



## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

1. Tourism contributes significantly to the economies of developing countries. Growth in the sector has been more rapid there than in developed countries and has been continuous for several decades. Tourism projects may involve site identification and provision of access; construction of hotels and other visitor accommodations and amenities; creation of duty-free zones; and the establishment of facilities such as sports complexes, marinas and parks for other leisure-time activities. Supporting infrastructure is an important component of any tourism project. Park facilities, roads, solid waste collection and disposal, sewerage and drainage, and water distribution systems often need to be constructed or improved.

### Potential Environmental Impacts

2. Tourism projects frequently are comparatively small and, when screened for potential environmental impacts, are often placed in Category B. They warrant attention in the Sourcebook nevertheless: first, because of the close relationship between tourism and environmental quality; and second because of the many linkages between tourism development and other sectors in the same region.
3. The features of the natural and sociocultural environment that are important resources for tourism attract people because of aesthetic, recreational or educational/scientific value. However, many of the



same features are particularly sensitive to disturbance by human activities. Negative impacts resulting from inadequately planned and uncontrolled tourism development can easily damage the very environments on which the success of the project depended (see Table at the end of this document for examples). This in turn may severely reduce project benefits. In other words, without careful attention to the balance between the volume and type of tourist activity and the sensitivities and carrying capacities of the resources being developed, tourism projects can be not only environmentally harmful but also economically self-defeating. For example, an increasing number of hotels sited to attract tourists to a coral reef fail after a few years, because hotel effluents discharged offshore rapidly impair -or kill -the reef.:

4. Tourists increase demands on local infrastructure -transportation, water supply, wastewater collection and treatment, solid waste disposal, and health care facilities -and on the variety of public services that are usually the responsibility of local government. Often the demands have significant seasonal peaks. Without coordination and planning, service demands may exceed capacity, with adverse results for residents as well as tourists.
5. Indirect linkages between tourism and local cultures, businesses, resident populations and workforces are potential problems. Failure to recognize them can diminish project benefits as well as inflict adverse socioeconomic impacts on the local population. For example, commercialization of traditional artisan industries can lead to loss of authenticity with negative results for the artisans and possibly for the buyers as well.
6. The magnitude and scale of impacts depend on the size and type of tourism development proposed, relative to the fragility of its proposed



environment. Recreational tourism involving a variety of sporting activities and a large hotel complex infrastructure has a greater potential to degrade fragile ecosystems than projects which attempt to attract tourists with scientific or educational interests such as birding, nature photography or archaeology.

7. On the positive side, "ecotourism" projects can combine conservation of natural and cultural sites with economic and recreational benefits. Success depends on informed site selection, sound design and operating guidelines which take into account the sensitivity and capacity of the resources which form the tourist attraction. Consequently, a major concern in planning other types of development and analyzing their impacts is to avoid foreclosing tourism development options by degrading resources especially well-suited to it. Comprehensive environmental and land-use planning can identify options and alternatives over the long term and balance single and multiple use concepts. :

### **Special Issues**

8. Availability of clean water for drinking, provision of wastewater treatment consistent with the capacity of local water bodies to assimilate pollution load, and adequate facilities for solid waste disposal are critical issues for this sector. If these services are provided by local government or independent utilities, the project sponsor should demonstrate that detailed information on the tourism development has been furnished to those agencies and that they are prepared and able to meet the



project's needs. If the services are not available from local agencies, the plan for the project should show clearly how the developer proposes to provide them, and the impacts of the proposal should be considered in any EA or other environmental analysis. In either case, planners should recognize that tourists from industrial countries use more water and other resources and generate more waste per capita than do residents of developing countries.

9. Coastal zones are among the most attractive areas to tourists. Consequently, tourism constitutes an additional development pressure in areas already heavily used for ports and harbors, commercial fisheries and shell fisheries, and urban expansion. Too, the tendency for developers to seek out new, "unspoiled" sites, away from already congested beaches and towns, contributes to the trend toward urbanization of entire coastlines. The influx of seasonal populations has a significant impact on marine shores. 10. Most of the islands where the environment is generally sensitive are extremely vulnerable to pressures from their development, especially if it is a tourist development. They often harbor a fauna and flora very specific that may be endangered by alien species that the proposed development can bring. The island populations usually consist of indigenous peoples who have a culture of their own. Natural resources that contain these islands are often concentrated in defined areas that are of great interest, one can think of coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, tropical forests, waterfalls, the caves and the gorges geothermal areas. A tourism development project, however small it may change fishing and other subsistence economies that dominate the islands. These last ten years have shown that the environment of many islands has deteriorated due to increased sedimentation phenomena, charge



10. Because of the seasonal nature of many tourist activities, demands at peak periods may exceed the capacities of local public services and physical infrastructure. Typical problems are traffic congestion and demands in excess of capacity of water supply, wastewater and solid waste disposal systems. Wildlife may be affected by large influxes of people at the critical times of migration, feeding, breeding or nesting.

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11. Sociocultural considerations are particularly important in environmental assessment of tourism projects. Activities such as tours of archaeological sites may conflict with local religious beliefs. Hotel construction may cause displacement and involuntary resettlement. Induced development may occur at the fringes of tourist areas. The influx of large numbers of foreigners (tourists or migrant workers) into a local culture and the likely clash of contrasting life styles that result, can have serious impacts on local cultures. There is also the risk of exploitation of indigenous cultures, music and folklore.

The visual as well as the physical impact of accommodations and other structures that will be built to serve tourists should be considered. Ease of construction and "efficient" design should be tempered by considerations for harmony with the surrounding natural environment and sociocultural context. The impact of tourism infrastructure on resources valued for their aesthetics (e.g., waterfalls, gorges) view should be specifically addressed. Also, tariffs for water, sewerage, and other services may be necessary to avoid burdening local users unfairly.

12. Assessments of tourism projects should include analysis of the projected distribution of costs and benefits. Whereas the benefits of tourism may be assumed to accrue to local residents, residents are likely to incur more of the costs and may enjoy less of the benefits than visitors, immigrant



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workers or commercial

13.intermediaries. For example, if high-quality employment opportunities are expected to result, how many jobs will be made available to local residents and for how long, especially if training is required to qualify them for the work? National or regional laws and regulations concerning expatriate employment will provide a base for evaluation of probable impacts. :



### **Project Alternatives**

14. Environmental assessment incorporates the concept of alternatives to the proposed project or to the ways of executing it. During project planning, alternatives should be identified and described in ecological technical, economic and social terms for decision makers. Special impacts associated with each alternative, suitability under local conditions, and institutional, training and environmental monitoring requirements will be identified and compared to the resources available
15. A number of plans and strategies may be required to implement a sound tourism project. At minimum, a land-use management plan and a pollution control plan would enable environmental objectives to be incorporated early into the development process. Integrated planning is particularly desirable for tourism projects.:

### **Scale of Development**

16. Alternatives may address the overall scale of development appropriate for the region. At one end of the range is small-scale, low-impact tourism - e.g., a wildlife refuge or field research station with low numbers of visitors (fewer than 100 at any time), offering forms of recreation such as hiking, nature photography and birding, and oriented toward education of the tourist. At the other end is large scale, high impact tourism, including major infrastructure development with all amenities, capacity for thousands of visitors, high density accommodations, and a wide range of recreation. Initial planning should consider scale and carrying capacity.

### **Siting**



17. Facility siting is a principal factor, not only for the process of the tourist development but for any attending adverse impacts, including population displacement and degradation or loss of natural and cultural resources. Frequently, unique habitats, natural hazards, beach or soil erosion, saltwater intrusion and other natural processes are not properly characterized, resulting in selection of unsuitable sites. Location should not be based on the "best looking" beach or most majestic scenic view but should be the result of a critical examination of alternative sites.

### **Management and Training**

18. Institutional support may be required to enable the tourism development project to succeed. Investments may need to consider public expenditures for infrastructure and commitments of staff and equipment beyond the means of local institutions to respond and manage the new development. If the country, region or locale has had a significant influx of tourism in the past there may be a small level of added support required to focus better on the environmental aspects of the project. Underdeveloped or undeveloped areas may require management and training in the management for the local natural resources staff (e.g., parks, fisheries, forestry officials), roads and sewer authorities, local pollution control authorities and environmental protection agencies, and even the institution responsible for tourism. The local labor force may need training in order to compete for jobs generated by the project and thus to participate fully in its benefits.

19. Frequently, legislative actions involving wildlife protection; national trusts such as parks, historic buildings, and archeological sites; accommodation of land, sea and water rights of indigenous peoples; and general environmental management of sensitive habitats are needed. Tourism



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development requires coordinated management between agencies responsible for tourism, parks and reserves, and pollution



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control in order to avoid the deterioration of environmental resources. Management training, legal assistance, and organizational restructuring may be required: (a) to establish, monitor and enforce environmental legislation and standards; (b) to investigate, plan, and monitor potential adverse effects of pollution; (c) to mitigate and control such pollution or other adverse impacts resulting from tourism; (d) to provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations and others working to prevent deterioration of natural and cultural resources in a proposed development area; and (e) to assess social effects on local communities and reduce or plan human re settlement.

Monitoring plans should include baseline data and periodic review of objectives to determine if plans are being realized. Typical profiles can be developed for protected and ecologically sensitive areas such as beaches, wetlands, reefs; water quality and sediment loading in all water bodies; erosion and sedimentation impacts associated with infrastructure development such as roads, ports, harbors, marinas, hotels, shopping centers and the like; impacts associated with recreational activities such as reef diving, spear fishing, use of all-terrain vehicles, and access to areas previously denied; degree of staging/phasing of development and any observed impacts; demands on transportation and other infrastructure such as water supply, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal capacity, and the observed system responses; effects on local and regional society and economy.

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**Tableau 9.7 Développement touristique**

<b>Negative potential Impact</b>  <b>Direct impact</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
1. 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extraction of beach sand used for construction.</li><li>• Destruction of coral exploited for aggregates for construction materials.</li></ul>	1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exercise oversight over the contractor responsible for the work.</li><li>• Submit plans that are in compliance with municipal ordinances concerning the operation of beach sand.</li></ul>
2. Loss of wetlands, forests and other single or sensitive habitat, cultural, historical and archaeological valuable sites.	2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• regions where it provides for construction should be subject to regulation which takes into account their socio-economic and natural conditions.</li><li>• Develop an inventory of resources for construction.</li></ul>
3. Erosion caused by improper clearing and the creation of infrastructure such as road construction or marinas.	3. Develop plans to fight against erosion and sedimentation.
4. Decline of "free" natural clearance process and degradation of air, water and land resources.	4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There should determine the capacity of that tourist target populations are maintained without thereby overloading existing infrastructure or overstressing resources</li></ul>
5. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water pollution resulting from inadequate sewerage system or inadequate garbage collection.</li><li>• disposal at sea of waste</li><li>• sewage from households</li><li>• marinas</li><li>• infiltration into groundwater</li></ul>	5. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the use of municipal or regional collection systems and waste disposal and construction of a wastewater treatment station on site.</li><li>• Liquid waste should not be dumped on the beaches, coral reefs or in sensitive habitats.</li><li>• Ensure that municipalities are able to monitor and enforce the regulations on pollution</li><li>• Ensure that municipalities are able to monitor and</li></ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>infiltration into groundwater</li> </ul>	<p>marinas</p> <p>enforce the regulations on pollution</p>
<p>7. Difficulties of access being the source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>congestion</li> <li>noise</li> <li>low-level air pollution and localized</li> <li>population density is too high in relation to services available</li> </ul>	<p>7. Establish an integrated management to reduce traffic, the phenomenon of crowds, to reduce noise.</p>
<p>8. Infringement of the nesting sea turtles (special case)</p>	<p>8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply beach monitoring to ensure the protection of sea turtles and define ranges</li> <li>Protect the area extending from the dune to the sea: regulation of any building and any development</li> <li>Restrict night activities during periods of spawning and incubation on the beaches that welcome the turtles.</li> </ul>
<p>9. Movement of human populations.</p>	<p>9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conceive and implement a program of compensations and reinstalment</li> </ul>

### Direct impacts

Negative potential impacts	Mitigation measures
<p>1. Conflicting use of resources, especially fisheries and agricultural products</p>	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop tourism development plans under the national, regional and local socio-economic development in order to integrate the new objectives in development strategies both.</li> <li>Determine the most suitable places for tourism development.</li> </ul>



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<p>2. Constraints on resource capacity to manage tourism activities and the environment related to it.</p>	<p>2. • It is common to use all necessary legislative measures that address the direct and indirect impacts and ensure their monitoring and evaluation. • It is important to establish a budget for staff and equipment taking into account the general requirements necessary mitigation training and to monitor the plan on "environmental" or another mitigation program.</p>
<p>3. Multiplier effect on other industries creating disturbances of natural resources or services (trade craft, vendors, taxi drivers, vendors, farmers / fishers).</p>	<p>3. • Provide infrastructure and services that meet the physical, social and economic needs of the region. • Be aware that too much construction can be a persistent problem.</p>
<p>4. Congestion and influx of tourists</p>	<p>4. Develop urban and road networks according to the homepage of the natural environment sector capacity.</p>
<p>5. Natural disasters (storms, floods, landslides, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, etc.). Could jeopardize infrastructure developed areas and the benefits they are over the long term</p>	<p>5. Designing facilities to: (a) meet the technical requirements the wiser as possible to reduce natural hazards, (b) make use of the natural resources such as wetlands that have the ability to absorb the ravages storms or absorb treated wastewater (see "natural Hazards").</p>