

1. Viet Nam's natural and cultural potential for ecotourism is well known. However, eco tours in Viet Nam involve mainly travel to natural places and the activities are not based on the ecotourism principles.

In Ha Long Bay, for example, tourists just visit the bay and some caves, without learning about the environment or taking part in any local cultural activities.

In addition, in some national parks, tourists are not fully aware of environmental protection. If they throw rubbish or break tree branches, they are not fined. As a result, some tourist areas have suffered from some environmental damage.

What's more, most tour guides have poor knowledge of the ethnic culture. Therefore, ecotourists have little or no understanding of Viet Nam's cultural diversity.

2. Many African countries, with their numerous national parks and safaris, have benefited from ecotourism. However, ecotourism activities have had some negative impacts on the environment and people there.

One of the worst impacts is the massive loss of land. Parks and game reserves require vast land, and the local people's best pasture lands have been taken away.

In Kenya, the tourism industry has employed better-educated people from other countries. As a result, ecotourism has not provided more jobs for the local people.

In Tanzania, hunting in some game reserves is allowed. Camping requires firewood for cooking and heating. These activities have caused danger and harm to the environment.

a. Ecotourism: Development or Damage?

c. Is It Really Ecotourism?

b. Sustainable Ecotourism