

Ecotourism....



The ecotourism is defined as:

“purposeful travel to natural areas; to understand the cultural and natural history of the environment; taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem, while producing economic opportunities that make conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people”

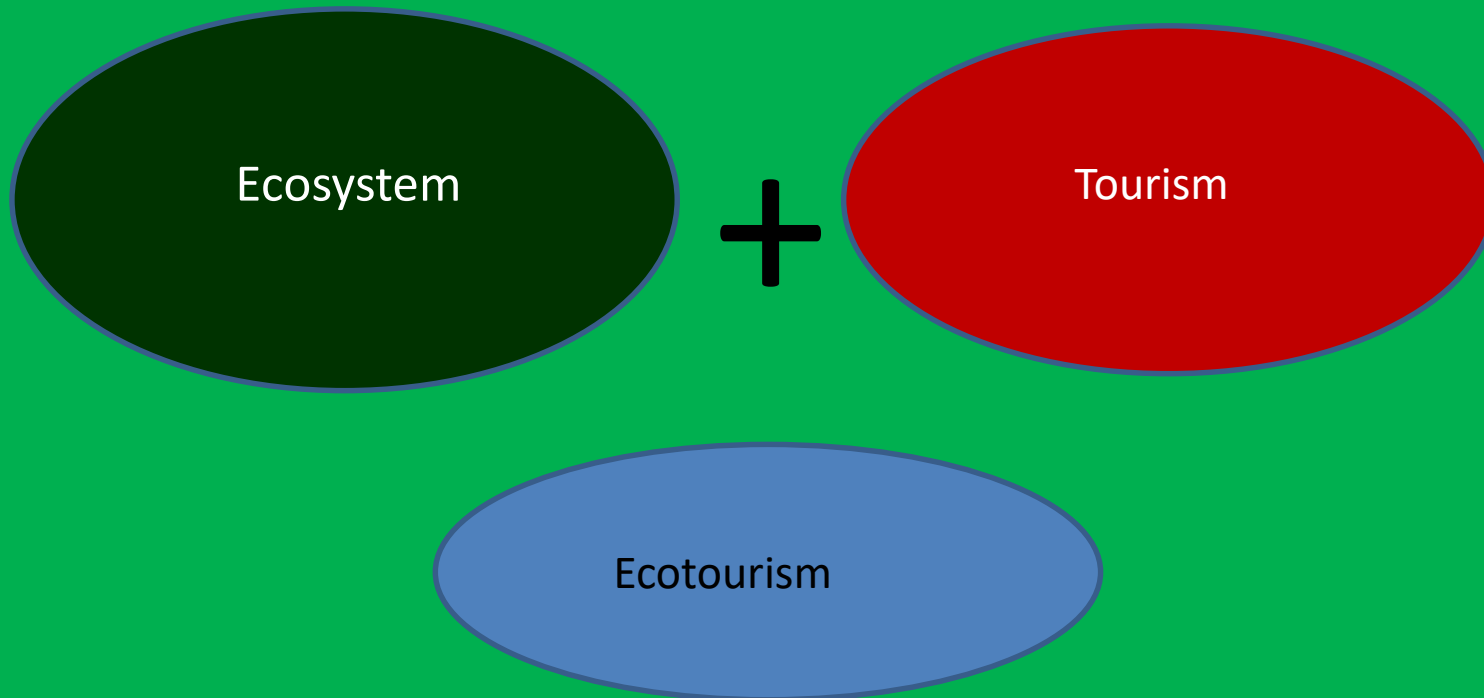


Other Definitions of Ecotourism:

- "Responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the local people" (*The Ecotourism Society*).....
- "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well being of the local people and involves interpretation and education" (*The International Ecotourism Society*).....

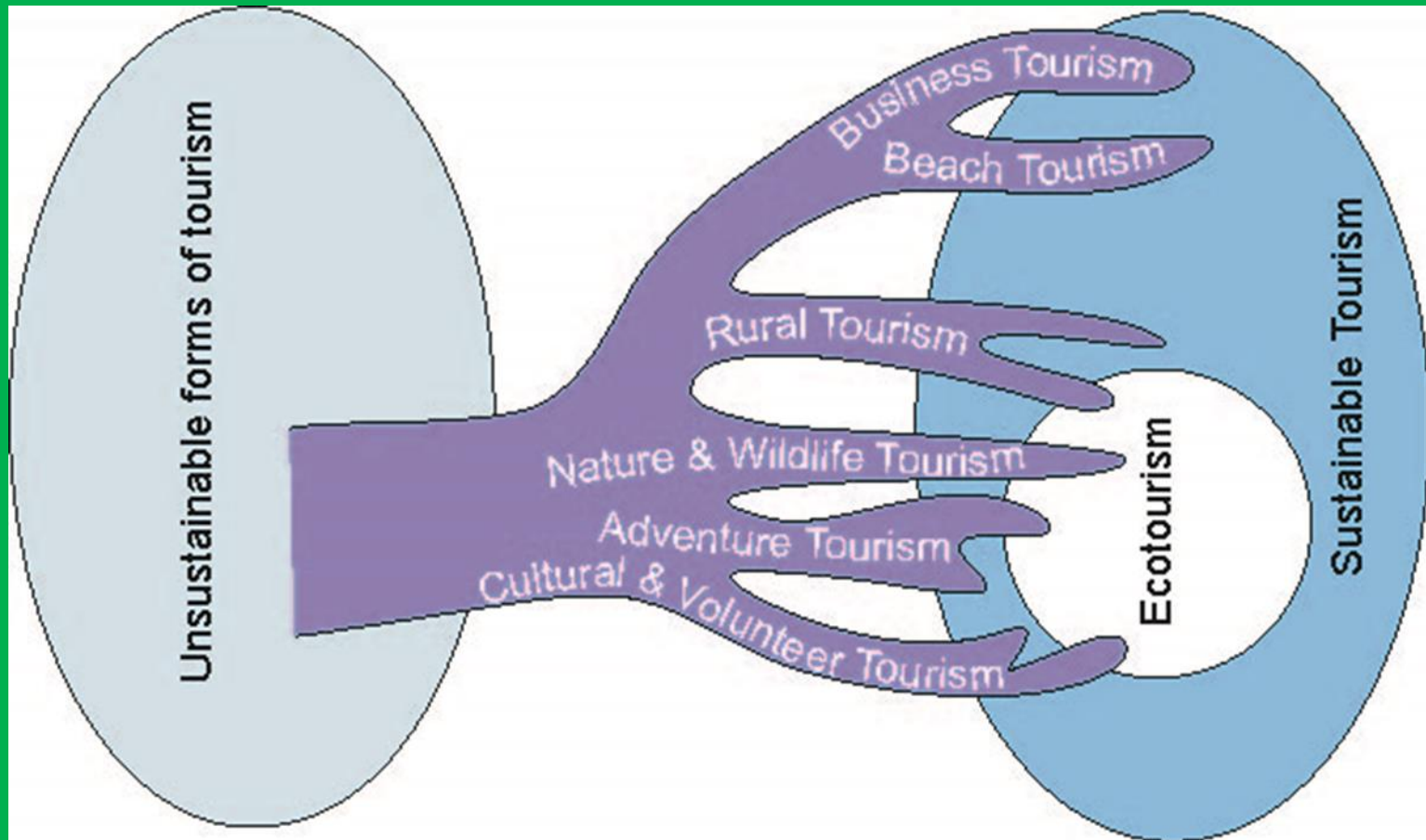
ECOSYSTEM:-

"An ecosystem is a unit of biological organisation interacting with the physical environment such that the flow of energy and mass leads to a characteristic trophic structure and material cycles."





Ecotourism and Sustainable tourism.....



Mass tourism

Extreme tourism



Ecotourism

Tourism has great potential to provide income and opportunities for local people.

But it with benefits come costs

Tourism can have the following impacts

- ✓ environmental
- ✓ economic
- ✓ socio-cultural

‘Tourism is like a fire, you can cook your food or burn you house down.’

Direct

1. Overcrowding of tourist area or tourist resource
2. Overdevelopment
3. Recreational use (Boats, fishing, safaris/tours)
4. Pollution (Noise, litter, air, land, water)
5. Vandalism
6. Feeding animals
7. Vehicles (Speeding, driving off-road, night driving)

Indirect

1. Collection of firewood
2. Roads and Murram pits
3. Introduction of exotic plants
4. Power lines
5. Artificial waterholes and salt provision

Overcrowding of tourist area or tourist resource

*Case study: Global Assessment of Human Effects on Coral Reefs.
Hodgson, G. (1999)*

Surveyed 315 reef sites in 31 countries over 2.5 months

Found sewage had an impact

But most reefs not near to main outlets, so fishing worse

*Case Study: Macro-algal blooms on southeast Florida coral reefs I.
Lapointe, et al. (2005)*

Surveyed reefs off Florida with successive macro-algal blooms

Sampled tissue of algae

Nutrient enrichment from sewage cause

Tourism developments are a problem

Overdevelopment

Case Study: Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Costa Rica, Aylward *et al.* (1996)

1500 ha. of cloud forest bought in 1949, 1000 ha. managed for dairy cattle, left 500 hectares

Purchased by Tropical Science centre, run as forest preserve

Originally only visited by scientific researchers, but after a BBC documentary in 1978, numbers of visitors rose from 200 to 2000/annum)

land acquisition continued until reached 10,000 ha by 1992 with other conservation organisations owning 25,000 ha around it



Recreational Use:

Case Study: Dolphin-watching tour boats change bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) behaviour. Constantine et al. (2004)

Study looked at the impacts of licensed and unlicensed boats on Dolphins and impact of increasing number of trips per week

Recorded behaviour, how many boats within 300 m

Dolphins responded to tourist boats

Decreased resting time from 67.8 % (one boat) to 0.5% (3 boats)

Milling behaviour increased from 28.4% to 46.4%

Foraging decreased

Unlicensed boats had more of an impact

Increased number of tours meant more disturbance and stress

What is ecotourism?

Ecotourism is responsible travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strive to be low impact and (often) small scale (not 'mass' tourism).

What does sustainable mean?

Doing something in a way that minimises damage to the environment and avoids using up natural resources. For example - using renewable resources wherever possible or locally produced food.

Why is mass tourism NOT eco-friendly?

- * Tourists consume huge amounts of food and water from the local environment, severely depleting resources.
- * Tourist resorts consume huge amounts of energy, often from fossil fuels.
- * Tourists often travel by jet plane in huge numbers; increasing atmospheric pollution from the planes.
- * Tourist resorts damage the natural environment through building and drainage schemes.



What is ecotourism?

Ecotourism stems from 2 concepts - stewardship and conservation.

Stewardship is careful management of the environment on a large scale across regions, nations and even internationally. All developments are planned sustainably.

Conservation is more LOCAL in its nature allowing local people to be involved.

Conservation – Doing something practical to preserve the landscape, environment, wildlife and natural resources.

Stewardship – Looking after the environment. Having responsibility for the environment.

The Concern for Ecotourism.....

- *Indian tradition – human kind is a part of nature*
- *Quest for the material end and economical progress*
- *Exploitation of nature in all its appearances*
- *Global Warming and Greenhouse Effects*

Ecotourism in India.....

- *India, the land of varied geography*
- *One of the 12-mega bio-diverse countries*
- *Rich cultural heritage*
- *The Himalayan Region, Kerala, the northeast India, Andaman & Nicobar*

Islands and the Lakshadweep islands

- *Thenmala – First planned ecotourism destination*

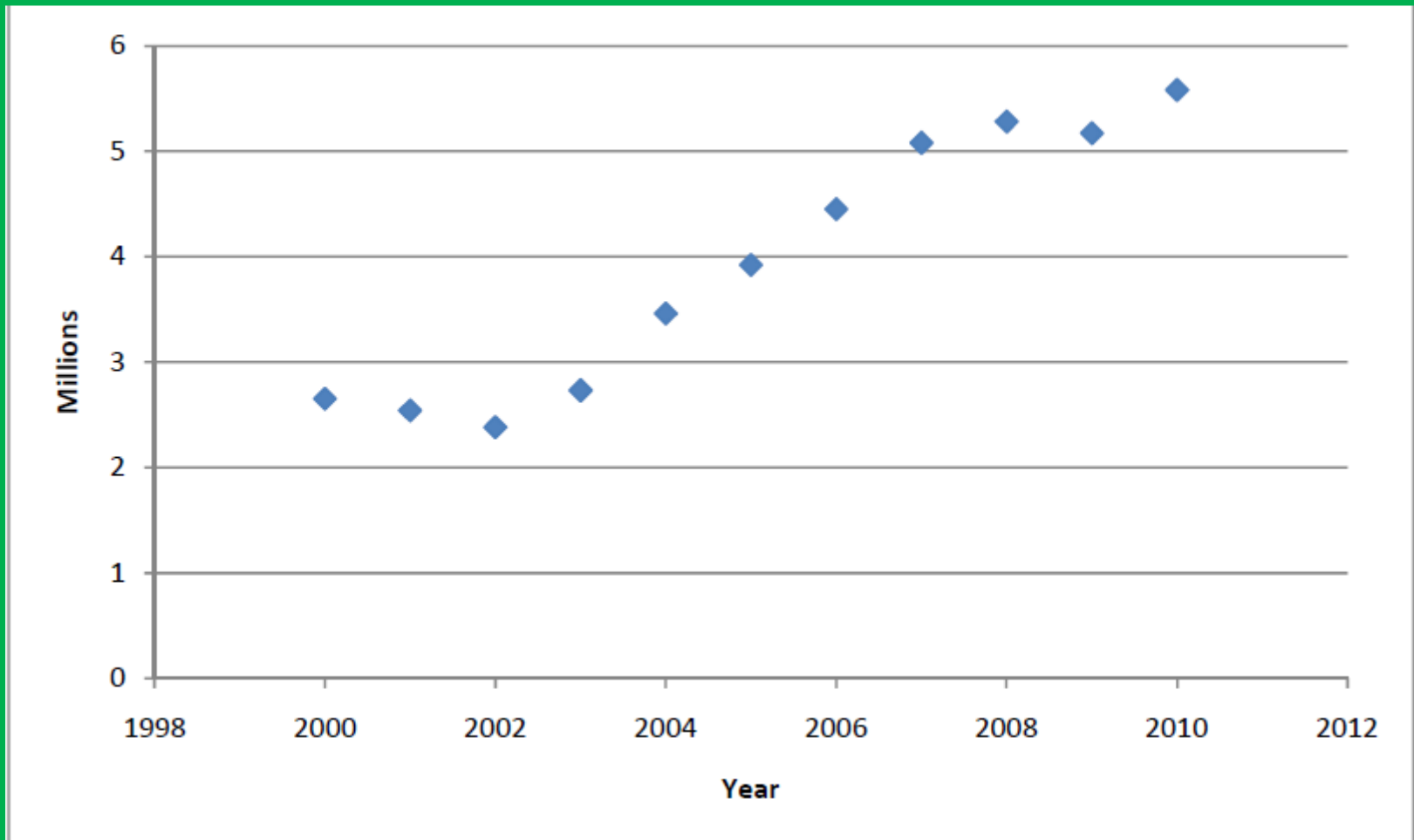
Motive.....

- ***Twin goals***
 - ***Biodiversity conservation***
 - ***Sustainable development***

Contribution of different economic sectors to employment.....

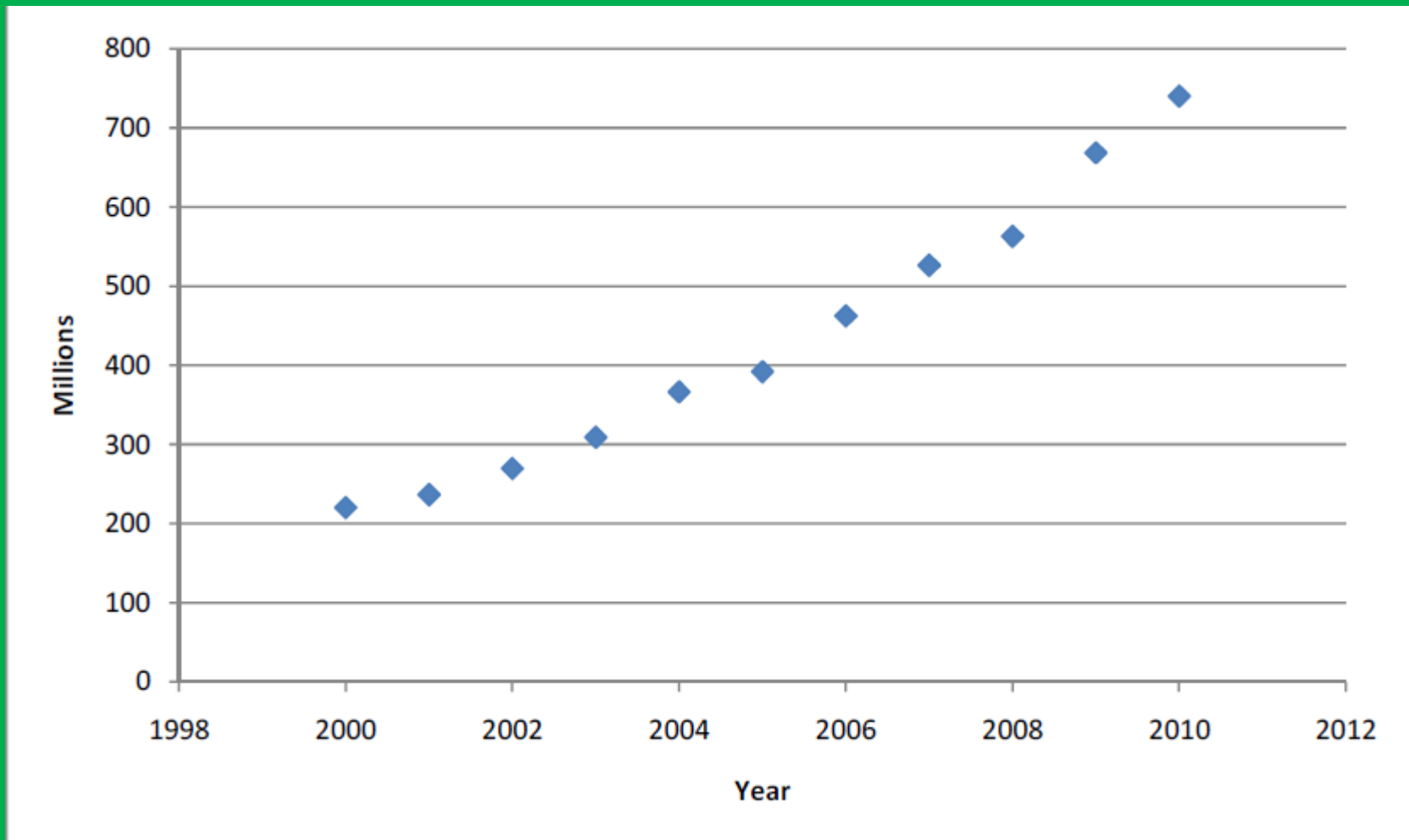
- *Agriculture 44.7 %*
- *Manufacturing 12.6 %*
- *Mining and quarrying 2.6 %*
- *Railways 0.9 %*
- *Other transport 13.8 %*
- *Tourism 47.5 %*

Foreign tourist arrival in India.....



Source: Tourism Statistics, Govt. of India

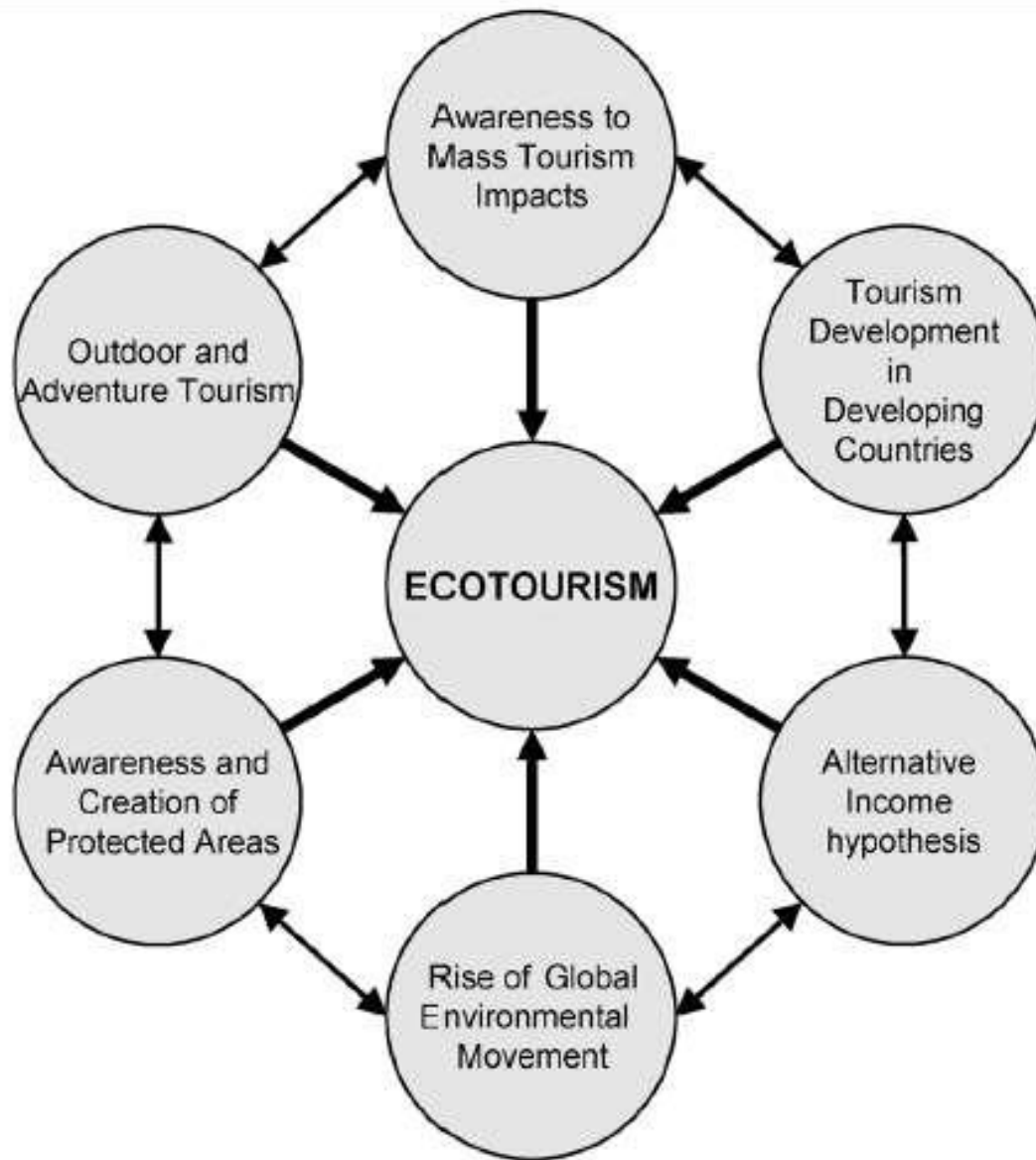
Domestic tourist visits in India.....



Source: Tourism Statistics, Govt. of India

Importance of Ecotourism.....

- *Utilises natural resources (landscapes, mountains, bio-diversity areas, rivers etc)*
- *Not a travel statement – message of our relationship with nature and its inhabitants*
- *Focus point: local cultures, wilderness, adventures and environment protection*
- *Ecological diversity*
- *Popularise secluded parts of the country Based on sustainable/eco-friendly tourism*
- *Tourism pressure degraded the ecologically fragile areas of the country*
- *Generate revenue without disturbing delicate ecosystem*



Ecotourism Industry in India.....

- Increase foreign exchange
- Development of infrastructure facilities
- Balanced regional development
- Generating employment
- Maintaining peace and goodwill

Requirement for ecotourism.....

- Control accessibility to an area
- Hill stations or beaches not categorized as ecotourism destinations
- National parks and wildlife sanctuaries most amenable

Forms of ecotourism in India



Wildlife tourism



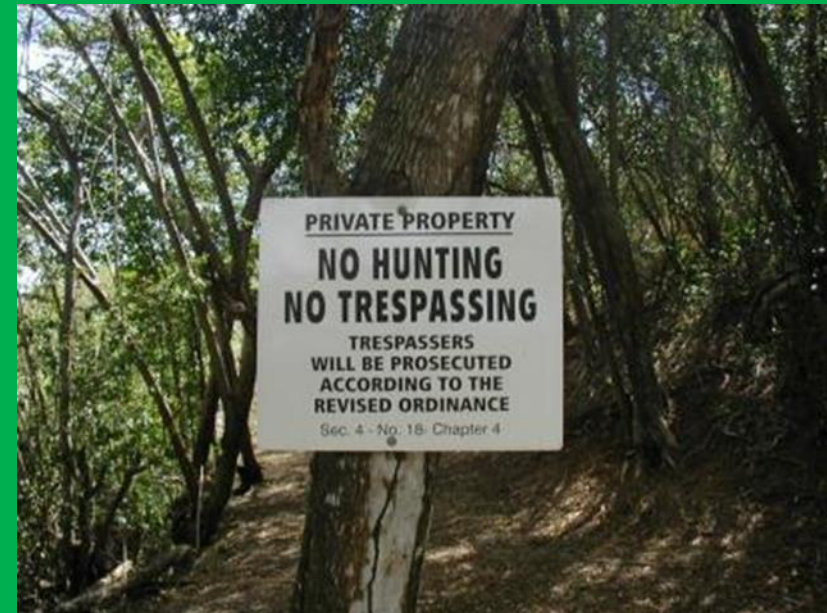
Agriculture tourism



Village tourism

Detailed Concept of Ecotourism

- Ecotourism travel literature has changed over the last 20 years
- shift towards 'soft' ecotourism
- Now highlight the peaceful elements of nature
- Suggest becoming part of nature
- **Is this ecotourism?**



Ecotourism today is just a **buzz word and an advertising device?**

Does real ecotourism exist or is it a marketing ploy used by firms to increase sales and improve their image?

Major Ecotourism Destinations.....

-Ecotourism resources in India.....

Kerala- A paradise for Tourist....

- God's own Country
- Eco-Visitors-Green heaven

- Sandy beaches, tropical dense forests etc.

- Many animal and plant species



Sundarban.....

✓ World's Largest Natural Delta.....

✓ Royal Bengal Tiger

✓ Wildlife Sanctuary, Bird Sanctuary, Crocodile
Projects

✓ Tidal rivers, water channels, large mangrove
tree



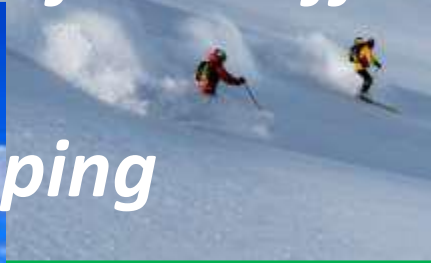
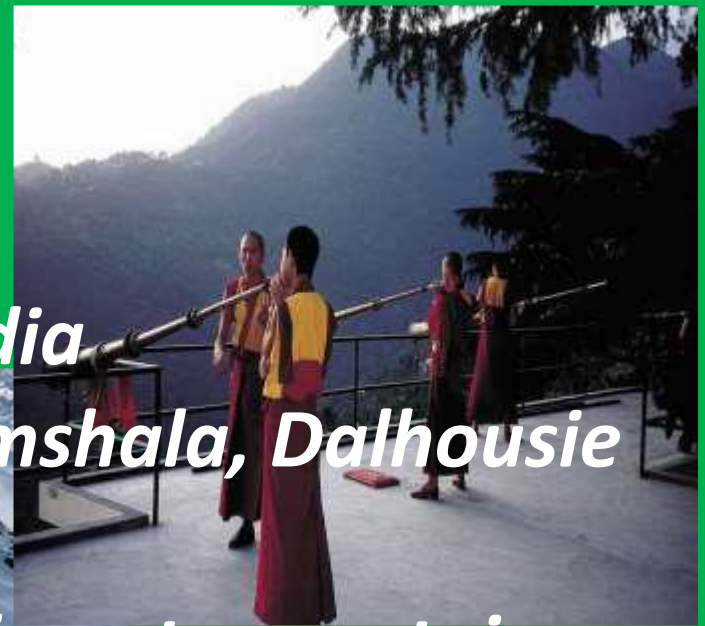
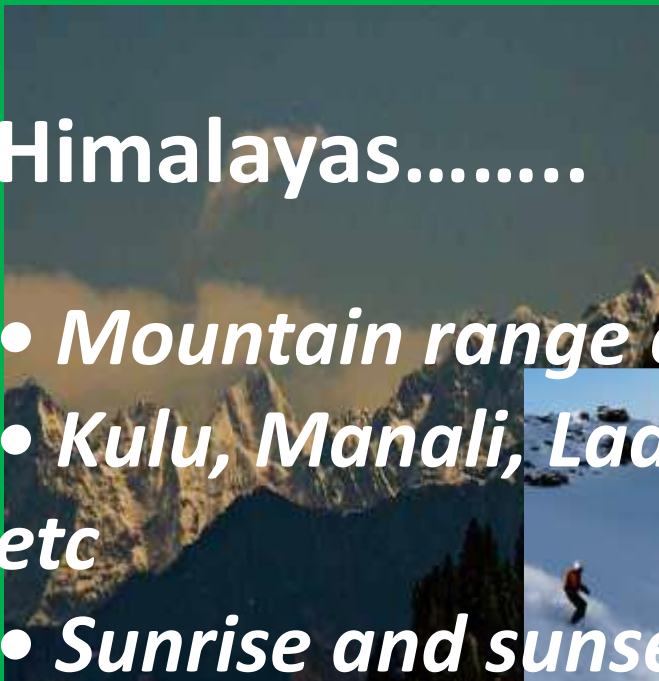
Goa.....

- *Natural resource and rich heritage*
- *Churches, temples, monuments, forts*
- *Beaches, wildlife and national park*
- *Carnival and cuisines*



Himalayas.....

- *Mountain range of north India*
- *Kulu, Manali, Ladak, Dharamshala, Dalhousie etc*
- *Sunrise and sunset from different mountain range*
- *Trekking and camping*



Andaman and Nicobar Islands.....

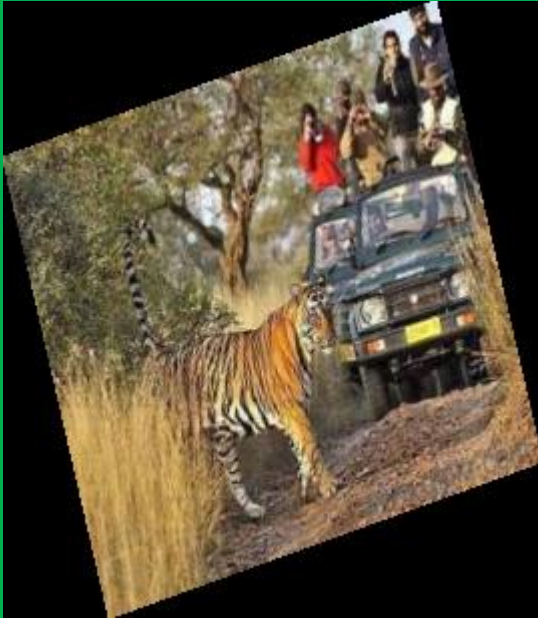
- *Animals, marine life, plants*
- *Fresh and clean environment, well maintained road*
- *Dense jungles and thousands of coconut trees*

Biosphere reserves

- **Nilgiri**
- **Nanda Devi**
- **Nokrek**
- **Great Nicobar**
- **Gulf of Mannar**
- **Manas**
- **Sunderbans**

National Parks

Jim



Bharatpur



Gir



Crocodile



Kaziranga



- 1. Gulf of Kutch
- 2. Nilgiri
- 3. Great Nicobars
- 4. Sundarbans

- 5. Nanda Devi
- 6. Gulf of Mannar
- 7. Nokrek

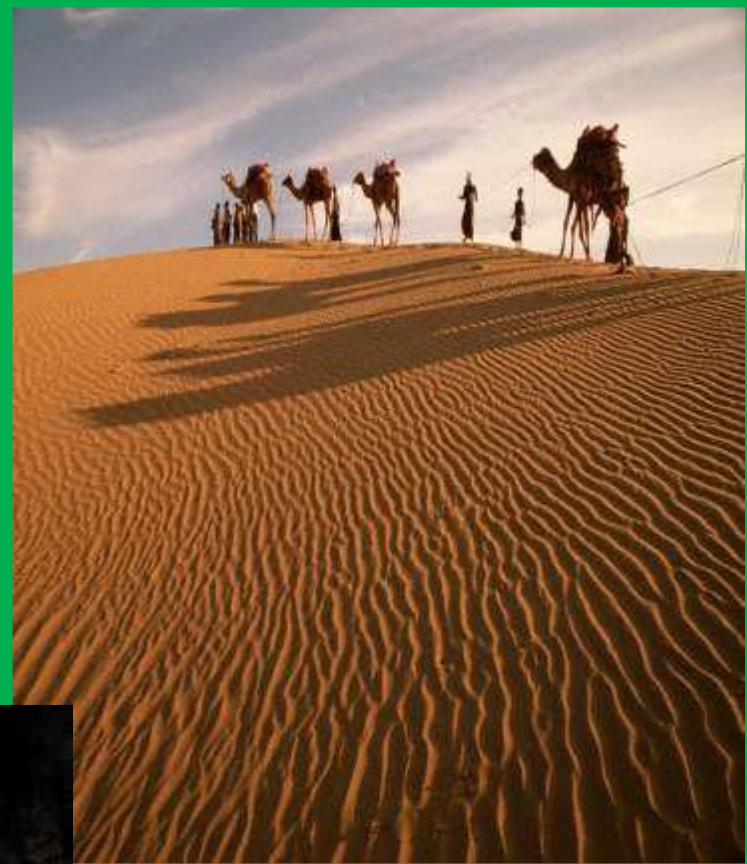
Mangroves.....

- Northern Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Sunderbans (West Bengal)
- Bhiturkania and Mahanadi delta (Orissa)
- Coringa, Godavari delta and Krishna estuary (AP)
- Pichavaram and Point Calimere (TN)
- Goa
- Coonapur (Karnataka)
- Achra and Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)
- Vembanad (Kerala)

Coral reef Ecosystems.....

- Gulf of Mannar
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Lakshadweep Islands
- Gulf of Kutch

- Deserts
- Mountains and forests
- Flora and Fauna
- Sea, lakes and rivers
- Caves



Promoting ecotourism in India.....

- **Government, local authorities, operators, visitors and local community**
- **Scientific and research institutes**
- **Non governmental organisations**

Landscape architect prepares the management plan

- **Controlled access points, roads, self guided nature trails, transportation options**
- **Interpretation centers, signs**
- **Adequate but unpretentious lodging and dining facilities**
- **Docks, garbage disposal facilities and other utilities**

Ministry of Tourism

- *Uttarakhand - First ecotourism model in valley of flowers*

Social economic issues.....

- Ecotourism often owned by outside interests
- Carrying capacity of the host area is not calculated
- Breakdown of civil amenities during peak season
 - Impact over locals
- Tourism monoculture
- Insincere source of income

Can Mass tourism and Ecotourism benefit each other?

Mass tourism benefiting ecotourism:

mass tourism provides soft Eco tourists.

government take mass tourism more seriously as generates serious revenue

mass ecotourism could provide alternative to more destructive but potentially lucrative endeavours, e.g. logging, mining, resorts

Ecotourism benefiting mass tourism:

strengthens product through diversification educates mass tourists greening of tourism appeals to certain markets

Protected areas benefit Ecotourism.....

- **Are regulated to ensure remain unspoilt**
- **Attractive because of high value natural area**
- **Are tourism icons, flagships**
- **As other less well known ones are degraded, these may be the ones that remain**
- **Ecotourism helps to sustain them**
- **Then there is the honey pot argument, by drawing people to an area can be severally degraded**

Why is ecotourism
important for future
generations?

Ecotourism Case Study: Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBiLFjK_Ztw&playnext=1&list=PLB4F8E3AB9195AA83&feature=results_video&safe=active

<http://www.pikaialodgegalapagos.com/index.php?/Environmental-sustainability-main/the-environmental-sustainability-of-pikaia-lodge-in-the-new-land-based-model>

Facts and figures

- The Galapagos Islands are most famous because many of the plants and animals found there are not found anywhere else in the world.
- This is because the islands are isolated or cut off from the rest of the World's land mass by the Pacific Ocean, allowing the plants and animals to evolve in their own way for hundreds of thousands of years.
- This was noted by Charles Darwin, and spurred him on to form his famous theory of evolution.
- Approximately 90% of the Islands are designated as National parks and there are only 20,000 permanent human residents (although this has risen from 9,000 only 20 years ago), allowing for a high degree of protection of the environment.

The Galapagos Islands show the mixed blessings of greenery

TOURISM has a long history in the Galapagos Islands. An early visitor was Charles Darwin nearly 175 years ago, on a trip that inspired his theory of evolution by natural selection. A lot has changed over the years. Visitors are now central to the future of the isolated archipelago. Income is needed to raise standards of living and create incentives for local people to conserve the fragile natural environment.

More people have put increased strain on the islands' water supply, sewerage and waste disposal, not to mention its fragile wildlife. Exploitation of fish from the marine reserve is increasingly intense and there is plenty of antagonism between fishermen and conservationists; the fishing fleets doubled during the study and illegal catches are common.

Even the conservationists and scientists are making things worse—they, too, are an important source of GDP growth. Although their spending is focused on environmental protection, it also injects millions of dollars into the economy each year, further stimulating migration.

The authors say that the slow growth in GDP per head creates even more political pressure to explore development options for the economy, whether through commercial fishing in the nature reserve, or additional numbers of tourists.

Visitors to the islands who hope to help the Galapagos may want to bear in mind that every \$3,000 more the islands earn—every three extra visitors, in other words—sucks in another migrant. Not very eco-friendly.

What is the issue?

2.- The benefits of this new tourism model

Solutions?

The new land-based model will stimulate and support local business and services. It aims to distribute the economical benefits of eco-tourism among the local population; in contrast with yachts and cruise ships which are mostly owned by continental companies and usually staffed by continental crews and services. There are many examples of the social and environmental benefits of this new model. For example, in the past, some local fishermen would illegally catch sharks for their fins. They were given the opportunity to switch their fishing permits for new day-tour diving permits, and now protect sharks and other marine life, taking divers and snorkelers to them. Or for those with new “catch and release sport fishing” day-tour permits, their new income from sport fishermen contrasts with their previous income earned from fishing



thousands of billfish or tuna for export, sometimes even killing sea lions who compete for fish stocks or destroy their fishing gear. Even farmers that would harm giant tortoises and endemic birdlife that damage their crops, or unwittingly introduce invasive commercial species and harmful chemicals for pest control, have found new income alternatives by developing small eco-tourism services and supporting wildlife on their lands.

The new model suggests the possibility of a virtuous circle; as wildlife is perceived not as a pest or export commodity, but a source of income through conservation and protection.

At Pikaia Lodge we believe that, well-regulated and managed, our land-based tourism is a positive model for the long-term preservation of the islands, combined with social stability and economical wellbeing for the settler communities. Pikaia Lodge is going to create more than 70 new jobs for Santa Cruz Island residents and will contribute substantial resources to the island's economy. More details on this are available in our “social responsibility” page.

Case Study:

Resident's attitudes towards tourism in Bigodi village, Uganda.

Indicator of appropriateness of tourism is resident's attitudes towards tourism. Positive attitudes lead to pro-tourism behaviour and in the case of nature related tourism conservation of resources

Negative attitudes can lead to unfavourable reactions to tourism, even sabotage of resources

Statistics - Bigodi Village, Uganda

Small Village – edge of Kibale National Park (KNP)

Became involved in tourism in 1991

Offers community forest and wetland , Magombe Swamp (primates & birds)

Offer guided walks through the forest and the opportunity to learn about local village life and culture

Not an easy choice, villagers at first very negative to idea Little contact with outsiders due to war Feared tourists would steal their lands

CONCLUSIONS.....

- Scope is very high
- Ecotourism industry flourishing
- Careful planning and target oriented approach
- Government schemes and policies
- Responsible traveller

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further please contact me:

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