

Developing a Global Guideline for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas:

Input from Asia



Lead speaker:

Dr. Yu-Fai Leung

Professor, North Carolina State University, USA

Editor-in-Chief, IUCN BPG for Sustainable Tourism (3rd Ed.)

Co-presenters:

Dr. Dau-Jye Lu

Associate Professor, National Taiwan University,
Taiwan ROC

Dr. Yi-Chung Hsu

Professor, National Dong-Hwa University, Taiwan ROC

Presentation Outline

- The needs for sustainable tourism BPG for protected areas
- The Third Edition
 - Objectives and guiding principles
 - Contributors
 - Timeline and current progress
- Current examples from Asia
- Input from audience



Tourism/Visitor Use in Protected Areas

- Major incentive for protected area establishment and special designations (e.g. World Heritage sites, Global Geoparks)
- Public and political support for protected areas
- Key ecosystem service with conservation and community benefits
- Visitor experience and conservation education opportunities



Concerns about Tourism

- Development pressure and habitat loss/degradation
- Strain on natural resources
- Tourist activity impacts
- Leakage of tourism revenues
- Impacts on local communities



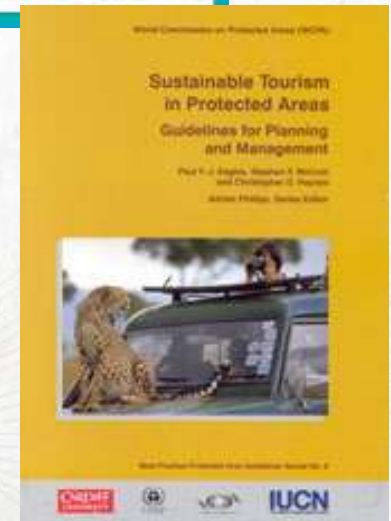
Needs for Sustainable Tourism BPGs

- Tourism has a significant role to play in protected area conservation
- Enhancing the positive impacts of tourism while minimizing negative impacts
- Operationalizing sustainable tourism with best practice examples (environmental management, finances, partnerships, education, etc.)
- Collaborative learning and global knowledge sharing
- Proactive and adaptive management in face of changes



Past Editions of ST-BPG

- First Edition: 1992
 - McNeely, J. A., Thorsell, J. W., & Ceballos-Lascurain, H. (1992). Guidelines: Development of National Parks and Protected Areas for Tourism (UNEP-IE/PAC Technical Report Series No. 13). Madrid: WTO and UNEP, 53p.
- Second Edition: 2002
 - Eagles, P. F. J., McCool, S. F., & Haynes, C. D. A. (2002). Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Planning and Management. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, 183p.



Objectives of The Third Edition (ST-BPG3)

- To update the background information used to develop the current best practices guidelines
- To engage TAPAS members and other stakeholders of protected area tourism in enhancing the contents and utility of the guidelines;
- To publish the BPG in concert with the 2014 World Parks Congress



The Guiding Principles

- Collaborative project
- Balanced collection of global knowledge
- Proactive, strategic and participatory approaches
- Evidence-based management
- Starter reference for PA managers



Contributors to ST-BPG3

- The editorial team (IUCN-WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group-TAPAS)

Dr. Yu-Fai Leung (editor-in-chief),
Dr. Glen Hvenegaard, Dr. Anna
Spenceley, Dr. Ralf Buckley

- Contributions from TAPAS members
- Other contributors
- Types of contribution
 - Chapter, subsection, case study, digital images, reviewer



ST-BPG3 Outline

1. Introduction and concepts
2. Historical, cultural and geographic contexts
3. Legal, governance and policy issues
4. Positive impacts of protected area tourism
5. Negative impacts of protected area tourism
6. Planning principles and process
7. Management and monitoring strategies
8. Tools for tourism and visitor management



Timeline and Current Progress

- Jul. 2013: Draft contributions
- Nov. 2013: Full draft for review
- Jan. 2014: Final manuscript draft
- Jun. 2014: English version published online
- Nov. 2014: Release of print version at 2014 World Parks Congress
- Nov. 2014: French, German and Spanish version published online





Asian Examples



Example #1

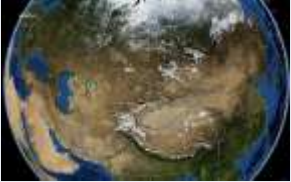

Biodiversity-Livelihood Linkage in Kenting NP, Taiwan ROC (contributed by Z-L. Chao and D-J. Lu)

Location	Kenting NP is located at the southern tip of Taiwan Island
Resources and Communities	Prime nature tourism attraction in Taiwan. Resources include shorelines, coral reef, wetland, and hills. Shiriding community located centrally in the NP with 60 households, 400 persons. The community features karst landscapes and rich fauna
Exemplary Practices  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioned from subsistence use of natural resources to tourism-related services. • The park administration invited local communities to develop ecotourism • Reorganized Shiriding Cultural Development Association with engagement from a variety of community stakeholders • Ecotourism courses developed to build community capacity for ecotourism • Involvement of academic team helped build partnership

Example #2

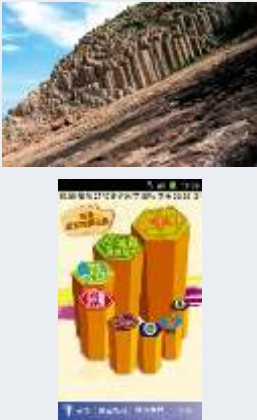
Connecting Protected Areas with Local Populations in Kazakhstan

(contributed by D. Woodward and A. Vishnevskaya)

Location	Almaty Nature Reserve, Kazakhstan (IUCN Category Ia)
Resources and Communities	71700 ha containing 1100 plant species and over 2000 animal species. 113 km of trails. Talgar (50000 pop) is the closest community. Only 25 km from Almaty (national capital).
Exemplary Practices  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative attitudes toward the Reserve formed by locals • Management strategy to connect with local needs through educational visits • Close collaboration with schools in Talgar • Teaching hours by Reserve staff and student tour of Reserve museum • “March of Parks” annual event since 1996 (a variety of educational and volunteering opportunities in the Reserve) • Ecocamps since 2003 • Ecoclubs “Talhis”: Outreach activities • Successfully in building support base for ecotourism



Example #3

Planning and Management of Hong Kong Geopark (contributed by D. Newsome and Y. Ng)

Location	Northeastern part of Hong Kong SAR (UNESCO Global Network of National Geoparks)
Resources and Communities	100 km ² of land and sea area with significant geological, aesthetic and landscape values; HK residents and tourists
Exemplary Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising conservation policies to protect geoheritage • Professional management team • Training and certification of geopark interpreters • Publicity and outreach campaigns with school programs and a comprehensive interpretive system (e.g., signage, pamphlets, books, museum displays) • HK Geopark app for smartphones and mobile devices

Example #4

Governance and Tourism development in Vietnam (contributed by A. Hubner et al.)

Location	Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, central Vietnam
Resources and Communities	A UNESCO World Heritage site (123,326 ha) protecting one of the world's two largest karst regions and the ecosystem of limestone forest. Two villages are located within the park borders
Exemplary Practices  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed the Sustainable Tourism Development Plan 2010-2020 • Invited private investment on tourism centers and ecotourism business units by establishing joint-stock companies • Revenues from environmental fees paid by tourists are transferred to the national government but are accessible by the national park (annual budget approvals) • Small budgets are provided to support co-management protection practices of forest resources and encourage additional revenue sources • Contentious benefit-sharing problems to be resolved

Some Implications

- Sustainability of tourism cannot be assumed
- Good practices exist in different continents under various constraints
- Global sharing and engagement builds capacity for protected area management
- Ongoing documentation and sharing of good practices beyond ST-BPG3
- Make tourism a positive force to global conservation



Questions for Asian Protected Areas

- Are PA professionals in Asia aware of the IUCN Sustainable Tourism BPG? If so, how have they used the document? Comments?
- What other park tourism guidelines are widely used in Asia but not known outside the region?
- Current collection of Asian examples for ST-BPG3 is limited. Are there exemplary management practices in Asia that should be shared globally?
- What needs to be done in the ST-BPG that would make it more useful for protected areas in Asia?



*Questions?
Comments?*

