SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL TOURISM IN TANZANIA

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- Sustainability
- Problems
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Abstract:

There has been much emphasis by the World Tourism Organization (W.T.O) on the importance of a country's use of both natural and cultural heritage in her economy and social development through tourism. However, Cultural heritage sites are under pressure world wide due to tourism. In many developing countries, cultural tourism involves built heritage and mostly the living intangible heritage so strongly presented among local communities. According to the host community, essential goals of tourism development include generating higher levels of income, creation of new employment opportunities as well as increasing foreign exchange. Also, it is important to protect the environment and especially their culture.

The major challenge however is the relationship of sustainable conservation in relation to Cultural tourism. Can they co-exist? What are the major measures for sustainable tourism in our host communities.

Origin

- Concern for the destruction for the environment and thus the resources;
- National including UNCTAD, UNESCO and World Tourism Organization;
- Hue Declaration of the WTO Ministerial meeting in Cultural tourism and Poverty Allevation – June 2004.

Definitions

Sustainable Tourism

- Development meets the need of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future;

- Development guidelines and management practices are applicable to all forms of tourism, types of destinations and the various niche Tourism;

- Refer to the environment, economic and social cultural of tourism development, and sustainable balance must be established among the three dimensions to guarantee its long sustainability.

Intangible and Tangible

Intangible	**Tangible**
- Expressions	- Monuments
- Representations	- Groups of buildings
- Practices	- Sites
- Knowledge	- Natural areas

Domains

- Oral traditions, and expressions including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;

- Performing arts;

- Social practices rituals and festival events;

- Knowledge and practice concerning nature and the universe

- Traditional craftsmanship.

Criteria

This intangible heritage is

- transmitted from generation to generation;
- constantly created by communities in response to
  - Their environment
  - Their interactions with nature and
  - Their history
- and provides them with a sense of identity and Continuity

Sustainable Tourism should

- Make use of environmental resources that contribute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve cultural heritage;

- Respect the social cultural authenticity of host communicates, conserve their built and living heritage and traditional values and contribute to intercultural understanding and tolerance.

- Ensure viable, long term economic operations, providing social economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed including stable employment and income earning opportunities and social services to host communities and contributing to poverty alleviation.

Threats

Tangible Heritage

- Fragile and delicate nature especially Historic buildings ruins and monuments as regards age and environment;

- Mass tourism

- Aggressive urbanization

- Speculative development

- Nature;

- Conflict

- General neglect

Intangible heritage

- Overcrowding
- Distortion of local customs
- Loss of native language
- Demonstration
- Loss of traditional industries
- Fragmentation of communities
- Alteration to Religions Codes;
- Rise of social Problems

National safeguarding measures
- Inventory making;
- Adopt a general safeguarding policy
- Establish complement safeguarding bodies
- Foster studies and research methodologies;
- Ensure recognition of and respect of Intangible heritage
- Inform the public of dangers threatening intangible cultural heritage;
- Promote education for protection for natural spaces and places of memory;
- Adopt legal, technical and administrative and financial measures;
- Training institutions for intangible heritage, management and transmission;
- Ensure access to intangible cultural heritage;
- Establish documentation institution.