Ecotourism as a tool for Biodiversity conservation

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Ecotourism is a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people. Its purposes are:

- to educate the traveler
- to provide funds for ecological conservation
- to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities (Boo, 1992)
- to foster respect for different cultures and for human right (Honey, 1999)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7ldQ0Bm_a0
Conservational Ecotourism

Ecotourism is conservational, when the economical benefits of it are lead to create a protected area, migration corridor, cleaning the area from trash, etc.

Non-conservational Ecotourism

Ecotourism is non-conservational, when the economical benefits of it are lead only to local community support and education.
Highly successful ecotourism can support biodiversity conservation by influencing national policy.

Good examples for that are:

- Ecuador (resisted efforts of government to start an oil exploration in a biodiversity rich area),
- Mozambique (establishment of large conservational areas as a key element of it’s tourism development),
- Israel (resisted installation of wind turbines in the are of the bird migration bottleneck - Eilat)
How does it work?

EcoTourism

Education

Governmental programs

Locals

Tourist

Gains knowledge about area specificities, culture and food

Motivation to:
- Produce local brand food
- Solve accommodation problems
- Start to care about environment
- Study languages/become guides
- Study about surrounding nature

- Trail building
- Development of protected areas
- Conservation programs and researches
Community based ecotourism (CBET) - biodiversity must pay for itself by generating economic benefits, particularly for local people.

There is a huge support from international organizations to provide CBET culture in developing countries.
The idea is that the local community should care about surrounding environment.

The attraction is
Tourist - Local

Tourists point out local problems:
- Accommodation
- Garbage
- Transportation
- Trails
- Food

Two way track
Two way education
Two way benefits

Solution

Locals show the benefits of the area
- Biodiversity
- Food
- Culture
- Specificities of environment
Ecotourism - Protected area correlation

Israel
150 protected areas
20.770 km²

Armenia
33 protected areas
29.743 km²
Problems of Armenia regarding Ecotourism development

- Absence or lack of trails
- Garbage recycling
- Public toilet
- Roads
- Public transportation
- Absence of local English speaking guides
- ETC
Benefits of Armenia

- Rich biodiversity
- Interesting culture
- Tasty food
- Non-explored nature areas
- Prices
- Country size
Volunteering - Ecotourism - Nature conservation

Volunteer → Pay

- Conservation programs
- Community development
- Trail-building
Armenia has a chance to become one of the most visited Eco-touristic places

SO LET’S JUST DO IT
Thank you!