

## Ecotourism & Nature Tourism

Diane Kuehn  
Assistant Professor  
Forest & Natural Resources Management  
310A Bray Hall

[www.esf.edu/for/kuehn](http://www.esf.edu/for/kuehn)

## What is sustainable development?

- "Positive socioeconomic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems upon which communities and society are dependent." -- *Rees, 1989*

**Is this really possible??**

## Definition of Ecotourism

1. Involves travel to natural destinations.
2. Utilizes activities with minimal impacts.
3. Builds environmental awareness.
4. Provides direct financial benefits for conservation.
5. Provides financial benefits and empowerment for local people.
6. Respects local culture.
7. Supports human rights & political empowerment of communities (grassroots effort).

*Honey 1999*

## Stated another way...

- Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.

The International Ecotourism Society:  
<http://www.ecotourism.org/>

## So what is nature tourism?

- Travel to natural areas.
- Ecotourism is a specific type of nature tourism.

## Activity types

### Ecotourism


- Non-consumptive, low-impact activities

### Nature tourism

- Consumptive and non-consumptive, moderate-impact activities


### Urban tourism

- Consumptive and non-consumptive, mainly high-impact activities




## Visitor Management

<b>Ecotourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Strong educational &amp; behavioral component</li></ul>
<b>Nature tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ May or may not have a behavioral or educational component</li></ul>
<b>Urban tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ May or may not have a behavioral or educational component</li></ul>




## Scale of operation

<b>Ecotourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Relatively small number of visitors served</li></ul>
<b>Nature tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Moderate number of visitors served</li></ul>
<b>Urban tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Large number of visitors served</li></ul>



## Infrastructure

<b>Ecotourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Minimum infrastructure</li></ul>
<b>Nature tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Comfortable infrastructure</li></ul>
<b>Urban tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maximum infrastructure &amp; commercial development</li></ul>



## Community involvement

<b>Ecotourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tourism provided by local residents &amp; entrepreneurs</li></ul>
<b>Nature tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tourism providers both local and outside businesses &amp; corporations</li></ul>
<b>Urban tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tourism providers are mainly corporations</li></ul>