

Developing World Tourism Statistics

Tourism is a principal export for developing countries; it is growing rapidly and is the most significant source of foreign exchange after petroleum. The developing countries are attracting an increasing share of global international tourism arrivals up from 20.8% in 1973 to 42% in 2000.

42% of all international travel takes place to the vast number of today's developing countries. Between 1990-2000, the growth rate of international travel to developing countries was 94.4% compared to approximately 34% to developed countries.

Tourism is a principal export for 83% of developing countries and it is the principal export in one third of them. Developing countries had 292.6 million international arrivals in 2000, an increase since 1990 of nearly 95%.

80% of the world's poor, those living on less than \$US 1 per day, live in 12 countries. In 11 of these countries, tourism is significant (> 2% of GDP or 5% of exports) and growing.

Tourism, Poverty and Development.

Sustainable Tourism can be one of the few development opportunities for the poor. Let us use it wisely and soon!

Tourists are often attracted to remote areas because of their high cultural, wildlife, and landscape values... One of the assets of the poor is their cultural and wildlife heritage; and tourism presents opportunities to capitalize on those assets.

Financial leakages- where a disproportionately low % of tourism revenues stay in the local market- reduce the development impact of tourism.

Linkages- use of local goods and services-result in the creation of more jobs and opportunities for small and medium sized businesses.

Tourism not only provides material benefits for the poor, but can also bring cultural pride, a sense of ownership and control, reduced vulnerability through diversification and the development of skills and entrepreneurial capacity.

Tourism contributes to poverty reduction by providing employment and diversified livelihood opportunities. Tourism products can be built on natural resources and culture, which are assets, that some of the poor have.

As an additional source of income [tourism] can play an important part in improving living standards and raising people above the poverty threshold.

Tourists are interested in the 'everyday lives' of local communities and there are a host of small-enterprise opportunities for local people.

If revenue from tourism could be better retained in Humla (Nepal), instead of being concentrated with outside trekking agencies, the potential benefits to Humla people is great.

Mainstreaming a focus on poverty across the tourism industry would be a formidable challenge. But given the importance of tourism in many very poor areas, it is surely worth rising to this challenge.

Central to any strategy of using tourism for pro-poor economic development is the opening of access for the poor to tourists in the local economy.

The World Tourism Organization is convinced that the power of tourism-one of the most dynamic economic activities of our time- can be more effectively harnessed to address the problems of poverty more directly.