MBSC-4.2E

Sl.No. : **Total No. of Pages : 4**

Fourth Semester M.B.A. Degree Examination, November - 2024
(SLM Scheme) (CBCS)
MANAGEMENT (Elective - E : Tourism)
Eco-Tourism and Sustainable Development

Time : 3 Hours **Max. Marks : 80**

SECTION - A

Answer any five sub-questions. Each question carries five marks. [5 × 5 = 25]

Q1) What is eco-tourism? Discuss how eco-tourism is being promoted and practiced in Karnataka.

Q2) What are eco-tourism resources? Explain their importance and how they contribute to responsible tourism practices.

Q3) How does tourism influence the socio-cultural practices and traditions of local communities in popular tourist destinations?

Q4) What is sustainable tourism development, and why is it important for the future of the tourism industry?

Q5) How does sustainable tourism development impact wildlife conservation, and what strategies can be implemented to ensure that tourism supports rather than harms wildlife habitats?

Q6) What are green hotels or ecotels, and how do they contribute to environmentally friendly tourism?

Q7) What role do various organizations, such as government bodies, NGOs, and international agencies, play in promoting and supporting sustainable tourism development?

SECTION - B

Answer any four sub-questions. Each question carries ten marks. [4 × 10 = 40]

Q8) Write a brief note on the relationship between the environment and tourism. How does tourism impact the environment, and why is it important to consider environmental sustainability in tourism development?

Q9) What is the role of global tourism organizations in promoting and regulating sustainable tourism? Discuss how these organizations contribute to the development of responsible tourism practices worldwide.

Q10) How sustainable tourism benefit both the environment and local communities? Discuss this concept by examining how a specific country has successfully implemented sustainable tourism practices. Provide examples of the strategies used and the positive outcomes achieved.

Q11) What are the main challenges faced in achieving sustainable tourism, and how can these challenges be addressed to ensure long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits?

Q12) How has the concept of sustainable tourism evolved in the new millennium, and what are the emerging trends and challenges that tourism industries must address in the 21st century?

Q13) What is the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, and how does it guide the principles and practices of responsible tourism worldwide?

SECTION - C

Q14) **Case (Compulsory) :** **[1 × 15 = 15]**

Costa Rica, a small Central American country, is globally renowned for its commitment to environmental conservation and eco-tourism. The county has successfully positioned itself as a leader in sustainable tourism by preserving its rich biodiversity and promoting responsible travel practices. However, with the growing influx of tourists, Costa Rica faces the challenge of maintaining its environmental integrity while adhering to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. This case study explores how Costa Rica has managed to balance eco-tourism with ethical tourism practices and the ongoing challenges it encounters.

Costa Rica's eco-tourism industry began to flourish in the late 1980s when the country realized the potential of its natural resources to attract environmentally conscious travellers. The government, along with private stakeholders, invested in the development of eco-friendly lodges, national parks, and conservation programs. Eco-tourism became a key driver of the economy, contributing to job creation, local community development, and conservation efforts.

The success of eco-tourism in Costa Rica is evident in its extensive network of protected areas, which cover nearly 25% of the country's land. National parks like Corcovado and Manuel Antonio have become iconic destinations for eco-tourists, offering opportunities to explore rainforests, spot diverse wildlife, and engage in activities like zip-lining and guided nature tours.

As eco-tourism grew, Costa Rica also embraced the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, developed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This code provides a set of principles aimed at promoting responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. It emphasizes the need for tourism to contribute positively to the economy while respecting cultural heritage, minimizing environmental impacts, and ensuring that tourism benefits all stakeholders, including local communities.

Costa Rica's adherence to the Global Code of Ethics has been instrumental in shaping its tourism policies. The country has implemented measures to limit the environmental footprint of tourism, such as regulating the number of visitors to sensitive areas, promoting eco-certification for hotels, and involving local communities in tourism management.

Despite these efforts, Costa Rica faces a significant ethical dilemma. The growing popularity of eco-tourism has led to increased pressure on natural resources and local communities. In some areas, the rapid development of tourism infrastructure has resulted in deforestation, water pollution, and displacement of local residents. Additionally, the high demand for eco-tourism experiences has led to the commercialization of certain natural sites, risking the loss of their pristine nature.

One notable example is the Monteverde Cloud Forest, a biodiversity hotspot that attracts thousands of tourists annually. While the tourism revenue has boosted the local economy, it has also led to overcrowding, habitat degradation, and the commercialization of conservation areas. The challenge for Costa Rica is to find a balance between maximizing the economic benefits of tourism and preserving the environment in line with the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

Questions :

a) How has Costa Rica leveraged eco-tourism to promote environmental conservation and local community development?

b) What are the key benefits of eco-tourism for local communities?

c) Why is it important to manage the number of visitors to sensitive natural areas in eco-tourism?

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