

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

CASE = ECO TOURISM / WILDLIFE TOURISM.

Addressing Concerns of OVERTOURISM??

Eco Tourism

What is Eco Tourism?

- ⦿ What are the key principles of Eco Tourism?
- ⦿ What should an Eco Tour / Holiday consist of?
- ⦿ What are the potential issues if Eco Tourism is not appropriately planned and managed?

Eco Tourism

- ⦿ Eco tourism has been growing rapidly over the last few decades.
- ⦿ “Eco tourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well being of the local people” (TIES – The Eco tourism Society, 1991).
- ⦿ *“E co T is environmentally responsible travel visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people” (World Conservation Union 1996).*

Eco Tourism

- Eco T is a development stemming from :
- Tourism

Conservation Tourism



Cultural Tourism



Rural Tourism



★ Eco Tourism (societal / environmental links)

Eco Tourism

Principles of Eco T:

- ⦿ Minimize negative impacts.
- ⦿ Educate the traveller.
- ⦿ Direct revenues to conservation / host community.
- ⦿ Instigate zoning.
- ⦿ Introduce EIAs / Eas / LAC.
- ⦿ Limit tourism development.
- ⦿ Rely on current infrastructure – (safeguarding habitats).

Eco Tourism

- ◉ *Positive Characteristics of an Eco Tour.*
- ◉ Provides info prior to the trip on the environment and culture.
- ◉ Offers guidelines on appropriate dress / actions.
- ◉ Provides info on the local area / customs at the start of the trip.
- ◉ Has in-depth guiding throughout the trip.
- ◉ Seeks to develop the tourist's understanding and awareness of the country / location.
- ◉ Provides opportunities for tourist / host interaction.
- ◉ Ensures all park entry fees / costs are paid in full and distributed appropriately.
- ◉ Offers site sensitive accommodations.

Eco Tourism

- ⦿ However.....while Eco T has the potential to develop positive impacts it does also attract negative impacts which can be as damaging as mass tourism if not appropriately managed.

Eco Tourism

Issues Of Eco Tourism:

- ⦿ Misuse of the word Eco / Green Tourism = “Greenwashing”
- ⦿ Lack of authenticity.
- ⦿ Lack of Responsible development with the nature and host community in mind.
- ⦿ Tourists needs are solely considered (£)
- ⦿ Overpopulating an area – ‘Carry Capacities’ reached.
- ⦿ Local community - exclusion.
- ⦿ Economic leakages.
- ⦿ Intrusive tourism activities.
- ⦿ Habituation / disturbance to wildlife.

Eco Tourism

Potential Negative Effects of tourism in protected areas: CASES – East Africa.

- Overcrowding - Environmental / wildlife stress = Amboseli
- Overdevelopment - Development of rural slums / creating of artificial structures = Keekorok
- Over - Recreational Use - Disturbance (eg; powerboats / fishing / safaris = Lake Turkana / Masai Mara
- Pollution – (eg; Noise + Litter) = Masai Mara.
- Feeding of Animals – Habituation = Samburu
- Vehicle Intrusion – Tourism Vehicle Speeds = Masai Mara.

(Sindiyo +Pertet (1984)