

Preface

Sustainable development has been at the core of place and environmental management since it was introduced through the UN's World Commission on the Environment and Development (WCED) report, *Our Common Future*, in 1987. For many places, however, creating sustainable communities and environments seems to be continually beyond the reach of our achievements. Part of this challenge is because the concept of sustainable development includes both the goals of economic development and the often contradictory goals of environmental and cultural conservation. As such, sustainable development in general, and sustainable tourism in particular, is inherently contested and has outcomes that typically result in winners and losers.

The papers in this volume explored these issues from a global south perspective. They were selected from the highly successful Topical Tourism Outlook Conference, held on the island of Lombok in Indonesia, during July 29–31, 2015. The conference built on the first Sustainable Tourism Symposium organized by the University of Mataram (UNRAM) in July 2014 to initiate the expansion of their tourism studies program on the island of Lombok. It also incorporated the eighth conference in the Tourism Outlook Conference series, organized by the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Malaysia, and the fourth conference in the Tropical Coastal and Island Tourism series, sponsored by Northern Arizona University and the International Geographical Union's Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change.

The Lombok conference focused on the challenge of growth and conservation in communities seeking a better future that includes tourism. The island of Lombok, Indonesia, with its diversity of natural environments and social contexts, provided an ideal venue to address these issues.

The editors of this volume appreciate the efforts of the conference organizers and sponsors, which included:

- University of Mataram (UNRAM), Faculty of Economics, Indonesia
- Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam (UiTM), Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, Malaysia

- Northern Arizona University (NAU), Department of Geography, Planning and Recreation, USA
- James Cook University (JCU), School of Business, Australia and Singapore
- International Geographical Union (IGU), Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change
- *Tourism Geographies* journal, Routledge, UK
- Sabaragamuwa University, Department of Tourism Management, Sri Lanka

The selected chapters provide a platform for tourism scholars, hospitality and tourism industry practitioners, public and private land managers, community development workers, and others interested in tourism and development issues to share, exchange and debate ideas and knowledge related to our understanding and management of tourism and conservation. In addition, the papers have a special focus on tropical environments in South and Southeast Asia. The tropics comprise some of the richest and most complex ecosystems on the planet. The diversity and density of resources that exist in tropical environments means they are increasingly impacted by global economic and social forces, including economic development pressures that are often tourism and recreation related. In addition, they are being impacts rapid population growth that is driven by economic migrants, natural resource extraction, and the relentless onslaught of industrial fishing, global climate change, and rising sea levels. These pressures create enormous challenges for tropical communities due to the global scope of the problems, an inadequate understanding of the issues, and a paucity of effective management tools.

The authors and researchers who contributed to this book have a passion for understanding tourism in the context of these global issues. They, and the editors of this volume, appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this global discussion to help create a better future for our communities and for our world.

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Destinations

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