



# The Intersection of Environmental and Tourism Industry laws to promote Sustainable Tourism

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## Abstract

Tourism is one industry that is growing in importance to national GDP all around the world. Potential for investment, employment, and trade is aided by the tourism sector. It also raises human well-being and encourages overall economic growth. The tourism sector has expanded steadily, but there is a flip side to this growth: the environment has altered significantly as a result of it. The more complex the Indian tourism industry has grown, the more laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the environment have been necessary to ensure that no intentional or unintentional harm is done to the environment, and that no environmental loss results from the expanding tourism sector. This article examines the role that environmental laws and regulations have played in the development of India's sustainable tourism sector.

**Keywords:** Tourism, Environment Laws, Sustainable tourism.

## Introduction

The proverb "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" refers to the fact that we share the environment, natural resources, and tourist attractions, as well as historical buildings, with future generations. For this reason, it is crucial to conserve everything in a sustainable manner so that the needs of the present do not conflict with those of the future. Humans adapt and alter in response to their surroundings. Every interaction between a person and their environment has an impact on it, both positively and negatively. Therefore, the goal of a legal regulation is to uphold the equilibrium between individuals and their surroundings. Environmental law regulates all conditions and objects created by humans that exist in the environment and have an effect on it.

In the twenty-first century, environmental conservation is becoming increasingly important—not just in India, but all throughout the world. This is because environmental sustainability is becoming more widely seen as a worldwide obligation. It is also everyone's benefit to live in a sustainable environment. The entire world community is harmed by the environmental degradation that occurs all around us and damages us. Regulations have been implemented by the

government with an emphasis on environmental sustainability. The tourist business is expanding rapidly and is still expanding globally. There are positive and bad aspects to the expanding tourism industry. Historic and archeological sites, as well as natural areas, may be preserved as positive benefits. Negative consequences can also manifest as pollution, waste management problems, ecological collapse, natural disasters, and other environmental problems.

In India, intentional or unintentional environmental damage increases with the growth of the tourism industry. The damage comes from the development of tourism-related infrastructure that does not put environmental sustainability first. For example, when roads are constructed to tourist destinations, the environment is uprooted without thought given to the long-term effects of these actions. To stop pollution and harm, a balance between environmental sustainability and development sustainability is required. Growth in the tourism industry must not come at the expense of other areas of the economy. For example, it is not advisable to build hotels or homestays for tourists on agricultural property, and food and trash should be disposed of distant from residential and business areas. "Sustainable development" refers to striking a balance between environmental sustainability and human progress.

### **Environmental Laws: What Are They?**

When we talk about environmental law, we're talking about methodical, concerted measures to safeguard environmental activities, such outlawing polluting, bringing in dangerous or toxic goods, releasing trash into the environment, and burning land for farming. Environmental law refers to the framework of common law, statutes, and regulations that specify how people should live and interact with their surroundings. Two main objectives of this environmental law are to protect or conserve the environment and to establish rules for how people can use natural resources.

Its goals include determining who can use natural resources and under what circumstances, as well as protecting the environment from harm. Legislation aids in regulating various forms of pollution, the utilization of natural resources, the conservation of forests, the extraction of minerals, and the population of fish and animals. It is a growing subject that encompasses a wide range of work addressing issues related to pollution avoidance, the preservation of natural resources, and the quality of the air and water.

### **The tourism industry: what is it?**

The tourism sector, often known as the travel industry or the tourist industry, is related to people who travel domestically or abroad for business, social, or recreational purposes. It is closely related to the hotel, hospitality, and transportation industries. Making sure guests or tourists are comfortable, amused, or equipped with necessities while they are away from home takes up a significant amount of it.

In its broadest definition, the tourism sector encompasses anything that directly provides goods or services to assist business, pleasure, and leisure traveler's desire to leave their home environment and experience a new, attractive place where they will enjoy their tour. Therefore, it

can be concluded that there is a close relationship between the tourism sector and the environment.

## **Sustainable Tourism: What Is It?**

More positively than negatively affecting the environment, the economy, and communities, sustainable tourism can be defined as travel that has a higher net positive impact. If tourism is truly responsible, sustainable, and environmentally friendly, then a location should grow better for both locals and visitors.

## **Evolution of Environmental Tourism**

Since there are many services and facilities offered by local governments, businesses, the government, and communities, tourism can be characterized as a broad spectrum of tourism activities.

The transient and brief movement of individuals to their destinations from their usual places of residence and employment is referred to as tourism. From there, it has been demonstrated that tourism promotes economic growth in a variety of ways, including through chances for employment, businesses, investments, and community well-being. Challenges to social life, culture, and environmental conservation are also brought on by tourism. Programs for environmental protection may receive funding in part from tourism. But it's important to keep in mind that human activity can potentially exacerbate environmental deterioration.

## **The impact of environmental laws on tourism**

In specifically, the law governs the administration of environmental protection regulations.

Tourism laws are an attempt to provide certainty for the tourist community related in with the tourism development, with the goal of maximizing the benefits of tourism to the stakeholders and minimizing the unfavorable or negative effects, costs, as well as other effects in the development with the socio-cultural and environmental financial aspects that do rely on justice not solely for the present generation but also for future generations.

In the process of developing or expanding India's tourism sector, environmental sustainability ought to come first. Since environmental sustainability is essential for all humans now and in the future, regulations governing tourism must be in place to prevent environmental harm.

Legislation pertaining to tourism and the environment in India is governed by a number of federal, state, and local laws.

## **The 1972 Wildlife Protection Act**

It had a significant impact on Indian travel, particularly on travel for animals. The law protects natural areas and animals while also prohibiting poaching, hunting, and trafficking in wildlife. It also permits the creation of national parks, animal sanctuaries, and protected regions. One of the act's most significant effects on the sector has been to promote wildlife tourism in India.

Nowadays, popular tourist spots that draw tourists from both domestic and foreign countries include national parks and wildlife protection areas.

This has led to the expansion of the wildlife tourism industry in India, which has improved the local economy and created job opportunities for locals. This law controls wildlife trafficking, poaching, and hunting while also promoting the preservation of wild plants and animals. It also permits the establishment of national parks, animal sanctuaries, and protected regions. Regulations pertaining to wildlife tourism have also been impacted by the act. Both tour companies and visitors must follow the legislation and regulations in order to lessen the impact that tourism has on wildlife and their habitats. This includes guidelines for behavior around animals as well as restrictions on the total number of visits, the number of guests each visit, and the use of vehicles and other equipment.

Species tourism in India has generally profited from the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, which has created job possibilities for the surrounding populations and encouraged the preservation of species and their habitats. It is essential to continue monitoring and regulating the sector to ensure that it is sustainable and does not harm the environment or the welfare of wildlife.

### **The 1980 Forest Conservation Act**

It significantly impacted travel in India, particularly nature-based and ecotourism travel. The laws control how forest land is used for purposes other than forestry, such increasing tourism. This suggests that any tourism-related project involving the utilization of forest land needs to obtain prior approval from the government and follow certain guidelines.

One of the act's major effects on the travel industry has been to stimulate ecotourism in India. Sustainable travel that prioritizes preserving the environment and the local population is known as ecotourism. The law has encouraged the development of ecotourism projects designed to benefit locals while posing the fewest possible negative impacts on forest ecosystems. This law regulates the use of forest land for non-forest uses, like the growth of the travel and tourism sector.

Any activities that do not support the preservation and protection of forests are considered "non-forest" purposes, and the legislation forbids their use on forest territory. Nonetheless, ecotourism is encouraged in forested areas under the pretense that it supports conservation. In the context of this Act's application, it is imperative to verify the claim that sustainable tourism supports conservation, even if this Act has the authority to regulate ecotourism.

The impact of the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 on Indian tourism has been inconsistent overall. Although it has aided in the development of eco-friendly tourism, it has also created regulatory challenges for the travel industry's growth. A balance between conservation and development goals must be struck in order to ensure that tourism can support sustainable development without harming the environment.

## **The 1986 Environment (Protection) Act**

It greatly affected travel in India by limiting the environmental impact of tourism-related activities. The legislation aims to protect and improve the quality of the environment by regulating activities that are likely to harm it, such as tourism-related activities. One of the main effects of the act on the business has been the promotion of eco-friendly travel methods in India. The employment of eco-friendly tourist practices, which minimize the negative environmental effects of travel and promote long-term growth, has been encouraged by law. This includes initiatives to minimize pollution, save the environment, and support community participation in the expansion of the tourism sector.

Furthermore, the laws have imposed regulatory constraints on the expansion of the tourism industry. Projects related to tourism require environmental clearance from the government, which involves assessing the project's potential effects on the environment. This could lead to delays and additional costs for tourism projects, deterring developers and investors. Overall, the Environment Protection Act of 1986 has elicited varying reactions from India's tourism industry. Although it has promoted the use of eco-friendly tourism practices that reduce the negative environmental effects of tourism, it has also created regulatory challenges for the expansion of the travel and tourism sector. Striking a balance between conservation and development goals is essential to ensure that tourism can promote sustainable development without harming the environment.

## **Act of 1981 Concerning the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution**

By controlling air pollution and its effects on the environment and public health, it has a significant influence on tourism in India. Through limiting pollutant emissions from a variety of sources, including industry, automobiles, and other activities, the legislation seeks to prevent and control air pollution. The promotion of sustainable tourism practices in India has been one of the main advantages of the tourism legislation. The act promoted the use of eco-friendly tourism strategies to lessen the detrimental effects of travel on public health and air quality. This entails actions to reduce vehicle emissions, enhance public transportation, and encourage the use of renewable energy sources. By encouraging eco-friendly travel habits that lessen the damaging effects of tourism on the air, quality and public health, it has a positive impact on Indian tourism.

## **Act of 1974 Concerning the Prevention and Control of Pollution of Water**

By controlling water pollution and its consequences on the environment and public health, it has a significant influence on tourism in India. By restricting the release of pollutants into water bodies like rivers, lakes, and other water resources, the legislation aims to prevent and control water pollution. The development of eco-friendly travel strategies in India has been one of the primary effects of the tourism laws. In order to lessen the negative effects of tourism on the environment and water quality, the act has encouraged the adoption of sustainable tourism techniques. This entails taking steps to reduce waste production, preserve water resources, and promote environmentally friendly water use habits.

## **The 2002 Biological Diversity Act**

Due to its restrictions on access to biological resources and support of biodiversity protection, it has a significant effect on Indian tourism. The act aims to protect biological diversity, appropriately use its components, and ensure that the advantages of using biological resources are distributed fairly. Controlling actions that might have an effect on biodiversity and its constituent parts has been one of the Biological Diversity Act's most important effects on tourism. To ensure that tourism activities do not negatively impact biodiversity, licensing and regulations must be followed for any activities that include the use of biological resources, such as wildlife, forests, and marine ecosystems. As a result, a legislative framework that promotes sustainable tourism practices and biodiversity conservation has been established.

The act has also opened up opportunities for tourism expansion, which benefits the local community and promotes the preservation of wildlife. For instance, ecotourism initiatives that support the preservation of biodiversity while assisting local communities have been established in a number of locations throughout India. These initiatives support local residents' livelihoods and conservation efforts while enabling tourists to experience biodiversity and local cultures. All things considered, the Biological Diversity Act of 2002, which promotes eco-friendly tourist methods that protect biodiversity and benefit local communities, has improved tourism in India.

## **Conclusion**

One could characterize the impact of environmental regulations on India's tourism industry as uneven. On the one hand, these regulations have served to preserve the country's natural riches and cultural heritage, increasing its appeal to tourists interested in ecotourism and environmentally friendly travel. Furthermore, these regulations have helped to maintain the quality of the air and water, which is essential for the health and safety of tourists. However, these laws have also resulted in a number of restrictions and regulations that have made it difficult for the tourism industry to operate effectively. Due to some of these constraints, smaller travel businesses find it difficult to compete with larger ones due to delays and expense hikes.

Because authority and resources are now concentrated in the hands of a small number of powerful companies, this has had a negative impact on the tourism industry's overall growth and development. Environmental laws and regulations have helped to protect India's natural resources and cultural heritage, but they have also had some negative consequences on the travel and tourism industry. Achieving a suitable balance between environmental conservation and economic support is crucial for the sustainable growth and development of the tourism industry. This can be achieved by establishing regulations that uphold all environmental laws, encourage eco-friendly tourism practices, and facilitate the growth of small and medium-sized tourism businesses. In actuality, environmental rules and regulations have a big influence on the tourism industry. It is crucial to follow these regulations and encourage everyone to support and maintain the environment as well as ensure that sustainable tourism is promoted, as they are crucial for promoting sustainable tourism and protecting the environment.



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