

Problems with monkeys



Above – Sabah (pig-tailed macaque)

Right – South Africa (baboon and vervet monkey)



Potential problem? If so, what to do?

C.W. NICOL Japan Times 2017

“So what will we do if the macaques start taking over our woods?”

We can't trap or shoot them because pest-extermination permits wouldn't be issued for our trust's woodland, and scaring them off with noise or dogs would disrupt other wildlife. The truth is, right now I don't have a clue.

If anyone reading this has any idea, I'll be happy to hear from you.”



Captivity

Conflict

- Some operations mistreat animals
- This leads to a call for bans on zoos, and all photos with animal
- Many zoos do treat their animals well, and contribute to education, research and conservation
- Tourists want to see animals up close, and often have limited time



Captivity

Solutions

- Enforce regulations for animal welfare and conservation
- Provide guidelines for quality interpretation.
- Close poor performers
- Continue research into what animals need, emotionally as well as physically
- Decide whether some animals are not suitable for captivity (e.g. whales, and maybe dolphins?)



Access

Conflict

- Many tourists want easy access to everything
- Too many roads can fragment habitats
- Driving on beaches can crush invertebrates in sand and scare nesting birds

Compromise

- Allow vehicle access in a few well-planned areas
- Promote other areas as pristine, a challenge, peaceful, safe for children
- Use fuel-efficient minibuses to take people from carparks to entry



Diversity of wildlife

Australia has kangaroos, koalas and Great Barrier Reef but also MUCH more:

- Many other marsupials
- Other mammals
- Many unique birds
- Fascinating reptiles and frogs
- Butterflies, glow worms and other small but colourful or intriguing creatures
- etc.

Japan has “snow monkeys” and birds but also MUCH more:

- Monkeys in other areas
- Two species of bear
- Other predators – cats, racoon dog, fox
- Deer
- Giant salamanders
- Marine life
-etc.

Diversity of habitats

Australian tourists hear a lot about cities, temples, gardens and food in Japan, but not the wild places



Diversity of tourists

Some tourists have limited time or comfort zones, and want zoos or easy wild experiences

Others like the challenge of getting to remote wilderness and finding rare species in the wild



Diversity

Some tourists have **limited time, health or comfort zones**, and want zoos or very easy wild experiences

To consider:

- How to make viewing easier,
- How to view indirectly (e.g. webcams in neighbouring accommodation)
- How to use captive and semi-tame animals for good public education, conservation and research



Local residents and tourism

Local economies can be boosted by tourism:

- While tourists are visiting, they need to eat – benefitting restaurants, food stores and local farms
- They also need fuel
- They often need accommodation
- They buy souvenirs
- They may indulge in a variety of activities, including wildlife-watching, and stay an extra night or two in the locality
- When providers of the above do well, they buy more from others in the district (new shoes, hair-dresser.....)

Local residents and tourism

From Tisdell and Wilson, in Wildlife Tourism Snapshot (Sustainable Tourism CRC)

Lamington National Park

- Most important attractions:
1.rainforest 2.birds.
- Tourist expenditure at least **AUS\$35 million**. Virtually all of that can be **attributed to the presence of wildlife**
- Without birds it is estimated that **revenue would fall by almost AUS\$7 million**.



Local residents and tourism



From Tisdell and Wilson, in Wildlife Tourism Snapshot (Sustainable Tourism CRC)

Mon Repos

If there were no sea turtles at Mon Repos, income to the region (within a 60 km radius) would fall A\$500,000 dollars a year despite short sea turtle season and the scarcity of turtles.

Sea turtle viewing at Mon Repos is, therefore, one of the most important economic activities in the region.

Problems for local residents

- Overcrowding, traffic jams
- Trespassing
- Disrespect for local traditions and features
- Encouraging population increase of animals that may cause problems (e.g. invading crops and gardens)
- All profits going to the tour company, no local spending

We need to somehow guard against disadvantages while facilitating the advantages

