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Assessment of Indicators of Sustainable Ecotourism in Tanzania

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Abstract

This study aims at assessing indicators of sustainable ecotourism in Tanzania. Using a survey approach, 250 ecotourism stakeholders from the eastern and northern tourist circuits were interviewed. Qualitative research design was applied due to unsubstantial prior knowledge of the subject matter. Eighteen indicators of sustainable ecotourism were assessed, including consumption rate of natural resources; refurbishment of damaged cultural sites; preservation and human settlement; community's awareness, reliable public services, skilled community; and products' quality. The findings categorize the indicators of sustainable ecotourism into four dimensions of conservation of natural and cultural diversity, participation of stakeholders, and reliable infrastructure. A number of useful indicators and parameters which can be used during planning, monitoring, and decision-making of ecotourism activities have been suggested.

Keywords:

Indicators,
Sustainable ecotourism,
Tanzania