

UNIT II

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Eco Tourism

- The first formal definition of ecotourism is credited by Ceballos-Lascurain in 1987, who define ecotourism as 'travelling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in these areas'.

Definition

- **The International Ecotourism Society defines ecotourism as,**” responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people and involves interpretation and education” (TIES, 2015). Education is meant to be inclusive of both staff and guests.”

Conservation

- Offering market-linked long-term solutions, ecotourism provides effective economic incentives for conserving and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet



Communities

- By increasing local capacity building and employment opportunities, ecotourism is an effective vehicle for empowering local communities around the world to fight against poverty and to achieve sustainable development.



Interpretation

- With an emphasis on enriching personal experiences and environmental awareness through interpretation, ecotourism promotes greater understanding and appreciation for nature, local society, and culture.



Six key Principles

(Wallace and Pierce)

- A type of use that minimises negative impacts to the environment and to local people;
- The awareness and understanding of an area's natural and cultural systems and the subsequent involvement of visitors in issues affecting those systems;
- The conservation and management of legally protected and other natural areas;
- The early and long- term participation of local people in the decision- making process that determines the kind and amount of tourism that should occur;

Six key Principles

- ◉ Directing economic and other benefits to local people that complement rather than overwhelm or replace traditional practices (farming, fishing, social systems, etc.);
- ◉ The provision of special opportunities for local people and nature tourism employees to utilise and visit natural areas and learn more about the wonders that other visitors come to see.

Principles of Ecotourism

- Deliver memorable interpretative experiences to visitors that help raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climates.
- Design, construct and operate low-impact facilities.
- Recognize the rights and spiritual beliefs of the Indigenous People in your community and work in partnership with them to create empowerment.

Characteristics

- Ecotourism is travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strives to be low impact and (often) small scale. It helps educate the traveller, provides funds for conservation, directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights.
- **Involves travel to the natural destination**
These destinations are often remote areas, whether inhabited or uninhabited, and are usually under some kind of environmental protection at the national, international, communal, or private travel.

Characteristics of Eco-Tourism

- **Minimize Impact**

- Tourism causes damage. Ecotourism strives to minimize the adverse effects of hotels, trails, and other infrastructure by using either recycled or plentifully available local building material, renewable sources of energy, recycling and safe disposal of waste and garbage, and environmentally and culturally sensitive architectural design.

Characteristics of Eco-Tourism

- **Builds environmental awareness.**

Ecotourism means education, for both tourist and residents of nearby communities. Well before the tour begins, tour operators should supply travellers with reading material about the country, environment, and local people, as well as a code of conduct for both the traveller and the industry itself.

Characteristics of Eco-Tourism

- **Provides direct financial benefits for conservation.**

Ecotourism helps raise funds for environmental protection, research, and education through a variety of mechanisms, including park entrance fees; tour company, hotel, airline, and airport taxes. And voluntary contributions.

Characteristics of Eco-Tourism

- **Provides financial benefits and empowerment for local people.**

Ecotourism holds that national parks and other conservation areas will survive only if, there are happy people around the perimeters. The local community must be involved with and receive income and other tangible benefits (potable water, roads, health clinics, etc.) from the conservation area and its tourist facilities.

Characteristics of Eco-Tourism

- ◉ **Respects local culture.**
- ◉ Ecotourism is not only “greener” but also less culturally intrusive and exploitative than conventional tourism. Whereas prostitution, black markets, and drug often are by products of mass tourism

Characteristics of Eco Tourism

<i>The Ecotourism Spectrum</i>	
HARD (Active, Deep)	SOFT (Passive, Shallow)
↓	↓
Strong environmental commitment	Moderate environmental commitment
Enhance sustainability	Steady state sustainability
Specialised trips	Multi-purpose trips
Long trips	Short trips
Small groups	Larger groups
Physically active	Physically passive
Physical challenge	Physical comfort
Few if any services expected	Service expected
Emphasis on personal experience	Emphasis on interpretation
Make own travel arrangements	Rely on travel agents/tour operators

Eco Tourist

- A new group of tourism clients has emerged who are demanding different activities, experiences and approaches to tourism from the industry: ' these are the eco tourists – **people who require environmentally compatible recreational opportunities, where nature rather than humanity predominates** '.



Typology of Eco Tourists

- Lindberg (1991) has considered three different aspects to classify the eco-tourists into four categories on the basis what tourists wish to experience from ecotourism, where they wish to travel, and how they wish to travel.
- ***Hard-core nature tourists:*** *This type of eco-tourists is engaged in carrying out scientific research work as an individual research or a member of groups.*
- The eco-tours are specifically designed for learning and acquiring new knowledge or for removing litters or wastes or similar purposes.

Typology of Eco Tourists

- ***Dedicated Nature Tourists:*** *This group of eco-tourists wishes to take trips mainly to see protected areas to study and understand local natural and cultural history.*
- ***Mainstream Nature Tourists:*** *This category of eco-tourists is primarily interested for visiting the off-the-beaten-track ecotourism sites as an unusual trip to enjoy the nature and its beautiful scenery and landscape.*
- ***Casual Nature Tourists:*** *This type of eco-tourists wishes to visit the beaten-track natural environment sites to experience nature incidentally as a part of a broader trip. The primary interest of casual nature tourists is to make tour in the natural environment without having any specific objective*

Eco Tourism Planning

- Planning provides a broad roadmap for future course of action Planning is however a tool for ensuring equitable distribution and responsible practices with due adherence to the ecological fragility of the destination region
- The objectives of ecotourism plan guide the government in executing them for balanced development. Tourism planning intends to achieve specific or well-defined goals in a definite time period.

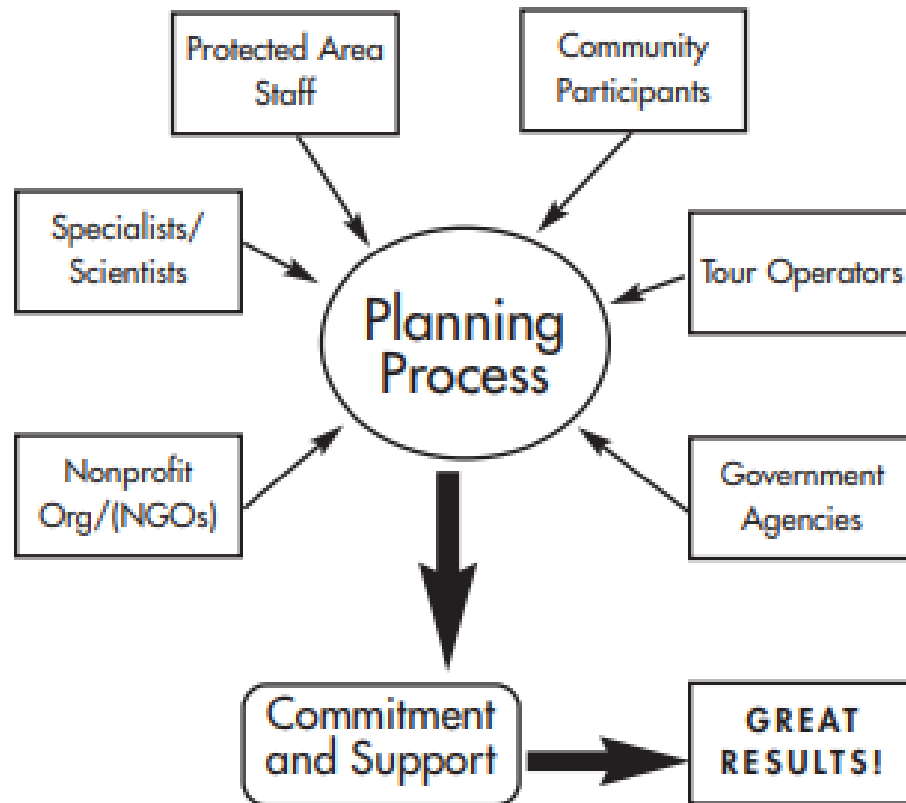
Eco Tourism Planning

- Tourism planning is drawn on the basis of the assessment of the availability of resources and readiness of the country's political system to develop the resources.



Eco Tourism Planning

Figure 1.2 Who Participates in the Planning Process?



Eco Tourism Planning

- Protected areas must be planned as an integral part of the development of the region and country where they are located.
- Management objectives should orient planning at all levels.
- The best planning is carried out by a team of people that has representatives from different disciplines, institutions and points of view.
- Local community organizations, tourism operations and governments should be represented in the planning process team.
- Some of these representatives may also be in a good position to provide lodging, transportation or even some funding for the planning team.

Benefits of Eco Tourism

- Building environmental awareness.
- Providing direct financial benefits for conservation.
- Providing financial benefits and empowerment for local people.
- Respecting local culture.
- Tourism to unspoiled natural resources, with minimal impact on the environment being a primary concern

Benefits of Eco Tourism

- ⦿ minimization of tourism's own environmental impact.
- ⦿ Affordability and lack of waste in the form of luxury.
- ⦿ Local culture, flora, and fauna being the main attractions.
- ⦿ local people, who benefit from this form of tourism economically, and often more than mass tourism.

Activities

○ Angling / Fishing

- The Indian **Himalayas** are an ideal for sport fishing. Anglers from all over the world come to the Indian rivers to try and hook the Himalayan Rainbow trout or the mighty Mahaseer. Good fishing is possible in the north of the country on the Ganga, Kali rivers for mahseer and on the Tirthan, Tons and Sainj rivers for trout. In the east of the country, rivers like the Kameng, Teesta, Brahmaputra etc. provide excellent angling opportunities.



Activities

○ Trekking

Trekking is best way to pass your idle time. India has a good opportunities for the trekkers. The varied topography of India has some very special and unique things to offers you, at every step you put forward.



Activities

- **Bird watching**
- Bird Watching (Birding) trails is a very interesting adventure. Its very delightful to watch birds in different colours, shapes and size. The Indian climate and topography allows birds of different feathers to flock together in the ecosystem of India.
- India itself has numerous birds, which one may not find elsewhere in the world
- Enjoy excursion, peaceful and adventure of exploring and filming some of the rare species of birds like Himalayan Griffon, Lammergeier, Blue Winged Minla, Spotted and Slaty-Backed Forktail, Khalij Pheasant and many more.



Activities

- Besides, many of the dense forests, mountains, and rivers offer an extensive variety of Eco activities like Mountaineering, Rock Climbing, Canoeing, white water Rafting, Trekking, Mountain Biking, Nature Walking, Wildlife Viewing and River Rafting.



Qubec Declaration 2002

- The year 2002 was celebrated as the International Year of Ecotourism and Mountaineering by the United Nations.
- As a constituent organization of the UNs, the UNWTO observed the same year as the International Year of Ecotourism with a theme “Ecotourism- A key to sustainable development”.

Qubec Declaration 2002

- To discuss and deliberate on the problems, prospects and strategies for promoting sustainable ecotourism, about 3,000 delegates from 132 countries gathered in the World Ecotourism Summit between 19 and 22 May, 2002 in Quebec, Canada
- The participants to the World Ecotourism Summit (WES) were fully aware of the limitations of this consultative process to incorporate the inputs of ecotourism stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local and indigenous communities.

Qubec Declaration 2002

- ⦿ Acknowledge tourism as a significant and complex social, economic and environmental phenomenon with its direct and indirect implications on these four aspects.
- ⦿ Consider the growing interest of people in travelling to natural areas to study, enjoy, admire, experience, participate and disseminate richness of natural beauty and its ecosystem.
- ⦿ Emphasize on the benefits of ecotourism like improvement of economic well-being, conservation of nature and culture and sensitization of nature travellers, thus making the functioning of the overall tourism industry more sustainable.

Qubec Declaration 2002

- ◉ Recognize the preservation of cultural diversities like traditional knowledge, uses and practices of local communities associated with natural areas over the centuries.
- ◉ Reiterate the funding for the conservation and management of biodiversity and culturally rich protected areas.
- ◉ Recognize the importance of sustainable tourism as a leading source of revenue for protected areas.
- ◉ Recognize the opportunity for genuine socio-economic development in protected areas as the home to rural people often living in poverty, malnourishment, lack of primary health care, primary education, communication system, and basic facilities

Oslo Declaration 2007

- The Oslo Declarations of Ecotourism have furthered the efforts of private and public organizations at the international and national level to reinforce the commitments towards the practices of principles of sustainable tourism at the ecotourism sites
- The Conference could witness the overwhelming presence of 450 delegates from as many as 70 countries. being an organizer of the GEC07, the TIES put forward several recommendations to further reinforce the global ecotourism community's commitment to improving sustainable practices.

Objectives of GEC07

- ◉ To bring together national and regional ecotourism associations and ecotourism professionals and practitioners from around the world
- ◉ To build commitment to policies and actions to strengthen the unique contribution of ecotourism to conservation and sustainable development.

Recommendations from GEC07

- ◉ Recognize the valuable role that ecotourism plays in local sustainable development
- ◉ Maximize the potential of well-managed ecotourism as a key economic force for the conservation of tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage.
- ◉ Support the viability and performance of ecotourism enterprises and activities through effective marketing, education and training.
- ◉ Address some of the critical issues facing ecotourism in strengthening its sustainability

Thank you

