

CRC's Wildlife Tourism Research Report Series

INTRODUCTION

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These reviewed reports below are three of 23 in the CRC's Wildlife Tourism's Report Series, edited by Dr Karen Higginbottom and targeted to industry, government users, and tourism researchers. The primary aim of the report series is knowledge transference. The reports are principally focused to the application of knowledge, but it is hoped that they will advance methodology and tourism theory. A fourth report from the series was reviewed in the previous edition.

Dr Karen Higginbottom is the co-ordinator of the Wildlife Tourism Subprogramme of the CRC for sustainable Tourism. She is a lecturer at Griffith University in wildlife management, vertebrate biology, and nature-based tourism. Her research centres around wildlife management issues that relate to wildlife tourism. In addition, she has broad experience as a wildlife tourist and recently spent three years working in Africa.

All biographical information presented in these reviews has been taken from the CRC's Wildlife Tourism's Report Series.

Positive Effects of Wildlife Tourism on Wildlife

Higginbottom, K., Northrope, C. and Green, R. 2001.
CRC Sustainable Tourism, Gold Coast.
Pp. 92, ISBN 1-876685-37-9
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This technical report is about the positive effects of wildlife tourism in Australia and their potential for development. It aims to review the way that wildlife tourism can have positive effects on wildlife and their habitats. I note its aims are slightly different to its title. There are few positive effects discussed in contrast to many possible positive effects. However, the possibilities look quite hopeful. Overall, the report appears to meet its aims of identifying the current status, and key issues in wildlife tourism. In addition, it makes many thoughtful recommendations to further the local wildlife tourism industry. Many overseas examples

have been included to highlight what is possible. Perhaps too much emphasis is placed on these high profile overseas examples, which may or may not be relevant to small-scale tourism in Australia. Nevertheless, it does discuss the limited number of Australian examples where positive effects are being or have been realized.

The format is broken down into chapters with sub-sections that are easy to read and follow, with a 16 page bibliography. One of the reports strengths is the recommendation section at the end of each chapter. The report ends strongly by making recommendations for both action and research. I feel that a tourism researcher would find many leads worth following up, and it may provide some incentive for industry. In particular, the section on socio-economic incentives for conservation is well outlined, but again, it draws heavily on overseas examples. The section on practical contributions, although comparatively short, highlighted that there is an opportunity for my own research to find some extra funding using ecotourists. I would recommend this book to its target audience as a starting point, but it also contains some facts and figures making it a quick pocket reference for newcomers to the field. Overall, its highlights that ecotourism is a burgeoning industry that is capable of achieving positive effects that are currently not widely realized.

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