



Towards a multidimensional biodiversity conservation index for tourism destinations

MSc. International Tourism Management

Submitted to PhD: Dagmar Lund Durlacher

Written by:

**Dulce Fabiola Vega Posada
Student ID: 61902275**

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Abstract

Tourism is a source of income for different destinations around the world, and it's directly linked to the environment and biodiversity. The existence of this human industry and activity is also enabling the conservation of species and Protected Areas, where tourists also perform leisure activities. Traditional tourism relies on Biodiversity in order to have ecosystem services such as food provision, and even as an asset to determine how attractive a destination is. While tourism relies on biodiversity, it can also harm it. Therefore, this thesis aims to propose an initial point for a multidimensional preliminary index to measure how much a tourism destination engages with the conservation of biodiversity.

The index is divided into five criteria that are consistent with literature previously published. The five criteria have their own indicators which are weighted for determining their value in the overall score. The maximum score for this multidimensional preliminary index is 20.85. The current multidimensional preliminary index can be still further developed into a more robust index that could be used in different contexts and destinations around the world.