On Wednesday 11 November 05:00-22:00 GMT, we'll be making some site updates on Taylor & Francis Online. You'll still be able to search, browse and read our articles, where access rights already apply. Registration, purchasing, activation of tokens, eprints and other features of Your Account will be unavailable during this scheduled work.

Current Issues in Tourism ›

Volume 10, 2007 - Issue 2-3

7,757 Views | 216 CrossRef citations to date | 1 Altmetric

Articles

Tourism as a Tool for Poverty Alleviation: A Critical Analysis of 'Pro-Poor Tourism' and Implications for Sustainability

Stephanie Chok, Jim Macbeth & Carol Warren

Pages 144-165 | Published online: 22 Dec 2008

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.2167/cit303

Sample our Tourism, Hospitality and Events Journals

>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

References Citations Metrics Reprints & Permissions

Read this article Share

Abstract

Forecasts of high tourism growth in developing nations, where widespread poverty exists, has led to considerable interest in tourism as a tool for poverty alleviation. Powerful bureaucratic and business alliances have been forged to expand this programme. International development agencies are also turning to tourism as a way of alleviating poverty. This is sometimes termed 'pro-poor tourism' (PPT). Distinguished from other forms of 'alternative tourisms' such as ecotourism and community-based tourism, the stakeholders involved in this enterprise are no less divided. Ideological divisions manifest themselves in the political struggle over how tourism in developing

countries should unfold. This paper identifies the different sustainability positions of prominent pro-poor tourism stakeholders and considers the implications for meeting pro-poor and sustainability objectives. Generally, tourism is too often regarded a panacea without an attendant recognition that, like any other industrial activity, tourism is highly political. As a global industry, tourism operates within a neo-liberal market economy which presents severe challenges to meeting pro-poor and sustainable development objectives. This paper therefore recommends a fundamental re-evaluation of tourism's pro-poor potential in the absence of significant commitment to directly address structural inequities which exacerbate poverty and constrain pro-poor attempts.

Keywords:

pro-poor tourism | poverty alleviation | sustainability | political economy of tourism development

Related Research Data

Towards an ethics platform for tourism
Source: Annals of Tourism Research
Tourism and Sustainability
Source: Unknown Repository
Managing the Pitfalls of Participatory Development: Some Insight from Australia
Source: World Development
The poverty consensus: some limitations of the ‘popular agenda’
Source: Progress in Development Studies
The Socio-cultural Impacts of Tourism Development in the Okavango Delta, Botswana
Source: Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change
Poverty and livelihoods: whose reality counts?
Source: Environment and Urbanization
Seven Steps Towards Sustainability: Tourism in the Context of New Knowledge
Source: Journal of Sustainable Tourism
Sustainable tourism as an adaptive paradigm

Related research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by 216

Tourism and poverty reduction: theory and practice in less economically developed countries

Anna Spenceley et al.
Journal of Sustainable Tourism
Published online: 23 Mar 2012

Exploring the Tourism-Poverty Nexus

Regina Scheyvens
Current Issues in Tourism
Published online: 22 Dec 2008

Growth Versus Equity: The Continuum of Pro-Poor Tourism and Neoliberal Governance

Daniela Schilcher
Current Issues in Tourism
Published online: 22 Dec 2008

View more

Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

Sign me up

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy

Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG

Taylor & Francis by informa