Sustainable Tourism
The Sustainable World

Aims and Objectives

Sustainability is a key concept of 21st century planning in that it broadly determines the ability of the current generation to use resources and live a lifestyle without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Sustainability affects our environment, economics, security, resources, health, economics, transport and information decisions strategy. It also encompasses decision making, from the highest administrative office, to the basic community level. It is planned that this Book Series will cover many of these aspects across a range of topical fields for the greater appreciation and understanding of all those involved in researching or implementing sustainability projects in their field of work.

Topics

Data Analysis
Data Mining Methodologies
Risk Management
Brownfield Development
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Public Health Issues
Environmental and Urban Monitoring
Waste Management
Energy Use and Conservation
Institutional, Legal and Economic Issues
Education
Visual Impact

Simulation Systems
Forecasting
Infrastructure and Maintenance
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Environment Pollution and Control
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Transport, Traffic and Integration
City, Urban and Industrial Planning
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Sustainable Tourism 2004

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Sustainable Tourism

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Preface

The use of energy not related to feeding and the capacity to transport people and resources over long distances are probably the two essential ecological characteristics that differentiate humans from the remaining biological communities on the planet. Among these characteristics, R. Margalef also includes the use of money and the pollution of the planet.

All of this can be seen in a new phenomenon in the history of humanity – tourism. Indeed, this is an activity typical of Homo sapiens. Tourism involves more than anything else the transport of people, but the concentration of these in determined regions and areas requires the transport of considerable amounts of material and energy for their use in these places. This is a lucrative activity and frequently leads to noteworthy changes in the structure of the natural and cultural landscape, as well as a formidable socioeconomic evolution, both in the tourist resorts and, in general, in the society of the State bent on the development of tourism.

Tourism has become tremendously developed in determined regions of the world, and no place is any longer free from curious travelers. Environmental degradation is inexorably accompanied by certain mass manifestations of this activity. The changes that have taken place in many coastal and mountain landscapes, both linked to a high level of seasonal demand, are very evident and serious. At the same time, cultural tourism, until recently practiced by a small number of people, has become more and more established, and involves certain peculiar requirements related to environmental quality. History, reflected in monuments and diverse human works, the traditional agricultural landscape, wildlife and the private life itself of villages and cities have become clear tourist attractions.

In this context, it must be recognized that tourism will not constitute a sustainable activity if we do not carefully study and formalize the demands of a human population that is traveling more and more, along with the characteristics of the sites which attract tourists for multiple reasons.

It is not only the environmental quality of the tourist sites, with a rising number of visitors exercising greater pressure, that is at stake. The cultural landscapes are also being affected, the people who created and maintained them having moved their activities to the tourist sites, attracted by the easy money related to the services required by tourism. The cultural diversity of large areas is therefore related to tourism and sustainability. The organizers of this Conference have therefore kept in mind these problems, gathering together in Segovia a heterogeneous
group of experts, attracted by tourism, the common denominator, and motivated by
the great variety of circumstances converging therein. The Conference deals with
themes which link tourism to the cultural landscape, the protected natural areas,
transport, and the economic and social infrastructures and conditioning factors of
tourism.

This book is an updated sample of this convergence of interests, which not only
involves the professionals, but rather the whole of society.
The Editors,
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