

Tourism and Development in the Developing World

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Contents

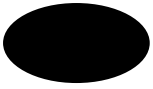
<i>List of plates</i>	viii
<i>List of figures</i>	x
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>List of boxes</i>	xii
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
1 Introduction: tourism in developing countries	1
2 Tourism and sustainable development	30
3 Globalization and tourism	57
4 The tourism planning and development process	80
5 Community response to tourism	115
6 The consumption of tourism	146
7 Assessing the impacts of tourism	174
8 Conclusion: the tourism development dilemma	205
<i>References</i>	233
<i>Index</i>	255



Plates

1.1	Cuba, Varadero: Hotel construction	18
1.2	Tunisia, near Monastir: Hotel construction	18
1.3	Indonesia, Yogyakarta: A woman whose family owns and operates a small hotel returning from a traditional market	20
1.4	China: Tourists on Great Wall of China	21
2.1	South Africa, Dikhololo Resort near Pretoria: Tourists preparing to go on a game-watching outing	41
2.2	Russia, St Petersburg: Code of conduct for tourists visiting the Peter and Paul Fortress	52
3.1	Nassau, Bahamas: Multiple cruise ships in port	68
3.2	Indonesia, Lombok: Sign indicating where a future Holiday Inn will be built	68
4.1	Cuba, Varadero: Beach resort	100
4.2	South Africa, Sun City Resort: Tourists swimming at the man-made beach at the resort	100
4.3	Tunisia, Monastir: Luxury beach resort, Amir Palace Hotel	101
4.4	Indonesia, Lombok: Fisherman-turned-supplier purchases fish in a local fish market for an international hotel	103
4.5	Indonesia, Lombok: Small local fruit and vegetable supplier makes a delivery to the Sheraton Hotel in Senggigi Beach	104
4.6	Thailand, Bangkok: Tourists visiting the Grand Palace Complex	107
4.7	Tunisia, El Jem: Roman Colosseum	109
5.1	Argentina, Estancia Santa Susana, near Buenos Aires: Tour guide at a historic ranch presents traditional implements	118

5.2	Indonesia, village of Bangunkerto: The site of community-based agritourism project	125
5.3	Cuba, La Moka Ecolodge	127
5.4	Cuba, Las Terrazas: Located next to La Moka Ecolodge, the community of Las Terrazas is home to some of the people who work in the resort	127
5.5	South Africa, Township near Pretoria: Tourists visit a Township	140
5.6	Indonesia, Lombok: Young women present traditional Sasak weaving	143
6.1	Tunisia, near Matmata: These camels are used to provide rides to tourists	158
6.2	Cuba, Havana: Horse and buggy rides for tourists can be contrasted with the local citizens' form of transportation	160
6.3	Nassau, Bahamas: Tourists walk through the Prince George Wharf area	161
6.4	South Africa, near Pretoria: Shops selling souvenirs to tourists	171
7.1	Indonesia, Bali: Local entrepreneurs are making dyed textiles	184
7.2	Argentina, Iguazu Falls: A World Heritage Site	186
7.3	Argentina, Estancia Santa Susana, near Buenos Aires: Cultural performance at historic ranch	194
7.4	Indonesia, Bali: Traditional cultural ceremonies	197
8.1	Indonesia, Lombok: Local village very close to main tourist resort area	212
8.2	Indonesia, Kuta Beach Bali: Traditional Balinese ceremony on the beach	227



Figures

1.1	Influences on tourism's development	3
4.1	The tourism development process	83
6.1	The tourism demand process	149
6.2	Cohen's typology of tourists (1972)	151
6.3	A code of ethics for tourists	166
7.1	Impacts of tourism: a framework for analysis	177
7.2	Tourist experience of destination environment	178
7.3	Factors that influence the economic impacts of tourism	181
7.4	The tourism multiplier process	182
7.5	A model for assessing tourism's physical impacts	188
7.6	Community responses to tourism impacts	199
7.7	Baseline issues and indicators for sustainable tourism development	202
8.1	The tourism development dilemma framework	226



Tables

1.1	Worldwide export earnings, 2002	2
1.2	Per capita GNI country classifications	8
1.3	Standard of living indicators, by total numbers (millions), 2000	10
1.4	The evolution of development theory	12
1.5	International tourism arrivals and receipts growth rates, 1950–2000	17
1.6	International tourist arrivals and receipts, 1950–2002	22
1.7	World's top ten international tourism destinations, 2003	22
1.8	World's top ten international tourism earners, 2003	23
1.9	World's top ten international tourism generators by expenditure	23
1.10	Percentage share of international tourist arrivals by region, 1960–2003	23
2.1	Sustainable development: principles and objectives	36
2.2	Characteristics of mass vs alternative tourism	39
2.3	Sustainable tourism development: a summary of principles	43
2.4	Agenda for sustainable tourism	51
3.1	Members of Star Alliance, Oneworld and Sky Team, 2006	66
3.2	Locations of Hard Rock Cafés in developing and transitional countries	69
4.1	Examples of tourism plans in Indonesia	94
5.1	Concerns over tourism interaction in developing countries and implications for communities	119
7.1	Travel and tourism economy as percentage of total GDP	185
8.1	Spheres of environmental activity and questions for sustainable tourism development	214



Boxes

1.1	The UN Millennium Project	7
1.2	Tourism and development in Kyrgyzstan	16
2.1	Tourism and sustainable development in Bhutan	37
2.2	The Damaraland Camp, Namibia	40
2.3	Tourism and development in The Gambia	46
3.1	Globalization and Cancún, Mexico	65
3.2	Globalization and the cruise ship industry	67
4.1	Fonatur and tourism development in Mexico	87
4.2	The UN World Tourism Organization and tourism planning consultants	90
5.1	Community-based ecotourism in Cuba	126
5.2	Pro-poor tourism in South Africa	139
6.1	All-inclusive resorts – the case of Sandals, Jamaica	153
6.2	Tourism development in Dubai	162
6.3	Ecotourists in Belize	165
7.1	Impacts of trekking in the Nepalese Himalaya	190
7.2	The commoditization of dance masks, Sri Lanka	196
8.1	Tourism development and human rights	208



Preface

Tourism is increasingly viewed as an attractive development option for many parts of the developing world. In some developing nations, it may in fact be the only viable means of stimulating development. However, as developing countries opt into this industry they face what is referred to in this book as a tourism–development dilemma.

Developing nations are seeking the potential benefits of tourism, such as increased income, foreign exchange, employment and economic diversification; nevertheless, these developmental benefits may in fact fail to materialize. In entering this global competitive industry, developing countries may find tourism benefits only the local élite or multinational corporations, or is achieved at significant economic, social or environmental costs. The challenge in this dilemma is then accepting or managing the negative outcomes of the tourism–development process for the potential long-term benefits offered by tourism.

The purpose of this book is to explore the nature of the tourism–development dilemma by investigating the challenges and opportunities facing developing countries pursuing tourism as a development option. The book begins with an examination of the nature of developing countries and why they are attracted to such a volatile industry as a preferred development tool. It is important to consider to what extent tourism can contribute to overall development broadly defined, and so Chapter 1 also examines the evolution of developmental thought whereby development is no longer tied solely to economic criteria. The second chapter examines the nature of sustainable development and its relationship to tourism, which has become a much-contested concept focusing not only on the physical environment but also on the economic, social and cultural environment. This chapter sets the stage for the remainder of the text by raising key issues, including the influence of globalization on tourism (Chapter 3), the tourism planning and development process (Chapter 4), community responses to tourism (Chapter 5), consumption of tourism (Chapter 6), and an analysis of tourism impacts (Chapter 7). The concluding chapter draws together the main issues in the book, presenting a

tourism–development dilemma framework that illustrates the complexity of often-interconnected forces at work in using tourism as a development tool. While it is argued that there is a development imperative and a sustainable development imperative, it is important to recognize the challenges of implementing the ideals of sustainability in the context of the realities in the tourism industry in developing countries.

The focus of the book is to present an introductory-level text that explores the relationship between tourism and development, and it is designed in part to be a successor to John Lea's *Tourism and Development in the Third World* (1988), originally published in the Routledge Introductions to Development series.



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The cover photo (beach vendor in Cuba) is by Richard Sharpley and other photos are by David J. Telfer unless otherwise indicated.