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TOURISM ASSISTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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CONTENTS

- 9 Impacts and Opportunities: Resident's Views on Sustainable Development of Tourism in Regional Queensland, Australia
Evonne MILLER, Kimberly Van MEGEN, Laurie BUYS
- 29 Sustainable Development - Concept and Present Trend in the Context of the Globalization of Tourism and of Romania's Accession in the European Union
Nicolae CIANGĂ, Cristina PĂTRAȘCU
- 44 Ecotourism Potential and Ecotour Offer in Russia
Alexander DROZDOV, Larisa BASANETS
- 57 Endangered Areas in Central America and Implications for Sustainable Tourism Development
Joseph LEMA, Jerome AGRUSA, Tadeja Jere LAZANSKI, Emil JUVAN, Miha LESJAK
- 65 The Use of Ecological Modernization Theory for the Greening of the Tourism Industry
Iulia Carmen TERRYN
- 83 Tourism and Travel Industry in Romania: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategic Development Directions
Monica Paula RAȚIU, Elena Alina OPRESCU, Lucian BOTEA
- 95 Coping with the Effects of Global Economic Recession on Tourism Industry in Tanzania: Are We Prepared?
Victor A RUNYORO, Jafari R KIDEGHESHO
- 111 Competitiveness and Complex Impact Indicators in the Hungarian Tourism Regions
Géza TÓTH, Lóránt DÁVID
- 123 Exploring Infrastructure Criticalities for the Development of Bundelkhand Region as a Ecotourism Destination
Ritu SOOD
- 143 Development of Ecotourism in the Region of the Aggtelek-Slovak Karst Mountain and the Tokaj-Eperjes Mountain
Bulcsu REMENYIK
- 153 Causality between Economic Growth and Tourism Expansion: Empirical Evidence from some Colombian Regions
Juan Gabriel BRIDA, Pablo Daniel MONTERUBBIANESI
- 165 Economic Growth and Tourism in the Post Oil Omani Economy: a Strategic Analysis
Rakesh BELWAL, Shweta BELWAL
- 189 Tourism Impacts on Local Communities around Coastal Zones: Issues of Sustainable Development
Roselyne N. OKECH

**IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:
RESIDENT'S VIEWS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN
REGIONAL QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

Evonne MILLER^{*} , Kimberly VAN MEGEN^{*} , Laurie BUYS^{*}

Abstract. *Tourism development is a priority for rural and regional areas of Australia. The challenge is how to develop the tourism industry in a sustainable manner. As part of a larger project investigating community perceptions of opportunities, strategies and challenges in regional sustainable development, this article explores participant's views and opinions of tourism development. Through purposive sampling, 28 local community leaders and residents in the Darling Downs region in Queensland, Australia, participated in four semi-structured focus groups. This paper focuses on two of these focus groups, where tourism was a critical issue. Participants were generally positive about the tourism industry and its impacts on their community, although they expressed several triple bottom line concerns about economic, environmental and social issues. Four key themes emerged: appropriate land use management, limited resources and ageing/insufficient infrastructure, preservation of community heritage and lifestyle, and regional conflict. Residents supported sustainable tourism development and wanted to be more actively involved in decision-making, demanding greater transparency – and true engagement - from local government.*

Key words: *Sustainable Tourism, Rural Community Perceptions, Triple Bottom Line, Queensland (Australia)*

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - CONCEPT AND PRESENT TREND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBALIZATION OF TOURISM AND OF ROMANIA'S ACCESSION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

*Nicolae CIANGĂ **, Cristina PĂTRAȘCU **

Abstract. *The concept of sustainable development is rather new and still at a theoretical level in Romania. It has few or unfinished examples in practice, even though in other regions of the world the concept is put in practice and even outdated. From the very beginning we should question the whole idea of development, as sustainable development seems to be a model for evolution, yet it has also opponents and there are many that do not believe anymore in a restoration of environmental balances. Therefore, the present study aims to: analyze the birth and the evolution of the concept of "sustainable development", with its major stages, from an evolutionary point of view, as well as from the point of view of its significance and its applicability. Then, sustainable tourism is analyzed. It represents a more recent concept that becomes more and more of a guiding principle and a concrete approach for tourism, in general. This trend experienced and it is still experiencing a continuous ascending trajectory, yet if the "sustainability" feature is not fully taken upon, it can end up causing irreversible consequences. Then, the study deals with tourism in Romania, by considering and analyzing various types of tourism that are not, were, are, or could become sustainable. This last issue the paper deals with is of most interest as it only needs a conversion towards another type of development that involves three essential pillars: society, environment and economy.*

Key words: *Sustainable Development, Sustainable Tourism, Spas, Rural Tourism, Romania.*

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ECOTOURISM POTENTIAL AND ECOTOUR OFFER IN RUSSIA

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Abstract. *Ecotourism has developed fairly spontaneously and irregularly in Russia. Some territories experience heavy pressure, while others, quite interesting as well, are not visited by tourists. An evaluation of ecotourism development potential was accomplished for every administrative region of the Russian Federation. Adjacent regions with similar ecotourism potential were combined into ecotourism regions. Thirty ecotourism regions can be delineated on the territory of Russia. They are shown on a map of 1:30 M scale. The factors that specify the separation of these regions are described. The ecotourism potential of the regions is compared with the offer of eco tours on the Internet. Coincidence and convergence are marked out and construed; recommendations are made on further development of ecotourism.*

Key words: *Ecotourism Resources, Regionalization, Ecotours, Russia*

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ENDANGERED AREAS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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*Emil JUVAN****, *Miha LESJAK****

Abstract. *This paper examines the benefits of ecotourism in the Maya Rain Forest of Central America to promote sustainable tourism development. Central America is currently in the primary stages of tourism development and has an abundance of natural resources and cultural history which is advantageous to an ecotourism marketing position. For ecotourism to be successful in the Maya Rain Forest, two significant factors need to be implemented. The first is the use of the Bottom-Up Approach when involving the local residents, so they will have input on how the area is to be presented to the tourists. The second factor is to have those who visit the area pay a fee that is designated for the local population. By having both of these factors implemented and demonstrating the benefits of these factors to the local population, the area has the potential to gain the full support of the local population, which is critical to the sustainability of the Maya Rain Forest as an ecotourism destination.*

Key words: *Ecotourism, Maya Rain Forest, Tourism Development, Sustainability, Central America*

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THE USE OF ECOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION THEORY FOR THE GREENING OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

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Abstract. *The article proposes the Ecological Modernization Theory (EMT) as a paradigm for environmental policy making within the tourism destinations in order to improve their sustainability, competitiveness and commercial success. The use of the Ecological Modernization Theory for the „greening of tourism” is an attempt to get rid of flaws and difficulties in implementing the concept of “sustainable development”. While the ecological modernization within the tourism industry makes necessary the introduction of new technologies to bring about economic and environmental benefits, the state needs new policy instruments and approaches to deal with these new paths. Policy making process and ecological restructuring of the tourism sector is analyzed using as a tool the network analysis.*

Key words: *Environmental Governance, Sustainable Tourism, Ecological Modernization, Environmental-oriented Innovation, Policy Networks, Romania.*

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TOURISM AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY IN ROMANIA: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTIONS

Monica Paula RAȚIU^{}, Elena Alina OPRESCU^{*}, Lucian BOTEĂ^{*}*

Abstract. *This paper analyzes the challenges, the opportunities and strategic development directions used in Romania in order to improve its negative image and to attract tourists, in a period when all the countries have to face the economic crisis. Romania is one the countries with a high tourism potential, but currently undervalued. However, Romanian tourism records changes every year, mostly due to the factors having a direct influence on tourism; currently the most important factor is represented by Romania's membership to the European Union. This requires the fulfillment of compliance rules and mandatory performance criteria of the Romanian tourism, as part of the European tourism market. This paper aims to build an X-ray of tourism and travel industry in Romania, in terms of competitiveness. Equally we intend to identify the key challenges the tourism industry in Romania has to face and the main strategic orientations in this field, by fulfilling the requirements of sustainable development.*

Key words: *Tourism, Strategy, Competitiveness, Competitiveness Indicators, Romania*

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COPING WITH THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECESSION ON TOURISM INDUSTRY IN TANZANIA: ARE WE PREPARED?

Victor A RUNYORO^{*}, Jafari R KIDEGHESHO^{}**

Abstract. *Tourism is increasingly featuring as one of the giant sectors contributing to economic prosperity of many countries. However, the sector is very fragile as any external or internal shock may subject it to crumple. The sector is prone to socio-economic, political, ecological and climatic changes. The developing countries where domestic tourism is less developed are more vulnerable to these shocks. Tanzania is not an exception of this scenario. The outcome of the global financial meltdown ascertains that Tanzania largely depends upon international tourism-derived revenues for the maintenance of her tourist attractions and that the effect of economic recession on the growth of the industry undermines the financial basis of natural resources conservation measures. This leads to the conclusion that Tanzania was not ready to overcome this external event. We therefore recommend that sustainable financing mechanisms like the establishment of "Conservation Trust Funds" be established in order to guarantee the continued maintenance of the country's tourist attractions.*

Key words: *Global Economic Recession, Tourism, Wildlife, Protected Areas, Tanzania*

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COMPETITIVENESS AND COMPLEX IMPACT INDICATORS IN THE HUNGARIAN TOURISM REGIONS

Géza TÓTH, Lóránt DÁVID**

Abstract. *In this paper the authors intend to study tourism competitiveness and its components in the tourism regions of Hungary. The reason for this interest emerges from both the increasing economic, social and cultural importance of the tourist sector and the increasing competition on the tourist market. The competitiveness of the Hungarian counties is analyzed in a multi-modal approach and, finally, the penetration of the tourism regions by applying the Tourism Penetration Index will be discussed. Tourism competitiveness was analyzed from two approaches and finally the tourism penetration of each region was studied by applying the tourism penetration index. We compared the Hungarian tourism regions and tried to analyze its competitiveness and complex impact indicators as well. The results of the calculations were intended to be represented by a map well demonstrating both the ESPON classification and the spatial disparities in Hungary and also taking the original breakpoints of the data series into account. It can be concluded that from the point of view of tourism penetration, the Southern Great Plain Region indicates the lowest value while the Lake Balaton Region is the most affected.*

Key words: *Tourism Region, Competitiveness, Complex Impact Indicator, Tourism Penetration Index, Hungary.*

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EXPLORING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICALITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUNDELKHAND REGION AS A ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

*Ritu SOOD**

Abstract. *The paper is focused on identifying a set of infrastructure needed for successful ecotourism operations, in context to existing and potential ecotourism activities in Bundelkhand Region of India. A relatively small study area was selected to keep the focus of the paper local and because of the time and budget constraints. explore .The research finds that Bundelkhand in India is certainly worth a visit today, for it has much to offer – magnificent monuments, ancient religious sites, little hill retreats-hidden treasures waiting to be explored – ideal for a unique of discovery and fun. But due to under utilization of resources and a problem of unplanned cities developed, earlier and lack of physical infrastructure it is lagging behind in full fledged tourism industry. The research has a significance because without assessing present infrastructure and improving them no development of ecotourism can be done .The role of involvement of local community and public private participation comes only once destination of ecotourism are identified and readily infrastructure is available. The research is an attempt to study the existing infrastructure and existing eco tourism destinations along with identifying how the basic infrastructure can be improved and new eco tourism destinations can be created The results is having potential applicability to other worldwide eco tourism regions also having similar types of natural resources (e.g., forest resources, rivers) and nature-based activities, with constraints of resources like financial, environmental etc.*

Key Words: *Bundelkhand (India), Ecotourism, Infrastructure, Sustainable Tourism Tourism Destinations, SWOT Analysis.*

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DEVELOPMENT OF ECOTOURISM IN THE REGION OF THE AGGTELEK-SLOVAK KARST MOUNTAIN AND THE TOKAJ-EPERJES MOUNTAIN

*Bulcsu REMENYIK**

Abstract: *Ecotourism has great importance in the territories mentioned above, which belong to the World Heritage. In the cross-border development programmes regarding ecotourism plays an outstanding role the system of regional national parks (Aggteleki and Slovensko Karst National Parks). It shall get a special role since the WTO designated the year 2002 as the year of ecotourism. The survey deals with a special territory of the Hungarian-Slovak borders, because the region has varying natural resources. The methods of our analysis were on the one hand fieldworks on the other hand questionnaires among local authorities. At first were searched the potentials (natural and cultural) of the area then were determined the possibilities of ecotourism. It may be felt from the later drafted brief outline that the basic preconditions of tourism are given for Aggtelek-Slovak Karst Mountain and the Tokaj-Eperjes Mountain.*

Key words: *Ecotourism, Environmental Impacts, Tokaj-Eperjes Mountain, Aggtelek-Slovak Karst Mountain*

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CAUSALITY BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TOURISM EXPANSION: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM SOME COLOMBIAN REGIONS*

Juan Gabriel BRIDA, Pablo Daniel MONTERUBBIANESI***

Abstract: *This paper analyses the effects in the long-run between tourism and the economic growth in the regions of Antioquia, Bolivar, Bogotá, Magdalena and San Andrés and Providencia of Colombia. Using annual data from 1990 to 2005, the study uses cointegration analysis to consider the existence of Vector Error Correction Model (VEC) among real per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP), tourism expenditures and real exchange rates. We show that the causality relationship is positive and unidirectional for all the regions but the values of elasticity are considerable different. Finally, we compare our study with similar papers also investigating the tourism-led growth hypothesis.*

Key words: *Economic Growth; Tourism Earnings; Johansen Cointegration Test; Elasticity; Colombia*

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ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TOURISM IN THE POST OIL OMANI ECONOMY: A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Rakesh BELWAL Shweta BELWAL**

Abstract. Oil and natural gas has been the major engine of economic growth in Oman. Over dependence and emphasis on oil has somehow crippled the development of other sectors in the past. At such a time when Oman realizes the depletion of its natural resources to certain extent and the presence of all pervasive recession -causing the lowest ever crude oil price, pondering on alternatives is an expected move. While thinking on the probable alternatives that could fuel the economic growth in the post- oil-Omani- economy, Tourism emerges as one of the most attractive alternatives on which Oman could rest. Following a desk research approach this study reviews secondary data which are then subjected to three major tools of strategic analysis viz. PESTEL framework, Porter's Diamond Model, and SWOT. The analysis reveals that Oman is at cross roads where there is a need to look for areas which could contribute to her economic development and growth. Tourism and real estate are probable sectors which can help mitigating the problem. There is a need for a strong private sector, skilled human resources, and competencies to keep abreast with the technological progress. To capitalize upon tourism, Oman needs to build a strong repository of product/service offers that appeal to both foreign and domestic tourists. Among the major strengths are Oman's political stability and leverage created by Oil sector. Lowly developed non-oil sectors; absence of a strong private sector; and scanty tourism infrastructure are the major weaknesses. The opportunities such as increasing potential global visitors; job opportunities for locals; and a chance to establish tourism as the main driver of growth and development in post-oil-Omani-economy are too be cashed in view of the most potential threats viz. competition, diminishing oil revenues, and global recession. Success will depend upon how Oman ventures amid the forces of external and internal environment.

Key words: Tourism, Policy, Strategy, Analysis, Porter's Diamond, Oman

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TOURISM IMPACTS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES AROUND COASTAL ZONES: ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract. *Tourism plays an important role in the economies of the world. In recent years, the impacts of tourism including other alternative forms and their potential to enhance the lives of impoverished communities have been analyzed. In many parts of Africa, the number of local communities seeking involvement in tourism ventures has soared in the past decade. The host communities' important role in tourism management must be recognized, and their participation in decision-making must be ensured at all levels. A cogent concern, from a development perspective, is that many such ventures have progressed with scant regard for the changes they may provoke in gender roles, gender relations and access to resources. It is also believed that a focus on sustainability ensures a concern with examining not only the pros of but also what is going wrong, has gone wrong, and can go wrong as a result of selected development paths. Such a focus reminds us to monitor and evaluate the impacts of development policy on the resource base that will sustain future well-being, not necessarily in hundreds of years in the future, but in the next few decades. This paper highlights tourism impacts on host communities in two coastal zones in Kenya and Zanzibar from a cultural heritage point of view and concerns regarding sustainable development in the two areas.*

Key words: *Impacts, Lamu (Island), Local Communities, Tourism, Coastal Areas, Zanzibar (Island)*

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Presentation

Journal of Tourism Challenges and Trends (JTCT) aims at providing both professionals and academics with an overview of theories and practices in the tourism industry, while focusing on challenges and trends currently manifest throughout the world. Equal interest and attention will be given to both established tourism destinations and to areas only now making a name for themselves on the market.

JTCT is a bi-annual publication of the Romanian-American Association of Project Managers for Education and Research. The Journal accepts for peer revision both papers presented at international events which have not been yet submitted for publishing, and original article proposals submitted directly to the editorial board.

Subject coverage

Topics suitable for JTCT cover a wide range of issues, among which but not exhaustively, the following:

- In the field of tourism studies: ecotourism; rural tourism and agro-tourism, cultural tourism, event and sports tourism, mountain tourism, etc.
- In related or cross-disciplinary areas: sustainable development and globalization; human resource management and training; PR, advertising and branding in tourism; innovation and technological advances in the hospitality industry, etc.
- Case studies and best practices, specific national policies and legislation, analysis of regional and resort development.

Evaluation and acceptance

- Sound academic grounding: use of consistent and appropriate methodology, based on the latest sources and published research in the respective fields;
- Originality and innovation: innovative and original approaches are favoured in a comprehensive perspective encompassing imitation, assimilation, experimentation, continuous improvement and research-based activities;
- Correlation with current practices in the field: articles should tackle urgent and up-to-date issues and challenges currently manifest in the respective fields, as well as identify relevant trends and developments in this respect;
- Practical focus and bearing: submissions are encouraged to be practice-oriented and be applicable in the respective fields, they should be both descriptive and have a relevance and scope beyond the specific situations under analysis;
- Relevance to the topic of the issue: each call for papers shall comprise a new topic for every issue, as well as the submission guidelines to be observed.

Application procedure

Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. All papers are refereed through a peer review process. Authors are kindly invited to send their papers to submission@journaltct.ro, pending revision and refereeing from board members. For any additional information you may contact the board at e-mail addresses specific in each call for papers.

For further details check our website: www.JournalTCT.ro.