


Chapter 3

Ecotourism

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ABSTRACT

A growing number of people are becoming aware of the importance of protecting the environment, but ecotourism still presents problems and obstacles to the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem. The primary research topics and potential directions for future investigation must be determined by a review of the ecotourism literature in order to overcome these challenges. Using logical visual aids, the investigation not only identifies the major clusters and their progression in ecotourism investigation, but also expands the frontier of ecotourism research by generating high value citations. Based on descriptive analysis, research gaps show that while most studies address the involvement of NGOs and the government, most concentrate on tourists and the local population. Research on eco-tourists in ecotourism locations and tour guides endorsing tourism endeavors is also disregarded. The study should focus on promoting the economic well-being of the community. Furthermore, social peace will be promoted by addressing underlying community issues through a comparative assessment.

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INTRODUCTION

Ecotourism typically involves engaging with the biotic elements of the natural world. The three main tenets of ecotourism are environmental sustainability, personal development, and socially conscious travel (Allen, M., 2017). Minimal environmental impact on the places visited is the goal of ecotourism. In addition to promoting reverence for the environment, ecotourism aims to generate socio-economic advantages for the local inhabitants. For this reason, ecotourism requires not only the assessment of environmental and cultural aspects but also the encouragement of recycling, energy conservation, water conservation, and the development of local economies. Proponents of social and environmental responsibility are drawn to ecotourism for these reasons. Traveling for ecotourism frequently involves flying, which adds to global warming, much like most long-distance travel does. Furthermore, the general impact of sustainable tourism is detrimental, as, similar to ecotourism, humanitarian goals conceal ruthless, short-term self-interest.

Terminology and History

The term “ecotourism” was coined in the late 20th century by combining the words “eco” and “tourism.” Ecotourism appeared “probably after ecotour” in 1982, whereas ecotour was first mentioned in 1973. a visit to or tour of an area of ecological importance, typically including an educational component; a comparable trip or visit intended to support conservation efforts specifically or with the goal of having as little negative impact on the ecology as possible. Travel to “areas of ecological interest,” which are usually remote and frequently threatened natural settings, primarily for the purpose of observing wildlife and supporting conservation efforts; specifically, access to an endangered environment is managed to minimize negative effects (Abhilasha A., et.al.2022). There are reports that claim the phrases were in use over ten years prior. The Contra The term “ecotourism” has been “ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that foster environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation, and conservation.” The describes ecotourism as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and creates knowledge and understanding through interpretation and education of all involved”.

Many times, ecotourism is mistakenly understood to include any type of nature-based travel. Proud operators and hosts of ecotourism activities believe it can be accomplished by merely setting up locations in unspoiled regions. Critics of this cliched and presumptuous practice contend that the main goal of authentic ecotourism is to make visitors aware of the fragility and beauty of the natural world

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