



In search of desired activities to demonstrate trajectory to achieve ‘true’ ecotourism in Park-based tourism

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- ❑ Trend of increasing visitation to Parks in Asia (Eagles et al., 2001; Hamzah, 2012)
- ❑ Increasing interest on ecotourism following 2002 International Year of Ecotourism
- ❑ Changing nature of Parks management and its interactions with local communities and private tourism companies (Soemodinoto, 2010; Hamzah, 2012)
- ❑ Despite obvious increase of visitations, little is known whether tourism activities being carried out in many Parks in Asia are in-line with ecotourism objectives (or at least moving toward 'genuine'



Presentation objective

“Presenting a range of activities, identified through literature survey, that should be considered in order to conduct Parks ecotourism that would satisfy direct stakeholders (Park management authority, tourism business sector and local people) objectives in ensuring conservation of biodiversity and achieving social and economic development”





- ❑ What is ecotourism?
- ❑ Ecotourism is “... a sustainable form of natural resource-based tourism that focuses primarily on experiencing and learning about nature, and which is ethically managed to be low-impact, non-consumptive, and locally-oriented (control, benefits, and scale), and typically occurs in natural areas, and should contribute to the conservation or preservation of such area” (Fennell, 1999)

□ Key principles of ecotourism:

- ... always associated with travel or visitation to natural area
- ... should be economically feasible, complementary to the local economy and contributing to local community well-being
- ... must be culturally sensitive and socially responsible
- ... must employ environmentally-friendly approach (e.g. non-consumptive and low-impact), and contribute to conservation of biodiversity
- ... has educational and experiential learning components
- ... these principles must be applied simultaneously



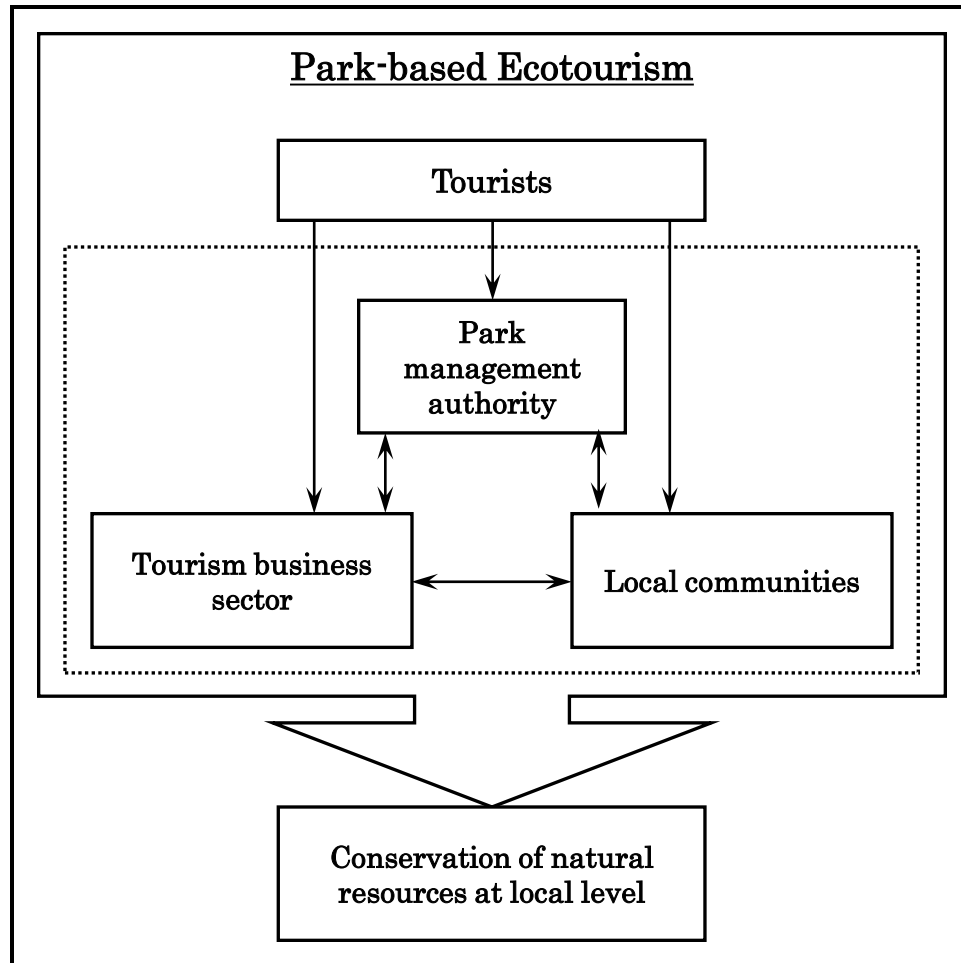
□ Key principles of ecotourism:

- ... always associated with travel or visitation to natural area
- ... should be **economically feasible**, complementary to the local economy and contributing to local community well-being
- ... must be **culturally sensitive and socially responsible**
- ... must **employ environmentally-friendly approach** (e.g. non-consumptive and low-impact), **and contribute to conservation of biodiversity**
- ... has educational and experiential learning components
- ... **these principles must be applied simultaneously**



- ❑ Definition of ecotourism...
- ❑ Key principles of ecotourism...
- ❑ **Three main actors/direct-stakeholders at local level: Park management authority, local communities and tourism business sector**

Conceptual Framework



- ❑ Definition of ecotourism...
- ❑ Some characteristics of ecotourism...
- ❑ Identify three main actors/direct-stakeholders at local level...
- ❑ **Ecotourism aims for sustainability, hence it has ecological, economic and social dimensions!**
- ❑ **These dimensions are applicable to all direct-stakeholders at local level → Table 1...**



Table 1 – List of desired activities/indicators that indicate local stakeholders’ adoption of ecotourism principles

Principles	Park management authority	Local communities	Private sectors
Socially responsible and culturally sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve local people in park development through a participatory approach • Employ local people, e.g., as park rangers and in other positions • Work together with local people on common grounds for conservation purposes • Do social impacts assessment and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain intra- and inter-community harmony • Form a community group devoted to local conservation and economic development (e.g., co-operative) • Willing to accept tourists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ as many local people as possible in their operation (e.g., as guides, porters, workers)
Ecologically sustainable and practice environmentally-friendly techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a whole-park management plan that incorporates environmental and visitor management • Able to implement the management plan • Make available necessary signs and facilities (e.g., interpretive and or visitor center, pathways, latrines, trash bins) to accommodate quality services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate actively in park planning and development • Contribute to local conservation activities by forming a community conservation group (or revitalize a collapsed group, or strengthen an already established group) • Employ environmentally-friendly techniques in their business operations • Reduce or stop pressures on park and natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt travel ethics • Have a clear guideline • Good quality interpretation for tourists • Contribute either directly or indirectly to conservation by supporting or making donations to local community groups • Contribute directly to park administration
Economically viable and complementary to local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge fees to tourists and tour operators • Manage additional income to improve services and park facilities • Have fair agreements with local communities and private sectors for some inside-park operations, if any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local people have been trained in necessary skills (e.g., bookkeeping, housekeeping, language) • Small-scale, manageable business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale operation to give opportunity to other private sectors and local people • Create a mutual network with other small-scale business (travel service, transport, local people) • Create a joint-venture with local people in any relevant business

Next Step: How to Apply the List

Suggested Steps

1. Do inventory of activities using Table 2...



Table 2 – Checklist for inventory of existing park-based tourism activities

Park management authority		Local communities		Private sectors	
• Involve local people in park development through a participatory approach		• Maintain intra- and inter-community harmony		• Employ as many local people as possible in their operation (e.g., as guides, porters, workers)	
• Employ local people, e.g., as park rangers and in other positions		• Form a community group devoted to local conservation and economic development (e.g., co-operative)		• Adopt travel ethics	
• Work together with local people on common grounds for conservation purposes		• Willing to accept tourists		• Have a clear guideline	
• Do social impacts assessment and monitoring		• Participate actively in park planning and development		• Good quality interpretation for tourists	
• Have a whole-park management plan that incorporates environmental and visitor management		• Contribute to local conservation activities by forming a community conservation group (or revitalize a collapsed group, or strengthen an already established group)		• Contribute either directly or indirectly to conservation by supporting or making donations to local community groups	
• Able to implement the management plan		• Employ environmentally-friendly techniques in their business operations		• Contribute directly to park administration	
• Make available necessary signs and facilities (e.g., interpretive and or visitor center, pathways, latrines, trash bins) to accommodate quality services		• Reduce or stop pressures on park and natural resources		• Small-scale operation to give opportunity to other private sectors and local people	
• Charge fees to tourists and tour operators		• Local people have been trained in necessary skills (e.g., bookkeeping, housekeeping, language)		• Create a mutual network with other small-scale business (travel service, transport, local people)	
• Manage additional income to improve services and park facilities		• Small-scale, manageable business		• Create a joint-venture with local people in any relevant business	
• Have fair agreements with local communities and private sectors for some inside-park operations, if any					

Next Step: How to Apply the List

Suggested Steps

1. Do inventory of activities using Table 2...
2. List as many as possible relevant activities in the assessed Park...
3. Compare the results against those presented in Table 1...
- 4. More activities/indicators recorded in Table 2 suggest that the tourism being carried out in the assessed Park is leading to 'genuine' ecotourism...**





THANK YOU

Arigatou gozaimasu

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Notes/Comments/Suggestions

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