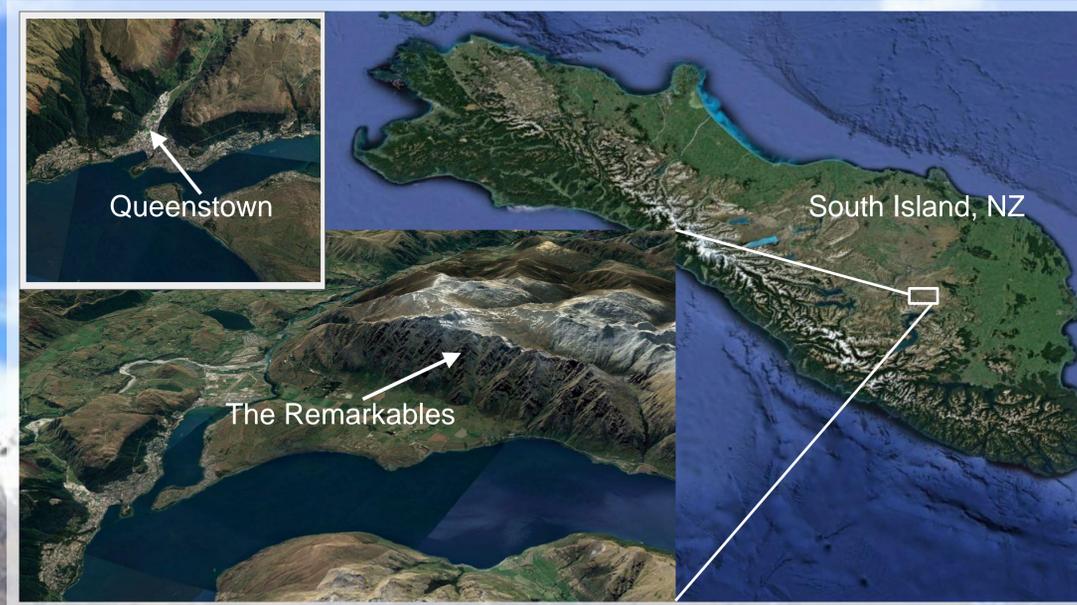


Conceptual Overview of Ecotourism on a Remarkable Landscape

Introduction

The Remarkables encompass an array of seasonal outdoor recreation activities for tourists to enjoy. By the millions, this landscape is visited and populated by skiers, boaters, hikers and other adventurers to get a glimpse of a geologically new and physically unique world. A balance must be found between the environmentalists pursuing conservation efforts and tourists who want for commerce, development, and exploration. Ecotourists are mainly interested in observing and using the land in its natural state while learning how to conserve and protect the environment.



Recreation

This mountain range and surrounding lake offer an abundance of outdoor recreational activities including:

- Snow/Water Rec:
 - Skiing (385 hectares of ski area)
 - Rafting
 - Jet boat rides
- Land Rec:
 - Six various trails (advanced difficulty for hikers)
 - Mountain biking allowed on 4 of the 6 (int. difficulty)
 - Four-wheel rides and horseback rides available on 1
 - Bird watching also very popular
- Scenic Rec:
 - Bungee jumping
 - Sky diving
 - Helicopter tours
 - Hang gliding



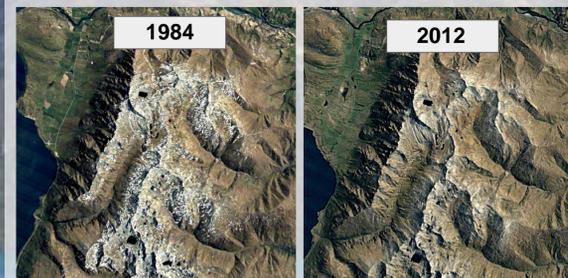
Conservation Management Initiatives

- Conservation practices and policies must be enacted at the local and global level for places like this to flourish for future generations.
- > New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme-- This encourages all parts of the economy, like tourism, to find more sustainable ways to reduce emissions by increasing efficient mass transportation services.
 - > Qualmark Enviro-rating--This is used to show how different tourism providers rank in energy efficiency, waste management, water conservation practices and community sustainability involvement.
 - > NZSki has recently converted all of their snow guns to tower mounted guns, which waste 35% less water ("Sustainable Slopes" 2017).



This map shows designated conservation areas in green which encompass the Remarkables Mountain Range

Climate Change



A local concern from a global conundrum. Climate change not only is suspected to affect the plant and wildlife even more but it has already threatened a huge economic driver like the mountainous ski terrain with glaring differences over the last few decades. With decreased snowfall and increased melting, a concern has sparked over the fate of the ski range as the problem worsens.

Cultural Landscape

Tourists are pulled to Queenstown and the Remarkables for the physical and cultural landscapes. The influx of people provide the region with a variety of different nationalities and diverse culture.

Before the urbanization of Queenstown, Maori tribes used to roam the land. With the increase in people due to ecotourism, an urban Maori movement has forged a new traditional-modernized form of their cultural identity.

Ecotourists are interested in learning about the culture and history of the region. This empowers the local community and makes them more open to the amount of tourists that are visiting their native land.



Physical Landscape

Mostly Alpine Mountainous terrain with abundance of unique biota in that 93% of its flora and fauna are only here and nowhere else on Earth (WWF).

One example is the Kea, the world's only mountain parrot which is shown to the right.

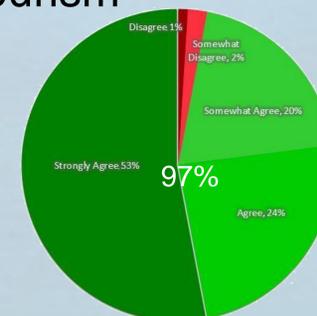


With recreation activities like hiking and mountain biking, plant and wildlife can be easily disturbed. Common disturbances include pollution, food loss, and trampling from an increase in human activity. New Zealand's climate only allows short growing and breeding seasons and if a community is disturbed, there is a possibility it won't recover. The snowpack is characterized by high density (resulting from latitudinal wind belts), equi temperature snow gradient (due to low diurnal temperatures), and loose snow avalanches (McIntosh 2006).

Potential for Ecotourism

Current policy goals of New Zealand's decision makers:

- Exterminating invasive predators/weeds by 2050
- Improving sustainable development infrastructure
- Managing fires and climate change impacts
- Control of game
- Educating citizens and tourists



Citizens on whether sustainability should be a concern for the tourism industry in NZ

More visitors means more money in the local economy, parks, and conservation initiatives. That extra money can be put towards conservation efforts. New Zealand Ski (NZSki) has partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) to ensure the mountain is protected from the anthropogenic presence through campaigns such as 'Keep Winter Cool' ("Sustainable Slopes" 2017). It aims to raise awareness and educate people on global warming and energy usage.

Conclusion

Land becomes conquered and dominated at the same rate the modernized world progresses. The tourism industry thrives on human curiosity; people are driven by the need to experience both the mountain culture and the physical landscape. The main goal of ecotourism is maintaining an equilibrium between the ecological and scenic values of the mountain by allowing the best management practices to prosper while continuing to allow humans the ability to experience nature of this magnitude in such a "Remarkable" place.

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