

Exploring the Role of Non-Formal Education in Tourism Resource Management

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This article highlights the transformative role of non-formal education in ecotourism resource management. Through community-led initiatives in education, awareness, and interpretation, non-formal education enhances local participation, empowers indigenous communities, and strengthens sustainable tourism practices. These programs go beyond information dissemination—they foster pro-environmental behavior, align with global sustainability goals (SDGs), and support the post-Aichi biodiversity framework. By integrating traditional knowledge with structured learning, they encourage responsible visitor behavior and cultural appreciation. Despite current gaps in implementation—such as limited community control outside protected zones—the study proposes actionable strategies to reinforce local engagement. Overall, the article shows that non-formal education emerges as a vital tool for promoting conservation, enhancing local livelihoods, and preserving ecological and cultural heritage through inclusive, grassroots-led tourism management.

