



RCAPS Onigiri Seminar

Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies

RCAPS

Wildlife Tourism in the Asia-Pacific



Dr. Ronda Green
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Wildlife tourism includes any form of tourism that involves wildlife: bird- or whale-watching, safaris, zoos, hunting, selfies with animals etc., resulting in both positive and negative impacts for both wildlife and people. Environmentally sustainable wildlife tourism overlaps considerably with ecotourism: nature-based, minimal impact, contribution to conservation, educational and assisting local residents, but also includes well-run captive operations that support conservation, research and quality education. There is also a trend towards citizen science and voluntary conservation work by travellers. To be able to continue into the future, operations need to also be economically sustainable, and to do this the expectations and satisfaction of visitors must be considered. It is not always easy to balance the needs of wildlife (in terms of both conservation and animal welfare), tourists, tour operations and local residents. Based on Wildlife Tourism Australia workshops, Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism surveys, research literature and personal experience, and using mainly examples from Australia and Asia, such balances will be discussed in regard to feeding of wildlife (including monkeys, dolphins, birds, fish and others), other human/wildlife interactions, access to wilderness areas, conditions for captive animals, and the various effects of increasing tourism in regional areas. A recent project for the UNWTO (World Tourism Organisation) on sustainable wildlife tourism in Asia and the Pacific was conducted by Professor Noel Scott and Dr Ronda Green. This will be briefly discussed, including a summary of criteria for good-practice, and good-practice examples from Japan and elsewhere. Finally some suggestions will be made for enhancing sustainable wildlife tourism in Japan.

Date: Monday, November 11, 2019

Time: 12:25-14:00

Venue: RCAPS Room A (2F, Bldg. B)

Chair: Associate Prof. BUI, Thanh Huong APU-APS

Discussant: Associate Prof. JONES, Thomas E. APU-APS

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