Sustainable Tourism in Emerging Countries: A Case Study of Trinidad & Tobago

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Project Description

Tourism has emerged as the largest global industry and continues to remain one of the fastest growing sectors in the world. It is seen as a key driver for socio-economic progress, particularly in low-income countries, by creating jobs and enterprises, increasing export revenues, and developing local infrastructure.

In order to harness tourism’s positive potential, both on a national and global scale, it is essential that a sustainable concept of tourism is adopted that addresses environmental, economical, as well as socio-cultural issues.

Developing a Sustainable Tourism Concept in Trinidad & Tobago

This research project takes a case study approach to developing a sustainable tourism (ST) concept in the emerging economy of Trinidad & Tobago. Merged to form one independent, democratic state, T&T is one of the richest countries in the Caribbean and plays an important role as an opinion leader in the region. The planned sustainable tourism study for T&T would aim to maximize the economic benefits to the communities and minimize negative impacts while preserving the cultural and natural resources. The goal would be to develop best practices for the Caribbean tourism sector.

» Tobago, home to the oldest rainforest in the Western hemisphere, is completely dependent on tourism. This study will assess the current concept of tourism and offer recommendations where possible.

» Trinidad is economically dependent on its currently profitable oil and gas reserves and has yet to recognize and develop its full tourism potential. This study will work with NGOs, government, and tourism stakeholders to develop a viable sustainable tourism concept for Trinidad.

» EU-CELAC Partnership. The EU experience of working and researching in the field of sustainable tourism for decades will offer a conceptual foundation for this study. Of particular importance is the pledged commitment of the EU to fund initiatives and to collaborate in the areas of economic growth, sustainable development, and social inclusion in the Caribbean region.

Objective of Study

The purpose of this study is to develop a ST concept in the emerging economy of T&T. The specific goals are:

» To assess the effectiveness of the established ST practices and policies in Tobago

» To analyze Trinidad’s present tourism development policies and to formulate recommendations for a future ST concept

» To determine to what extent European experiences and approaches to ST can offer guidance to T&T’s tourism stakeholders and public policy makers

Outlook

This study aims to contribute to the accumulating research on the ambiguous correlation between tourism development and socio-economic prosperity in low income countries. Further research is necessary on the differing preferences of consumers with regard to ST, and also on the impact of different types of tourism in developing countries.

Cooperative Partners

Sources


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