Resources for the Resilient Recovery of Nature-Based Tourism
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Resources for the Resilient Recovery of Nature-Based Tourism

Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Anna Spenceley

Chair
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS Group)

Wendy Li

Tourism and Environmental Specialist
World Bank
COVID-19 Pandemic

Impacts of the pandemic on nature-based tourism

Parks and outdoor spaces: How did the number of visitors change since the beginning of the pandemic?, Apr 4, 2020
Change in visitor numbers is measured relative to a baseline day; a baseline day is the median value from the 5-week period between Jan 3rd and Feb 6th 2020. This index is smoothed to the rolling 7-day average.

Cambodia’s Indigenous ecotourism weighed down by virus fears
Tourism has helped remote Indigenous communities improve their lives and protect the forests. COVID-19 has put both at risk.

4 April 2020

Source: Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Trends - Last updated 29 October, 15:02 (London time)
Note: It is not recommended to compare levels across countries; local differences in categories could be misleading.
Destinations were emptied: Overtourism

100s of papers & opinions

Sea turtles thriving in Thailand after beach closures

by Elizabeth Claire Alberts on 21 April 2020

Mass monkey brawl highlights coronavirus effect on Thailand tourism

See https://annaspenceley.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/covid-19-and-sustainable-tourism/
Threat of losing protected areas


By Jennifer Flowers  May 6, 2020

Zebra at a watering hole in Tanzania's Grumeti Reserve, a private, 350,000-acre reserve where Singita has five properties

Threat of losing protected areas & wildlife crime

The Future of Africa’s Wild Places—and Why Safaris Matter

By Jennifer Flowers

May 6, 2020

Coronavirus lockdowns increase poaching in Asia, Africa

By Associated Press

June 22, 2020 | 12:52pm

Coupled with positive conservation signs

Sharp drop in rhino poaching amid lockdown

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has reported a significant decline in the number of rhino poaching incidents, not only during the lockdown, but since the beginning of the year.

Coronavirus lockdown boosts numbers of Thailand's rare sea turtles

Largest number of nests of leatherbacks found in two decades as beaches emptied

- Coronavirus - latest updates
- See all our coronavirus coverage

See https://annaspenceley.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/covid-19-and-sustainable-tourism/
Financial and community impacts

Change in number of customers in March 2020, compared with the same period last year due to coronavirus:

-75 to +100: 9.2%
+50 to +74: 1.7%
+25 to +49: 1.2%
1 to +24: 2.9%
0 (no change): 0.6%
-25 to -1: 4.6%
-50 to -26: 6.4%
-75 to -51: 9.8%
-100 to -76: 63.6%

Note: All respondents reporting -75% were contacted to verify their responses. Most changed their response to a negative figure, but some did not reply. It is therefore possible that some the outstanding respondents in the -75% category intended a negative figure.

Change in booking requests for future months due to the coronavirus outbreak, compared to the same period last year:

-75 to +100: 8.1%
+50 to +74: 1.2%
+25 to +49: 2.3%
1 to +24: 2.3%
0 (no change): 1.2%
-25 to -1: 2.9%
-50 to -26: 1.7%
-75 to -51: 8.7%
-100 to -76: 71.7%

-100% customers reported by 44.5%, -61.7% customers on average
-100% booking requests reported by 50.3%, -66.9% booking requests on average

Financial impacts on protected areas and communities

Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Source: World Bank data

https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35737
Opportunities (and challenges) with destinations re-opening

Parks and outdoor spaces: How did the number of visitors change relative to before the pandemic?, Oct 15, 2022
Parks and outdoor spaces includes places like local parks, national parks, public beaches, marinas, dog parks, plazas, and public gardens.
Guidance for operating safely during COVID-19

Adventure Travel COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines

https://op.europa.eu

https://learn.adventuretravel.biz/covid19guidelines
Options for virtual nature-based tourism

Virtual protected area experiences in Africa
Status and potential for post-COVID-19 resilience

Policy analyses and responses

UNWTO Recommendations on Tourism and Rural Development

COVID-19 and Conservation: Crisis Response Strategies that Benefit People and Nature

130 - Strengthening sustainable tourism’s role in biodiversity conservation and community resilience
Options for resilient recovery of nature-based tourism


https://islandpress.org/books/overtourism

https://www.e-elgar.com
Innovative finance vehicles supporting post-pandemic recovery

Types of support needed by tourism operators (n=537)
Innovative finance vehicles supporting post-pandemic recovery

Types of support needed by tourism operators (n=537)

- Unemployment support for workers: 84.9%
- Financial support for recovery: 84.5%
- Financial support for cashflow: 84.1%
- Tax deductions or deferments: 79.5%
- Identification of new source markets: 89.7%
- Expert advice on business strategy and recovery: 53.2%
- Best practices shared from other businesses: 51.0%
- Research and forecasts for business planning: 49.3%
- Information about business and marketing options: 49.5%
- Commercial debt repayment support: 48.0%
- Identification of new services/products to offer: 45.0%
- Advice on health and safety precautions: 44.6%
- Virtual training for upskilling entrepreneurs and staff: 42.0%
- Advice on communicating with customers: 35.5%
- Re-designing supply chain processes: 35.2%

African Nature-Based Tourism Platform

Facilitating access to funding and building the longer term resilience of the nature-based tourism sector in eastern and southern Africa.
Strengthening partnerships for resilient nature-based tourism


Establishing and strengthening coalitions
TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR NATURE-BASED TOURISM

SECOND EDITION

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**Nature-Based Tourism Tools and Resources Collection**

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Contact: gwp.info@worldbank.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature-Based Tourism Issues</th>
<th>Show All</th>
<th>Key Concepts</th>
<th>Enabling Policy Environment and Planning</th>
<th>Concessions and Partnership Models</th>
<th>Destination Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure and Facilities</td>
<td>Visitor Management</td>
<td>Social, Environmental, and Economic Impacts</td>
<td>Nature-Based Enterprise Development</td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Training Materials</td>
<td>Networks and Institutions</td>
<td>Covid-19</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Resource</td>
<td>Show All</td>
<td>Information and Research</td>
<td>Guidelines</td>
<td>Certifications and Standards</td>
<td>Tools and Toolkits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networks and Institutions</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments

This report is written by Anna Spenceley, with substantial input from Urvashi Narain. We thank Claudia Sobrevila, Lisa Farroway, Hasita Bhammar, Wendy Li, Elisson Wright, Chris Seek, Vanessa Satur, and Andrew Rylance for their guidance. This publication was peer-reviewed by Maurice Andres Rawlins, Andre Aquino, Hermione Neville, Tijen Arin, and Benoit Blarel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you want to know?</th>
<th>Go to this section of the report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is NBT, and why is it important?</td>
<td>Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the international agreements and decisions relating to sustainable NBT?</td>
<td>Section 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do I start to get an understanding of sustainable NBT, ecotourism, wildlife tourism, and hunting?</td>
<td>Sections in 4.1 on nature-based tourism and ecotourism, wildlife tourism, and hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What type of tourism can be practiced in different types of PAs?</td>
<td>Section in 4.1 on protected areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can I find regional guidance on NBT?</td>
<td>Section in 4.1 on regional and national guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can I find guidance on NBT in specific habitats?</td>
<td>Section in 4.1 on specific ecosystems and habitats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do I need in a national policy framework to support sustainable NBT?</td>
<td>Section in 4.2 on policy frameworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do I plan NBT in a destination?</td>
<td>Section in 4.2 on international planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do I find regional NBT planning information?</td>
<td>Section in 4.2 on regional and national planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do I design a tourism concessions or partnership framework for NBT?</td>
<td>Section 4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any case study examples on joint ventures and partnerships?</td>
<td>Box 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there regional or national guidance for tourism concessions?</td>
<td>Section in 4.3 on regional and national guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there destination-level tools for NBT planning?</td>
<td>Section 4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do I determine whether NBT is viable in a destination?</td>
<td>Section 4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 Nature-Based Tourism Recovery and Resilience

Prior to the pandemic, sustainable tourism guidance emphasized the need for diversification of products and source markets to reduce the impact of shocks (e.g., from natural disasters, political turbulence, financial recessions etc.). In the wake of COVID-19, practitioners established further guidance to support the adaptation of NBT destinations and operators, to help them adapt, survive, and improve their resilience. For example:

- Blue tourism in islands and small tourism-dependent coastal states: Tools and recovery strategies (2022) is a synthesis of literature on the impact of COVID-19 on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by region. The note includes a practical summary of COVID-19 recovery pathways that will help SIDS develop more competitive and sustainable tourism sectors. Illustrated with real-world examples, the guidance note incorporates best practices and lessons learned on reopening to tourism over three phases: short-, medium-, and longer-term sustainability, before presenting some strategic pathways for “Building Bank Bluer,” and introducing the Blue Tourism Resource Portal — a database and e-library of information about blue tourism.
Nature-Based Tourism Tools and Resources Collection

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Best Practice Guidelines for Great Ape Tourism

Elizabeth J. Macfie and Elizabeth A. Williamson

with contributions from Marc Ancrenaz, Chike Obieta, Debby Cox, Christina Ellis, David Greer, Chloe Hodgkinson, Anna Russen and Ian Bingham

Series Editor: E. A. Williamson

Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 56

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR NATURE-BASED TOURISM
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Tourism and Environmental Specialist, World Bank
Daniel Turner

Director
ANIMONDIAL
Which drivers of biodiversity loss might your organisation contribute to the most?

1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (73%)
2. Waste & Single-Use Plastics (67%)
3. Damage to Natural Areas (59%)
4. Overuse of Natural Water Supplies (45%)
5. Unsustainable Harvesting (24%)
6. Illegal Wildlife Trade (18%)

50% consider their impacts on animals and nature in an environmental or sustainability policy
20% have an implementation strategy
How to implement Nature Positive Tourism?

Business risks & opportunities

How to measure your impacts on nature?

1. ASSESS & DEFINE
Assess your dependency and impacts on animals and nature.
Define your Nature Positive commitment and priority actions.

2. REDUCE & RESTORE
Reduce or avoid harmful practices.
Restore nature through positive, local actions.

3. MONITOR & REPORT
Monitor your progress towards meaningful change.
Report on your efforts to reduce and sustain.

4. COLLABORATE & COMMUNICATE
Collaborate to overcome challenges and achieve greater things.
Communicate to inform and inspire others.
We're committed to the Future Vision for Nature Positive Travel & Tourism

Take the pledge and become a #GuardianOfNature

Daniel@animondial.com

Is your logo on here? Join us

Support the Vision for Nature Positive Travel & Tourism
Eliza Northrop

Policy Lead, Global Ocean Programme
World Resources Institute
Opportunities for Transforming Coastal and Marine Tourism Towards Sustainability, Regeneration and Resilience

Eliza Northrop
Global Policy Lead, World Resources Institute
Secretariat to the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy
By 2030 ‘Coastal and ocean-based tourism is sustainable, resilient, addresses climate change, reduces pollution, supports ecosystem regeneration and biodiversity conservation and invests in local jobs and communities’
• Coastal and marine tourism constitutes at least 50% of all global tourism.

• Sustainable, regenerative and resilient tourism can really help to lay the foundation for a sustainable ocean economy.

• The tourism industry, governments, and communities need to work together to support systemic change at the scale needed.

• Tourists can be agents of change.

• GDP alone is an insufficient indicator for the long-term viability of the sector – report proposes a new set of indicators.

• Tourism is at a unique juncture as a result of the global pandemic.
Positioning tourists as agents of change

• **Palau Pledge** – tourists sign a pledge on arrival. 739,203 pledges from tourists to date. Palau Pledge certified businesses.

• **Ol’au Palau** – online platform that enables tourists to calculate the carbon footprint of their trip to Palau and unlock points to incentivize conservation and cultural activities.
BARBADOS

Multi-use Infrastructure

• Coastal Infrastructure Programme (CIP) - reinforced structure to prevent damage to coastal properties and tourist infrastructure and provide a scenic promenade for recreation and lateral access along the coast.

• Benefits:
  • Increase in the number of person days of shoreline leisure
  • Increases in monthly revenue (1–5 percent)
  • Improved access to coastal recreation opportunities were estimated to be $1.92 million
  • Annual erosion mitigation benefits estimated to be $787,400, for a total of over $12.5 million over a 17-year span
AUSTRALIA

Regenerative tourism

• Paradigm shift in coral reef management and stewardship.

• Site Stewardship Plans and Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program - investment to research and development of coral-saving technologies.

• Eye of the Reef program

• Research to identify opportunities for improving industry resilience to future extreme events is ongoing.
BONAIRE

*Sustainable finance for conservation*

- MPA financed through **user fees**.
- Application of **economic valuation** in Bonaire is a widely documented and shared case study on sustainable financing of an MPA.
- Replicated in Fiji, Indonesia, Hawaii and Honduras by the Coral Reef Alliance as well as in Belize.
Chloe King

Director of Conservation & Community Development
Solimar International
Climate Action through Regeneration:

Unlocking the Power of Communities and Nature Through Tourism

Chloe King
Director of Conservation & Community Development
Solimar International
c.king@solimarinternational.com
MPhil Conservation Leadership, University of Cambridge

Read the White Paper at regenerativetravel.com
Introduction
Supporting destinations develop, manage, and market sustainable tourism as a tool for development
The Challenge We Face
“...fundamental, systemwide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values”

IPBES, 2019

“....transformative change never before attempted in human history”

(Pörtner et al. 2021)
Global warming and biodiversity loss 1970–2018

Biodiversity stripes created by Miles Richardson (findingnature.org.uk) based on the warming stripes developed by Ed Hawkins #ShowYourStripes
The Regenerative Economy Shift

Alladale Wilderness Reserve, Scotland
Over half of global GDP ($44 trillion) is potentially threatened by a loss of nature and biodiversity.

The transition to a nature-positive economy could create 395 million jobs by 2030.

Source: World Economic Forum, 2020
• **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** — are actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore nature while simultaneously addressing societal challenges

• **NbS on the agenda** at COP27 for the first time & increasingly recognized by governments, financial institutions, and private businesses

• **$8.1 trillion in investment** needed in NbS by 2030

Source: IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (Graphic); UNEP Emissions Gap Report; UNEP State of Finance for Nature; UNEP Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Mitigation
Regenerative Tourism recognizes that all of the critical aspects of a destination—visitors and hosts, economies and ecosystems—are interconnected and underpinned by nature. It is tourism that places greater value on nature and human well-being than growth and profit through a whole-of-system, place-based, community-led, and environment-centered approach.

Engages stakeholders in explicit and deliberative conversations around what to protect, restore, and let go of in the search of collective healing.

(Cave & Dredge, 2021; Holiday, 2019)

Tourism Businesses + Destinations Well-Poised to Take Advantage of Increased Investment in NbS

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**Examples of Nature-based Solutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solutions that Protect Ecosystems</th>
<th>Solutions that Manage Ecosystems</th>
<th>Solutions that Restore Ecosystems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avoided Forest Conversion</td>
<td>Natural Forest Management</td>
<td>Reforestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoided Peatland Impacts</td>
<td>Agroforestry</td>
<td>Coastal Wetland Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoided Degradation of Coastal Wetlands</td>
<td>Regenerative Agriculture</td>
<td>Peatland Restoration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...but we must ask: solutions to what and for whom?
Regenerative Tourism recognizes that all of the critical aspects of a destination—visitors and hosts, economies and ecosystems—are interconnected and underpinned by nature. It is tourism that places greater value on nature and human well-being than growth and profit through a whole-of-system, place-based, community-led, and environment-centered approach.

Engages stakeholders in explicit and deliberative conversations around what to protect, restore, and let go of in the search of collective healing.

Regeneration is...

- Influenced by a vast and diverse array of Indigenous and local community wisdom in the destinations we seek to serve

- A process & mindset shift placing greater value on nature and human well-being than growth and profit

- A holistic, place-based, community-led, and environment-centered approach

Sources: Cave & Dredge, 2021; Holiday, 2019; Bellato et al., 2022; Becken & Kaur, 2022
30 Case Study Participants
Five Principles for Embracing Regenerative Tourism with Nature-based Solutions

Misool Eco Resort, Indonesia
Effective Nature-based Solutions in Tourism

1. Center Community Needs First
2. Improve Ecosystem Integrity and Biodiversity
3. Embrace Diverse and Inclusive Business Models
4. Develop Transparent Governance Structures Accountable to All Stakeholders
5. Enhance Regenerative Partnerships

Read the full report: regenerativetravel.com/whitepaper-climate-action
Case Studies
Ecosystem Restoration in the Sundarbans Reserve Forest, Bangladesh

• Solimar International implemented USAID-funded project

• Largest remaining contiguous mangrove forest on Earth

• Partnering with local NGOs to improve access to health, water, and sanitation

• Visitors contributing to restoration of mangroves + community services in partnership with local communities

Principle 1: Center Community Needs First
Principle 5: Enhance Regenerative Partnerships
• Developing innovative climate adaptation pathways for the tourism sector

• Working with the Maldives Ministry of Tourism on a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan

• Supporting tourism businesses in accessing NbS financing

• Enhancing business resilience through diversified revenue streams

Principle 3: Embrace Diverse and Inclusive Business Models
Traditional Management in Ataúro Island, Timor-Leste

- Helped establish the first Destination Management Organization on Ataúro Island (ATKOMA - ataurotourism.org)
- DMO helped establish 13 LMMAs based on traditional management practice of *tara bandu*
- Visitors pay $2 fee to snorkel or dive in the protected areas, directly benefiting communities, incentivizing protection, & strengthening cultural heritage

Principle 2: Improve Ecosystem Integrity and Biodiversity
Principle 4: Develop Transparent Governance Structures
Read the full report at
www.regenerativetravel.com/whitepaper-climate-action

Feature your business or destination in future research:
tinyurl.com/tourism-nbs-survey
We're committed to the Future Vision for Nature Positive Travel & Tourism

www.action.wttc.org/vision-for-nature-positive-travel-and-tourism
“We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world.”

- Robin Wall Kimmerer
Climate Action through Regeneration: Unlocking the Power of Communities and Nature Through Tourism

Read the White Paper at regenerativetravel.com
Carol Ritchie

Executive Director
EUROPARC Federation
Supporting parks
Protecting nature
Promoting sustainability
Bringing people together
STTfT
Sustainable Tourism: Training for Tomorrow
Welcome to Sustainable Tourism Training for Tomorrow

You may have heard of Sustainable Tourism and Good for whom? Our iconic landscapes are often one of the most cited reasons for tourist visits to Europe. But, our parks and communities are facing challenges and pressures from outside. At the same time, they also have the opportunity and potential to act as catalysts for sustainability and social change in a social, regional and national arena. We need to create environments with an interest in working together in these areas, to share knowledge, tools and new ideas so that they can do their job effectively and sustainably.

If you want to be inspired about why we believe Sustainable Tourism is Good for all and Good for People, take a look at "Sustainable Journey", a CEPHALES annual review. Available in 5 Languages, created within the GESTE project.

The Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas has been shown to be an excellent way of bringing everyone together to develop a shared vision and a common purpose, bringing sustainable economic, social and ecological benefits. This introductory course is training with real-life experiences, in 5 languages, that will help you understand the basic principles of sustainable tourism and apply it to your park and your business for the challenges of tomorrow.

1. Landscapes, biodiversity and heritage
2. Conservation through tourism
3. Reducing impacts
4. Accessibility and facilities
5. Effective visitor communication
6. Social cohesion
7. Local economies
8. Management
Blended learning courses – workshops + online modules on a new MOOC

Basic level
- Access to generic reference & learning materials

Foundation level
- Applied learning courses + practical assignments

Tailor-made structured courses
- Specialist Courses
- Practitioner Level

Advanced learning programme to train as trainers

Sustainable Tourism Training for Tomorrow
EUROPARC
Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Good for PARKS
Good for PEOPLE
YOUR JOURNEY
TO A SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION

We believe that Sustainable Tourism is a state of mind, a conscious choice, to work, live and to be on holiday in a different way. Realising how our choices affect the local environment, culture and economy, can positively reshape our behaviour.
Sustainable Tourism starts HERE
Sustainable Tourism starts HERE.
Sustainable Tourism starts **HERE**.
Sustainable Tourism starts HERE.
IT’S IN OUR NATURE

STORIES OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
A Moment of Reflection

Carol Ritchie
EUROPARC Federation

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Resources for the Resilient Recovery of Nature-Based Tourism

For more information, visit: https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-wildlife-program

Thank you