

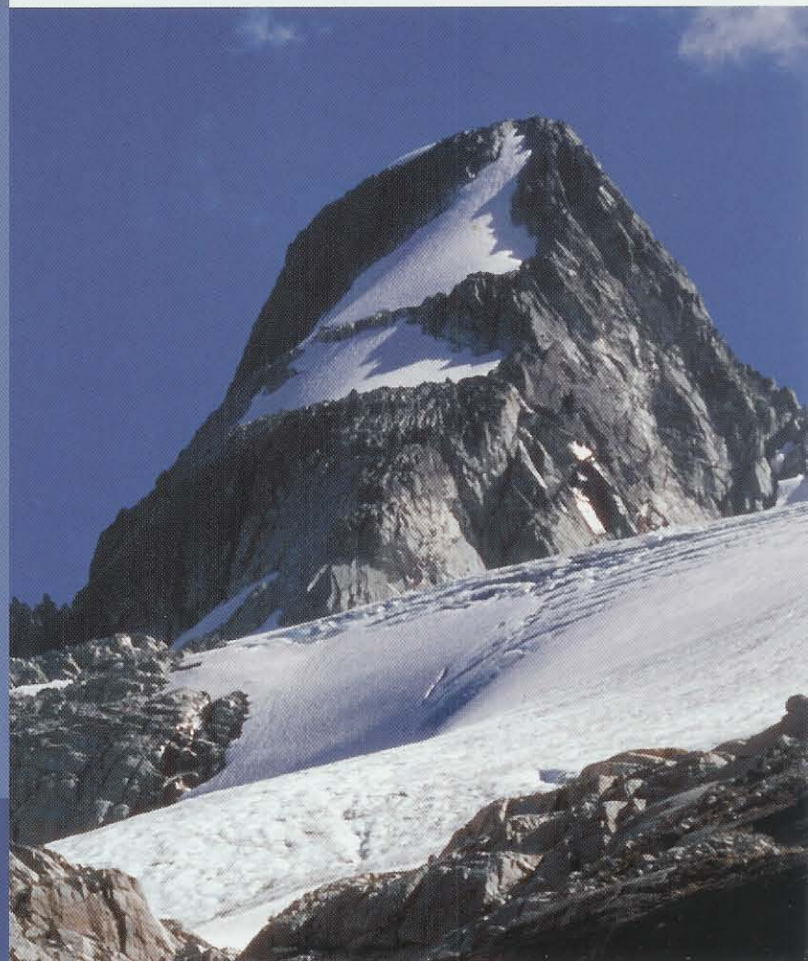
Mountain Tourism: making it work for the poor

Mountains have become one of the world's top tourist destinations and in many mountain countries of the world, there is real potential to develop tourism even further.

Tourism in mountains can provide new opportunities for local communities by earning income, opening new markets and increasing cultural exchanges. But it can also often damage landscapes, disrupt cultures and worsen the lives and livelihoods of mountain people – already amongst the world's poorest and hungriest.

Sustainable tourism benefits mountain communities as well as satisfies the needs of tourists – now and in the future. The theme of International Mountain Day is 'Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas' – a call for all of us to work together to steer tourism on a more sustainable path and to use it as a force to fight poverty in mountain areas.

Web site: http://www.fao.org/mnts/intl_mountain_day_en.asp



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