TOURISM AS A SPACE ANALYSIS TOOL: THE "POTAL DA LUA VIEWPOINT" IN CAPARAÓ, MG

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Abstract: When thinking about tourism, it is common to relate it to travel and leisure. However, the tourist activity goes beyond these aspects. It is an activity that is directly related to the economy, which can generate great advantages and disadvantages for regions that are included in the list of tourist destinations, generating mass tourism. Alternatives were thought to reduce the negative effects of tourism, with emphasis on ecotourism and community-based tourism. In Brazil and Minas Gerais, at the beginning of the 21st century, there was an increase in tourism and several cities began to try to insert themselves in the Minas Gerais tourist scenario, using their potential and inserting themselves in tourist circuits. One of these locations is the municipality of Caparaó, which has the ''Mirante Portal da Lua'', a place where ecotourism is practiced. Based on this information, the objective of this work is to present and analyze the state of conservation of the ''Portal da Lua Lookout''. For this, the article was divided into two parts: in the first, a bibliographic review was carried out in articles, books, theses and dissertations about tourism and in the second, the observational method was used, through in loco research, with visits and photographic surveys. With this, it was proved that the ''Mirante Portal da Lua'' is in a bad state of conservation and that it is necessary to rethink the relationship of the Caparao community with the place.

Keywords: Tourism; Sustainable tourism; Ecotourism; Community Tourism; Caparaó.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism can be understood as a social phenomenon, in which the main focus is leisure and recreation, where a person or a group moves from their region in search of pleasure, be it through nature, culture and/or well-being.

According to Barretto (1999, p.56), tourism in Brazil as a social phenomenon can be understood after the 1920s, making a direct connection with the creation of the Sociedade Brasileira do Turismo in 1923. directly linked to leisure, where the upper classes opted for private tourism and the middle classes for mass tourism (Barretto, 1999, p.57).

Brazil has several tourist destinations, composed of landscapes and "historic cities". And the state of Minas Gerais has a varied list of locations, both in terms of "historic cities" and in terms of natural beauty. Known cities such as Ouro Preto, Tiradentes, Mariana and the capital Belo Horizonte receive numerous travelers.

But the Federative State is also composed of several inland municipalities, which in turn have tourist attractions but are unable to insert themselves into the tourist scenario. For this reason they end up forming Touristic Circuits, which have the responsibility of organizing and developing tourism regionally.

Something relevant within a tourist circuit are the characteristics of each municipality, which contribute by adding values and making the circuit more attractive.

According to 2019 data, in Minas Gerais there are 44 Tourist Circuits containing 513 regionalized municipalities (MINAS GERAIS, 2019). Among these 44 cited, we have the Touristic Circuit of Pico da Bandeira, which has 17 member cities.

The Circuit of "Pico da Bandeira" stands out for having the Caparaó National Park, which holds Pico da Bandeira, the third highest peak in the country and the main destination for travelers visiting the region. Due to the high number of visitors and their behavior, we can say that the tourism practiced in the region is mass tourism that, despite contributing to the local economy due to the great demand, can also become something disadvantageous, because with a flow greater number of people there tends to be degradation of the site,

leading to a predatory view of tourism.

One of the Circuit cities that has tourist potential is Caparaó, which has attractions that can be explored in a sustainable way. The nearest location to the urban area and with great potential would be the ''Mirante Portal da Lua'', which, in addition to being a belvedere, is also a place for free-flying sports, but which is neglected by the local government.

Given the relevance of the theme, the objective of this work is to present and analyze the state of conservation of the ''Portal da Lua Viewpoint'', in the municipality of Caparaó.

The ''Portal da Lua Viewpoint'' has a large load capacity and its potential, when well explored, can help the municipality to value itself so that little used spaces can be a tool to boost the local economy, without harming to the inserted environment, thinking about a sustainable development of tourism, which will bring not only significant effects to the tourism sector, but to the city's population as a whole.

Tourism, when well explored, can bring great benefits to a region, in several fields such as: economic, cultural, social and environmental. But there is a two-way street, as the tourist practice can bring benefits to a given location, it can also aggravate several problems if that location does not have the necessary structure to receive it or does not carry it out in a sustainable way.

Therefore, the present work is justified due to Caparaó having a good that can be exploited by tourism in order to generate positive economic and sociocultural effects for a locality but that, for this, it is necessary to understand the social relationship with the municipality and its residents, seeking to understand the dynamics in which the ''Portal da Lua Lookout'' are inserted.

PREDATORY TOURISM, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND COMMUNITY TOURISM
PREDATORY TOURISM

The tourist market is increasingly accessible, due to the great facilities offered such as: transport, communication and low-cost tickets, among others.

> The 20th century brought new technologies, such as faster and more comfortable planes, computers, robots, and satellite communications, which transformed the way people live, work, and play. Technology is credited with the development of mass tourism for a number of reasons: it provided increased leisure time, provided additional income, intensified telecommunications and created more efficient modes of transport (UNWTO, 2003, p.23).

The tourist demand can be classified in several aspects, from leisure, recreation, vacations, professional reasons or even health treatments, (DIAS, 2005). This demand will depend on some factors such as "availability of time, economic availability, demographic factors and social factors" (DIAS, 2005, p.52).

In Brazil we find several types of tourism that are: sun and beach tourism, cultural tourism, urban tourism, nature-oriented tourism, rural tourism, adventure tourism, sport fishing tourism and business tourism (DIAS, 2005).

Among all mentioned, the one with the greatest possibilities of linking is cultural tourism, where there is a wide range of activities that are carried out based on the relationship between tourism and cultural heritage. In addition, when talking about the term tourism, something that is very relevant to mention is the natural environment, because in each modality mentioned above, most are directly related to the natural landscape of a given location.

With everyday life in big cities, it is common

in free periods, such as the weekends and vacations, for people to look for places where they can have contact with the environment. In Brazil, a very sought after and best known form of occupation is the first item mentioned, sun and beach tourism, which is one of the forms of mass tourism, as can be seen in Dias (2005). This makes it difficult for new destinations to enter the list of Brazilian tourist destinations.

For a municipality to consolidate itself as a tourist destination, first of all it must have something relevant to attract visitors and the necessary structure to support such activity. For Dias (2005), quality tourism must contain: safety, hygiene, accessibility, transparency, authenticity and harmony. Well-applied tourism, with efficient management, can bring many benefits to a given location, especially in the economy by generating different forms of jobs, leveraging the economy as a whole, thus becoming better distributed and consequently bringing greater development to the place.

In addition to the economy, the benefits also reach other important points, such as: contribution to the preservation of endangered animals, increased environmental awareness, obtaining resources for preservation, economic exploitation of protected areas and improvement of planning and environmental management.

"What cannot be forgotten is that, like any other activity, there is always another side" (DIAS, 2005, p.85). Activity without planning can bring many problems that will affect the entire community. The damage can be environmental, social, cultural and in the economy itself.

Tourism has a life cycle that can be divided into six parts, which are: exploration, involvement, development, consolidation, stagnation and decline / rejuvenation. In summary, there are parameters that must be observed regarding the occupation of spaces,

as poor occupation will generate major inconveniences, transforming itself into tourism known as predatory. Tourism boils down to occupation, as the receiving location will be visited by many people, and with that, more infrastructure is needed, more transport and the most inviting places will have high rates of capacity (Figure 01).

In Cruz (2006), we can observe two essential factors about tourism that differentiate it from other economic activities: first, because it is a social practice, and second, because the space itself is the object of consumption.

> This process is by no means unambiguous, since it is not uncommon for divergences of interest between the social subjects directly involved to exist and are difficult to overcome. If, on the one hand, tourism generates wealth, income, jobs, etc., on the other hand, it can trigger inflationary processes, mainly on a local scale, and deepen unwanted practices such as child prostitution and drug trafficking. (CRUZ, 2006, p.338).

Cruz (2006), brings some arguments about the development of tourism as a way of alleviating poverty, as it generates wealth in the receiving region, but mentions the reverse effect of the practice.

> If, on the one hand, tourism can theoretically contribute to "alleviating poverty", on the other hand, it has been, in practice, responsible for its spatial redistribution. By making certain portions of the territory attractive for workers with low professional qualifications, given that most of the jobs directly associated with tourism are informal or involve low-paid jobs, tourism has attracted contingents of poor people to places that receive flows, in the search for their insertion in the world of work (CRUZ, 2006, p.341).

From the 1970s onwards, mass tourism intensified strongly (DIAS, 2005). We can cite some problems that put the sustainability of tourism in check, which are: damage
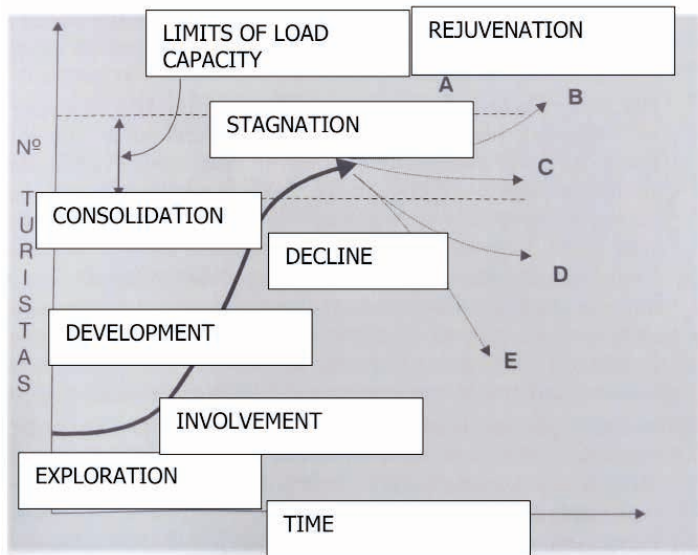
FIGURE 01 – Life cycle of a tourist destination

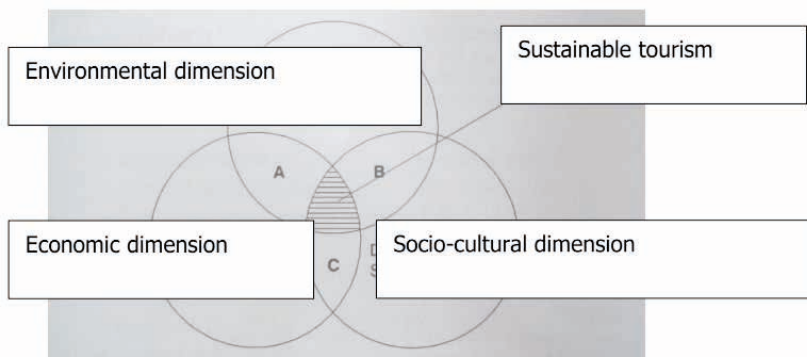SOURCE: Dias (2005, p.79).

FIGURE 02 – Relationship between the three dimensions of sustainable tourism
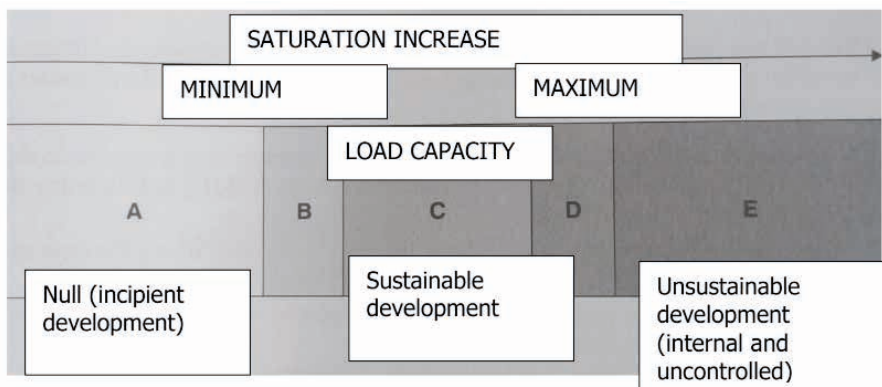
SOURCE: Dias (2005, p.110).

FIGURE 03 – Stages of development of a tourist destination according to its carrying capacity

SOURCE: Dias (2005, p.115).

to natural resources, increased pollution, physical impacts of tourism development, physical impacts of tourist activities, loss of biodiversity, decrease in the ozone layer and increase in the greenhouse effect. Dias (2005) mentions that in addition to environmental impacts, predatory tourism can affect not only the natural environment, but also the local culture. The influence of tourists from other regions of the country, in a way, can influence the local population, since each region has its own culture, the population will feel attracted by the customs of the visitors since the same ones, in their majority, are always considered superior for being from higher classes and being provided with more resources, which may make residents want to compare themselves to them.

As seen, tourism can be a very important tool, in different aspects and scopes. In addition to just leisure and fun, tourism is an economic instrument, which can significantly contribute to the growth of various sectors within a given region, but initially, such a practice is entirely linked to space, and this same space can have benefits and/or losses, if done improperly, and without the necessary structure, as shown in the data above.

In the next item, some aspects about the development of tourism and how it must be planned will be addressed, so that there is a level of quality that allows it to be a sustainable activity.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Since the beginning of humanity, human beings have had direct contact with "nature""[1], and throughout history, this relationship has undergone several transformations. The idea of subject and object has always been had, since from the natural landscape the human being takes the resources for his survival,

however, it is with the rise of the capitalist system that there was an intensification of this practice, with the human being taking more than nature could provide.

With this vision, the human being ended up realizing that nature ceased to be something sacred to be something exploratory, something just to serve him, as stated by Passmore (1974, p.93):

> The view that all things exist to serve man encouraged the development of a particular way of seeing nature, not as something to be respected, but rather as something to be used. Nature is in no sense sacred. (...) Christianity taught men that there was no sacrilege either in analyzing or in modifying nature.

Tourism is one of the forms of direct relationship with human beings and nature, and as analyzed above, there has always been this view of dominance by human beings. As seen in the previous topic, it is possible to observe problems that can be caused by the bad occupation of the tourist practice and its consequences.

In the field of tourism, there is a range of factors that must be taken into account for the system to work properly, and this is where sustainable tourism comes into play.

The concept of sustainable tourism was mentioned for the first time at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) also known as Eco-92. It is based on the term sustainable development, which is directly linked by three pillars of sustainability: socio-cultural, environmental, and economic, these impacts must be considered and positively balanced by companies in the tourism sector and municipalities that adhere to this model. According to the UNWTO (WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION, 2003),

1 Nature: According to Abbagnano (2007), The interpretation of Nature as the principle of life and movement of all existing things is the oldest and most venerable, having conditioned the current use of the term. Nature, is a principle of life that takes good care of the beings in which it manifests itself.

sustainable tourism can be defined as:

> "Tourism that fully considers its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and local communities".

To be sustainable, tourism activity must meet the aforementioned requirements, the pillars necessary for sustainability. In Dias (2005), we can observe these requirements in more depth.

The first pillar boils down to economic sustainability, where the agents involved, such as the tourism receiving community and others, benefit from economic development, and that this development also guarantees benefits to future generations. In the second point we find about social and cultural sustainability, which has the duty to reduce social inequalities, maintain local cultural values and preserve material and immaterial heritage and, finally, we have the third pillar, environmental sustainability, which has as responsibility to ensure compatibility with the maintenance of essential ecological processes of biological diversity and natural resources (Figure 02).

In 2004, a forum was held in the city of Barcelona on Globalization and development in which the UNWTO defined six important points to achieve sustainable tourism (DIAS, 2005). In summary, these points are based on the responsibility of the authorities in general who are responsible for this sector to guarantee the necessary infrastructure, observe the environmental aspects, consult the community, guarantee the flow of tourism so that it does not have excessive carrying capacity.

As already mentioned, the points for achieving sustainability are very important, as they deal with the economy, preservation and equality, and they will help to leverage the sector as they will contribute to an increase in jobs, thus generating more income, more leisure areas, environmental conservation and preservation of culture among others.

Dias (2005) also brings some negative aspects that can be observed such as: just as it can leverage the economy, on the other hand, real estate speculation, price inflation and infrastructure conserved only for tourism begins to appear. In the environmental field, further deterioration of space, pollution, and alteration of the natural landscape through non-integrated architecture and finally in the cultural sector we have false identity, conflicts between tourists and residents and an increase in the crime rate.

The carrying capacity of a tourist destination is essential in planning, it will directly affect the number of visitors that the destination can support. This term was thought of in ecology (DIAS, 2005).

Within carrying capacity, we find some points that must be taken into account, which are: physical carrying capacity, psychological or perceptual carrying capacity, social carrying capacity and economic carrying capacity. The first term refers to the infrastructure of the place to receive visitors, in the second it is about the well-being and satisfaction of the visitor, in the third the relation of the receiving residents with the tourists and lastly about taking advantage of the economy as a way to renew and create other sectors.

In Dias (2005), it is possible to observe a table on the formation of sustainable tourism, in which it has three segments that mark tourism in a given location: the initial development where such location starts to have the first occupations by travelers, in this scale we have the letters A and B representing the minimum occupancy. In C, there is sustainable and balanced development; in D it is at maximum occupancy, saturated and the environmental imbalance begins but it can still be controlled and in E, the situation

is completely unsustainable, saturation is complete and degradation becomes irreversible, in this case the three spheres of sustainability are become completely negative (Figure 03).

There are measures that can be taken when the saturation level is increasing, which involve measures such as: increasing the capacity of the place, limiting the number of visitors and dispersing the pressure (DIAS, 2005).

> In any case, we must always keep in mind that the imperative of sustainability in tourism requires a vigilant attitude and permanent supervision mechanisms that, with the help of sustainability indicators, periodically verify the environmental, social and economic status of destinations (DIAS, 2005, p.116).

One of the ways of thinking about tourism in a sustainable way is from ecotourism, more precisely from community-based tourism, which will be seen in the following item.

ECOTOURISM AND COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

> Tourism is composed of a range of tourist typologies, and among them we find ecotourism, which is directly related to nature. This typology, which is constantly growing, and by itself can help in the development of regions, locations and countries (DIAS, 2005).

> "Natural areas find in tourism a way to insert themselves in local economies, making themselves economically viable and bringing benefits to the communities that live in their interior". (DIAS, 2005, p.103).

> The growth of Ecotourism took place mainly in the 1990s, when the ecological importance was realized after some conferences held on the subject, in which ECO-92, held in Rio De Janeiro, can be highlighted. According to UNWTO data, the flow of people involved with ecotourism grows 20% a year while other forms of conventional

tourism grow only 7.5% a year. 5% of world tourism is focused on ecotourism, which has investments of around 90%, and the tendency is for these numbers to increase in the coming decades (DIAS, 2005).

Ecotourism is considered a form of tourism:

> Environmentally responsible, which consists of traveling to or visiting relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy, appreciate and study the natural attractions (landscape, wild flora and fauna) of these areas, as well as any cultural manifestation (present or past) that it may be found there; through a process that promotes conservation, has a low negative environmental and cultural impact and provides an active and socioeconomically beneficial involvement of local populations (DIAS, 2005, p.103).

Ecotourism goes hand in hand with environmental education, as it encourages good practices aimed at education and the community on environmental issues. Ecotourism, as already mentioned, is a tourist practice sought after by those who want to be closer to nature. In relation to this, sustainable tourism is not a tourist modality, but a different way of promoting tourism (KÖRÖSSY, 2008). Ecotourism will not be sustainable if it is not linked together with the necessary pillars for it.

> The roots of this confusion between sustainable tourism and ecotourism are not clear in the specialized literature. Given the affirmation of the concept of sustainability, bringing the environmental issue to a level where it did not exist before (the political sphere), what may have happened is that the flourishing of the concept of sustainability coincided with the leitmotif of ecotourism: the concern with the environment. In other words, what can be speculated is that the same thing happened to the concept of sustainable tourism as happened to the concept of sustainable development: it was misunderstood; the environmental dimension was maximized to the detriment

of social and economic aspects. In view of ecotourism's vocation for environmental preservation, as soon as there was a confusion between the two terms and, in some more extreme cases, they were interpreted as synonyms (KÖRÖSSY, 2008, p.66).

Among the ranges of tourism that is directly related to ecotourism, we also have community tourism, where the community itself, collectively, works to improve the quality of life and promote intercultural experience. However, it is necessary to point out that ecotourism does not guarantee that tourism is community based.

Tourism depends on several important factors, so that the practice can work, above all it must be sustainable, guaranteeing its operation not only for current generations, but also for future generations, and all this must come with a good planning so that everything occurs within the correct principles, as this is the premise of tourism development.

Much has been said about tourism as a form of local and regional development. As mentioned above, community-based tourism is a very important practice in small communities as a form of development.

As it was already shown, tourism activity is entirely linked with space, and what moves people to want to know a certain region, more specifically spaces, are the attractions they offer. Tourism encompasses several aspects, and something important that is linked to it is culture. Each region/place will have its specific, and local communities that will be primarily responsible for maintaining such a tradition, thus preserving the local identity.

Tourism is an important economic tool for local and regional development. But as seen, it can also bring some risks to the community. In Cruz (2006), it is observed that the tourist practice can be a way to alleviate poverty, but it can also be a way to increase it.

The practice of tourism has the power to

segregate people, to a certain extent exclude them. The city of Ouro Preto, known for its large historic center, receives a large number of tourists, but on the other hand, local residents end up suffering from the gentrification process and the local heritage ends up being of more value to visitors than to the people themselves. residents.

Community tourism emerges as an alternative to mass tourism. It represents a development strategy for groups with less conditions to autonomously enter the tourism production chain. It is a type of tourism that prioritizes the place, environmental conservation and cultural identity. According to Coriolano (2005), poverty and exclusion can be associated with tourism as effects of the globalization of economic relations, political relations and regulatory instruments.

Also according to Coriolano (2005), it is necessary to understand the forms of inclusion and exclusion caused by the power relationship of tourist use, since the practice, as already mentioned, is understood by space and as a commodity. Araújo and Gelbcke (2008), raise the following question:

> Tourism follows this logic, as few people appropriate the spaces and resources contained in the space; of attractions (beaches, dunes, traditional culture, local crafts, etc.) transformed into merchandise. Regions formerly occupied by traditional communities are giving way to second homes, large resorts, hotel chains, restaurants and other tourist facilities. In the midst of the production of tourism space, a struggle is fought between different social actors.

According to Araújo and Gelbcke (2008), the richness of the tourist phenomenon is related to the variety of paths that configure its production and, at the same time, reveal conflicts and tensions between the social groups generated by it.

> It is at this level that community-based tourism emerges, aimed at the interests of

residents, small businesses, appreciation and maintenance of local identity; it is conducted by alternative groups that organize themselves to develop and sell new tourist products, new itineraries in "niches" left aside by global capital (CORIOLANO, 2005)

Community tourism is conceptualized in the fact that the local community appropriates the territory in the best possible way, so the development of tourism will take advantage of priorities based on the interests of local residents, strengthening traditional activities.

In addition, the approach of Community Tourism contemplates unusual forms of tourist activities, which in general, escape the interest of tourism/mass tourists, such as those related to inner education, alternative therapies, among others (ARAÚJO and GELBCKE, 2008, p. 366).

For Irving (2005), development projects in general are successful when civil society participates in the preparation and implementation of plans, programs and innovative actions. A participatory society is one where all citizens have a share in production.

Sampaio (2006), suggests that community tourism follows the principles of socioeconomics, which tries to change the scenario of hegemony of economic utilitarian rationality. The focus is on valuing and preserving traditions and solidary social relationships as a way of generating jobs and income through associative production. In summary, tourism will not aim only at profit, but at sustainability understood in its broadest form.

According to Coriolano (2003, p.43), "development only happens when all people are benefited, when it reaches the human scale, and tourism can be linked to both concentrated economic growth and social development".

For Araújo and Gelbcke (2008), community

tourism cannot be seen only as a productive activity, but also as a Figure for the fundamental role of ethics and cooperation in social relations. Valuing the specific resources of the territory and maintaining connections with external agents, in this case visitors, thus maintaining a good relationship between visitors and the host community.

As previously mentioned, regarding the issue of sustainable development of tourism, and in view of the facts presented above, community tourism is a way of guaranteeing local sustainability in various aspects, both natural, cultural and social. A way of primarily ensuring the well-being of the community, maintaining its traditions and customs.

The practice of tourism can significantly change the destiny of a region as a whole. It can in a way requalify the space, provided it is well planned and has the necessary structure. The participation of local individuals becomes fundamental for this.

Community tourism can be considered a strong agent in environmental preservation issues, contributing to the ecotourism activity that is directly linked with natural goods/nature, but ecotourism does not guarantee that tourism is community, since it is only an activity aimed at nature, and community tourism is linked to several factors that go beyond nature, in a broader way, is a set of activities, in which the community itself is the main protagonist.

Tourism in its community form can guarantee the survival of its population, since both will work in favor of the community and not of individuality.

In the topics so far, several factors have been presented about what tourism is and how to do it correctly. How tourism in a predatory way can affect the quality of space and how to remedy this situation, how tourism can be planned so that the practice is beneficial, thus reaching its exponential totality about sustainable development in order to

guarantee the quality not only of the today, but also for future generations. Lastly, how community tourism can privilege space, guaranteeing its sustainability, thus ensuring the social reason, natural heritage and cultural heritage, keeping local traditions and customs alive, with a conscious tourism that favors space.

METHODOLOGY

This article has a descriptive-exploratory character, in which, at first, bibliographic reviews were made through articles, books, theses and dissertations about tourism, with emphasis on an approach about the various terms related to this practice.

Secondly, the observational method was used, through in loco research, with visits and photographic surveys, with the objective of presenting and analyzing the state of conservation of the ''Mirante Portal da Lua'' in the city of Caparaó - MG, thinking about the from a community tourism perspective.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The ''Mirante Portal da Lua'', object of analysis of this article, is located in the city of Caparaó, located in the East of Minas Gerais, Immediate Region of Manhuaçu - MG and Intermediate Region of Juiz de Fora - MG.

The municipality has about 5,209 inhabitants, spread over an area of 130km^2 (IBGE, 2010), being 361 km to the capital of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte.

The city of Caparaó is part of the Circuit of "Pico da Bandeira", which has 16 more municipalities. Each municipality has different tourist attractions, which, in a way, must help to strengthen tourism within the Circuit. In Figure 05, below, it is possible to observe the 17 cities that are part of the Circuit of "Pico da Bandeira".

Caparaó is at a distance of 12 km from the municipality of Alto Caparaó - MG and 14 km from the district of Pedra Menina, belonging to the city of Dores do Rio Preto - ES. These two places, in turn, are the most sought after in the region by tourists, due to the fact that both have access to the Caparaó National Park entrance, with waterfalls and Pico da Bandeira.

According to data from the local government, the municipality of Caparaó has some tourist attractions that can be highlighted: the Caparaó National Park [2], APA (Environmental Protection Area) of Grumarim, ''Mirante Portal da Lua'', Caparaó railway station, ''Caixa D'água'' and Square: Dois Poderes and Pedro Bussinger. (Figure 07)

The municipality of Caparaó has some highlights, and we can highlight its center, where the ''Dois Poderes'' and ''Pedro Bussinger'' squares are located, which end up being a meeting point for both community residents and visitors and because they are in the center and are next to the main commercial points of the city, such as pharmacies, supermarkets and restaurants. It is noteworthy that the squares are in a good state of conservation, the space is also used for municipal events and celebrations. (Figures 08 and 09).

Within the local cultural heritage, the Station's ''Caixa d'água'' stands out, which is in a good state of conservation in structural matters, and is very close to the old Station. (Figure 10)

The former 1914 Station is also in a good state of conservation since it underwent renovations in 2016, having its value recognized by the municipality. In 2022, the property is listed as the cultural heritage of the city, by municipal laws. (Figure 11)

Also located in the municipality, there is the Grumarim APA, with its headquarters

2 Although part of the territory of the Caparaó National Park is in the municipality of Caparaó, it does not have official entrances to the park.

FIGURE 04 – Location of the headquarters of the city of Caparaó - MG

SOURCE: Caparaó / Google Earth (2022). Adapted by the author (2022)

State highwayFIGURE 05 – Cities of the circuit: Pico da Bandeira

SOURCE: Wagney Machado (2016)

CITY	TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS
Alto Caparaó	Parque Nacional do Caparaó, Cachoeira das Andorinhas, Propriedades produtoras de café, Caminhada noturna ao Pico da Bandeira, Caminhada diurna ao Pico da Bandeira, Contemplação do pôr do sol na tronqueira, Balneário urbano, Arena de Paintball.
Alto Jequitibá	Cachoeira das Andorinhas, Antigas Fazendas, Pontes de túneis da antiga estrada de ferro, Mirante Padre Júlio Maria na Vargem Grande.
Caiana	Lavra São Roque (exploração de cristais e Bauchitas);
Caparaó	Mirante Portal da Lua, APA do Grumarim, Antiga caixa d'agua da estrada de ferro, Antiga estação ferroviária.
Carangola	Orquidário, Igreja Matriz de St. Luzia, Praça Cel. Maximiano- coreto e chafariz, Escola Servita Regina Pacis, Faculdades Vale do Carangola, Igreja Nossa Senhora Aparecida, Museu Histórico, Geográfico e Cientifico de Carangola, Lira 21 de abril, APA, Morro da Torre, Congregação Cristã do Brasil, Igreja São Manoel do Boi, Pedra Barroso, Cruzeiro, Fazendas Centenárias
Durandé	Fazendas Centenárias, Cachoeira da Figueira, Jequitibá Rosa, Centro Cultural de Durandé Dona América de Oliveira e Biblioteca Pública Municipal, Semana Santa, FECALD- Festa do Café com Leite de Durandé.
Espera Feliz	Pico da Bandeira- Parque Nacional do Caparaó, Pedra Móvel, Salão de Pedras, Morro da Canoa, Bicudo APA Vargem Alegre, Gruta do Índio, Grutas e Pedra do Funil, Portaria do Parque Nacional do Caparaó, Pedra da Tartaruga, Pico do Cristal, Pico do Calçado.
Faria Lemos	Praça Farmacêutica José Ferreira, Cristo, Cachoeira Surpresa, Cachoeira Boa Vista, Rua dos Jambeiros, Vista panorâmica da cidade da Rua Ildinandes Pires de Oliveira.

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Lajinha	Pedra da Baleia, Pedra Torta, Pedra da Fortaleza, Parque Aquático, Feira de Artesanato e Culinária.
Luisburgo	Pico da Pedra Dourada, Cachoeira do Didi, Reserva de Mata Atlântica do Córrego Pedra Dourada.
Manhumirim	Parque ecológico Municipal Sagui da Serra, Igreja Matriz do Bom Jesus, Seminário Pio XI e Museu Padre Júlio Maria, Cachoeira Poço Fundo/Rio Claro.
Manhuaçu	Manhuaçu está estrategicamente localizada próximo ao Pico da Bandeira, o maior pico do Brasil considerando acessibilidade e com potencial turístico.
Martins Soares	Rampa de voo livre, Floricultura Tropical e Exótica, Santuário de Nossa Senhora das Graças, Casas de fazendas nas comunidades rurais, Gastronomia local.
Pedra Dourada	Pedra Dourada, Cachoeira Cassiano, Cascata Mãe D'Água, Pedra Redonda, Sitio Cachoeira, Igreja Matriz, Parque Municipal São João.
Santana do Manhuaçu	Pesque e Pague, Pedreira, Cachoeira de Santa Filomena, Cachoeira do Bonifácio/ Rasga Tanga.
Simonésia	Mata do Sossego, Cachoeiras e Montanhas, Fazendas Centenárias de café.
Tombos	Cachoeira de Tombos, Cachoeira e Balneário Grilo, Cachoeira do Ambrósio, Caminho da Luz, Gruta da Pedra Santa, Museu.

Figure 06 – Table Cities that are part of the Circuit of "Pico da Bandeira" and their attractions

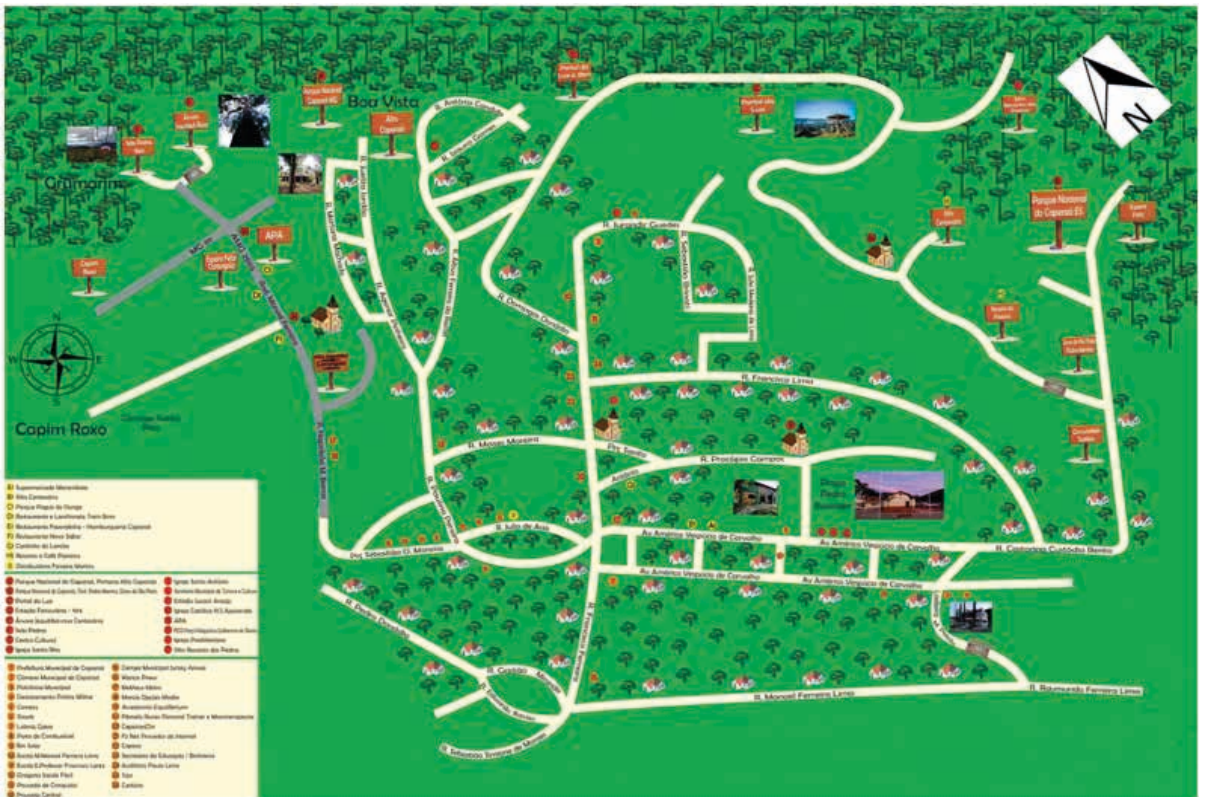SOURCE: Miranda et al (2019). Edited by author (2022)

Figure 07 – Map of the main tourist attractions in Caparaó -MG

SOURCE: Caparaó - MG (2022)

Figure 08: Square: Pedro Bussinger

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 09: Square: Dois Poderes

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

located in the community of Capim Roxo, the Environmental Protection Area (APA), which aims to protect and monitor any living being, whether biotype or abiotic. The APA belongs to the municipal government of Caparaó, and its function is to help in the various means of development and sustainability of the municipality, where ethical values are added to cultural and educational values. Its total area is represented by 5,237.90 m². (Figure 12).

As shown above, these are some highlights within the municipality of Caparaó, which mainly help to tell the city's history and reveal the identity of the place, also counting on the preservation of the region's natural areas. In this context of highlights of the city, a more complete analysis will be addressed regarding the ''Mirante Portal da Lua'' and its state of conservation.

THE CONSERVATION OF "MIRANTE PORTAL DA LUA"

As it was already mentioned, the Mirante Portal Lua, conFigure as one of the main tourist attractions in the city of Caparaó. The site is located approximately 1.2 km from the city center, at an altitude of 1,020 meters (MINAS GERAIS, 2022). The main activities carried out on site are landscape contemplation, cycling, gliding, hiking and outdoor activities. (Figure 13).

Despite being a highlight of the municipality, the site is currently in a poor state of conservation. Through on-site visits and photographic surveys, it was possible to verify some problems that the place has.

First, we can highlight the access to the gazebo. The roads are in a poor state of conservation, making access to the site complex. The aforementioned road also serves as a link to the countryside. It is possible to observe holes in the road, and these are due to the fact that the road is semi-paved with

concrete, and this pavement is worn out, loosening pieces of the floor, causing these large holes. (Figures 14, 15 and 16).

The "Mirante Portal da Lua", as it is the highest point in the city, houses telecommunications antennas (Figure 17) and is used for free flights by the Association of Paragliding Pilots of Serra do Caparaó (APPASC).

In the space, it is possible to observe a vast open space (Figure 18), containing only a few constructions, such as: a gazebo, deactivated bathrooms and a small playground for children.

It is worth mentioning that although the site is open to the public, it is a private property, where the owner also uses it for raising cattle.

The existing buildings cited were analyzed on site. Despite having a great view of the landscape of the region, the space is quite degraded.

It can be seen that the wooden benches are loose and broken (Figure 19), the bandstand guardrails are loose and missing in places (Figures 20, 21 and 22).

The existing bathroom on site is deactivated and unusable due to lack of furniture such as toilet and sink. (Figures 23 and 24)

In the open space, there was garbage scattered on the floor, despite the fact that the place had trash cans, and also the grass was a little high in some spots. (Figures 25 and 26)

This article brought some characteristics about the tourist practice and its aspects. Among these aspects, questions about community tourism were addressed and how it can be a good practice for certain communities and at the same time help in the sustainability of tourism.

The "Mirante Portal da Lua", focus of analysis in this article, despite receiving many visitors and being one of the great attractions of the city of Caparaó, does not have the capacity to have community tourism practices

Figure 10: ''Caixa d'água''	Figure 11: Station 1914	Figure 12: APA do Grumarim
SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)	SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)	SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 13 – Path from the Center of Caparaó – MG to the: Mirante Portal Lua

SOURCE: Google Earth (2022)

17

Figure 14: access road - "Mirante Portal da Lua"

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 15: access road - "Mirante Portal da Lua"

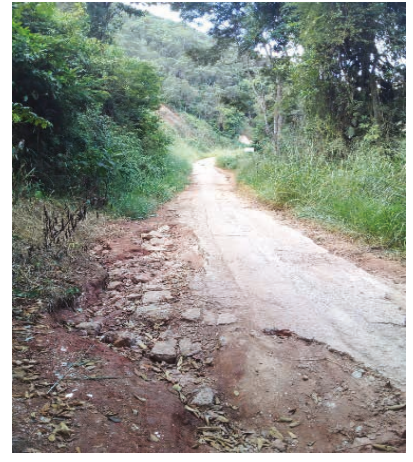SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 16: access road - "Mirante Portal da Lua"

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 17 - Telecommunications antennas.

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 18 – View of "Mirante Portal da Lua"".

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 19 - Broken wooden bench.

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 20 – State of conservation of the gazebo.

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 21 – Railing of the gazebo stairs.

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 22 – State of conservation of the bandstand stairs.

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 23 - Condition of the bathroom – External photo

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 24 - Condition of the bathroom – Internal photo

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 25 – Garbage bags out of the recycle bin

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

Figure 26 – Tall grass in some spots

SOURCE: Author's collection (2022)

there, due to the fact that the place is a private property and despite being open to the public, the interests of the owner will always be above collective interests, thus making tourism not community-based.

CONCLUSION

The tourist activity can generate a multiplier effect and contribute significantly to the local and regional development of the localities that work in favor of tourism. For tourism to work, it is not enough that these places only have attractions, first of all they need to have a whole plan and follow-up throughout the process, provided with all the necessary services and infrastructure.

As it was presented, tourism can be beneficial, but at the same time it can bring great harm to the community. The practice first and foremost deals properly with space and this space can suffer a lot from degradation, caused by what was presented as tourism in its predatory form, which goes against sustainability, thus causing several negative impacts on the natural environment leading to a massive and insufficient level, increasing its carrying capacity, thus depleting it completely leading to catastrophic effects.

In contrast to predatory tourism, we have sustainable tourism that meets the pillars of ecology that cover the socio-cultural, environmental and economic dimensions that together make tourism work in a sustainable way, thus guaranteeing the future of the activity.

Tourism has several aspects, and features were presented about ecotourism and community tourism that can go hand in hand, but that one form does not guarantee that the other works. But both will deal with the natural environment, thus ensuring that tourism is treated in the most sustainable way possible. It is up to the community as a whole to help in this process so that its traditions, customs and culture are not lost, as, above all, tourism is a social process that can positively and/or negatively impact those involved. In social matters, tourism can bring relief to poverty and at the same time it can also be responsible for its spatial redistribution.

In the city of Caparaó - MG, some of its main tourist attractions were analyzed and perhaps the most significant one, the "Mirante Portal da Lua", where there was a more in-depth study about its state of conservation and analysis of the general space. The place is suitable for the practice of ecotourism, where nature and landscapes are the main active agent, but it is not suitable for the practice of community tourism, since ecotourism does not guarantee that it is community and emphasizing that the space is private, being only open to the public.

The "Mirante Portal da Lua" is an important agent when it comes to tourism in Caparaó - MG, but the space is disorganized, which can directly influence the experience and well-being of its visitors.

The correct reorganization and structuring of the space can contribute significantly to being an invitation for visitors, both to get to know the place and the city and thus making them feel the desire to return more often, thus reinforcing tourism in the Circuit of "Pico da Bandeira".

The analyzes in this article can contribute to future research and studies regarding tourism in the Circuit of "Pico da Bandeira" region and to the planning and spatial reorganization of the "Mirante Portal da Lua" located in the city of Caparaó – MG.

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