

## Reseñas de publicaciones

### *Environment and tourism.*

Andrew Holden. Routledge, Introductions to Environmental Series, Taylor and Francis Group, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition: 2009.

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This book forms part of a series produced on the 'environment and society' which particularly emphasizes interactions between the environment and tourism. This second edition includes two new chapters: one on climate change and natural disasters; and the other on the relationship between tourism and poverty. Also, it reflects the changes in the relationship between tourism, society and poverty. The complexity in the relationships between environment and tourism is investigated through a holistic approach and multidisciplinary perspective. Cultural, political, economic and social aspects are considered as environmental components, as well as pure physical environmental aspects, whereas sustainability is regarded as an integral component of tourism policy. The book consists of nine chapters explaining complex interactions between tourism and the environment. A summary of each chapter is presented below.

**Chapter 1** introduces definitions and types of tourism and provides a brief analysis of various definitions. Tourism is interpreted as a high amalgam of different components and the tourism system, including a heightened environmental perspective, is shown by a figure. The Chapter discusses the growth of contemporary tourism

through the influence of industrialization and urbanization, and the trends towards a mass participation in tourism, by using examples, given in boxes, from different countries.

The book highlights tourism as a system. Economic opportunities, and changes to the cultural and physical environments of destinations are discussed as the outputs of the tourism system. The Chapter ends with a summary, a suggestion for further reading and relevant websites.

**Chapter 2** starts with the examination of the meaning of the term 'environment'. It questions how humans view the environment and their relationship to it, and how perceptions of landscape changed. It is emphasized that the religious and cultural belief systems do play a significant role in shaping humans' view and relationships. By discussing how tourists perceive and interact with different environments, the Chapter views tourism as a form of 'conspicuous consumption'. It concludes by raising ethical considerations on how the natural environment is used for tourism, on who are the beneficiaries of tourism and on what are the rights of the environment. This Chapter also provides a list of books for further reading.

**Chapter 3** reviews changing perspec-

tives on tourism's relationship with the environment. A table showing the relationship between society, environment and tourism is provided by decades starting from the 1950s. The impacts of tourism upon the natural environment are separated into two broad categories of negative and positive changes. The Chapter discusses the negative and positive impacts with many examples from different countries. In the conclusion part, it points out that tourism can have a particularly beneficial role in regeneration of economically depressed urban environments: the negative impacts may be of significant importance in combating poverty and aiding human development in developing countries. This Chapter ends with a suggested reading list and websites.

**Chapter 4** focuses on the relationship between economics and the natural environment. It touches on the issues such as natural environment -with its services for society-, economic growth, common pool resources and externalities. It discusses problems with tourism growth and externalities. The Hardin's 'Tragedy of Commons' (1968) is referred to underline the conflicts between self interests of humans and the environment. The Chapter questions the measures of society's progress and concludes that tourism can be used to conserve the environment using an economic rationale. At the end of the Chapter, further reading and websites are suggested.

**Chapter 5** explains the meaning of poverty and its links with environmental degradation. The specific 'Millennium' development goals and targets of UNDP are given in Box 5.1. Then the relevance and limitations of tourism to alleviate poverty in developing countries are discussed with examples. The Chapter provides a model to assist our understanding of how tourism can aid the reduction of poverty (Figure 5.2). The Chapter introduces pro-poor tourism as a significant strategic initiative in using tourism to combat poverty and points out problems with the utilization of tourism to alleviate poverty. Consequently, a list for further reading and websites are suggested.

**Chapter 6** sheds light on the origins of sustainable development and meanings of growth/development. It reviews different

perspectives on sustainable development and provides a comparison of the dominant world-view and deep ecology in Box 6.2. Then the concept of sustainability in action is discussed through the contribution of Box 6.3: Guiding principles of sustainable tourism and Box 6.5: Indicators of sustainable tourism development. In the final part, the Chapter introduces three main traditions of sustainable tourism: 'resource-based', 'activity-based' and 'community-based'. The Chapter ends with suggestions for further reading and websites.

**Chapter 7** discusses the role of different stakeholders in the environmental planning and management of tourism. It questions the role of government, the power of legislation to establish protected areas and the responsibilities for establishing carefully regulated and managed tourism. Examples of world heritage sites and land-use planning methods -zoning, carrying capacity analysis- are provided. The role of environmental impact analysis is highlighted together with its deficiencies. Finally, the Chapter explains environmental codes of conduct for tourism industry, tourists and host communities with examples from different countries. Further reading and websites are provided at the end of this Chapter.

**Chapter 8** helps our understanding of the causes and significance of climate change and the influence of climate change on tourism. As in the other chapters, various examples are provided to emphasize implications of climate change. Then tourism's contribution to climate change, natural disasters and tourism and tourism's response to natural disasters are discussed. The Chapter ends with a summary and further reading suggestions.

The final chapter, **Chapter 9**, views the growth of green consumerism, and its effect upon tourism. It focuses on consumer trends and green tourism and then identifies characteristics of alternative tourism. Ecotourism is emphasized with its guiding principles, dimensions and products. In the final part of this chapter, the significant lessons of tourism development in the second half of the twentieth century are pointed out and the increasing demand for nature-based tourism is highlighted as a source of concern and as one of the key

challenges for tourism planners to implement more sustainable tourism in the future.

*Environment and Tourism* is interesting to read and has considerable depth as well as abundance of empirical examples. The issues touched in this book are pertinent to all countries. Empirical evidences referred in the book are helpful to our better understanding of the need for a holistic philosophy of society and environmental attitudes. The addressed tourism development by the concluding note of this book may provide opportunities for the natural environments and societies it interacts with. The book is an important contribution to the literature on the interactions between the environment and tourism and is of particular relevance to those interested in environmental planning, tourism management and tourism destination development.