

Mountain Maps for Ecotourism in Mexico

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The ancient concept of tourism all over the world has been just "sun and beach", but today the great transformation and global changes in the planet obligate us to put more attention to the Gross Natural Product (GNP), similar to the Gross National Product (GNP), according to sustainability, environment and economical perspective in our country.

Mexico with his lovely geographical position and spectacular morphological forms, occupies the sixth position in the statistics of tourist destinations all over the world.

According to the "Organizacion Mundial del Turismo" (World Tourism Organization) the alternative tourism is growing up to the most important theme, that we consider to be attended and worked out very carefully with respect to ecosystems.

Today's cartography is the basic tool required by every tourist or every mountaineer to find or discover all the diversity of activities that this new option offers.

The "INEGI" according with the "Dirección General de Geografía" (Directorate of General Geography DGG) offers a new cartographic product: Mountain tourist maps showing a new kind of cartographical information to ecotourism in Mexico.

Based on a new interdisciplinary methodology a first example is presented: "Cumbres de Monterrey" is one of our national park maintained by SEMARNAP (National Resources and Protected Areas in Mexico). It is convenient to mark that these mountain tourist maps will use topographic information one side. On the back side visualizations of the digital elevation models (DEM) will be presented. It must be emphasized that the topographic information is the most important tool.

Our Institute hopes that all the necessary elements to produce this new type of maps will stay in accordance with the new goals of sustainable tourism applied by rural communities in order to meet the environmental and economic objectives.

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