



ECOLOGY + TOURISM



Hong Kong's Path to Sustainable Development?

Tourism Industry Overview



2.6% of Hong Kong's GDP (2023)



3.9% of total employment (2023)



31% rise in visitor arrivals, reaching 44.5M (2023-24)

Current Trends & Directions

- **Post-pandemic shift:** Increased demand for sustainable, experiential tourism over shopping
- **Global popularity:** Hong Kong's nature attractions
- **Policy agenda:** Expand tourism offerings

SDG 8 Targets

Target 8.4: "decouple economic growth from environmental degradation"

Target 8.9: "promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products"



What is Ecotourism?

Definition:

- Ecotourism involves visitation to rural areas **without adversely affecting the environment and local population**, while making the conservation of natural resources financially beneficial

Ecotourism assets:

- Country parks and hiking trails
- Marine parks
- Biodiversity conservation
- UNESCO Global Geopark
- Cultural heritage in rural villages

Current challenges:

- Low carrying capacity and accessibility of destinations due to a lack of infrastructure
- Inadequate publicity
- Bureaucratic hurdles



Ecotourism as Sustainable Development

Benefits

Raise awareness of environmental protection

Improve infrastructure

(Re)vitalise rural area

Provide cultural and environmental education

Attract high-value tourists

Promote synergy and innovation

Create jobs, generate income, and foster investment

Three Pillars



Problems

Ecological damage and pollution

Overtourism

Commercialisation

How to strike a balance?

- Encourage responsible behaviours
- Conduct comprehensive EIA
- Enforce seasonal closures for ecosystem recovery
- Implement visitor caps and permits
- Improve tour guide training, monitoring, and management
- Prioritise environmental conservation and local needs

What does BPAHK do?

Addresses social issues by policy research, analysis, and advocacy, ultimately promoting economic development



Bridge the public and the Government



Raise questions and motions in LegCo meetings



Deliver proposals to the Government



Write commentary articles and publications

