Responsible Tourism Development at Chilean National Parks

CONTENTS

- 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 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

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

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VISITOR PATTERN 2010</th>
<th>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chileans (data)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protected Areas Chile</td>
<td>1,265,303</td>
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Tourism in Chilean National Parks

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

NP VISITORS IN CHILE 2000-2010

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)
  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)

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

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.”

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