

A Study on the Ecotourism Cooperation Using the Forest Cultural Heritage in South and North Korea - Focusing on the Geumgangsan Yusan-gi (Geumgang mountain travels)

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I. Purpose and necessity

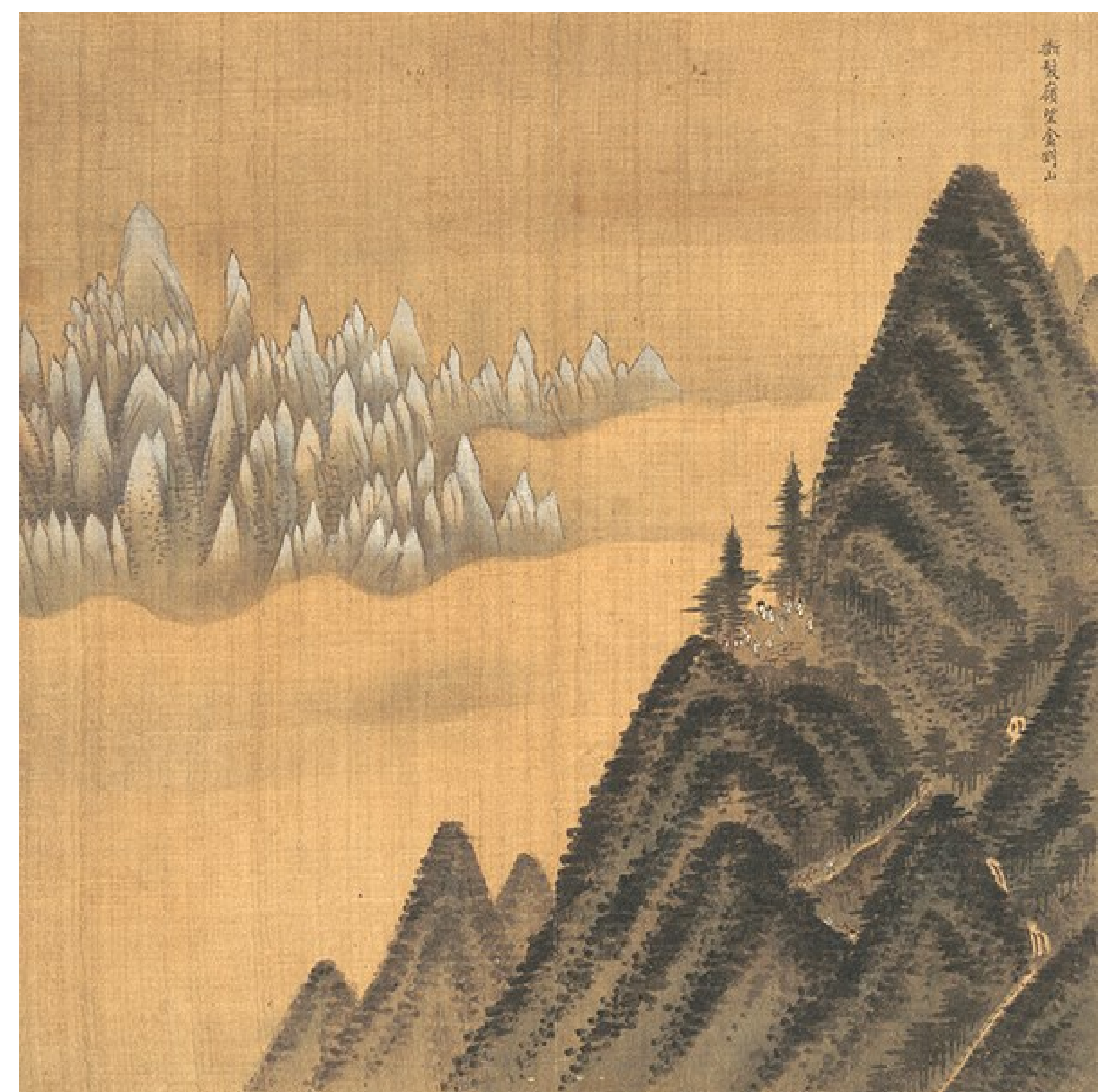
- ✓ Forest restoration and ecological protection in North Korea require a variety of approaches.
- ✓ This research focuses on the Geumgangsan Yusan-gi, a shared forest cultural heritage between the two Koreas, to find ways to collaborate with ecotourism.

II. Research question

- Is ecotourism a novel approach to Inter-Korean forest cooperation?
- What are the advantages and prospects of working together on ecotourism projects centered on the Geumgangsan Yusan-gi?

III. Approach method

- ✓ To achieve the study's goal, North Korean literature data were reviewed and analyzed, and value models for ecotourism cooperation were investigated using content analysis of the Geumgangsan Yusan-gi.



Jeongseon, 1711, travel painting of Mt. Geumgang,
Source : National Museum of Korea

IV. Research results

- ✓ Inter-Korean forest cooperation has primarily focused on planting and management to prevent forest devastation in North Korea.
- ✓ Forest cooperation needs to develop into a scalable project that connects peace and tourism.
- ✓ Ecotourism has the potential to be a new model for inter-Korean forest cooperation.
- First, ecotourism cooperation pursues reciprocity
- Second, ecotourism is a sustainable project different from one-time support.
- Third, ecotourism can be backed by the international community and promoted readily in the face of North Korean sanctions.
- Fourth, the ecotourism cooperation project is in line with the Kim Jong-un administration's current tourism policy.
- Fifth, the inter-Korean collaboration project based on the two Koreas' shared forest cultural legacy is a unique initiative rooted in Korea's history and tradition.

V. Conclusion and suggestion

- ✓ The Geumgangsan Yusan-gi can promote ecotourism cooperation, such as joint inter-Korean investigation and program development and operation.
- ✓ To become a reality rather than a pipe dream, this proposal must overcome some obstacles, including the US and international community sanctions against North Korea.
- ✓ Civil society organizations, such as forests and environmental organizations, play an important role in peace initiatives such as ecotourism and forest cooperation.