ecotourism
Impacts, Potentials and Possibilities

Stephen Wearing, John Neil
Ecotourism: Impacts, Potentials and Possibilities?
Ecotourism: Impacts, Potentials and Possibilities?
Second Edition

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Table of Contents

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION ........................................................... ix
INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................... xi

CHAPTER 1 Departure: surveying the ground
   The ecotourism alternative ........................................................... 2
   The nature of ecotourism ............................................................. 6
   Sustainable tourism: conserving nature’s base ......................... 8
   Moving towards a definition ..................................................... 11
   Further reading ......................................................................... 14

CHAPTER 2 If ecotourism is not just an activity but a philosophy, which philosophy
   Human nature ........................................................................... 15
   Exchanging value(s) ................................................................... 17
   Toward ecocentrism: modern roots ........................................... 20
   Whose sustainability? .............................................................. 24
   Ethics and (of) resource management ....................................... 28
   Further reading ......................................................................... 31

CHAPTER 3 Tourism development: government, industry, policy and planning
   Sustainable tourism development ........................................... 36
   Planning and policy frameworks – who is involved and how? ........................................................................ 38
   Government-led planning and policy initiatives ..................... 38
   Integrated policy and planning ................................................. 42
   Industry-led planning and policy .............................................. 46
   Codes of practice ................................................................... 46
   Compliance .............................................................................. 51
   Accreditation ........................................................................... 52
   Cooperative government and industry initiatives:
      community involvement and cooperative approaches ........ 54
   Using policy to achieve best practice .................................... 56
   Zoning .................................................................................... 59
   Further reading ....................................................................... 60
## CHAPTER 4  Ecotourism and protected areas: visitor management for sustainability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tourism and protected areas</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected areas and capitalist realism</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism as a key</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable management techniques</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A short history of protected areas and sustainable management strategies</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying capacity</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS)</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limits of acceptable change (LAC)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor impact management (VIM)</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor activity management process (VAMP)</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism optimisation management model (TOMM)</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing visitor use</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use limitation</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trial system design</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User fees and charges</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further reading</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 5  The role of interpretation in achieving a sustainable future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defining interpretation</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing understanding, attitudes and behaviour</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation techniques</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor centres</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education centres</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displays and exhibits</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications, websites and DVDs</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-guided trails</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guided tours</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles for successful interpretation</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The benefits of interpretation</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional benefits</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational benefits</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational benefits</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation as a conservation management tool</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic benefits</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems limiting interpretation</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further reading</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 6 Linking conservation and communities: community benefits and social costs
Ecotourism and local communities: conflict, compromise or cooperation? ..................................................... 118
Ecotourism and local communities ............................................. 119
The issues and problems .......................................................... 121
Employment ........................................................................... 126
Local planning and development ............................................... 130
Further reading ....................................................................... 135

CHAPTER 7 Ecotourism case studies
Case study 1. trekking on the Kokoda Track, Papua New Guinea: enhancing decision-making capacity for Kokoda communities. ............................................ 137
Introduction ............................................................................ 137
History ................................................................................... 139
Tourism and Papua New Guinea (PNG) ..................................... 140
Trekking and host community involvement................................. 141
Trekking strategy ..................................................................... 142
Planning for trekking development ............................................ 144
Case study 2. porters and the trekking industry of Nepal ........................................................................ 146
Introduction ............................................................................ 146
Nepalese porters ..................................................................... 147
Porter representations in tourism marketing............................... 148
Implications for ecotourism ...................................................... 150
Complexities of development.................................................... 151
Complexities of local economies ............................................... 152
Gaining the community’s perspective ........................................ 153
Discussion and conclusion ....................................................... 154
Case study 3. surfing tourism in Indonesia’s Mentawai Islands by Jess Ponting ............................................. 156
Introduction ............................................................................ 156
The Mentawai Islands and people ............................................. 157
Tourism in the Mentawai Islands ............................................. 158
Surfing tourism ...................................................................... 158
Why are the Mentawai Islands so good for surfing? ..................... 159
Swell ...................................................................................... 160
Wind ...................................................................................... 160
Reef ....................................................................................... 161
Surfing tourism in the Mentawai ............................................... 161
Recreational carrying capacity management .............................. 164
The land issue ........................................................................... 167
Solutions? .................................................................................. 168
Further reading ........................................................................... 169

CHAPTER 8  Marketing ecotourism: meeting and shaping
expectations and demands
Ecotourism’s place in the tourism industry ................................. 171
Marketing ecotourism: supplying demand or demanding supply? . 173
Marketing ecotourism .............................................................. 174
Ecological and social marketing ............................................... 176
The ‘greening’ market .............................................................. 177
Strengths in marketing ecotourism ............................................ 181
Threats in marketing ecotourism ............................................... 181
Opportunities in marketing ecotourism ...................................... 183
Weaknesses in marketing ecotourism ........................................ 184
Further reading ........................................................................... 194

CHAPTER 9  Could the ‘real’ ecotourist please stand up!
Building a profile of the ecotourist ............................................ 196
Tourist motivations .................................................................. 200
Tourism interactions ................................................................ 203
Economic differences .............................................................. 209
Further reading ........................................................................... 211

CHAPTER 10  Ecotourism: a model for sustainable development?
Developing tourism partnerships ............................................... 218
Sustainable models and ecotourism .......................................... 222
Climate change and ecotourism ............................................... 223
Volunteering and ecotourism .................................................... 225
Impacts, potentials and possibilities ......................................... 227
Further reading ........................................................................... 228

GLOSSARY ............................................................................................ 229

A GUIDE TO ECOTOURISM AGENCIES AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM RESOURCES ................................................................. 239
REFERENCES .................................................................................. 241
INDEX ....................................................................................................... 283
Preface to the Second Edition

It has now been 10 years since the first edition of *Ecotourism: Impacts, potentials and possibilities* was published. In that time ecotourism has been transformed both within tourism studies and more widely in the tourism industry. In the academic realm there has been an exponential growth in the publication of books on the topic of ecotourism, and in 2002 the first edition of the *Journal of Ecotourism* was published; 2002 was also proclaimed the International Year of Ecotourism by the United Nations. In his opening address marking the occasion, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) Secretary-General Francesco Frangialli noted the increasing growth of the ecotourism industry, and the prominent role ecotourism will play around the world in securing the future of the tourism industry.

There have also been significant developments in international environmental policy and international political agreement on a range of environmental issues. The most prominent being climate change, which has now become the single biggest issue on the international political agenda. In February 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its findings indicating that there is a 90% chance that global warming is caused by human-induced factors and that it is the biggest environmental catastrophe to ever face the planet. Also in 2007, Al Gore (the former United States Vice President and climate change documentary filmmaker) and Rajendra Prachandra (representing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) were co-recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Confronted with these and other challenges ecotourism has gone from fringe to significant player within the tourism industry. The second edition of *Ecotourism: Impacts, potentials and possibilities* comes at an important time as ecotourism seeks to cement its place within the industry as a viable alternative to more mainstream approaches.

The second edition keeps its original structure with Chapter 7 containing three new major case studies, the first on the Kokoda Track, Papua New Guinea, the second on porters in Nepal and the third by Jess Ponting on surfing tourism in Indonesia’s Mentawai Islands. This edition has added seven new mini case studies (which are found throughout the text) as well as a revision and update of those that were retained from the first edition. Given the breadth and depth of new knowledge published in ecotourism since the first edition, the new edition contains references from over 300 new sources.
Readers will also note an added ‘Further readings’ section at the end of each chapter for those wishing to pursue more in-depth and specific reading on the topics presented. There is also an updated glossary and another new section at the end of the book that provides web links to ecotourism organizations and other sustainable tourism resources.