



Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Development Programme
CTO Lot 3: Sustainable Tourism Policy Development

CLIMATE CHANGE-ING THE INDUSTRY?

The International Policy and Market Response to Global Warming and the Challenges and Opportunities that Climate Change Issues Present for the Caribbean Tourism Sector

RE-CAP ON DAY 1

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Opening & Introductory Session

- Tourism is a vector and a victim of climate change
 - Bahamas emphasized that tourism is heavily dependent on the environment, and that Bahamas is keen to make a difference in the face of climate change with several concrete initiatives underway: wetlands policy, customs duty on technology and architectural competitions
 - Consultancy launched in framework of CRSTDP to overview the international policy and market response to global warming:
 - both present and likely future developments
 - challenges and opportunities that climate change issues present for the Caribbean tourism sector
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Climate Science

- Implications of global warming for region are already manifest e.g. significant increase in mean temperature
 - Warmer sea temperature, increased incidence of heavy rainfall, food production changes, need for adaptation.
 - The importance of partnerships between tourism sector and key players to prepare:
 - Partnerships with national government to get the right policy framework in place
 - Partnerships with regional insurers who are key players in the risk management cycle: Good Practices - Barbados Light & Power Company and A&B govt. policy for quality refits
 - Opportunity for the Caribbean to become the world's first "Carbon Neutral" tourist destination.
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Key International Policy Developments

- Since 2001 scientific community - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – research in place
 - Acceptance in the industry of the inevitable – act now or others will act for us: PATA CEO Challenge, UNWTO
 - The warming of the climate is unequivocal, and the pace of climate change is likely to continue over the 21st Century
 - Need for Caribbean to position itself in this future reality (+ and -)
 - Davos Report identifies Caribbean as tourism vulnerability hotspot
 - The process of adaptation must start now – 2040 and 2080 timeline
 - Tourist perceptions of destination impacts and of environmental consequences of travel will likely play a central role in travel decision-making – importance of the role of the media – struggle for opinion
 - Tourism (aviation, accom. Etc) responsible for 5% of global GHG emissions – ranked fourth if it was a country
 - Something has to happen – business as usual not an option because otherwise future CO2 emissions from tourism will neutralise some of the other gains
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Climate Change and Tourism in the Caribbean

- Aviation is in focus – international aviation not included in Kyoto Protocol due to allocation – ICAO charged with direction
 - European Parliament voted to include aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme as of 2011. Other Cap and Trade scenarios considered for North America.
 - With ETS cost of travel London:Havana > US\$ 75 or 3½-5½%
 - Projections for reduced growth rate, not decline
 - Implications of increased fuel prices
 - Review of voluntary initiatives – Carbon Offset Schemes
 - Funds put into forestry or energy efficiency projects or a mix of both
 - Lack of regulation – no certification
 - Differences in total emissions of flights, and the cost per ton of that emission, depending on calculation used and quality of offset project
 - Very little uptake by the public though public attitude still remains a wildcard in terms of how travel will be affected in future
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Questions and Answers

- How do we get the politicians involved?
 - Politicians are elected by the general public so awareness raising can put pressure on government for initiatives
 - Importance of cross-ministerial and inter-agency cooperation
 - Adaptation is of critical importance and more tangible
 - What are affects of sea level rise for Bahamas?
 - Bahamas at severe risk according to World Bank study
 - How many countries have an adaptation strategy?
 - Strategies and implementation plans developed in MACC
 - How do we engage developers and investors?
 - Need for enforcement
 - Need to build awareness at level of civic society
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Workshop 1: Regional Response

1. Key issues for the Caribbean (priorities)
 1. Land use change, beach erosion, waste disposal, cost of travel, public awareness, lack of enforcement, data gaps
 2. Policy development for the Caribbean (in relation to #1)
 1. Focus on insurance sector, strengthen regional market, build better negotiating capacity, National Development Plan
 3. Response to EU and Origin Market Policies
 1. Caution on carbon offset schemes – test in pilots – difficult to do as a region so approach nationally
 4. Constraints to and opportunities for Policy Development
 1. Approach with caution and due care – not a tax for the sake of it
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