

Call for Chapters

Volume title:

Economics and Management of Geotourism

Editors:

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Description:

Over the years, tourist activities have rightfully deserved the attention they have received from academics and practitioners, in particular with regard both to their impact on processes of wealth creation and their contribution to fostering socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. More recently, within the tourism industry, geotourism has been gaining relative importance and, even though the academic literature remains incipient, researchers are already providing major new insights by exploring its local development impact, the entrepreneurial processes involved, and the management and resource allocation challenges that geotourism presents.

Geotourism, according to Dowling (2011), is a form of nature tourism that focuses on a given territory's geology and landscape, by attracting visitors - tourists and local residents alike - to geosites with a view to providing both a pleasurable and educational experience by deepening understanding of geology and other earth sciences, and raising awareness of the need to preserve geodiversity.

Geotourism contributes positively to rural development, while expanding the tourism sector as a whole (Dowling and Newsome 2006). Above all, it is a sustainable form of tourism that has the potential to deliver economic and social benefits to host communities. Five key objectives are common to all the activities involved in geotourism: (1) the development of greater awareness and understanding of the significant contributions geotourism can make to the environment, local communities and the economy; (2) The promotion of equity in the geo-development process; (3) Sustainable improvements in the quality of life of the host community; (4) Delivery of high levels of quality - both experiential and educational - in the visitor experience; and (5) The protection of the quality of the geological heritage on which the above objectives depend. With its focus on landscape conservation, local economic development and social progress, geotourism operationalizes many of the basic principles of sustainability that have already become embedded in broader regional strategies.

All tourism development, including that of geotourism, involves multiple stakeholders, including businesses, government departments and agencies at national and regional levels, as well as community and environmental groups. Due to their direct impact on tourism production and consumption, landscapes indirectly influence opportunities for regional development. Consequently, with regional development and landscape conservation so inextricably intertwined, most accounts of geotourism have foregrounded sustainable rural development as both justification and desired outcome, focusing on the competitive advantages that can be derived from presenting potential visitors with spectacular scenery, geological marvels capable of reconfiguring, exemplifying and projecting territorial identity (Stoffelen 2015). Furthermore, in geotourism development, one of two main approaches tends to predominate: a geological focus on landscape, geological inventories and conservation and/or a more geographical focus on regional identity, tourism and local entrepreneurship. Thus from the geological perspective, geotourism is a distinctive subsector in contrast to other tourism niches such as ecotourism and cultural tourism (Dowling & Newsome, 2006; 2012), whereas from the geographical standpoint, it is a global phenomenon in which various types of organizations deploy a series of location-specific products, services and experiences related to the identity of the destination (Bosak et al., 2010).

Geo- or landscape tourism also has the capacity to assist in the regeneration of private rural property, provided they possess significant geological heritage assets (O'Connor, 2008). Geopark sites constitute the core of geotourism development because they possess unique geological resources that require protection and conservation so they can be employed for scientific, educational and tourism purposes. As such, geoparks provide the basis for an innovative approach to the conservation of the natural and geological heritage, the expansion of local economic opportunities, and rebuilding of local social cohesion and identity.

In line with the emerging nature and status of this theme, and the gaps that still exist in the literature, the aim of the proposed book is to provide insights into the impacts of geotourism in economic and social development processes, and to explore to what extent the opportunities and challenges facing geotourism reflect current trends in the tourist industry as a whole. Our aim is to bring attention to the economics and management of geotourism. This approach is innovative inasmuch as, to date, the theme has been examined primarily from the natural sciences perspective, to the detriment of issues related to local economic and social impact, inter-organizational collaboration, tourist responses and community participation.

Proposed Chapter Outline:

Given the diversity of topics associated to the economics and management of geotourism, this call for chapter accepts manuscripts, focused on geotourism, on the topics:

- Local development
- Geopark management
- Geosystems (geosystem Management)
- Territorial Marketing of Geotourism
- Impact on the quality of life of the local population
- Innovative and entrepreneurial strategies in geotourism
- Natural ecosystems and entrepreneurial ecosystems
- Smart regional and local specialisation

Chapter Length:

Each chapter constitutes a contribution from a specific author or authors. We are expecting to include 10 chapters in the book (each with 7,000 to 10,000 words)

Submission:

Authors are welcomed to submit chapters proposals, by email, to the authors (vbraga@estg.ipp.pt; antonio.duarte@aroucageopark.pt; smarques@utad.pt), taking into account the deadlines, below:

Deadline for chapters: 15/07/2019

Notification of acceptance by the editors: 30/09/2019

Deadline for full chapters: 31/12/2019