



Responsible and Sustainable Tourism: Issues and Challenges

Seema Bhatt



Tourism is the world's fastest growing industry and in recent years, has come to play an increasingly dominant role in the economies of developing countries

The industry contributed 3.7 % to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and has emerged as major source of employment

The demand for ecotourism and nature-based holidays is expected to double and even triple in the next 20 years

Travel is an Age-old Practice the World Over



Pilgrimage to religious sanctuaries



Recreation



Adventure Tourism



Wildlife Tourism



The Conflict: Tourism, Conservation and the Community



Impacts

Social and cultural change



People living in remote, isolated valleys have generally preserved their cultural identities

However, improvements in transportation and communication, particularly satellite television are affecting traditional social and cultural structure



Tourism is linked to people
and depends on people

However, the current tourism
model is unable to develop
into an economically and socially
viable option for local
communities

Tourism has played a significant
role in privatization of common
resources in tourism destinations,
displacement of people and forest
dwellers from their homelands to make
way for hotels and resorts



Tourism-related activities have
also made children vulnerable to sexual
and non-sexual forms of exploitation



There are also problems
relating to health, drugs,
crime and
trafficking
of people





Economic Impacts

There are many less favourable economic effects of tourism such as inflation, leakages and dependency

One study estimates that on an average, of every US\$ 100 spent on a vacation tour by a tourist from a developed country, only around US\$ 5 actually stays in a developing country destination's economy

Environmental Degradation

Deforestation has increased as a result of demand for firewood, extensive tree trimming in order to feed livestock, and construction of roads in the border regions



A large, dark, brownish-black puddle of polluted water sits on a patch of dry, brownish soil and sparse green grass. The water is murky and contains many small, white, foamy bubbles. The puddle is irregular in shape, spreading across the ground. The surrounding area is a mix of dry earth and small clumps of green grass.

Land, water and noise pollution are
necessary fallouts of unregulated
development in tourism locations

Also due to unregulated tourism, the
environment takes a toll bearing the
brunt of heavy tourist traffic and use
of natural resources often beyond its
natural carrying capacity

Increasing pressure from tourism has accelerated pollution



Disturbance to Wildlife

Poaching





Desecration of Architectural/Cultural Heritage

Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Maharashtra



The recognition of the ill effects of tourism led to the need to develop an industry that was sensitive to the environment and that which could provide some benefits to the local community. This is how the concept of 'ecotourism' came into being.

The term 'ecotourism' was coined by a marketing agency that was promoting Costa Rica as a rainforest destination in the early 1970s

However there is
now a growing
realization that
ALL tourism needs
to be responsible
and sustainable

Environmentally and socially responsible tourism should include:

- Minimal ecological, social and cultural impacts
- Education for the traveler/tourist for environmental awareness
- Direct financial and other benefits to the local community
- Respect for different cultures

Tourism if carried out appropriately has the potential to help conserve the ecosystem where it is practiced as also provide local communities an alternate source of income and thus improve their livelihoods. It can thus be looked upon as a tool for sustainable development



Responsible and Sustainable Tourism does have the potential to promote rural heritage for rural development and employment



It can also be an important tool for conservation education and awareness



The Changing Face of Tourism

The realization of negative impacts is resulting in the practice of responsible tourism



Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Rajasthan







Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim







TINS, CANS, METAL

GLASS, GLASS BOTTLES

CLOTH, BAGS, RAGS

PLASTIC

THERMOCOL

CARTON, PAPER

PLASTIC WASTE

KCC YUKSANG

KCC YUKSANG

KCC YUKSANG

KCC YUKSANG

KCC YUKSANG

KCC YUKSANG

KCC YUKSANG

Welcome to my Home!



Community-based Homestays
The community-based homestay movement is growing across the country and is becoming an important source of livelihoods for local communities

Homestays offer an innovative and fresh opportunity to tourists.

Hemis National Park, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir





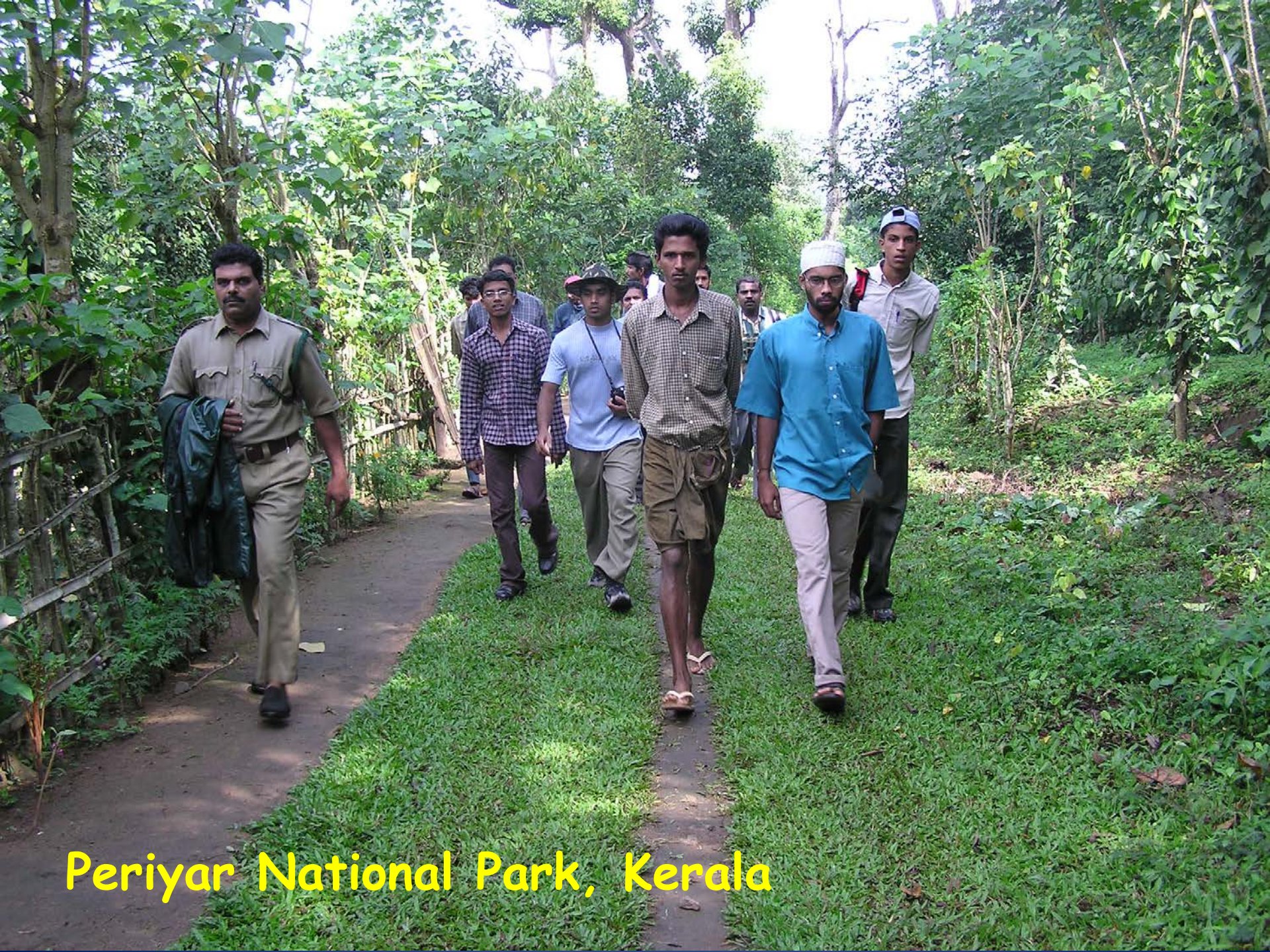
Tso Moriri Lake, Ladakh





SONAM
GENERAL SHOP
KORZOK Tsam 19 81

ཨ་རི་བྱ་མ་གྲོལ་ཁང་།
SNOWCOCK HOMESTAY
KORZOK



Periyar National Park, Kerala





പെരിയാർ നാഗർ
പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക് വിമുക്തി
ഗ്രാമം...





Hodka.Gujarat

SHAAMESARHAD
RESORT
HODKA











Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh





Bugun liocichla



Dorjee Raptan with the first Vacations-for-Conservation group



To succeed the following need to be kept in mind:

- Training and Capacity Building
- Education and awareness through interpretation material
- Feedback and subsequent improvements/Adaptive Management
- Setting Standards and Code of Conduct
- Carrying Capacity
- Marketing



Visitor's Co-operation During Sanctuary Visit

- Visit Gir with prior reservation to avoid disappointment.
- Please observe the guest house rules and regulations.
- When you are in the forest wear light colored clothes which blend with the surroundings.
- Take permit and guide for sanctuary visit.
- Observe silence in the forest and listen to birds and animals calls. Preserve their life style.
- **Night visit to the sanctuary is strictly prohibited & punishable.**
- Do not disturb wild animals by blowing horns, playing music or talking loudly.
- You are a guest of Gir. Don't litter. Keep Gir clean and healthy.
- Don't keep food during sanctuary visit.
- Wild animals have a right to live and right of way here. Respect their right. Do not feed or chase them.
- Do not light fire. A small negligence can create a big tragedy.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited during sanctuary visit.
- Taking fire arms inside the sanctuary is strictly prohibited.
- Payment is accepted only in Indian currency.
- Don't throw plastic, polythin bags, water bottle etc. during sanctuary visit.
- Don't be tempted for wildlife " Darshan " unauthorized.
- Don't keep private wireless, walky talky or same type handset during sanctuary visit, otherwise punishable.

- By Order













શ્રી કુમદેવી કૃપા

ૐ

22

MARUTI

