

What is overtourism in protected areas and what can we do about it?

Webinar n° 10: Date 3rd of November 2017, 16:00-17:30 CET

Please register for the webinar [here](#)

Rising visitor use levels in tourism destinations over the last several years have caught residents and managers off-guard, leading to potentially significant social and biophysical impacts. This condition has been termed “overtourism”, but has been previously known by other terms such as “over use” and “over crowded.” Concern about this situation has a long history in protected area management. Regardless of the term, the concerns about impacts have legitimate foundations. Resolving this problem will require a better understanding of it first, before proposing simplified solutions.

As a collaboration between the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) [Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group \(TAPAS Group\)](#), Ecoturismo Genuino, [PUP Global Heritage Consortium](#) and the 10 YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme, the webinar is designed to build awareness of the challenges of high levels of visitor use in protected areas, review what has led to this challenge, and to suggest a way forward.

Participants will have the opportunity to raise questions and more broadly obtain access to top tourism and sustainability sector experts.

Moderator & Speakers

Dr. Anna Spenceley, Chairmanship, IUCN WCPA TAPAS Group



Dr. Anna Spenceley is a renowned tourism expert with over 20 years international experience and an extensive publication record, rich diversity of project experience, an international network of associates with whom she collaborates. She is the founder [STAND](#), a boutique consultancy company specializing in meeting the development needs of international organizations addressing sustainability agendas. She has made a considerable contribution to the global debate on sustainable tourism, notably through her international networks, including her Chairmanship of the IUCN’s WCPA TAPAS Group, her membership of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council’s board in its founding years. Anna is also a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Tourism and Hospitality at the [University of Johannesburg](#).

Mr. Allan Rhodes Espinoza, General Coordinator, Ecoturismo Genuino



Allan, Mexican, is an ecotourism consultant based in Mexico, with international experience. He has focused his work in visitor management and tourism planning within protected natural areas in Mexico, and has collaborated in consulting and capacity building projects in Chile, Brazil, and Panama. He has also worked in the development of community-based ecotourism initiatives all around Mexico mainly in indigenous communities. Presently, he spearheads the online community “Ecoturismo Genuino” for ecotourism consultants from Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

Mr. Jon Kohl, President, PUP Global Heritage Consortium



Jon Kohl, American and Costa Rican, founded the PUP Global Heritage Consortium in 2013 after having developed the PUP Process and PUP Manual starting in Honduras in 1998 under RARE Center for Tropical Conservation. PUP later become a consultant project under UNESCO’s World Heritage Center for six years during which the PUP Process was tested in World Heritage Sites on different continents. He has a keen interest in identifying new theories and approaches and turning them into practice. Based in Costa Rica, Jon has worked with PUP around the world, always focusing on the visitor management side, especially his passion for heritage interpretation, but with an eye to learning beyond just visitor management to all kinds of planning. Ultimately he sees a spiritual connection to the value of heritage and management that he shares in his blog on [heritage interpretation](#), [his writing](#), and his work. Jon has co-written with Dr. Stephen McCool, [The Future Has Other Plans: Planning Holistically to Conserve Natural and Cultural Heritage](#) (Fulcrum Publishing 2016). This webinar emerges from ideas discussed in the book.

Dr. Stephen McCool, Professor Emeritus, University of Montana



Dr. Stephen McCool is Professor Emeritus at the University of Montana. His work over the last 40 years has emphasized interaction of people and natural resources, particularly with respect to managing visitors in national parks and wilderness, developing new ways of thinking about natural resource planning, and strengthening approaches to public engagement in planning processes. He serves with the WCPA TAPAS Group, and reviews for journals such as Environmental Management, Society and Natural Resources, and Journal of Sustainable Tourism. Steve holds an extensive publication record with numerous refereed journal articles, several edited books,



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as well as the co-authored and popular UN World Tourism Organization & World Conservation Union (IUCN) Best Practices Guidelines Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Planning and Management. He recently published an edited volume, [Reframing Sustainable Tourism \(Environmental Challenges and Solutions\)](#) with Keith Bosak (2015) as well as [The Future Has Other Plans: Planning Holistically to Conserve Natural and Cultural Heritage](#) with Jon Kohl (Fulcrum Publishing 2016). And he frequently shares ideas on management of tourism and visitation in protected areas.

Agenda	
16:00-16:10	Introduction by Dr. Anna Spenceley
16:10-16:35	Framing the Problem, Mr. Jon Kohl, President, PUP Global Heritage Consortium
16:35-17:00	Developing Responses, Dr. Stephen McCool, Professor Emeritus, University of Montana
17:00-17:20	Thank you and a brief overview of the presentations. Questions from participants by the moderator Dr. Anna Spenceley and Mr. Allan Rhodes
17:20-17:30	Closing by Mr. Allan Rhodes

About 10YFP STP

The 10YFP Programme on Sustainable Tourism catalyses changes in tourism operations. It promotes transformation for sustainability through efficiency, innovation and adaptability. The Programme supports evidence-based decision-making; adopts a life cycle approach for continuous improvement, emphasizes collaboration among stakeholders and results-based project implementation.



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