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RESPONSIBLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AT CHILEAN NATIONAL PARKS



Responsible Tourism Development at Chilean National Parks



Responsible Tourism Development at Chilean National Parks

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- Principles of Responsible Tourism
- Present conditions in Chilean National Parks
- Issues (economic, social and environmental: triple bottom line approach)
- Solution approaches
- National Park `La Campana`

Principles of Responsible Tourism

- Jost Krippendorf (1982):
`Ecology should be placed before economy in tourism, not at least for the sake of the economy itself and all who participate in it.`
- Harald Goodwin (2011):
`Responsible tourism is making it firstly a better place to live in and secondly, a better place to visit.`

Principles of Responsible Tourism

Cape Town Conference on Responsible Tourism in Destinations (Johannesburg 2002)

Organized by the Responsible Tourism Partnership and Western Cap Tourism

Cape Town Declaration:

- Minimize negative impacts
- Generate greater benefits
- Engage local people in the decision-making-process
- Provide more enjoyable, authentic experiences
- Provide access for all kind of people
- Ensure that tourism is culturally sensitive

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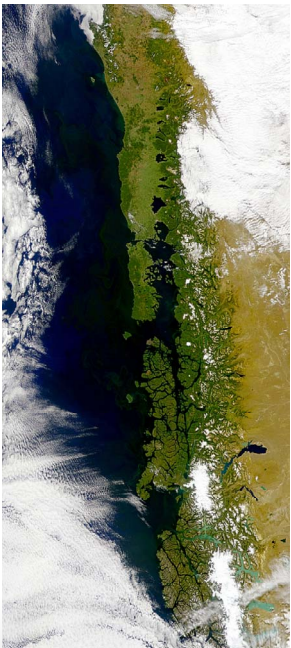
Principles of Responsible Tourism

'Everyone involved in tourism needs to take responsibility for his actions'

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Tourism in Chilean National Parks



- 33 National Parks (98 protected areas with a total surface of 14.445.698 ha)
- Sizes of NP's range from 4.138 to 3.525.901 ha
- Worldwide number 12 regarding n° of NP's (1. China – 208 NP's)
- Distinctive geographical situations and climatic conditions resulting in differences in biological diversity and coastal morphology in the northern, central and southern region of Chile
- Protected Areas being administrated by CONAF (Chilean National Forest Corporation) as a dependent organism of the Ministry of Agriculture

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Tourism in Chilean Protected Areas

- Gross distinctions in the key performance indicators between Chileans and foreigners
- Total number of 1.816.916 visitors in 2010 must be determined as comparably low

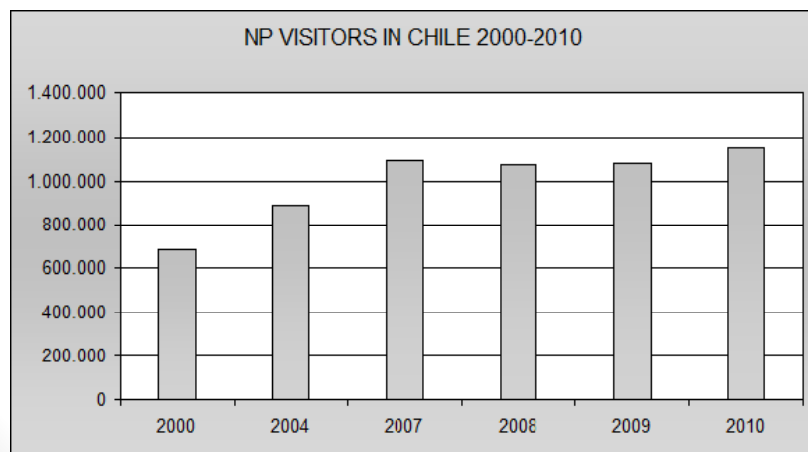
VISITOR PATTERN 2010	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			
	Chileans (data)	Foreigners (data)	Chileans (percentage)	Foreigners (percentage)
Protected Areas Chile	1.265.303	551.613	70%	30%

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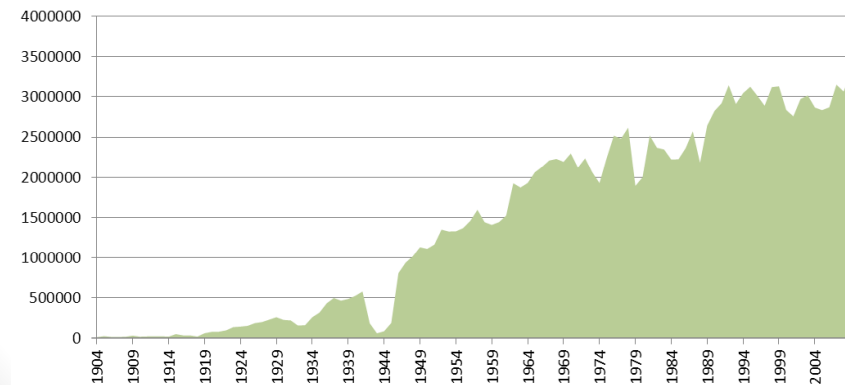
Tourism in Chilean National Parks

- Steady growth in the visitor numbers from 2000-2007
- Development of an attraction development strategy



Tourism in Chilean National Parks

- Yellowstone National Park (size: 898.700 ha):
3.600.000 visitors in 2009
- Most visited NP in Chile: NP Puyehue (size: 107.000 ha):
145.000 visitors in 2009



Issues (economic)

- Providing an appropriate budget
(IUCN: global objective to protect native ecosystems and conserving biological diversity)
NP Budget 2010: 8 Mio. US\$ - NP Torres del Paine: ~ 2 Mio. US\$
WWF (2004): average budget for a PA in Europe is eight times higher than in Latin America
- Economic return to local communities
(sustainable funding strategy; use of local transport, accommodation, food and craft products and local facilities)
- Innovation dialogue with concessioners
(just 57 concessioners operating in 33 NP's in Chile; revenue yielded flows directly to management institution CONAF)

Issues (social)

- Interpretation and exploitation of culture
(creating and preserving the feeling of patrimony, ownership and stewardship of the heritage)
- Interaction between hosts and guests
(arrangement of meetings and work-shops to create an open dialogue)
- Training opportunities and potentially transferable skills
(different levels of professional standards in the NP's, e.g. Torres del Paine versus Pan de Azúcar)

Issues (environmental)

- Environmental degradation

(deforestation, resulting soil erosion and pollution of its air, water and land; degradation rate before and after incorporating a National Park)

- Managing tourism environmental impacts

(carrying capacity approach will establish an early warning measure of key factors affecting the ability of the site; site stress which measures the levels on impact on the site and its attractiveness)

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Solution approaches

- Responsible Tourism's core: increase of local community employment in tourism enterprises

- Knowledge and experience of local communities in sustainable resource management can make a major contribution to Responsible Tourism

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RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN CHILE

Solution approaches

- UNCSD (1999):

“if local people's quality of life is enhanced, their efforts and commitments to ensure the future well-being of a resource is also enhanced.”

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Solution approaches

- Community based natural resource management approach combines conservation objectives with the generation of economic benefits and can make a major contribution to responsible tourism

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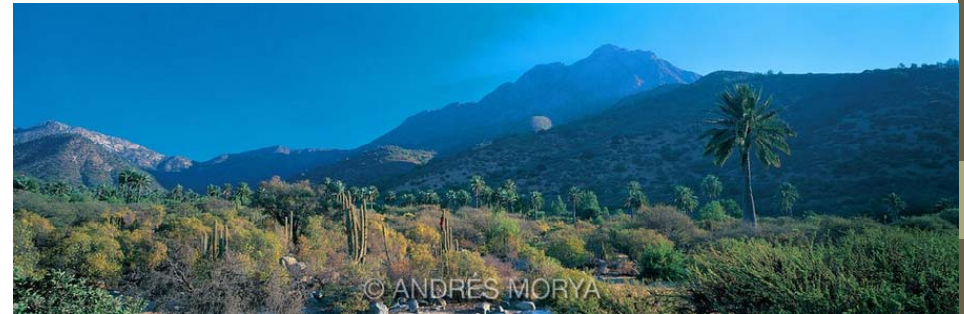
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Solution approaches

- Difficulty of successfully combining the objectives of biodiversity protection, socio-economic development, and sustainable resource application
- Adaptive management process with the support of NGO's working with local groups and communities and national and transnational organizations provides a valuable framework

National Park `La Campana`

- Development, evaluation of meetings and work-shops with the communities whilst explaining the meaning of Responsible Tourism and the value of `conservation of nature`
- Development of a Destination Management Company (DMC) that combines all the actors in the tourism sector
- Realization of quantitative and qualitative empirical studies with the local community, tourists and the administration board to examine challenges facing the community



Thank you for your attention!

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