

Technische Universität Dortmund
Fakultät Raumplanung

**Ecotourism as a Framework for Sustainable Touristic
Development: Case Study of Protected Areas, Egypt**

A doctoral dissertation submitted to
The School of Spatial Planning, Dortmund University of Technology
(TU Dortmund)

By

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In accordance with the requirements for the degree of Doctor of
Engineering
(Dr.-Ing.)

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Abstract

Tourism is one of the world's largest industries. If the term of sustainable ecotourism is applied in an ideal form, tourism will be one of the fastest growing sectors. This study focuses on sustainable ecotourism as a framework for sustainable touristic development.

Conceptually, this research aims to present an overview of the relationship between sustainable ecotourism, ecolodges and protected areas. Additionally, the current research investigates some ecotourism examples which are known as a part of successful countries in ecotourism all over the world. Reviewing the theoretical background leads to some indicators and factors that help in implementing ecotourism in special contexts.

Three Egyptian protectorates have been selected as case studies. This selection was based on their great attractions for tourists and being considered as world heritage sites. In addition, the present research aims to apply ecotourism to conserve the natural heritage and to suggest integrated tourism strategies to give sufficient consideration to the environment, local communities, and long term sustainability.

Two types of questionnaires were used in the selected case studies. Tourists' questionnaires were applied to realize the tourists' trends, their opinion about eco-tours, their perception about ecotourism and which activities that encourage them to visit these destinations. Managers and planners' questionnaires were applied to know the projects in the area which support the perception of the ecotourism, the best factors that support applying ecotourism and increase the flow of tourists to these destinations.

Findings of this study include a suggested framework for promoting sustainable ecotourism in Egyptian protected areas. Additionally, visions for the future development in Wadi El-Hitan protectorate were also presented. Likewise, the current research proposes a number of recommendations which could be applied for all protected areas that implicated the same conditions.

Moreover, the research recommendations could be classified into some categories. These are recommendations for planning, ecolodges architecture, structure, technology, and ecotourists.