

Tourism Funds for Protected Areas

Prof. Ralf Buckley, International Centre for Ecotourism Research, Griffith University

Economic Values of Parks

- biodiversity resources = main purpose
- ecosystem services = 2nd main value
- individual recreation, health benefits
- commercial tourism
 - travel, accommodation, equipment (economic impacts *outside* parks)
 - in-park tours, activities

Tourism Funds to Parks

- entrance, camping, activity fees
- management costs >> fees received
- off-park components don't contribute
- visitor management costs affect conservation
- park funds shortfall affects tourism
- tourism in parks uses public amenities

The TTF Project

- profitable private investment in visitor infrastructure
- which contributes to conservation and matches management plans
- review real case studies, expert practitioner panel
- reports on www.ttf.org.au

What Tourism can do for Parks

- lobby governments for bigger parks budgets as this also benefits tourism
- operate in other public & private lands to reduce pressure on parks
- invest in visitor infrastructure in parks where this fits park plans
- 3 key opportunities for this.....

Key Opportunities for Private Investment In Protected Areas

- maintain and manage heritage buildings
 - lighthouses, urban parks
- build & operate specialist infrastructure
 - e.g. in caves, underwater, forest canopies
- build facilities in remote high-use areas
 - e.g. in large parks with heavy 4wd use
 - but only where parks agency wants this