

# THE ROLE OF TOURISM IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER AREAS OF IRAN; CASE STUDY: THE WESTERN BORDERS

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## **Abstract**

This article tries to consider the effects of tourism on sustainable development of the western borders in Iran besides considering the capacity of the western border areas of Iran in tourism developments. So, the general goal has been analysis of “the role of tourism in sustainable development of the western borders of the country”. To achieve that, two questions will be expressed: 1) how is the capacity of the western border areas of the country for tourism developments? 2) What role the tourism can play in sustainable development of the western border areas of the country?

This research is an applied research. The research methodology is analytic- descriptive in this article and the data and information are gathered in a documental and library way. Note-taking have been used to gather information in the following article. The data has been collected in a library documental way using scientific online databases.

**Keywords:** Tourism, Sustainable development, Western border of the country, Land use planning, Border management

## **Preface**

In Brundtland’s report on our common future in 1987, sustainable development is defined as “a development which meets the present needs without paying attention to the ability of future generations for meeting their own needs”. The concept of sustainable development is a fundamental and critical concept since concludes the ideas and principles which their cognition and realization can result in a bright future as well as lack of attention can result in the destruction of the environment and humanity. Sustainable development tries to pay attention to economic growth and better standards realization of the life without losing natural scarce resources. It is around the support of the future at the present time. Fundamental concepts of sustainable developments consist:

- **Economic- environmental integration:** the decisions should be making with regards to the effects on environment.
- **Commitment between generations:** the decisions should be making regarding to the effects on the environment of the future generations.
- **Social Justice:** all people have the right to utilize an environment in which they can grow and flourish.
- **Environmental protection:** it is necessary to protect the resources and to support the plant and animal world.
- **Life quality:** a more comprehensive definition of the human welfare should be presented so that it exceeds the range of economic welfare.
- **Participation:** institutions should be organized again so that it is possible for all voices to be heard in decision making step.

Generally, the sustainable development is an operating plan for establishing justice in time dimension (Intergenerational) and space dimension (Territorial justice). Border areas also need the sustainable development because of being away from the center and the facilities, Security threats due to lack of cultural- economic developments, especially in developing countries. Tourism is one of the ways of creating a sustainable and environmentally compatible development which can be a response in these areas. So, in this article the authors try to explain the role of tourism as an opportunity to establish a sustainable development in the western border areas of the country. So, two basic questions arise: how is the capacity of the western border areas of the country for tourism

developments? What role the tourism can play in sustainable development of the western border areas of the country? This article is written in an analytic- descriptive way.

### **The theoretical framework**

#### **Land use planning**

Land use planning, nowadays, is a set of new knowledge which act in an integrated and coordinated way. Experts of different fields of social sciences (Sociology, Demography, economics, Social Planning, etc.) and engineering (architecture, civil, agriculture, natural Resources and Environment, etc.) and geographical sciences, can study and plan in the field of land use planning by their participations and logical discussions. Generally, the purpose of land use planning is to determine the potential ability and land suitability or in other words, we can say land use planning is a process in which any worthy use for a part of a country is presented regarding to its capabilities (Hataminejad and others: 1389: 49). It can be concluded that the land use planning is a kind of movement in order to achieve sustainable development of the human in case of paying attention to environmental capabilities and is a plan according to a land capability. Without paying attention to a land capability, not only the life costs increase but the land and environment also face a severe destruction which can result in large crises in human societies. The goal of land use planning is to make a severe association and dependence between the human and the land.

#### **Land use planning and border management**

The order of border management is a set of targeted actions in order to consolidating and performing border functions optimally in different dimensions along with border line and in border areas. These actions consist of legal, disciplinary, political, cultural, constructional, and even environmental actions. Border management has military-security, economic, cultural-social- constructional dimensions. In “optimal management”, we can say that browsing the management ideas present that management thinkers contemplate the “optimum” concept covered by “efficient” concept. That is, whatever is efficient is optimized and efficiency is the combination of “performance” and effectiveness. So the optimized border management is actually in order to present border functions in different dimensions with maintaining properties, civil and prosperity and also utilization of environmental and human capabilities in border areas by proper actions in correct ways. A point should be noted is that in some cases control border is considered as border management while border control is a process which refers to arrival and departure controls in border areas and emphasizes on obstructive function of the border.

**Border management strategies:** experts account three strategies for border management:

*Threat-centric strategy:* which its base is on the threatening property of border areas. Accordingly, threatens in border areas is more than opportunities and therefore the management formation and border control of the country is formed under severe security controls and as you know, borders as military-security areas are under the authority of military forces and security sections.

*Opportunity-based strategy:* this strategy concentrates on opportunity making in borders .the most ideal way of managing this strategy, is the maximum utilization of border opportunities and facilities. This causes economic, social and cultural development of the society and particularly border areas. And as a result of that, many threats are ignored.

*Consolidated strategy:* this strategy has a combinatorial view on border areas and their issues and also considers the dimensions of opportunity and threat in an all-round way in border management. Accordingly, while the borders have suitable capacities to develop and generate power for the country, the consolidated strategy doesn't account these areas protected from threats. On this strategy, the best management model for borders is the combinatorial management.

#### **Space management and sustainable development**

Development is a comprehensive process of economic, social, cultural and political actions which purpose is the continuous improvement of the living conditions of people, liberty and proper participation of resources and facilities. The planning for making connection between settlements, needs space organization in rural areas to make the investments easier in some settlements so that a wide population is covered in the center and around areas, and the residents of low density around areas can access to the services. In order to investing in ideal plans and organizations in any level, it is the first condition to recognition the facilities, limitations, requirements and demands. But this recognition won't be achieved unless enough study and consideration is performed in the areas we intend to do developmental planning.

When an imbalance is intensified in spatial distribution of development indicators, the spatial imbalance of facilities and population will be provoked, the indicators focus will be intensified in places suffered from concentration of

facilities and population, drift population and facilities from disadvantaged areas will be happened and as a consequence the imbalance in the geographical space will be more difficult to vanish. The existing imbalance in any area or country leads to a reduction in the optimal resource productivity in low-focus areas and a dispersion in the population and manpower of that areas. And therefore it will be impossible to achieve a human sustainable development.

In discussions related to the plan of regional development, it is inevitable to have regional inequalities. regional development is one of the issues which has been drawn the attention of programmers in particular regional programmers in recent decades. Considering main economic, social, cultural, sanitary, etc. indicators in different levels especially in a regional level, is an appropriate criterion in order to determine the areas. It also demands some special considerations in a regional level. An overview on regional development shows that regional development has been examined from different points of view:

Neoclassical economists have considered regional development as a subject which is based on the conditions of free market developments. They say the free current of the resources among areas in a country, results in some kind of intra-area balance during a long time. Keynesians believe that regional development is dependent on exports. They divide regional economics into base and non-base parts. In this view, base part includes productions exported to the out of that area. It is generally believed that other actions are the consequences of the base part growth. Francois Perou believes that the attitude to regional development is due to growth pole which starts by big industrial investments in large urban centers, divergence and inequality. In this theory there is an emphasis on the intra-area relationships, the effects of areas on each other and spatial structure during the time. John Friedman also points to a colonial relationship between the center and periphery in a spatial system by offering the theory of center in periphery. He believes that every geographical system consists of two spatial sub-systems. One of them is the leading and dynamic heart of the system and the other one is periphery which is accounted as the rest of the system. This part is dependent on the center. In this theory, the center is the development source which flows towards periphery by increasing developments. In dependence theory the effects of economical dependence of developing countries on the global system are referred and it is clear that these effects cause social and economic inequalities among internal areas, so that the gap between Wealth and Poverty has been deepened and the general process of development has been slow by having resources focused in major and dominant cities.

### **Tourism**

Tourism means the traveling of some people to the places which are not their usual place of living, staying in a maximum period of one year. These travels are done in the purpose of leisure, business, etc. UN Statistical Commission offered this definition for tourism under recommendation of WTO: the sustainable tourism inspired by sustainable development definition, is kind of tourism which meets the present generation needs, without considering the capacities related to the future generation for responding to their needs. The sustainable tourism should be planned and executed so that no negative effect is left on environment, economic and culture.

### **Ecotourism**

Ecotourism is the travels to the natural places with responsibility of maintaining environment and improving the living level of local people. Ecotourism is covering all natural manifestations existing in the earth which are interesting for human to see them, know them and be aware of their properties.

### **Geology of an area**

#### ***Iran-Iraq border***

The border conflicts of Iran and Iraq is said to the disagreements and contentions of Iran with its western neighbor since Safavid Dynasty. Iran-Iraq border have been changed repeatedly during this time. The history of the disputes between Iran and Iraq dates back to the period in which Iraq was a part of the Ottoman Empire. The disputes between Iran and Ottoman continued for a period of four centuries in spite of contracting more than eighteen peace treaties and several boundary protocols. These disputes were transferred to the newly elected government of Iraq after world war I. We want to refer to some disputes between Iran and Ottoman and the treaties between them which was signed in Qajar and Pahlavi: At the end of Fath Ali Shah, the movement of nomadic tribes through border areas between the two countries caused some conflicts. Abbas Mirza moved his army to the west and went to Baqdad to pacify conditions. The Ottoman asked peace inevitably. After talks between representatives of Iran and Ottoman in Erzurum city, the first treaty was signed between two countries. Despite Iraq's defeat in this war, the mentioned treaty never changed the borders of the two countries.

Conflicts between Iran and Ottoman were arisen in period Muhammad Shah, which resulted in the second Erzurum treaty. According to this treaty, both parts had withdrawn their claims and their cash demands (except losses). Iran also accepted to withdraw its claims about western lands of Zahab if Ottoman recognize and accept Iranian sovereignty over East of “Zahab” and “Karand”. Iran also accepted to withdraw the reasons which made its sovereignty clear over “Soleimanieh” if Ottoman accepts its sovereignty over city and port “Mohammareh” and “Alkhazr” island and east coast lands of “Arvandrood”. Ottoman was committed to recognize the right of Iranian ships traffic in Arvandrood which was seized by Iran and never prevent them. Both parts declared their readiness to introduce representatives for territorial demarcation and delimitation. Other articles of confederation were related to refugees, law, customs duties, being affable with pilgrims, console determination and preventing the wickedness of Sarhaddi nomads. But this treaty could not put an end to Iran and Ottoman conflicts until the protocol 1911 was signed by both parts by intermediary of Britain. According to this protocol, a commission was formed which was consisted of representatives of four country (Russia, Britain, Ottoman and Iran) to deal with determination of border lines. But this commission forming didn't work too. Subsequently, representatives of the four countries signed the protocol 1913 in Istanbul according to which, Russia and Britain took the responsibility of determining Iran-Ottoman border and Arvandrood was governed by Ottoman and Britain. To execute the goals of this protocol, a commission was formed in 1914 to mark the borders between two countries temporarily.

By end of World War I and the Ottoman Empire collapse, Iraq was one of the countries which established due to Ottoman collapse and was under British mandate until 1921. The disputes between Iran and Iraq were continued after Iraq establishment. The first conflict of the two countries was due to exiling Shia scholars to Iran because of their role in Iraq revolution. By exiling Shia scholars to Iran, objections of Iranians were arisen. After establishing Iraq, Iran postponed the recognition of Iraq till the conflicts over Arvandrood is resolved and Iranian nationals are respected. In 1929, Iran recognized Iraq after being insured by Britain and Iraq on refunding Iran's legal rights in Arvandrood. Later, Iraq didn't seem to fulfill its obligation contrary to the promises that was given to Iran about Iran's rights in Arvandrood. This made Iran to officially declare to Iraq that Iran does not accept treaty 1914 and does not account it valid anymore. So the conflicts between Iran and Iraq were continued in this way until 1934 in which Iraq gave a complaint to League of Nations. According to this complaint, Iraq claimed that Iran has ignored the Erzurum treaty and protocol 1913 and has abused its articles. Finally Iran and Iraq were forced to resolve their conflicts under the pressure of Britain. In July 3, 1937 a treaty was contracted between Iraqi Foreign Minister, Najjalsil and Iranian Foreign Minister, Enayatollah Samiee. This treaty was adopted in parliament of both countries through gaining a majority vote in 1938 and the documents were exchanged between two countries in June 20, 1938. In this treaty, protocol 1913 and commissions of border determination 1914 and the plans provided by Russia and Britain were accounted as the base of land border determination between two countries. Arvandrood area is referred to term “Thalweg” for the first time in this treaty. In other words, the sovereignty of both countries over Arvandrood is according to Thalweg line for a certain limitation. And later in treaty 1975 of Algeria, this base was expanded to the whole of Arvandrood.

Iran and Iraq have mainly 5 common oil fields along the joint border. These fields include: City Oil Field, Dehloran field, sustainable field of west, Azadegan field and Yadavaran Field. There are a total of 23 Hydrocarbon reservoirs along the joint border of Iran and Iraq which most of them are unused. According to the agreements between officials of the two countries in 1390, they intend to exploit of these fields by establishing a common oil company. The border of Iran in the area of Iraqi Kurdistan has the least conflicts in Iran-Iraq borders. Anyway, this part demands much studies and considerations because of functional aspects and also existence of trends in conflict with the Iranian regime in this area. Nowadays, functions in joint borders of Iran and Iraq .particularly Iran border in Iraqi Kurdistan area has been very different compared to before 2003 (Period Baathist Iraq) and this is because of the presence of Shiite rule in Iraq and a Kurdish rule in Iraqi Kurdistan area which are willing to have non-military and non-security and also economic relations with Iran.

Map 1: map of location and joint border of Iran and Iraq

### **Iran and Turkish border**

The border of Iran and Turkey in the area of Western Azerbaijan province and Iğdır, Van and Hakkari provinces is 499 Kilometers. This border is a mountain brigade with steep slopes. Its climate is cold and wet in some areas and cold and dry in some other. From turkey, all people of these three provinces have Kurdish language and are in groups of skeptical Kurds. In Iran, there is a combination of skeptical Kurds and Azeri Turks such that in areas near the borders the most are Kurds. From a religious point of view, all Kurds of border areas of Iran and Turkey are Sunni and Shafi'ite while Azeri Turks are all Shia.

Map2: map of the location and joint border of Iran and Turkey

In period of Fath Ali Shah, border political differences resulted in conflicts between Iran and Ottoman. Ottomans were busy with the war related to Greek independence on that time and couldn't protect from eastern borders. Mohammad Ali Mirza took the opportunity and seized Northern Mesopotamia and Kurdish areas of Iraq and Baghdad in 1236. Abbas Mirza seized Kars and Ardahan States in 1237. Rauf Pasha, the Ottoman army commander, announced end of war in 1238 and a peace treaty was contracted between Mirza Mohammad Ali Khan and Rauf Pasha. Due to this treaty, the Iran-Ottoman border was determined as the same as the boundaries had determined at the time of Nadir Shah. Ottoman pledged not to hurt Iranian pilgrims and just take them customs duties. Both parties have an ambassador in the capital of each other and Iran gave back the Ottoman the states which had taken before. In 1323 AH, Ottoman invaded some border areas by taking advantage of the situation in Iran in the period of Constitutional Revolution and as a result Savojbolagh (Mahabad) was seized. Following protests from Britain and Russia to this event, Turks were forced to go out of the mentioned area. So, 2 years later, in addition to crisis started in Mohammad Ali Shah, Ottoman forces again invaded Iran borders in May 30, 1946. They killed and did much plunder and seized Mahabad for the second time. Again Britain and Russia made them to retreat and urged both countries to reform the former border commission. There were also some representatives from Britain and Russia to resolve the conflicts if necessary. In 1331 commission started working and border conflicts were resolved between two parties by negotiations.

### **The analysis of research findings**

Weaknesses and challenges of development and sustainable development in the study area

#### 1. Poor communication

Existence of communication paths is a way to more control of a state over a limited territory and also is an infrastructure element for sustainable development of an area. Communications not only are the infrastructure of business, tourism developments and even industrial and agricultural improvements, but it also plays an important role in increasing security of each area because of improving access conditions and controls performing by the government. The study area is one of the weakest areas of Iran from the aspect of communicative infrastructures except in limitation of Khuzestan Province and metropolis Kermanshah. That's because of primarily security and political sensitivity. This poor communication intensified security and political issues in a wide way. We have the least asphalted roads in this area while existed ones are so effete and in many places are dusty or sandy. In this area of Iran, for example, the paths between cities Bane- Marivan, Saqez- Marivan, Marivan-Pave, Pave- Javanrood are dusty, sandy and in few places asphalted paths. The path between Piranshahr to Sardasht and Mahabad to Sardasht is unusable in most of the days in cold seasons. Other paths are asphalted two-way paths with wide mazes. There is no quick, safe way in this area in the case of happening crises in cold season except the airway by helicopter. These reasons have made the border areas especially Kurdish areas of Iran isolated and have changed it to be a defense for terrorists groups. Terrorist groups are settled in the study border area by passing trails and roads. It is necessary to have infrastructure installations and proper ways for complete control of the government over the borders. In relation range between Kermanshah province to Ilam and Ilam to Khusestan, the relative paths are lack of railways and standard asphalted roads. Generally, moving from NorthWest to SouthWest (Bazargan to Khoramshahr) is so difficult and time-consuming. This issue beside development and security threats is a big obstacle on the way of tourism development in these areas.

This weakness in communicative infrastructures make this area isolated ecologically, and culturally- politically. In case of not having broad engagement with interior areas of the country, these areas will expand their relations with Iraq and this event will intensify the divergence. So, the relations, availability and control of border areas should be one of the noteworthy components for Iran government particularly because lack of communicative infrastructures results in diseconomy and also the security consequences is costly to government. The paths are pretty inappropriate in zero-point border, and this problem makes the business of that areas challenging as well as it makes the control and availability difficult.

#### **2) Poverty of land and its security-political feedback**

Observing usage of lands in study area, we can conclude that the most important feature of this area is its mountains except Khuzestan plain. In all over mountain border areas in west, the more we get close to the border, the more expanded mountains will be and the less suitable the plains will be for agriculture. The slope of study area (except Khuzestan plain) is so that it doesn't make standard agriculture and settlement possible in most parts especially in places near the boundaries. Rainfed cultivation and even irrigated cultivation in these steep slopes cause

environmental destruction and low yields product. Creating some settlements like city center of Sardasht on a completely non-standard slope and on Sulley flexion solid besides slipping and drifting phenomenon, have made human life challenging in this area. This issue can bring security political consequences for people and the government. Much of these mountains and even foothill areas are covered by intensive and semi-intensive forests which are not suitable for cultivation.

Most of arable lands in this area are rainfed and wheat, barley and slightly grains goes under cultivation in them. Irrigated cultivation is seen just at the edge of rivers like: Zab and Sirvan and some lakes like: Zarivar and Marivan. The Northern part of the study area, that is the border part of Oshnavieh, Piranshahr, Sardasht, border area of Bane and Saqez, Marivan, Sarvabad, Pave, Javanrood and border part of Salas Babajani, is covered by intense and semi-intensive forests and also intense mountains. After cities Salas Babajani, Sarpolzahab, in the Northern part, cities like Saqez and also non-border part of Oshnavieh have suitable agricultural plains and mountainous areas of pasture without sustainable coverage. From Qasre-Shirin to the South up to Ilam and Khuzestan border, there are mountains with low-density pasture forests and somewhere there are wastelands without sustainable coverage. There are great valuable resources, vast farmlands and abundant water resources in Khuzestan province unlike other the Western border provinces of the country so that this province is the first pole of Agriculture in the country. Anyway, the noticeable issue is the existence of dry lands near the border of this province which cause the lack of population in border areas and the lodgment of nomadic population in some other parts of these areas. Generally, the study area can be accounted as an untalented area agriculturally especially in the areas near the border. So, agricultural conditions are not favorable in both kinds of rainfed and irrigated. There are fruit orchards like grapes, apple, cherries, etc. in north areas like some parts of Piranshahr, Bane, Marivan and particularly Sardasht and Oshnavieh . These orchards just supplies local needs because of not being invested despite of their potential for development. Of course these orchards don't meet the economic needs of these people. This area doesn't have traditional livestock because of being summery and because of having no access to wintery areas. It also is poor in modern livestock because of the lack of agricultural resources for supplying livestock feed and appropriate conditions. Generally we can say that agriculture and animal husbandry cannot be the basic indexes in development of this area in spite of its need to more attention. Therefore, it is said that this area does not have agricultural capabilities.

Considering the maps of mines of Iran, we can conclude that except Khuzestan province and the Southern Ilam province, there are no energy resources and metal or non-metal mines in most parts of mentioned area especially in Kurdish area. Any noticeable mine can be found in this area except some mines of stone building which are existed in some parts of the area limitedly. This problem has made the production of heavy and mine-dependent industries weak and so it is difficult to develop industries in this area. Agro-industry also cannot be listed in economic developments and the preparatory plans of Northern half of this area because of the mountain's poverty in agriculture. So, industry is not accounted as an important index in this area too. Therefore, this area doesn't have the capability of industry developments in terms of preparatory. And trying to develop industries in this area is a non-preparatory act which is in contrary with the framework of scientific regional development. Developing small industries is logical when it is just limited to processing such as concentrate factory for fruits like grapes, strawberries, etc. anyway, there are capabilities of creating wide agricultural areas in Khuzestan plain because of executing dams and irrigation projects in this area. Oil and gas resources also have provided good opportunities for development in the Southern half of the study area.

Accordingly, the Northern half of this area is severely poor in three main indexes of development. That is agriculture, industry, mining and energy. This has brought severe poverty for this area because of government inattention and also because of not finding economic preparatory alternative for this area. This poverty leads to issues such as smuggling of goods, beverages and drugs and also results in attracting young people of this area in religious and non-religious terrorist groups with economic purposes. These consequences threaten security and national interests of both countries. In border edge of Khuzestan plain, agricultural and industrial developments have not been done in an acceptable way and therefore the lack of population and also the existence of some sporadically undeveloped nomadic and rural populations in some places is accounted as threat to the security of the country.

### 3) Contraband

The role of economics in security is so significant. Lack of development and being deprived from economic and social welfare make the national spirit weak and then the social chaos arises. A good economic condition is one of the national values and it's strengthening leads to the strengthening of the national government and increasing national security index. Finally we can say that economics is accounted as an efficient means by which national governments try to achieve their goals. Economic power is one of the security bases and is expressed as a security subject which should be taken under consideration by governments. In other words, poverty and economic deprivation affect internal stability and undermine security foundation. Most political- security issues and border

problems are related to the economic issues. So, we can defuse enemy propaganda on social and economic discrimination by investigating economic issues. Another point is if we want to consider a reduction of informal economics in borders of the country, then we should improve the living conditions of the people in that area because most residents have to smuggling to meet their daily needs. So, as long as people were pushed to these actions because of their needs, especially in border and deprived areas, we can expect to face an expansion of black economics in the field of economics.

Contraband is a reprehensible phenomenon which destroys economic borders and national production of a country. It also prevents using appropriately abilities and potentials or actual talents. This phenomenon has played a noticeable role on creating economic rents for years and is one of the main reasons of social misbalancing and earnings. Perhaps there are people who have big capital without any work and effort and some other people who are the victims in this way because of meeting their basic needs. Smuggling or underground trade is said to moving goods illegally without paying any custom duties and trading profits. This is one of the concerns in developing countries. In our country, this phenomenon has had different economic, social, and political affects on economic system of the country. In particular, border areas are not able to offer sufficient occupation capacities and are accounted as isolated areas because of having special geographical conditions. These areas seem to be best areas in the aspect of occupation and labor force because of having economic features, ethnic and social characteristics and political necessities. Anyway border areas have provided many opportunities for performing underground smuggling actions. Most residents of frontier regions consider contraband participation as a comparative advantage and geopolitical opportunity of their area and are proud of it. Border areas are accounted as sensitive and strategic areas in the country. Isolated and infertile nature, have been made temporary governments into trouble politically, economically and in a security way because of the lack of well-being and essential life incentives. Potential disabilities in production, lack of employment, low income and lack of access to basic needs are main economic-social features of these areas which have provided the background for struggling. Haunted empty border and border people migration to big cities have been a rising trend which its effect was tangible in border security. The presence of people is necessary in border areas to establish security in 8755 kilometers of joint lines of Iran with neighbor countries.

Considering maritime south boundary (1880 km) and Eastern and Western land border of the country, we face this fact that at first, the control of these borders are different dependent on their climate conditions and secondly, providing security is so difficult without the help of people living in that area. As protecting borders of every country is of important issues, in 100 recent years, the governments of our country have adopted different policies for border people. The purpose of these policies is mainly to decrease unemployment, poverty, various social corruptions, creating jobs, decreasing contrabands, establishing social justice, etc. border residents are primary defenders at the time of occurring political crises like war. So the issues of the residents should be taken under more attention. If we consider the development process as a clever attempt for promoting the quality of people lives, then we can say Iran needs the development process especially in rural, deprived and border areas. There has been a motivation for some illegal actions and trades in some border areas because of conflicts of the residents with people of the front border over natural inabilities, social characteristics and ethnic affinities since past. We all see the influences of these trades on configuration of economic- commercial affairs of the country, structural insecurity, and population instability. These differences and imbalances have left significant effects on development trends in border areas.

In most areas, the control of the borders is difficult without the help of residents because of the extent of the borders and also its impassable mountains. That's one of the reasons for increasing contrabands and the reason of having difficulties for struggling that. Nowadays, lack of control and hidden contrabands have made governments encouraged to cooperate each other in new ways. Such cooperation is presented as border common markets which is the known way of economic development in border areas. This way results in a fundamental change in production, employment, stabilization of border population, contraband reduction, increasing incomes, increasing warfare and finally a sustainable development. Some purposes of these markets are of providing appropriate backgrounds for development of local handicrafts, reduction of contrabands, security purposes like: providing economic security, providing political security in land borders and providing social security.

#### 4. Poor commercial infrastructures in study area

The first term in commercial development is creating communicative infrastructures and installations for business and tourism. In this case, relations and particularly land routes is preferred to other infrastructures. By appropriate relative paths, it is easily possible to establish a workshop, factory, boundary market or amusement esplanade in a short period of time. But these will be difficult to develop area if there is no communicative infrastructure. Generally, communication is the base and facilitator of economic development in every area. Industry trade is dependent on communications. Maybe we can say the most industries which are dependent on communication, are business and tourism. There are many boundary markets in the study area. But as we said before, this area doesn't have an

efficient road and communication modern network for goods transportation. Beside poor roads, the insecurity of mountainous paths and also some groups like Pjak , prevent many people from being there. In addition, most of mentioned markets are just known as a name and most of them are inactive or semi-active. Some of them are just for passing trucks and are not for public use. Vicissitudinous communications with turkey and Iraq and insecurities due to some terrorist groups like Pjak and selfi make these markets inefficient. These inefficiencies can be observed in poor communication, geoculture of the area, political-security geography and the relations between governments. From the preparatory aspect, most internal problems of the study area have prevented business developments.

#### Tourism

Tourism is an appropriate way for developing the study area in the preparatory program of Western border area of the country because of having commercial and communicative attractions and its unique nature as an area with dense forests, massive mounts, known valleys and caves, ponds , everglades, sabulous in southern half and also historical remains all over the study area. Tourism industry is also dependent on communications, security and infrastructure investments more wildly. These factors boost each other. Communicative infrastructure will cause insecurity and lack of development beside other factors. Absence of investments and security, results in the lack of tourism development. Communications are also affecting tourism development directly. The study area has much appropriate attractions for tourism, but the facilities and infrastructures have not been provided. Tourism is a factor to increase relations and interactions which can results in convergence between this area and the main body of the country. Tourism in this area creates a relationship between exotic Iranians and native people and boosts the cultural commons which have been becoming weak through history because of the separation and lack of communication between them. There will be provided a background in different areas to establish a sustainable cultural, economic and political relationship between them by spreading commercial tourism, ecotourism, historical tourism and by increasing dealings between residents of Iran and Turkey borders with the study area and other cities in Iran. This is especially efficient since residents in both parts of a border have deep historical roots and similar lifestyle and cultural commons such as language or religion, Norouz, etc.

#### 1. Commercial tourism

Commercial tourism which is the result of boundary markets in study area, in the most lucrative tourism in the country and in study area. Commercial tourism is one of the preparatory strategies of this area in National Work Breakdown Structure. Commercial tourists usually stop in a certain place and spend their money in that. Averagely, each commercial tourist spends 360 dollars per night while a recreational tourist spends 195 dollars. Generally, 55 percents of the commercial tourists spend much on food and residency. On the other hand, as it was mentioned, this kind of tourism is not dependent on holidays and that's why hotels and travel agencies try to plan some ceremonies so that tourism is increased in stagnant reasons and more rooms of hotels are rented. But maybe, the most important feature of commercial tourism does not have a direct relationship with tourism industry.

Most of the cities which are studied in this area have commercial tourism capabilities because of their boundary locations, commercial situations and boundary markets. But cities, Bane, Javanrood and Marivan have considerable tourism due to border trades. Bane is one of the important cities of the country in the study area. Commercial tourism in Bane can be considered as a new event which is due to its geographical situation and its location on the strip border. That is, goods imported from the border have affected enhancement of commercial trades. These goods are interred to the city through informal exchanges and are sold out in markets in the city. So, Bane economics is kind of commercial economics and is accounted as the consequence of commercial economics and border trades. High unemployment, lack of facilities and basic infrastructure, low incomes, social inequalities and public poverty in border areas, undesirable quality of locally-produced goods compared to imported smuggled goods are the reasons for informal trading enhancements and smugglings. Tourism growth in Bane and its effect on the body of the city has been intensified from 1357. In fact, there were no significant commercial and border trades before that. War in those years was one reason for that which was preventing from border actions and people travels. But commercial trades were increased after the end of war, at the beginning of further border actions. Along with establishing security after war and border trading enhancement, there has been also an increase in the number of travelers to Bane. So, commercial complexes have also been increased due to customer enhancement.

Table 1-4. The number of travelers interred to the city at the first 20 days of year

#### 2) Ecotourism

The study area in the Northern part is covered with dense and semi-dense forests because of its mountainous location in temperate high part with high rainfalls. This situation has provided nature attractions for tourists from around

areas and especially central, southern and eastern areas of Iran and also central, southern and western areas of Iraq. This area can also attract many tourists from arid countries like Persian Gulf coast countries by making appropriate investments on it. This is what Kurdish government has done in this respect. This area is of high Zagros Mountains. Stone substances of Zagros is sedimentary and of marl and limestone kinds. Dissolving property of these stones has resulted in beautiful caves in this area and all over Zagros. Also, many big known waterfalls are created here due to this property like Salmas waterfall in Sardasht.

Natural and artificial lakes such as Zarivar in Marivan are pleasant places for attracting tourists. Mineral springs and mineral water like Geravan in Sardasht are important places for attracting tourism. High mountains are appropriate for mountain climbing in different seasons. Generally, this area has especial conditions in aspect of ecotourism which should be considered as an important capability in preparatory plan of border areas. In a general word we can say, the Northern half of the study area doesn't have good capacities in agricultures, mines, and industries. This area is poor in communications and roads and its security is less than internal areas. The Southern half of this area has much ecotourism attraction because of its deserts, palm trees, wetlands, and tropical rainforests in the river and attractive coasts around the Persian Gulf and Arvandrood. These nature attractions can be accounted as important and reliable source for resident's costs if paid attention. The best strategy for preparatory plan is commercial and tourism developments which are dependent on communications and security. Trading and tourism are also factors for regional developments.

### **Conclusion**

As we said, in the Western border areas especially mountainous areas, there is not much capacity for some actions like agriculture, industry and mining and it caused land poverty and lack of development. But in a preparatory point of view, we can find other tourism capacities. In this area we can see mountains, forests, rivers, caves, waterfalls, and everglade in the Southern part, sabulous, wide rivers and the Persian Gulf coasts which have provided a good bed for ecotourism developments. So, we find out the capacities of the Western border areas in the country.

Natural and commercial tourism will result in providing expand facilities and services in one area beside economic prosperity. Generally, tourism will result in trading and trading will result in tourism. That's why we should make the entrance of exchanges and reliability and services easy to these areas so that economic development is prospered. Since this development forms regarding to the environmental capacities, will results in the sustainable development.