سامية محمد مصطفى



شبكة المعلومات الحامعية

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



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سامية محمد مصطفي



شبكة العلومات الحامعية



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم





سامية محمد مصطفى

شبكة المعلومات الجامعية

جامعة عين شمس

التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

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سامية محمد مصطفى

شبكة المعلومات الحامعية



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TOURISM AND PROTECTED AREAS (STUDY OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP)

A Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of Tourism and Hotels
In Fulfillment of the Master's Degree of Science in

Tourism, Hotels and Guidance Studies

By
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Department of Tourism Studies

Alexandria, 2001

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I dedicate this work to my father's soul and to my dear mother for her moral support at all difficult times of stress and disappointment

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Salah El-Din Abdel Wahab** for his continuous supervision, advice and unfailing help, despite his limited time and large responsibilities. I must record here that without his tremendous experience, patience and desire for perfection, I would have easily lost track and direction.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to **Prof. Dr.**Mona Omar Barakat for her untiring efforts, kindness and supportive guidance throughout the whole work.

My thanks to **Prof. Dr. Abdel Fattah El-Kassas** (Faculty of Science, Cairo University) who gave me all the data concerning the Egyptian-Italian Project implemented in Wadi El-Rayan.

I am very thankful to **Associate Prof. Hanan Katara** who always provided me with support, help and advice. I would also like to express my gratitude to **Dr. Hussein Saad Hussein** (Faculty of Science, Alexandria University) for his help and support. He helped me in the understanding of many ecological issues. My appreciation to **Mr. Fathy Higgy** (Ex-Director of Protected Areas and Environmental Affairs Management in Fayoum) who gave me all the information concerning Wadi El-Rayan and provided me with all the facilities possible to visit the protected area.

I would like to express special acknowledgment to my fiancé for his support and active participation that allowed the accomplishment of the work. Finally, I'm very thankful to all my colleagues for their kind help and support.

Summary (1500 Words)

Today, tourists of all kinds are willing to get away from their polluted and environmentally degraded conditions at their destinations/homes. They seek travel opportunities to unspoiled areas, especially protected areas. Protected areas have proved to be the most effective means to maintain natural and cultural heritage and have become among the prime attractions for tourists.

Well-planned ecotourism is conceived as a means of reducing adverse ecological and socio-economic impacts of mass tourism and promotes sustainable development by combining conservation, environmental education and the welfare of local communities. Otherwise, it turns to be more damaging than mass tourism, since it typically occurs in sensitive fragile environments and opens undiscovered destinations to the public.

Therefore, both considerable opportunity and need, exist for developing a symbiotic relationship between protected areas and tourism.

Problem Definition

Although there is an interdependence between tourism and protected areas, little attention has been devoted towards experiencing this relationship and seeking opportunities to develop a symbiotic, and mutually beneficial relationship between them. At the same time, little attention from researchers has been paid towards the highlight of problems facing tourism development in protected areas and the suggested solutions to these problems.

The Importance of the Study

- a) It can be argued, that tourism is one of the major determinants of the value of protected areas and protected areas are obviously among the prime attractions for tourists.
- b) There is an increasing international trend towards ecotourism which is considered a positive dimension of tourism and the preferred type of tourism for protected areas (Ceballos-Lascuráin, 1996; Hall, 1996).
- c) Integrating ecotourism into the protected areas management plans can be a means to achieve the sustainable development of protected areas. Furthermore, it can lead to increased economic benefits to society.
- d) Since inadequate research has been undertaken concerning the interrelationship between ecotourism and protected areas which is complex but important, this study has tried to examine this relationship while focusing on the positive and negative impacts of ecotourism in protected areas. It has also showed how tourism can increase support for protected areas and can be used properly as a conservation tool. In addition, it has showed how a balance between visitor enjoyment and conservation needs can be assured through appropriate management actions which should take place before the initiation or expansion of any tourism associated with protected areas.

Research Hypotheses

- a) If protected areas are not appropriately planned and managed, their resources could deteriorate and they could lose their attractiveness for tourists and vice versa.
- b) If tourism in protected areas is not appropriately planned and integrated into the overall management plan of protected areas, it could have negative impacts on these areas and vice versa.

Research Objectives

- a) Testing the research hypotheses.
- b) Highlighting the importance of the interrelationship between tourism and protected areas, as well as, the problems impeding the sustainable ecotourism development in protected areas.
- c) Providing a framework and guidelines for developing and promoting sustainable ecotourism in protected areas.
- d) Applying these guidelines to Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area as a pattern for the remaining protected areas in Egypt.
- e) Providing conclusions and recommendations which could be used in future research and studies.

Research Methodology

- a) The researcher used the descriptive analytical method. The theoretical framework of the research is based on desk research including books, reports, periodicals and articles. In cases of dispute or controversial data in references, the researcher selected the most recent data.
- b) The practical part of the research focused on a detailed study of Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area. This part of the research is based on desk research including reports, as well as, two field visits to the protected area.

Research Limitations

- a) This research gives an overview of protected areas in the world, as well as, a detailed overview of protected areas in Egypt, excluding the discussion of the geomorphologic and ecological frameworks of protected areas.
- b) This study focuses mainly on ecotourism as the most suitable type of tourism for protected areas, which is a case in point for Wadi Rayan

- Protected Area. Therefore, this study does not discuss the other tourism types in protected areas.
- c) The research discusses the interrelationship between tourism and protected areas and focuses in details on how tourism in protected areas could be planned and managed in a sustainable way, excluding the details of the overall management process of protected areas.
- d) The purpose of the description of Wadi El-Rayan is to give a general overview of the protected area which is necessary for ecotourism development. Thus, the research excludes the details of the geomorphologic, ecological, technical and legal aspects.
- e) The data and statistics collected regarding the case study of Wadi El-Rayan cover the period from the financial year 1995/96 until the financial year 1999/2000.

Difficulties Encountered During the Research

The researcher faced the following difficulties:

- a) The difficulty of obtaining data concerning protected areas from governmental agencies, especially the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA).
- b) Lack of updated and accurate data given by international organizations, such as the IUCN, concerning Egypt.
- c) Lack of references dealing with tourism and protected areas.
- d) Repetitive, incomplete and at times conflicting data provided in different references, especially concerning the case study of Wadi El-Rayan.

Literature Review

a) Several studies have discussed the interrelationship between tourism and the environment in general. A case in point is EL-Kady's (1999)

thesis entitled "The Role of the Environment in Expanding the Base of International Tourism Demand on Egypt". This thesis begins with an ecological background concerning the environment and the interrelationship between tourism and the environment. Then, it states the importance of the natural resources of Egypt from the tourism perspective. In addition, it examines the relationship between the environment and the international tourism demand on Egypt, dealing in one point with the management of protected areas from the tourism point of view and referring briefly to the management of Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area.

- b) There also have been several studies dealing with protected areas from different perspectives. One example is EL-Gazar's (1995) thesis entitled "Planning and Designing Protected Areas in Egypt: Case Study: Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area". This Thesis starts with an ecological background concerning the environment in general and protected areas in particular. It further describes the main dimensions of the planning and design of protected areas, providing a model of how they could be planned and designed with its application on Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area.
- c) In addition, many studies have focused on ecotourism in some destinations from various viewpoints. An example is Herath's (1997) study entitled "Ecotourism Development in Australia" which examines some key issues constraining ecotourism development in Australia. Another study is that of Campbell (1999) entitled "Ecotourism in Rural Developing Communities" which discusses the development of ecotourism at Ostional, Costa Rica.

However, there are not many studies concerning the interrelationship between tourism and protected areas.