

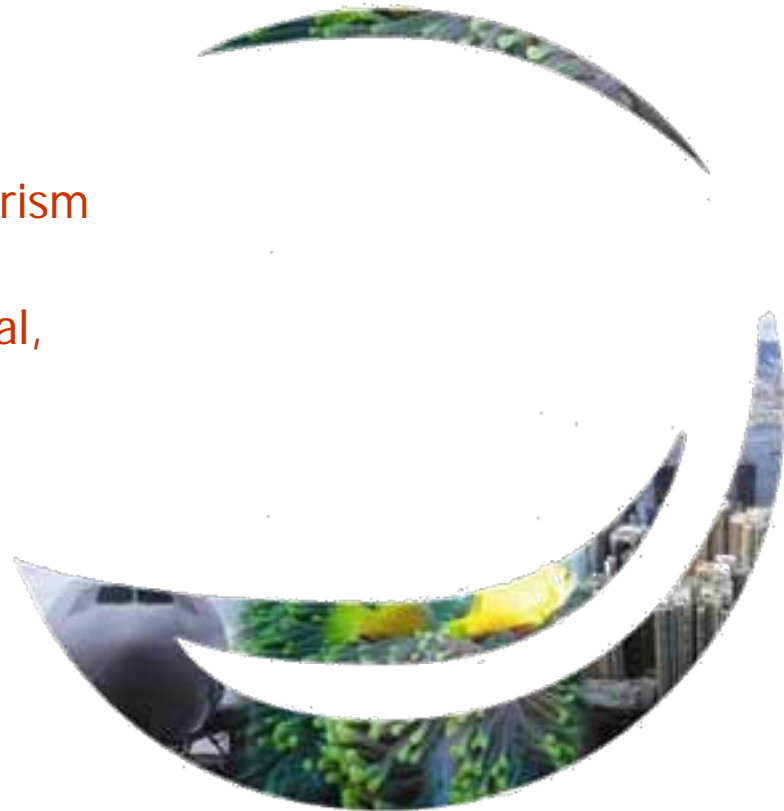
Introduction to Sustainable Tourism

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Session Summary

- Review concept of responsible tourism
- Overview of tourism impacts (social, environmental, economic)



What is sustainable tourism?

Sustainable Tourism meets the needs of the present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing the opportunity for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled, while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems.

World Tourism Organisation

Creating better places to live, better places to visit

Cape Town Declaration 2002

How do we make tourism more sustainable?

- All about social, economic and environmental impact management

Concerned with:

Minimising negative impacts on the environment

- Ensuring that economic benefits are maximised to destinations
- Creating social benefits to local communities

Irresponsible Tourism ?



**What do these photographs illustrate?
How can we prevent these from reoccurring?**

Irresponsible Tourism ?



This is a man-made hotel and marina. What impacts are associated with it historically and now?



This forest was cleared to make way for a golf course. What impacts are associated with it?



The link between tourism and sustainability

- **Tourism's relationship with the natural environment is both undeniable and vital to the success of the industry**
- **Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with this use, within the acceptable limits of change**
- **Responsible tourism seeks to ensure the tourism product and all its stakeholders manage the product effectively to ensure that negative impacts are unable to present themselves**
- **Responsible tourism helps to convey a clear message with regards to the positive actions of the industry and avoid such perils as public criticism and reputational risk**



The Language of sustainable tourism

Eco-tourism

Cultural Tourism

Responsible Tourism

Cape Town Declaration

Local Economic Development

Agro-tourism

Sustainable Tourism

Ethical Tourism

Pro-poor tourism

Community based-tourism

Rebellious tourism

Green Tourism

Agenda 21



SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS



**Traditionally, concerned with impact across
3 areas:**

Environmental

Social

Economic



Environmental Impacts

Environmental impacts tend to be categorised into 3 main areas:

- 1. Impacts on natural resources**
- 2. Impacts caused through pollution**
- 3. Physical impacts**

NOT JUST ABOUT THE CARBON ISSUE



Water is one of the most critical resources available to humankind

According to the WHO – 0.007% of all water on earth is readily available for human consumption

Tourism = generally overuses water as an industry: hotels, swimming pools, golf courses, tourist usage

Tourists tend to use more water when on holiday than at home. In dry hot areas such as the Mediterranean , water scarcity is of particular concern. Tourists there can average up to 440 litres per day water consumption compared to approximately 150 litres per day in the UK.

Golf Tourism = heavily criticised in relation to impacts on water both in terms of consumption and its potential to compromise fresh water supplies:

An average golf course in a tropical country such as Thailand needs 1500kg of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides per year and uses as much water as 60,000 rural villagers

Where water comes from wells, over-pumping can lead to saline intrusion into groundwater.

AND – NOT JUST GOLF COURSES

Impacts on local resources: (Food, Energy, Raw materials)

- **Tourism increases stress of local resources – sometimes destinations have up to 10 times more inhabitant in the high season than out of season**
- **Physical impacts caused through exploitation and extraction of these resources are therefore increased.**

Land Degradation

- **Tourism infrastructure construction and establishment has placed increased pressure on natural land resources (minerals, fossils fuels, fertile soil, forests)**
- **Impacts include clearing of land to make way for tourism infrastructure, deforestation and trampling**

One trekking tourist in Nepal (an area already suffering the effects of deforestation) can use 4-5 kilograms of wood a day, gathered from the forest to be used a fuel wood.

- **Pollution impacts caused through tourism (as per other industries) include: Air emissions, noise, solid waste, release of sewage, oil and chemicals**
- **Particularly ‘HOT TOPIC’ = Carbon issue.**
Transport emissions and emissions from energy production and use are linked to global warming & acid rain amongst other things.
- **Tourism creates huge strains on solid waste disposal methods – particularly where there is a high tourist concentration. Similarly, tourists tend to produce more solid waste than they would at home due to for example:**
 - **Miniature products**
 - **Individual wrapping**
 - **All inclusive and excessive nature**
- **Tourism infrastructure often leads to increased sewage pollution of seas and lakes surrounding tourist areas, damaging flora and fauna but also, threatening animal and human health.**

Physical Impacts

- **Tourism product often depends on areas which are species-rich ecosystems**
- **Physical impacts can include the degradation of such ecosystems. Amongst those most at risk are mangroves, alpine regions, rain forests & coral reefs.**

All of which hold appeal to tourists and therefore, developers.



Social Impacts



Social Impacts

SOCIO-CULTURAL impacts of tourism occur where tourism brings about changes in local value systems, beliefs & behaviours.

Some of these impacts can be described as ambiguous as they are subject to value judgements. Some of them are however, in the main perceived as negative or socially unacceptable

Tourism also has the potential to generate positive impacts as it can serve as a force for peace, foster pride in cultural traditions and avoid urban relocation by creating local jobs

Social Impacts include:

- **COMMODIFICATION**

Where local cultures / traditions become commodities for the tourism product

- **STANDARDIZATION**

Over catering for domestic tastes of tourists leading to cultural degradation and dilution

- **CULTURE CLASHES**

Local level frictions between tourists and local communities

- **SOCIAL STRESSES**

Traffic congestion, noise, queues

- **CRIME GENERATION**

Growth in opportunistic crimes

- **JOB LEVEL FRICTIONS**

Top level / top-paid jobs going to foreigners and not locals.

The End of the Line
for Child Exploitation



Social Impacts

- **Labour Conditions:**

According to studies from the International Labour Organization, many jobs in the tourism sector are characterized by long hours, unstable unemployment, low pay, little training, poor chances for qualification and precarious employment conditions.

- **Child Labour**

Young children are cheap and flexible employees, and child labour in tourism is common in both developing and developed countries, especially in small business activities related to hotels and restaurants, the entertainment sector or the souvenir trade. Children are also more easily subjected to harsh working and employment conditions.

- **Child Prostitution and Sex Tourism**

The United Nations has defined child sex tourism as “tourism organized with the primary purpose of facilitating the effecting of a commercial sexual relationship with a child”. Though tourism is not the cause of sexual exploitation, it provides easy access to it.

Economic Impacts

- **Tourism has the potential to create significant economic benefits on host destinations and for local people**
- **In developing countries, one of the main reasons for seeking to establish a tourism product is the chance of economic improvement**
- ***According to the World Tourism Organization, 698 million people travelled to a foreign country in 2000, spending more US\$ 478 billion. International tourism receipts combined with passenger transport currently total more than US\$ 575 billion - making tourism the world's number one export earner, ahead of automotive products, chemicals, petroleum and food.***
- **However, tourism also has the potential to generate negative economic impacts**