

TOURISM CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE SIERRA DE LA VENTANA TRACK

Ernesto Tornquist Provincial Park, Argentina

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Land and resources play an essential role in touristic activities. In recent years, this activity has introduced management changes and has started to use new tools to mitigate or avoid the negative impacts on territory caused by tourism. For this reason, the concept Tourism Carrying Capacity (TCC) was developed and is emerges as a basis for management of a Protected Area or Natural Monument. The study area is located within Ernesto Tornquist Provincial Park (PPET). There are 7 access trails to the different attractions and one of them leads to cerro Ventana. The flux of tourists in this track is barely regulated. Therefore, it is necessary to implement tools to improve the management of tourism and recreational activities within the protected area. The aim of this work is to calculate the Tourism Carrying Capacity for the trail to access Cerro Ventana. The method used is the one proposed by Cifuentes Arias (1992). New correction factors were introduced according to the characteristics of the zone studied. The results of the application of this methodology in the cerro Ventana trail showed that the ideal number of visitors is 98 visitors/day in summer, 106 visitors/day in fall, 167 visitors/day in winter and 100 visitors/day in spring.

KEY WORDS: *tourism carrying capacity, Ernesto Tornquist Provincial Park, protected areas, Ventania System.*