


## Chapter 2

# Ecotourism and Economic Growth: A Bibliometric Analysis and Systematic Literature Review

**Ahsan Riaz**

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8436-3241>  
Government College University,  
Faisalabad, Pakistan


**Behrooz Gharleghi**

Arden University, Berlin, Germany

**Nimra Riaz**

The University of Faisalabad, Pakistan

**Hamad Raza**

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3002-6888>  
Government College University,  
Faisalabad, Pakistan

### ABSTRACT

*There is increasing interest in the intersection of ecotourism and economic growth due to recent attention and potential collaborations. The primary goal of this study is to uncover and emphasize the fundamental discoveries and perspectives present in the current body of literature concerning ecotourism and economic growth. The approach employed for conducting this review adheres to the PRISMA statement, while VOS-Viewer software was utilized for executing bibliometric analysis. A thorough exploration of academic sources, i.e., Scopus, employed varied keyword combinations. This effort led to the identification of 3546 records and subsequent assessment of titles, abstracts, and full texts, including 542 pertinent studies for analysis, covering the period from 2005 to 2023. The findings reveal vital insights into how ecotourism contributes to economic growth, underpinning sustainable development goals. This study captures the essence of a comprehensive investigation of the interplay between ecotourism and economic growth, offering valuable insights for researchers, and policymakers.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The tourism industry has changed considerably over the years. In the past, tourism was thought of as a sector that was only concerned with fulfillment. However, given its significant contributions to the global economy, it has recently become the focus of in-depth investigation, particularly in economics. The ability of tourism to lower unemployment, ease poverty, boost international trade, and promote infrastructure and economic and social development has been acknowledged (Ismail et al., 2021). The industry's noteworthy role in generating jobs and its share of global GDP point to its expanding significance on the world stage. According to the report, even if tourism has favorable economic effects, there are some negative aspects. Researchers have recognized the degradation of the environment as a concerning side effect of tourism growth. Concerns about the industry's socio-cultural effects on host communities have also been raised by its expansion (Baniya et al., 2021). Issues, including the weakening of traditional values and local culture, the loss of authenticity in travel destinations, and the globalization of tourism goods, have been brought up by academics. This background provides the viewer with an in-depth analysis of the effects of tourism on the world economy, society, and environment (Aseres & Sira, 2020).

The need for improved comprehension of how important tourism is becoming as a global economic force led to the requirement for performing this study. A paradigm change in how the world views the tourism business may be seen in the shift from being viewed as unproductive to being one of the most investigated areas in economics. It is essential that policymakers, analysts, and other participants have an in-depth understanding of the causes that contributed to this change in order to make suitable plans for the tourism industry in the years ahead. The current study attempts to assess the relationship between ecotourism and economic growth using the analysis of past data. The research's objective is to determine how ecotourism may encourage growth in the economy without compromising the ecosystem's and the community's long-term health. This study highlights the ability of the ecotourism sector to foster growth and prosperity through analyzing the positive impacts of the sector on creating employment, poverty reduction, and economic growth. Governments and legislators can use the information provided to develop strategies that will efficiently utilize the financial advantages of ecotourism. The purpose of this study is to clarify the negative impacts that increased tourism has on the environment and those who live nearby. Policymakers can use this information to help create sustainable tourism plans which maintain a healthy balance between maintaining social and environmental well-being and promoting economic growth.

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