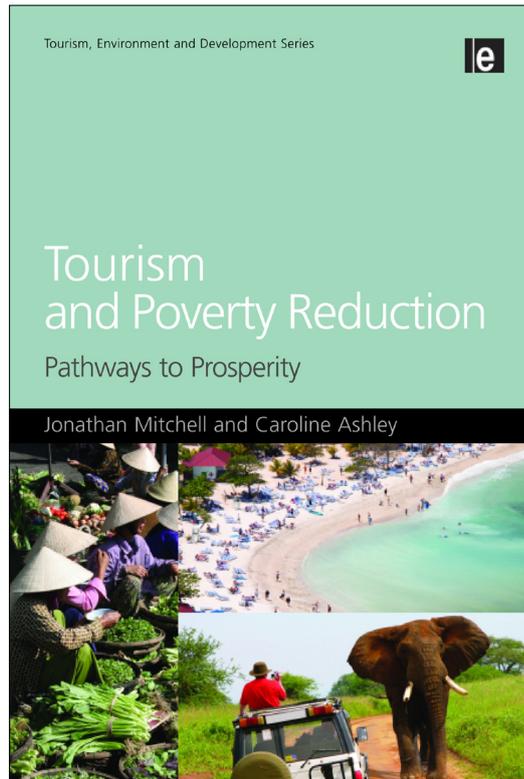


Tourism and Poverty Reduction Pathways to Prosperity

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Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley

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Encouraging tourism in poor countries is, surprisingly often, an effective way of achieving poverty reduction through inclusive economic growth. But not always. Sometimes international tourism development does little for the local economy and the livelihoods of the poor. Our understanding of how tourism affects the poor is often based on partial and shallow analysis. Researchers from different disciplines and practitioners with different objectives generally work in splendid isolation from each other and from the mainstream of development economics. Rhetoric, based on unsubstantiated facts, abounds. Detailed economic analysis remains buried and is rarely challenged for policy implications, let alone poverty implications.

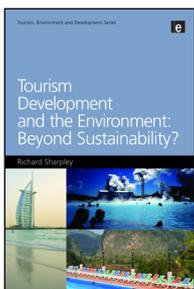
This book provides an overview and synthesis of a broad array of analyses of how tourism affects poverty. First, it pulls these together to identify three main pathways by which impacts on poverty can be delivered. Second, it reviews the empirical evidence on the scale and significance of impact of each pathway, exploring where comparisons can be made and where they cannot. Finally, it considers the different methods used to gather and collect data.

'Tourism and Poverty Reduction' draws on international evidence throughout, but provides particular insights into Africa and other less developed countries. The key aims are to enhance understanding of how tourism can affect poverty; the conditions under which poverty reduction can be achieved and the type of data and analysis policy-makers need in order to do this. It makes a major contribution to a more coherent, cross-disciplinary and sensitive approach to the tourism-poverty debate.

Jonathan Mitchell is a Research Fellow, and **Caroline Ashley** was formerly a Research Fellow, at the Overseas Development Institute, a development policy 'think tank' based in London (UK).

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Tourism Development and the Environment: Beyond Sustainability? challenges the sustainable tourism development paradigm that has come to dominate both theoretical and practical approaches to tourism development over the last two decades. It extends the sustainable tourism debate beyond the arguably managerialist 'blueprint' and destination-focused approach that continues to characterise even the most recent 'sustainability' agenda within tourism development. Reviewing the evolution of the sustainable tourism development concept, its contemporary manifestations in academic literature and policy developments and processes, the author compares its limitations to prevailing political-economic, socio-cultural and environmental contexts. He then proposes alternative approaches to tourism development which, nevertheless, retain environmental sustainability as a prerequisite of tourism development.

