

Tourism-induced livelihood changes at Sanqingshan Global Geopark of China

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Although tourism has the potential to improve livelihoods, it may also disrupt livelihood systems, social processes and cultural traditions. The livelihood changes at three rural villages at Sanqingshan Global Geopark of China, are assessed to determine the extent to which tourism-related livelihood strategies are contributing to local livelihoods. A sustainable livelihood framework is adopted to guide the analysis. The three villages exhibit different development patterns due to institutional, organizational and location factors. The new livelihood strategies involving tourism that were constructed and incorporated into the traditional livelihood systems resulted in different outcomes for residents of different villages. Village location, including the relationship to site tourism plan, affected the implications for rural livelihoods. High dependence on tourism as the single livelihood option can reduce livelihood sustainability. Practical implications are suggested to enhance livelihood sustainability at the geopark.

Keyword: tourism, community, sustainable livelihood, World Heritage