Visitors flow management in Protected Areas

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Visitor flow management in Protected Areas

Introduction

One of the main managerial challenges nowadays is...

Conserving biodiversity  Recreational opportunities

Environmental and Social benefits of recreational and protected areas depend on the compatibility of recreational uses
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One of the main managerial challenges nowadays is...
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One of the main managerial challenges nowadays is...

- Conserving biodiversity
- Recreational opportunities

Growing flow of visitors to parks

Resources impacts
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Introduction

One of the main managerial challenges nowadays is...

- Growing flow of visitors to parks
- Decrease in the quality of recreation experience

Conserving biodiversity
Recreational opportunities
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“Overtourism” Headlines

Grand Canyon hits 6 million visitors, setting annual park record

Published: December 10, 2019

Nearly Half of UNESCO Sites Don’t Have Plans to Manage Overtourism Challenges

Destinations

The Problems with National Parks? Too Many People

By: Rick Moran August 28, 2016

Should we limit visitors at national parks?

Record crowds push park service to seek new solutions.

By: Mary Jo Dilonardo August 3, 2017, 12:34 p.m.

Overtourism: Are We Loving Some Places to Death?
Framing the Problem

• “Overtourism happens when conditions on the ground (e.g., visitor numbers, visitor behavior, ecological impacts) exceed our limit of acceptable change or our ability to receive the experience we seek, or management seeks to facilitate.

It may also occur if conditions in communities change its ability to function as a community its residents desire. And it might occur when negative impacts occur that are not acceptable to the values being protected.”

Stephen F. McCool, 2018
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Why is happening now?

• Population + Money

The world is getting richer! An **ever-growing middle class is emerging in developing countries**, and people are spending their income on travel.

Source: Brookings, 2017

Source: COTRI, 2017
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Why is happening now?

• Technology: *how much did it help to get us here?*

  - Access and transportation
  - Comfort and safety
  - Communication and information

Source: Glen Harvey
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The Periurban Context

Locals residents  
Vs.  
Regional visitors  
Vs.  
Tourists

Source Locals and Tourists, Eric Fisher (Flickr)  
Source Locals and Tourists, Eric Fisher (Flickr)
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Wave Shocks

Krka National Park is limiting entrance to a max. of 10 thousand visitors at the same time

Cinque Terra National Park limited the total number of visitors to 1.5 million/year

Source: @theworldwith_us / Instagram

Source: Alexandra Korey, 2017
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Addressing “Overtourism”

The Past

The Problem

Framing the problem

The Future

Why

Solving the problem

How

What
Addressing “Overtourism” in Protected Areas

What

Developing the Pathway

- Use a framework (LAC, VERP, VUM)
- Engage the public
- Define strategies and action plan

Direct

- Rules
- Regulations
- Law enforcement

Indirect

- Information/education
- Site design/facility development/maintenance
- Use rationing and allocation
- Zoning
Thank you

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Cairngorms National Park, 19th September 2018