Tourism Ecology
New Perspectives

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Education

• 1992: MA in History and Geography
• 1997: Postgraduate diploma as Geographer
• 2000: Postgraduate diploma in European Studies
• 2001: PhD in Earth Sciences (Geography)
• 2005: Postgraduate diploma in Geography–English/Hungarian translator
• 2009: Habilitation in Management and Business Administration
• 2010: Habilitation in Environmental Sciences
Structure of the Presentation

Classical questions:
- Does tourism ecology exist?
- Is tourism ecology useful?
- Is responsible tourism development in the rural and industrial tourism sites useful?

Theme: This lecture intends to present the connection between tourism, Man’s activity and the natural/built environment in degrading and/or ‘sculpturing’ the landscape.

Structure:
- History and scientific literature of the research field.
- Tourism ecology: Aims, objectives, roles & a definition.
- Classification of tourism ecology.
- Case studies and results of our own project in Hungary.
- Summary.
Scientific Literature - Milestones

TOURISM ECOLOGY
Aims, Objectives and Roles

• Identifying problems and rates of change in the nature caused by tourism.
• Identifying causes of changes & hazards.
• Predicting and modelling future hazards and problems caused by tourism.
• Making ready post event surveys of hazardous activities and events.
• Executing after-use projects to make corrections.
Characteristics of Tourism Ecology

• Tourism ecology is the interaction of humans with the natural and built environment, with all aspects of their components.

• Tourism ecology may be considered as a subset of environmental sciences and management.

• Ecological methods are widely used by tourism scientists, but we have to define them as ‘tourism ecology’.
Tourism Ecology: A Definition

- Tourism ecology is a tourism development theory and practice that naturally makes possible the efficient development of different areas building upon natural and economical-social-cultural resources.
- Besides, tourism ecology could be a toolkit of the regional development.
Case-study 1: After-use of industrial sites for tourism

Areas: Abandoned/deserted/disused quarries (stone mines)

Question: Conservation or restoration?

- Quarrying has led to some of the most important geological discoveries, by providing geological and geomorphological exposures where none existed before.
- There are two approaches to conservation:
  - Conflict, and/or
  - Compromise.
‘It serves you right. Go and dig up someone else’s fossils.’

- Obviously conflict deals in direct opposition to any form of development.

Cartoon illustrating the conflict between conservation and coastal/quarry wall defence.
(Bennett & Doyle, 1999)
Compromise

• Compromise is often viewed as being inconsistent with conservation, but is the strategy most commonly used by conservation agencies.
• Compromise means a sustainable after-use of the sites.
• Ecological and environmental thinking are needed.
RESTORATION (1) – Dry restoration and after-use

- Landfill, restoration
- Golf course
- Tourism/Hotel
- Residential areas
- Sport/Leisure/Recreation
- Retail (*e.g.* Bluewater SC)
- Nature conservation
- Horticulture
- Forestry

- Car parking
- Education
- Campus developments
- Scientific (astronomy/satellite)
- Sculpture park (within a sculptural landform)
- Storage
- Warehousing
- Industrial/Commercial
Landfill, restoration
The Quarry Golf Club, San Antonio
(Reclamation, Rehabilitation)
Hotel, camp site, residential area
Sports, Recreation
RESTORATION (2) – Incorporating water

- Recreation
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Rowing
- Power boating
- Model boating
- Reservoirs
- Fishery
Recreation, fishing, swimming, rowing
The Blue Water Shopping Centre Story (1)

Blue Circle Chalk Quarry (Dartford – England)

14.11.95
The Blue Water Shopping Centre Story (2)
1997
A panoramic view of BlueWater Shopping Centre (4)
Case-study 2.
My Project Area: Mátra Mountains
Bad Practice: Illegal Waste Dump
Good Practice: Tourism, Recreation
After-use Project – Sás-tó Quarry

Mátra-Sástó-Quarry – before restoration and after-use (2001)

After restoration (2003)

2006

2010
Oxygen Adrenalin Park
Sás-tó Quarry
Summary

• I think there are many industrial sites for after-use.
• Not only abandoned quarries, but old open-cut coal mines, industrial plants and parks, military fields as well.
• We cannot survive this without ecological and environmental thinking and tools.
CONCLUSIONS

• The welfare of the population requires the harmonisation of the interests between tourism investors, developers and environmentalists, scientists.

• New projects are needed to help local tourism developments and investors.

• Ecological thinking in the tourism industry is very important.

• Main goal: Greening the tourism sector - Towards the responsible sustainable rural and industrial tourism development based on ecological thinking!
Tourism Ecology Teaching Programme

- University of Economy in Bydgoszcz (Poland)
- University of Business in Wroclaw (Poland)
- University of Nitra (Slovakia)
- Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj (Romania)
- University of Baia Mare (Romania)
- Lakehead University in Thunder Bay (Canada)
- University of Jammu in Jammu and Khasmir (India)
- 6 October University, Cairo (Egypt)
- Ural Federal University, Ekaterinburg (Russia)
- State University of Karaganda (Kazakhstan)
- Abai National University, Almaty (Kazakhstan)
- Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana (Kazakhstan)
- The University College of Tourism and Ecology in Sucha Beskidzka (Poland)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!