SYSTEMS THINKING AND MAYAN SYSTEMS WISDOM FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN TOURISM

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Abstract
Systems thinking following Capra's definition (Capra, 1996), is a framework that is based on the belief that the parts of a system will act differently when the systems relationships are removed and it is viewed in isolation. The only way to fully understand why a problem or element occurs and persists is to understand the part in relation to the whole. In this paper we would like to introduce systems thinking from historical, Mayan, systems and methodological points of view in order to adapt it to sustainable tourism decision making and solutions. These will bring us to the shift of perception in thinking, important for tourism as a complex system, whose problems are softly defined and phenomena uncertain. Decision-making in tourism is difficult, solutions are short termed. This is just a fact, which we can notice, when we use linear thinking. The use of system thinking brings us broader perspectives, long-term solutions, naturally achieved sustainability and harmonious elements within the tourism society. In the paper we will use methods of systems approach and historical analogy of Mayan and modern systems principles.
Keywords Systems thinking, Mayan systems wisdom, Sustainable tourism, Systems modelling co-creation