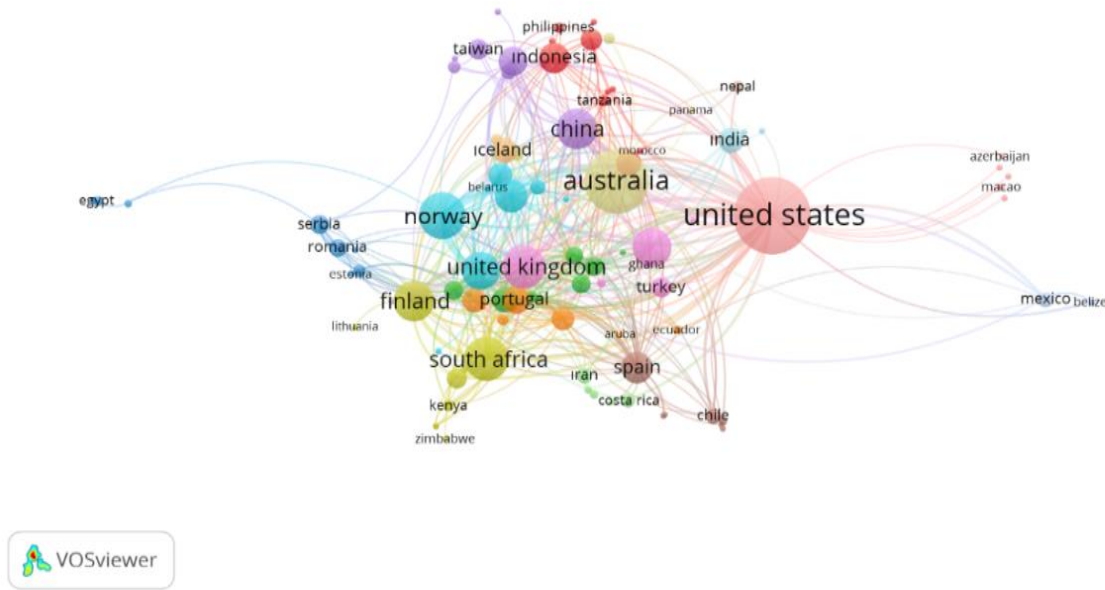


Figure 12. Relationship Map Analysing the Co-Authorship of Countries

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Table 5. Co-Authorship Analysis of Countries (Top 10)

Country	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
United States	320	11835	227
Australia	225	7158	135
Norway	120	3042	88
South Africa	106	2113	92
United Kingdom	99	3992	125
China	88	1834	79
Finland	88	2747	68
Canada	85	2518	63
Sweden	80	2354	71
New Zealand	58	2209	70

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Citation countries the minimum number of documents and citations for a country is set at 1, 104 out of 111 countries met this criterion. United States (11835) has been determined as the most cited country. The citation analysis relationship map of countries is presented in Figure 13, and the citation analysis of countries (top 10) is presented in Table 6.

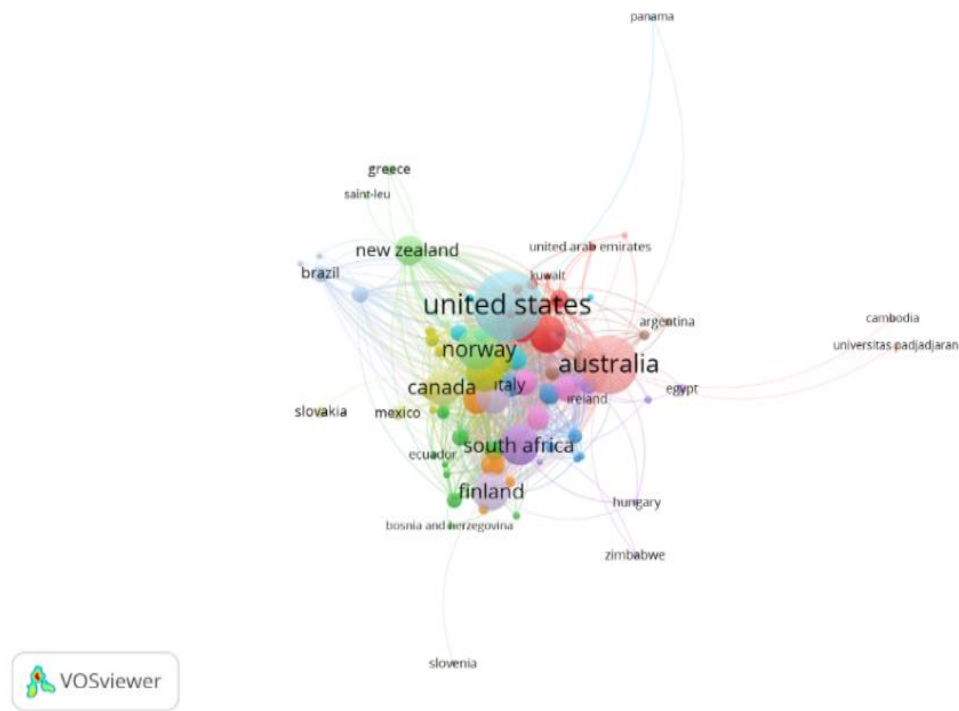


Figure 13. Citation Analysis Relation Map of Countries

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Table 6. Citation Analysis of Countries (top 10)

Country	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
United States	320	11835	905
Australia	225	7158	778
Norway	120	3042	660
South Africa	106	2113	324
United Kingdom	99	3992	374
Finland	88	2747	467
China	88	1834	272
Canada	85	2518	369
Sweden	80	2354	564
New Zealand	58	2209	200

Source: Adapted by the author from the VOSviewer database.

Conclusion and Discussion

It is seen that studies on nature-based tourism increase regularly every year. Considering Figure (2), and the significance of nature-based tourism, can be said that studies on this subject will increase. Peter Fredman has been determined as the author who has published the most on nature-based tourism. In the literature, studies on frontiers in nature-based tourism (Fredman & Tyrväinen, 2010) and protected areas as attraction centres (Reinius & Fredman, 2007) are particularly noteworthy. In addition, it is noteworthy that studies on nature-based tourism are mainly conducted in developed countries.

It is seen that most publications are made in the “Journal of Sustainable Tourism” (Figure 4). The purpose and scope of the Journal of Sustainable Tourism is on tourism and sustainable development (Journal of Sustainable Tourism, n.d.). The institution with the highest number of publications is Griffith University (50), located in Australia. In second rank is the University of Johannesburg (49), located in South Africa. The third ranked institution is Oulun Yliopisto (45) in Finland. In this context, Figure 6 and Figure 7 show that the top three institutions with the highest number of publications are found in the top ten countries with the highest number of publications.

Theoretical implications

As a result of the keyword analysis, it is determined that the word “climate change” is predominantly used. Considering that there are studies on the impacts of climate change on nature-based tourism in literature, can be said that climate change will adversely impact nature-based tourism types. This effect can vary depending on the type of nature-based tourism. For instance, Moen & Fredman (2007) investigated the effects of climate change on Alpine skiing in Sweden and concluded that shorter time covered in winter, higher temperatures and more precipitation due to climate change have negative impacts on winter tourism and ski resorts and that future climate change could have significant negative impacts on the economic impacts associated with this type of tourism. From this point of view, it is recommended that researchers and academics develop theories for taking measures against the effects of climate change according to the nature-based tourism type that destinations have. Since nature-based tourism products consist of a wide range of products, they differ from the geography of destinations to climate characteristics.

As a result of their studies on sustainable tourism, ecotourism and nature-based tourism, Esparza-Huamanchumo et al. (2024) state that international cooperation plays an important role in advancing research on these issues. In this context, the results of this study suggest that international cooperation is also important. Furthermore, given that the keywords “tourism development” and “protected areas” predominate, it can be concluded that sustainability should be prioritised, particularly in nature-based tourism, bearing in mind the environmental impact of tourism. Guntoro et al. (2024) also emphasise the importance of ensuring the sustainability of nature when developing nature-based sports tourism and of considering cultural characteristics and the type of activity offered.

In the analysis of co-authorship countries and cited countries, seen that the studies on nature-based tourism are predominantly in developed countries. In this context, can be investigated what types of nature-based tourism are in these countries and what kind of activities and systems they have.

Practical implications

As observed in the studies conducted in the literature, nature-based tourism contributes to the development of regions. According to Thapa et al. (2022), nature-based tourism activities in protected areas can benefit the communities associated with protected areas both economical, and social. Studies can be carried out to develop nature-based tourism especially in rural and protected areas. However, the most important issue to be considered is to carry out practices and activities without harming nature. In addition, it was determined that the keywords ecotourism, protected areas, sustainable tourism, conservation, national parks, outdoor recreation and sustainability came to the fore. However, as the name suggests, it is very significant to plan and manage nature-based tourism within the framework of sustainability criteria, considering that it has a close connection with nature and has an economic return. While planning nature-based tourism activities and events, it can be suggested that the opinions and suggestions of tourism stakeholders in the destination should be taken into consideration. Especially when planning, it is important to plan in a way that the social and physical environment, especially nature, will not be damaged. In this context, it is recommended that local administrations and tourism planners pay attention to this issue. In addition, it is essential to supervise tourism businesses and practitioners engaged in nature-based tourism activities, particularly in protected areas.

Körođlu & Karaman (2014) also stated that the main factors that disrupt the natural balance are the rapid increase in the world population, the problem of irregular and rapidly increasing urbanisation, pollution of wetlands, excessive and uncontrolled use of pesticides, excessive use of non-renewable resources, pollution caused by forest fires, nature-based tourism products consisting of environment and nature-based products, and as a result of their improper and excessive use, can cause deterioration of the living environment of air, soil, plants, water and living creatures living in them. In this regard, considering that many factors affect the natural balance and nature-based tourism activities are directly or indirectly linked to many factors, it is very important that this type of tourism is carried out in a controlled manner.

Limitations and future directions

In this study, studies in the literature on nature-based tourism were examined using bibliometric analysis. In this context, certain analyses could be made (Table 1). In addition, only English publications from the Scopus database were analysed in line with certain criteria. Since this study aims to provide a holistic perspective to the studies on nature-based tourism, it has contributed to this field in the literature.

However, in future studies, the connection between nature-based tourism and other related concepts can be investigated. In addition, it has been determined that studies on nature-based tourism are predominantly conducted in developed countries. In this context, it can be examined why it is predominantly addressed in developed countries.

Ethical Statement

During the writing process of the study titled “*Research on Nature-Based Tourism Literature: A Bibliometric Analysis in Scopus*”, scientific rules, ethics and citation rules were followed; no falsification was made on the collected data and this study was not sent for evaluation to any other academic publication environment. The study does not require ethical approval.

Etik Beyan

“*Doğa Temelli Turizm Literatürü Üzerine Araştırma: Scopus'ta Bibliyometrik Bir İnceleme*” başlıklı çalışmanın yazım sürecinde bilimsel kurallara, etik ve alıntı kurallarına uyulmuş; toplanan veriler üzerinde herhangi bir tahrifat yapılmamış ve bu çalışma herhangi başka bir akademik yayın ortamına değerlendirme için gönderilmemiştir. Bu araştırma doküman incelemesine dayalı olarak yapıldığından etik kurul kararı zorunluluğu bulunmamaktadır.

Conflict Declaration

The researcher has no conflict of interest with other persons or institutions related to the research.

Çatışma Beyanı

Çalışmada herhangi bir potansiyel çıkar çatışması söz konusu değildir.

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GENİŞ ÖZET

Doğa temelli turizm, dünya genelinde turizm sektörünün gelişen ve hızla büyüyen alanlarından biridir (Balmford vd., 2009; Karanth & DeFries, 2011; Björnsdóttir, 2018). Artan çevre bilinci, tüketim alışkanlıklarındaki değişim ve kitle turizminin olumsuz etkileri, doğa temelli turizm türlerine olan talebi artırmıştır (Mehmetoğlu, 2007a). Literatürde sürdürülebilir turizm, ekoturizm ve doğa temelli turizm (Esparza-Huamanchumo vd., 2024), doğa temelli spor turizmi (Guntoro vd., 2024), korunan alanlar ve doğa temelli turizm (Silva vd., 2023), iklim değişikliği ve doğa temelli turizm (Ali vd., 2022) konularında çalışmalar bulunmaktadır. Bu çalışmaların özellikle son yıllarda gerçekleştirildiği dikkat çekmektedir. Ancak

literatürde sadece “doęa temelli turizm” anahtar kelimesiyle yapılan bir alıřmaya rastlanmamıřtır. Bu noktadan hareketle, doęa temelli turizmin önemi ve özellikleri göz önüne alındığında bu konunun ele alınmasının önemi ortaya çıkmıřtır. Pirselimoęlu Batman’a (2019) göre ana bileřenleri ziyaretçi ve doęa olan doęa temelli turizmin en önemli özellikleri; bozulmamıř doęal kaynakları koruyarak ve muhafaza ederek kullanma ilkesi, turizmi belirli bir alana yoğunlařtırmadan turizm faaliyetlerini çeřitlendirmesi ve yılın 12 ayına yayması, ekonomik kalkınmayı ve yerel giriřimcileri desteklemesi, sosyo-kültürel deęerlere ve çevreye duyarlı bir turizm olmasıdır. Bu bağlamda, doęa temelli turizmin önemi göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, bu alıřmanın bir dięer önemli motivasyonu da alana teorik ve pratik olarak katkı sağlamasıdır. “Doęa temelli turizm” anahtar kelimesi ile belirlenen kriterler doęrultusunda Scopus veri tabanından 1571 veri elde edilmiřtir. Bu veriler bibliyometrik analiz teknięi ile VOSviewer programı kullanılarak analiz edilmiřtir. alıřmanın amacı doęrultusunda ařaęıdaki konulara odaklanılmıřtır; I) Yıllara göre yayın sayısındaki artış oranı II) En çok hangi yazarların yayın yaptıęı ve hangi konuları kapsadıęı III) En çok hangi anahtar kelimelerin kullanıldıęı IV) Ortak yazar iliřki analizi ve atıf analizi V) Ülkelerin ortak yayın ve atıf analizi. Arařtırmanın sonuçlarına göre, doęa temelli turizmle ilgili yayınlar yıllar içinde düzenli olarak artmıřtır ve bu konuda yayınların artmaya devam edeceęi öngörülmektedir. Peter Fredman doęa temelli turizm konusunda en çok yayın yapan yazar olarak belirlenmiřtir. Ayrıca doęa temelli turizm ile ilgili alıřmaların aęırlıklı olarak geliřmiř ülkelerde yapıldıęı dikkat çekmektedir. En fazla yayının “Journal of Sustainable Tourism” dergisinde yapıldıęı belirlenmiřtir (řekil 4). En fazla yayın yapan kurum Avustralya’da bulunan Griffith Üniversitesi’dir (50). İkinci sırada Güney Afrika’da bulunan Johannesburg Üniversitesi (49) yer almaktadır. Üüncü sıradaki kurum ise Finlandiya’da bulunan Oulun Yliopisto’dur (45). Bu bağlamda, řekil 6 ve řekil 7 en çok yayın yapan ilk üç kurumun en çok yayın yapan ilk on ülkede bulunduęunu göstermektedir. Anahtar kelime analizi sonucunda “iklim deęiřiklięi” kelimesinin aęırlıklı olarak kullanıldıęı görülmektedir. Literatürde iklim deęiřiklięinin doęa temelli turizm üzerindeki etkilerine iliřkin alıřmalar olduęu göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, iklim deęiřiklięinin doęa temelli turizm türlerini olumsuz etkileyeceęi söylenebilir. Literatürde yapılan alıřmalarda da görüldüęü üzere doęa temelli turizm bölgelerin kalkınmasına katkı sağlamaktadır. Ayrıca “ekoturizm”, “korunan alanlar”, “sürdürülebilir turizm”, “koruma”, “milli parklar”, “açık hava rekreasyonu” ve “sürdürülebilirlik” anahtar kelimelerinin ön plana çıktıęı tespit edilmiřtir. Ancak adından da anlaşılacağı üzere doęa temelli turizmin doęa ile yakın bir bağının olması ve ekonomik bir getirisinin olması göz önünde bulundurulduğunda bu turizm türünün sürdürülebilirlik kriterleri çerçevesinde planlanması ve yönetilmesi oldukça önemlidir. Ayrıca bu bağlamda doęa temelli turizm faaliyetleri ve etkinlikleri planlanırken destinasyondaki turizm paydařlarının görüş ve önerilerinin dikkate alınması önerilebilir. Bu alıřmada, doęa temelli turizm ile ilgili literatürde yer alan alıřmalar bibliyometrik analiz ile incelenmiřtir ve bu kapsamda belirli analizler yapılabilmemiřtir (Tablo 1). Ayrıca Scopus veri tabanından sadece İngilizce yayınlar belirli kriterler doęrultusunda analiz edilmiřtir. Bu alıřma, doęa temelli turizm ile ilgili alıřmalara bütüncül bir bakıř açısı kazandırmayı amaçladığından literatürde bu alana katkı sağlamıřtır. Ancak gelecek alıřmalarda doęa temelli turizmin dięer ilgili kavramlarla bağlantısı arařtırılabilir. Ayrıca doęa temelli turizme iliřkin alıřmaların aęırlıklı olarak geliřmiř ülkelerde yapıldıęı belirlenmiřtir. Bu bağlamda neden aęırlıklı olarak geliřmiř ülkelerde ele alındıęı incelenebilir.