eas Congress 2009

Theme 5

Food Secutity and Livelihood Management

WORKSHOP 3:
LIVELIHOOD MANAGEMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE COASTAL TOURISM

25 November 2009

UN DP

United Nations Development Programme

Department of Tourism, Philippines

Chair: **Dr. Wong Poh Poh**
National University of Singapore

Co-Chair: **Dr. Miguel D. Fortes**
UNESCO – National Committee on Marine Sciences

The East Asian Seas Congress 2009

"Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation and Good Practices"

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Outside the Mediterranean and Caribbean regions, Southeast Asia and East Asian are important regions of coastal tourism mainly due to their huge coastal and marine resources, particularly in many of the developing countries. For instance, the rich coastal and marine biodiversity is a basis of various diving sites in the region. Koh Tao in the Gulf of Thailand alone is responsible for one-third of the annual registration of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

Despite a slower growth in global tourism, Asia-Pacific tourism remains to increase significantly in scale and scope (Hampton, 2009).

Tourism is a major contributor to the GDP and employment of the South East Asian countries. In the Philippines the tourism industry is projected to have a direct output exceeding US$ 5 billion, generating an additional 200,000 jobs by the end of the decade (Figure 1) (Fortes, 2009).

But are the revenues in tourism accruing and creating livelihood among the coastal communities? Is coastal tourism a sustainable source of income for local coastal communities? In what ways are the private and public sectors collaborating to ensure the sustainability of coastal tourism initiatives? In the light of climate change and its challenges, can coastal tourism be sustained as a source of livelihood for coastal communities? These are only some of the questions that the *Livelihood and Sustainable Coastal Management* workshop aims to answer.

In recent years, the scope of tourism has shifted from long haul inter-continental tourism to regional and domestic tourism. Such tourism trends have spatially concentrated on coastal areas and islands (Hampton and Wong, 2009).

In Malaysia research has shown that the rise in small-scale coastal tourism is related to backpackers and domestic tourism. For instance, the Perhentian Islands,,20 km off the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia, were first frequented by backpackers in the early 1990s. Three years later, small businesses catering to the tourists were started on the island.

While there were benefits derived from backpackers, increased capital infusion in the area led to development of new infrastructures that cater to a mix of upscale, large-scale and domestic tourists. This raises the issue as to whether large-scale tourism is driven by the development of large-scale infrastructures promoted by the state. In turn, the increasing trend towards large-scale tourism reduces the benefits derived by local communities.

Figure 1. Philippines: percentage employment in tourism.

	2002	2003	2004E	2005E		2010E
	877	830	886	917		1,200
As % of total employment	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%		3.5%
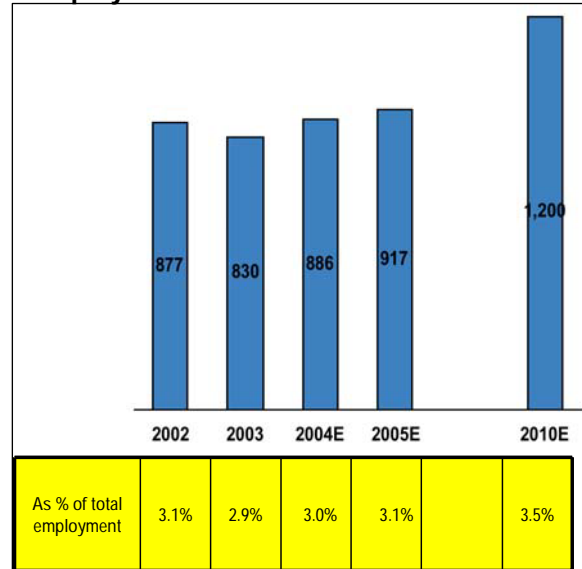
While the trend is towards upscale tourism and backpackers are often seen negatively, several studies showed growing evidence of positive economic impact of small-scale tourism (Hampton 1998, Scheyvens 2002). This is due to lower economic leakages and stronger linkages between goods and services provided by small-scale tourism as opposed to mass tourism. Local tourism also requires lower capital requirements, enabling the entry of small-scale businesses, as in the case of the Perhentian Islands. This creates ownership among communities and small-scale business.

Community-based tourism and conservation

One of the approaches undertaken to promote coastal tourism at the local level is through community-based tourism which is used as a "tool" to engage communities in conservation. A comparative example of three communities in Thailand indicates various positive reasons for community-based tourism and the financial contributions to conservation (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of community-based initiatives in Thai communities.

	Prednai	Lilet	Kho Khao
First dialogue/ group formation	22/11 year	7/4 year	5/2 year
Experience	8 years	4 years	1 year
Pressure	mangrove charcoal concessions	government tree-planting project	asian tsunami 2004
Initiator	community leaders	community leaders	external agency
Learning resource management	exchange of information	exchange of information	unclear model
Participating in conservation activities	making of "rubber dice"	mangrove tree planting	----
Nature tours	walkway long-tailed boat	Walkway long-tailed boat	walkway,canoe, diving,bicycling
Tourist activities in the communities	crab collecting, fishing, aquaculture, fruit orchards	shellfish/crab collecting,fishing, Nipa palm pro-ducting, making shrimp paste	squid and prawn fishing, bead making, Thai massage
Learning life cycle of the firefly	in the waning moon	year round	----
Home stay program	30 families	15 families with Thai certificate	10 families
Responsible group	conservation group	Tourism group	tourism group
Driving force (from the most important considered by community)	study tours support conservation increase incomes	Increase incomes support conservation	Increase incomes support conservation
Contribution to conservation	10% of income	100 baht/visitor	10% of income

Based on these experiences, there are several observations on how coastal tourism improves resource management and, consequently, the quality of life in communities. The improved economic activities also resulted to improved quality of tourism services.

Community-based tourism in the case of the three Thai communities is an effective tool for the communities already possessing strong experiences in natural resources management. It can be promoted as a learning process for both the hosts and guests, rather than a mere economic activity for the communities.

The homestay program implemented by the local government in Pagudpod, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, is an example of how tourism can be linked to socio-cultural and environmental awareness while generating incomes for communities. With limited inflowing investments, the Municipality ventured into a homestay program 15 years ago through the leadership of the then Municipal Councilor and Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Mr. Marlon Sales. He convinced the homeowners of the seaside villages of Barangay Saud, Pagudpud, to transform their homes into alternative accommodation facilities. But it was not an easy task to ask people to invest in their homes so they can open it up to tourists. But with strong political will and consistent government support to the program, this livelihood opportunity for the coastal residents eventually flourished.

Convinced of the opportunities of ecotourism development, the Municipal Government collaborated with the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the academe, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other private sectors and agencies, to provide comprehensive support to ecotourism development as it is the key to sustain tourist arrivals.

For the homestay program, funds were allocated to improve the level of services through seminars on hosting, tourist reception services, and basic housekeeping. The local government unit (LGU) constantly monitored, visited, assessed and evaluated the facilities of those participating in the homestay program. Today, the homestay program is a signature initiative of Pagudpud and is a main source of income for many of the residents. Compared to only one taker in 1996, Pagudpud now boasts 67 homestays, most of which have facilities accredited by the DOT.

Aside from the income generated from the homestay rentals, the residents also developed their entrepreneurial skills by providing food, transport services, tour guiding, therapeutic massage and souvenir items.

Management options: Spontaneous or planned development

A study on different management approaches and its impacts on coastal tourism in Bali, Indonesia, reveals four main approaches:

a. management by traditional village (*desa adat*);
b. management by village foundation (*yayasan Desa*);
c. management by government authority/agency; and
d. natural development (without any management patterns) or spontaneous development.

Two management patterns — management by traditional village and management by village foundation, both initiatives by the local community – can effectively develop local community livelihoods in the coastal area. While management by local authority/agency initiatives are mainly applied by the Bali Tourism Development Council, benefits from these are only to specific areas.

The first three kinds of management approaches proved to be generally good interventions on coastal tourism as they provide good services such as environmental security, tourist safety and maintenance of a clean environment. These are made possible through the mobilization of task forces or organized communities/sectors. On the other hand, coastal areas without planned tourism management or those which are left to spontaneous development, generally suffer from several problems. The free market cannot address the needs of the tourism sector.

The experience in Bali showed that planned coastal tourism development is more advantageous than letting the tourism market take its course. This is due to the presence of organized local level communities that are able to provide better tourist services. In the same manner, agency/institutional-driven tourism enables the government to provide services and generate revenues from coastal tourism. This

does not guarantee, however, the implementation of poverty-alleviation programs outside the covered area.

Spontaneous development generally does not offer a pro-active approach to coastal tourism. It relies instead on the market to provide for services that would normally be provided for by the government or organized sectors.

Coastal tourism and conservation: A process and an end

It is also important to note that community-based tourism evolves in the process of community organizing and is not at the start of community-based projects. Experience in the Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia, has shown that there is a natural process of project phasing from which the basic organizing activities are transited to a sustainable coastal ecotourism.

The process-oriented approach to resource management and tourism applied in Peam Krasaop followed these steps:

a. Learning about the situation through participatory research with the community;
b. Building partnerships with NGOs and community-based organizations for coastal resource management;
c. Building capacity of key stakeholders;
d. Organizing communities;
e. Advocating for policy and legislation support at the local and national levels; and
f. Promoting ecotourism development.

The community did not self-organize but was organized by 'outsiders' who were interested in working with the community. The roles of the government, communities, and institutions are critical to successful implementation of such projects, particularly in institution building at the local level. These institutions should be integrated horizontally within the community and vertically at the national level.

Coastal tourism also is also an important source of livelihood among the communities along the North Andaman coast of Thailand. This has been promoted by the private sector, NGOs, and government policy. Concurrently, a number of communities have developed activities for tourists based on the area's cultural and natural heritage.

The North Andaman Community Tourism Network (N-ACT) was formed to serve as an evolving platform to support local communities engaged in sustainable tourism. With the support of the International Union of Nature Conservation (IUCN), the N-ACT has increased the contribution of tourism to sustainable livelihoods and sound ecosystem management by providing communities with access to the best available knowledge and practices. Recognizing the outstanding natural and cultural resources of the North Andaman area, it focused its community-level efforts in the Kuraburi district of Phang Nga province and the adjacent districts of Kapoe and Suksamran in Ranong Province.

In its first phase, the N-ACT generated tangible benefit through cooperative engagement with stakeholders including community members, tour operators, media, and government officers. The first phase of N-ACT's work provides several useful lessons relating to three major areas in setting up community tourism networks.

a. **Choosing the right partners**. In relation to choosing the right partners, engaging with all possible stakeholders, developing and using ground assessment tools, careful selection of target communities and working towards setting standards are key factors that need to be considered during the preparatory stages.

b. **Setting up a successful network.** To set up a successful network, it is important to ensure local ownership and locally appropriate methods are used, that knowledge products cater to the need and use by a local audience and work to leverage successful local examples so as to build capacity in neighboring communities.

c. **Linking conservation and tourism**. Linking conservation to sustainable tourism can be achieved using a mixture of three approaches: (1) A passive approach where income from non-extractive utilization of natural resources; (2) an active approach where conservation activities such as a tourism product with saleable value are promoted; and (3) a direct approach where tourism is used as a strategic tool to support existing conservation efforts.

Facilitating partnership is an important element for successful community tourism. Set against the challenges of the tsunami, and responsible tourism in general, there are several factors for successful community tourism, including:

a. group management and new leaders;
b. positive guest experience;
c. links to conservation and social welfare; and, most importantly, consistent supplemental income.

The main approaches include generating demand for sustainable tourism products from regional and national tour operators, supporting development of new community-based tourism products for local operators and ecotourism resorts and identifying funding resources for conservation and tourism development projects.

Public-private sector participation: Setting the criteria for responsible tourism

A collaborative arrangement to promote sustainable tourism can also be seen in the experience of Green Fins (GFs). GFs promotes environmentally responsible diving and, through this, coral reef conservation and the promotion of the sustainable tourism industry. At the core of the GF programme is a Code of Conduct (COC) designed to reduce the threats posed by SCUBA diving. Under the programme, diving clubs (dive) operator members commit to operate according to the Green Fins COC, while divers and snorkelers are trained to follow Guidelines for Environmentally-friendly Diving and Snorkeling.

The Code of Conduct covers 15 items, ranging from dealing responsibly with garbage and other waste, to educational and awareness raising activities, such as beach

and underwater clean ups and reef monitoring. The GFs programme, established by UNEP-COBSEA in 2004, involves governments, the private sector, local NGOs and communities in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. GFs is active where diving tourism has grown around the most unique, beautiful and fragile coral reefs of the world.

GFs specially-trained teams assess dive operators to see how well the Code of Conduct is being followed and then offer guidance to help them protect marine life even more. It has a secure online database to store such dive operators' assessments so any improvements can be monitored. This allows the GF teams to identify the best ways of helping divers and dive operators to be more responsible and to share this with other GFs countries. It also works directly with dive operators' staff to help them understand more about coral reef ecology and how they can help to protect and conserve reefs. For example, GFs divers in Thailand are told about how fish feeding can cause Crown-of-Thorn outbreaks and how this can cause damage to coral ecosystems. This training is available for all staff including guides, instructors, boat crew, and management so they realize what little things can be done at work and at home to really protect their local marine environment.

The GFs programme has 'in-country teams' working nationally, and a 'regional team' to coordinate and share information between these countries. Green Fins in Thailand has progressed greatly and there are currently over 100 members. The Green Fins Association (GFAS) was successfully established in late 2008 and has cooperated with the government sector to take the lead to introduce and implement GFs in Thailand. GFAS has run a number of marine conservation awareness-raising activities focused on local communities, especially targeting children. GFAS's mission is aimed at developing the programme to best suit the problems, situations, circumstances and culture of Thailand. GFAS has been raising funds domestically for its sustainability.

The Reef-World Foundation leads the regional team to establish GFs further across Southeast Asia and ultimately into other regions. This will be done by strengthening the skills and capability of 'in-country teams' and communities through training, knowledge sharing, support and the effective use of management tools to further spread the GFs message for a sustainable tourism industry.

Similar to the Green Fins Program, the *Buhay Dagat* (Coastal Life) is a collaborative project to promote community-based tourism in a protected area. This was done to monitor activities in the protected area and at the same time, provide income opportunities for local communities by training them as divers.

The Marine Protected Areas Support Network (MSN) criteria in classifying ten pilot marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Philippines are briefly described in the Table 4.

Table 4. MSN criteria for MPA is stabling Pilot Sites in the Philippines.

Rating	Phase	Management Performance	Description
Level 1	Initiated	Passing	MPA establishment activities are in progress.
Level 2	Established	Fair	MPA is legalized and management activities have started.

Level 3	Enforced	Good	MPA regulations are implemented and management activities are maintained for two years or more.
Level 4	Sustained	Very good	MPA is well-enforced over the years; participation and support from the LGU and community is consistent.
Level 5	Institutionalized	Excellent	Management and enforcement is consistently maintained and is assured by additional legal support.

In identifying the protected areas where community-based tourism will be promoted, the *Buhay Dagat* uses the following criteria:

1. Established MPA with effective management;
2. Presence of local communities or people's organizations (POs);
3. No threats to security or safety;
4. Strong potential for coastal tourism;
5. Receptive and supportive LGU;
6. Reef is suitable for snorkeling;
7. Community is ready to have tourism;
8. Diveable at least six months in a year;
9. No threats from environmental disturbance (pollution, sedimentation, mining or uncontrolled development); and
10. Absence of natural or human induced hazards.

Upon selection of the site, capacity development assistance is extended to communities to increase their appreciation of the marine environment and at the same time, train them as guides for tourists, particularly in diving/snorkeling.

The following set of criteria was used in identifying the training participants for snorkeling programs.

- Training for snorkeling guides
- 18 years of age, male or female
- In good physical condition
- Ability to swim and communicate
- Involved in monitoring and protection
- Willingness to learn
- Interested in tourism as supplementary livelihood

Upon training, the participants can assist the tourists in snorkeling within the MPAs for a fee. This also ensures that diving and snorkeling among tourists will not cause damage to the coral reefs.

Currently, the project has pilot sites in Cabilao Island, Municipality of Loon, Bohol, the Hundred Islands National Park, Alaminos City, Pangasinan. In Bohol an association of guides has been formed and have their own equipment. Snorkeling activities in MPAs have also been offered. With these projects, more municipalities are requesting for the program. Selection continues and the validation of pilot sites and the program may be extended to other MPAs.

Sustaining coastal tourism: Moving from fragmented to holistic, integrated approach

The value of integrating communities, protection and management of resources and the promotion of livelihood is the focus of the social-ecological systems (SES) approach. This approach is an emerging trend in coastal conservation in East Asia which arises, in part, from an increasing understanding of the human influence on the goods and services of the coastal ecosystems provided to the tourism sector and upon which the people themselves depend for survival. The SES underlines the emergence of a complex systems approach for sustaining coastal ecosystems, linking habitat resilience to economics, local institutional structures, and society.

In recent years, there is an increasing trend on "ecotourism', especially in protected areas, like Biosphere Reserves. This is brought on by various factors including:

- Increasing sensitivity of tourists to environmental and cultural issues;
- Expansion of high-quality and specialty tourist attractions;
- Shift of corporate developers towards tourist attractions which protect, rather than destroy natural resources;
- Increase from "paper and desktop management" of tourism

One of the strategies that can be undertaken is the social-ecological system which is an integrated system of ecosystems and human society with reciprocal feedback and interdependence (humans-in-nature perspective)" (Berkes et al. 2003).

This is based on integrated view of humans and nature, in which social systems are embedded into natural systems (Figure 2). As social systems grow and expand, nature becomes scarce, and the need of management is imminent (Figure 3). There is a constant interaction between the natural and the social systems and feedbacks between them.
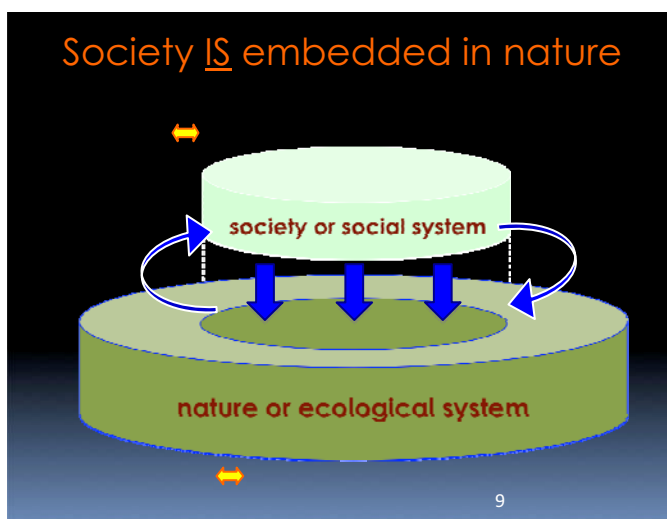
Figure 2 . Integrated view of humans and nature

9

Figure 3. Management systems of natural resources.

REGULATIVE	NORMATIVE	CULTURAL
Rules Regulations Coercive mechanisms Other legal measures	Values Social expectations	Commonly held beliefs Shared understanding Traditions
= LEGALLY SANCTIONED	= MORALLY BINDING	= TAKEN FOR GRANTED
Examples:	*Examples:*	*Examples:*
Reef Sanctuary No-take zones ICD & ICAM Biosphere Reserves Marine Protected Areas	Participation Attendance Volunteerism Peer pressure Communal areas	Taboos Seasonal fishing Communal practices 'Wise practices'

For effective tourism development in the East Asian countries, efforts have leaned heavily on conservation. This condition requires multi-, rather than single-pronged approaches to promote species and habitat resilience and sustainability, the fundamental basis of ecotourism. It is increasingly recognized that coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests in the region are linked by high-order interactions in terms of nutrients, plant dispersal, animal migration, physical processes, and human impacts. These linkages imply that the disruption in one ecosystem could lead to a disruption in the other.

Ecotourism development via coastal ecosystems conservation strategies in East Asia (such as MPAs, World Heritage Sites, or Biosphere Reserves) have met limited success due largely to inadequate attention to the social context of conserving these marine resource systems. While some ecological concerns are imperative, socioeconomic factors are critical to the success of common-property institutions because they can influence decisions on how users adopt restraints on resource use. In contrast, where these factors are inadequately and poorly reflected by strategies and action plans, low compliance rates results and outcomes such as free-riding and overexploitation are likely.

The SES shares similar principles with the integrated approach employed in Munakata, Japan. Similar to many coasts, the interplay of issues in the coastal area of Munakata contributes to the deterioration of coastal areas, ultimately affecting the tourism sector.

Munakata City enjoys about 5 million tourists a year because of its scenic beauty, fresh seafood and rich cultural heritage, especially the Munakata Taisha Shrine.   More than 90% of the tourists (about 30,000 to 40,000 visitors per month) visit this area for its fresh seafood which is available all year round. During the summer season, about 20,000 visitors enjoy beach bathing and marine-based activities. However, one of the drawbacks is that most of the visitors come to this area for one-day trips and only one out of five people stay overnight. This means limited expenditure among tourists.

A strategy has been developed to encourage tourists to stay longer in Munakata (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Creation of experience-oriented, overnight stay.
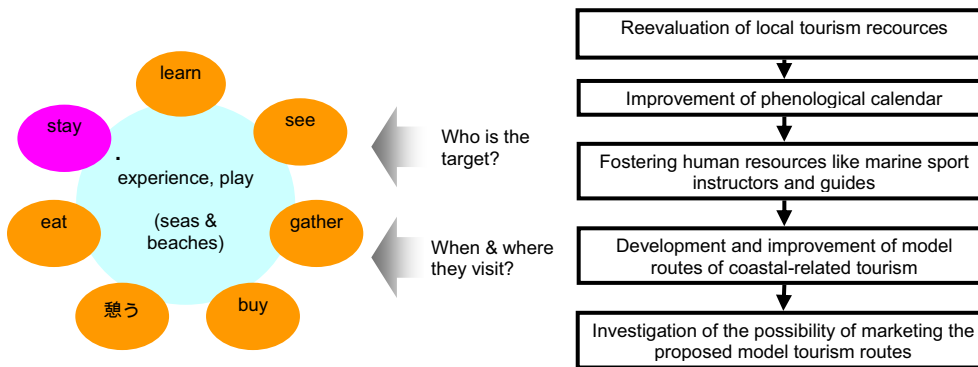
Aside from the challenge of encouraging tourists to stay longer, environmental issues are also another problem in Munakata. Recently, two-thirds of the beach have experienced serious beach erosion, which has resulted in the destruction of coastal forests. The beach erosion also prevented a city marathon event which participants have to run on the sandy beach.

The Munakata coastal zone is no exception from other problems in the costal areas. There are conflicts among recreational users and conflicts between fisherman and recreational users. The Munakata Coastal Strategy was developed as one of the efforts of the Munakata Integrated Coastal Management Working (MICMW) Committee to chart the courses of action for the sustainable development and the preservation of cultural and natural resources in the Munakata coastal zone.

Since tourism is increasingly seen as a tool for development and revitalization of local communities, development of sustainable coastal-related tourism is the most important mission of the Munakata Coastal strategy.

To improve tourism services means finding a way to comprehensively address coastal issues. First, a re-evaluation of the tourism resources in the form of a phenological calendar was undertaken. This is a list of monthly festivals and events, seasonally-available fresh seafood, and seasonal recreational activities. This is because tourists are often interested in what are essentially season-driven events, such as bird watching, spring wildflower displays, autumn tree color changes, seasonal fresh harvests and so forth. Being able to predict the timing of such events is thus important to the tourism industry.

The MICMW Committee decided to establish sea-surface utilization coordination rules, self-regulatory rules, and also appointed the Munakata Coastal Use Coordination (MCUC) Working Group to formulate the rules and consider effective ways for implementing the rules. This is one of precautionary approaches of managing coastal utilization conflicts before serious accidents take place, which might cause adverse effects on coastal tourism.

The challenges of climate change in sustaining coastal tourism

Despite contributing 10% of total global GDP, and generating 230 million jobs worldwide, coastal tourism is threatened by several factors including climate change. The social and environmental problems of coastal tourism is compounded with the impact of climate change. The distinct impacts on coastal tourism are indicated in table 5.

Table 5. Climate-related impacts.

| Coastal socio-economic sector	Climate-related impacts [and their climate drivers]						
	Temp. rise [air and seawater]	Extreme events [storms, waves]	Floods [sea level, runoff]	Rising water tables [sea level]	Erosion [sea level, storms, waves]	Saltwater intrusion [sea level, runoff]	Biological effects [All climate drivers]
Freshwater resources	X	X	X	X	-	X	x
Agriculture and forestry	X	X	X	X	-	X	x
Fisheries and aquaculture	X	X	x	-	x	X	X
Health	X	X	X	x	-	X	X
Recreation and tourism	X	X	x	-	X	-	X
Biodiversity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Settlements /infrastructure	X	X	X	X	X	X	-

X = strong;   x = weak;   - = negligible or not established.

Source: IPCC 2007.

Major coastal tourism in various parts of the world are also linked to several problems brought by climate change (Figure 5), particularly, the following :

- Increase in extreme events (except Mediterranean);
- Sea-level rise (except Mediterranean);
- Marine biodiversity loss;
- Water scarcity;
- Increase in disease outbreaks (except Indian and Pacific Oceans);
- Travel cost increase from mitigation policy (except Mediterranean); and
- Political destabilization (only Caribbean).

Figure 5: Climate change and global tourism.
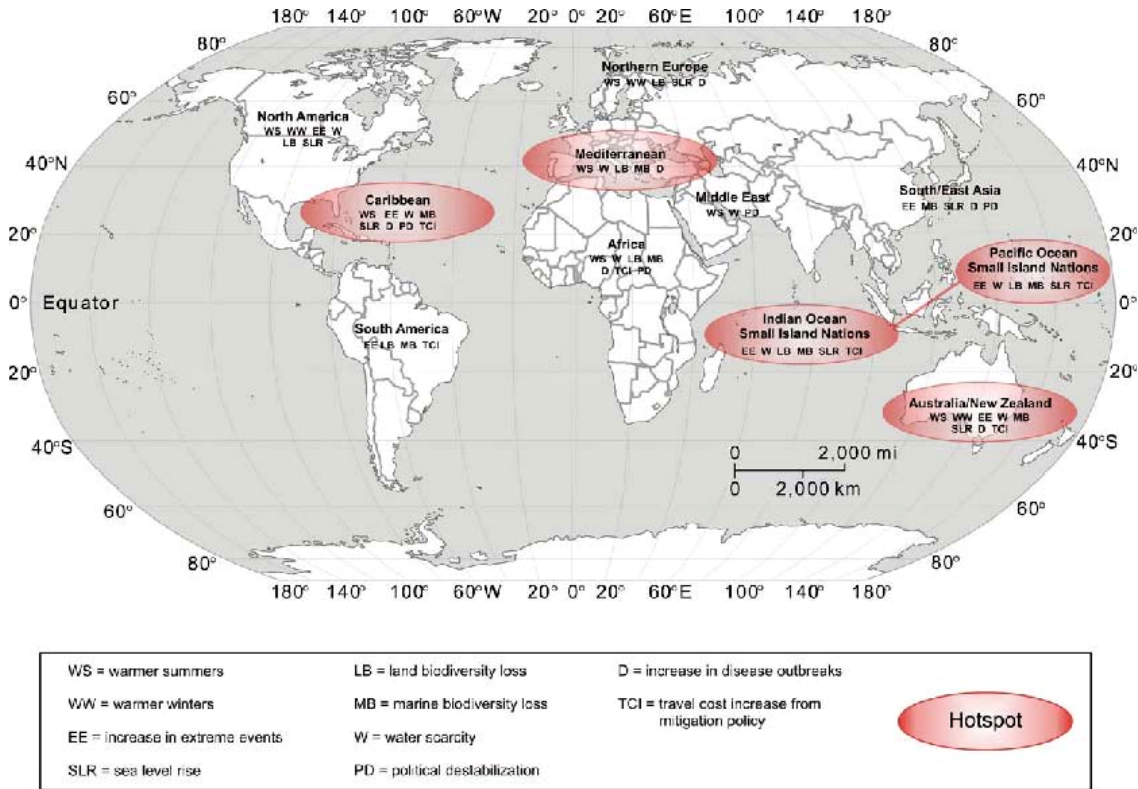
Climate change has various impacts on coastal tourism including:
- Loss of beaches, degradation of coastal ecosystems, saline intrusion, damage to critical infrastructure.
- Reduction of appeal of tropical beach destinations as tourist destinations with increasingly projected milder winters in their tourist market countries.

The impact of climate change is most pronounced in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) where beaches and coral reefs are the basis of tourism on many SIDS. Being small states with relatively smaller economies, these countries are highly vulnerable when exposed to economic shocks.

With limited physical size and generally limited natural resources, these states have high susceptibility to natural hazards. Studies revealed that Maldives, Kiribati and Tuvalu would almost totally disappear with future sea-level rise (SLR). A 100-cm SLR would drown 70% of Seychelles.

The relatively thin water lenses in the SIDS are highly sensitive to sea-level changes. SLR is a threat to the beaches. The destruction of coral reefs also leads to erosion of beaches such as the case of Barbados.

The types of coastal tourism underwent rapid transformation from unplanned or spontaneous such as in the case of Pattaya (Thailand) to planned development in Nusa Dua (Bali, Indonesia). Several approaches in coastal tourism, such as small-scale, pro-poor, community-based, have been developed to meet economic needs.

Despite the economic benefits brought by coastal tourism, there are several challenges. The environmental challenges include coastal erosion and degradation, coastal hazards (tsunamis) and climate change. Aside from these, other conflicting demands at the coastal area pose social and economic challenges to benefits brought by coastal tourism.

Integrated coastal management (ICM) often comes into the picture to address livelihood issues. It is an approach to reduce conflicts between stakeholders, reducing negative impacts to the environment and pursuing sustainable development of resources for tourism development, as in the case of Munakata, Japan.

At the end of the day, the concept of sustainability is widely used but interpreted differently. For the private sector, the main objective is to increase profits although corporate social responsibility (CSR) is now becoming more visible.

Sustainable coastal tourism (SCT) discussed during the session is within the framework of poverty alleviation for local communities, which examines, in the process, the role of NGOs, LGUs, or the government.

As a livelihood, SCT in the form of ecotourism is suitable as a community-based approach to livelihood management but only on a small scale and based on local resources. Case studies point to the positive economic impact of coastal tourism at the community level and that community-based management and coastal tourism on a smaller scale generally provide economic benefits to impoverished coastal communities.

However, this requires understanding of the environment, environmental impacts and some business management capacity, which is almost always a huge challenge at the local level. In which case, the question of whether local communities have the capacity to handle sustainable coastal tourism in the long run is still a question. In case such capacity development activities have to be provided, to what extent should these be done?

In the case of conservation and tourism, the case studies point to conservation as the primary objective among local communities prior to promoting sustainable coastal tourism. Coastal tourism only comes as a result of effective resource management and community organizing. There are several case studies to support that sustainability and negative social impacts of tourism can be avoided by integrating conservation and community activities as tourist activities. In many cases, homestay programs aim to promote better understanding of the local socioeconomic conditions among tourists while allowing local communities to be exposed to tourist behaviors and preferences.

In the same manner, integrating socioeconomic and political considerations, in managing biospheres, reserves and protected areas, is more effective and is equally beneficial.

Communities may not have the necessary resources and skills to cater to promote coastal tourism. Private sector participation such as travel companies and dive shops can assist in the process through marketing and promotion of sustainable tourist practices, as well as local capacity development.

There is an increasing involvement with private partnership through corporate social responsibility. Their involvement is usually 'brokered' or facilitated by local NGOs or community-based groups. Private sectors provide more approaches to train communities in running SCT.

The SCT case studies show that unlike private sector-driven tourism projects, local involvement in all phases of the project is a must and not an option. However, the challenge is in determining the optimal level of involvement in decisionmaking and management.

An integrated approach to sustainable coastal tourism would definitely address coastal tourism issues. However, pursuing livelihood activities may entail different approaches from that of community-based coastal tourism. The tools for training in livelihoods management are not the same as the tools for sustainable coastal tourism management.

Despite the importance of coastal tourism to livelihoods and environmental management, there are various environmental and socioeconomic challenges that need to be addressed for these livelihood opportunities to be sustained. Climate change exacerbates tourism-related problems as in the case of developing countries in the East Asian Seas region.

Livelihoods and SCT need to have various protection or adaptation measures , e.g., corals, mangroves, seagrasses for measuring against coastal erosion, natural hazards (tsunamis) and climate change adaptation.

The following conclusions and recommendations were drawn from the discussion:

- There is still conflicting evidence as to whether community-based coastal tourism is sustainable and economically viable.

- Ultimately, coastal tourism should be treated as a "business" endeavor for poverty alleviation to address basic needs and services in coastal communities.

- There is a need to pursue appropriate capacity development strategies for communities to strengthen entrepreneurial skills, with a conscious effort to protect the integrity of biodiversity and cultural heritage.

- Coastal tourism is a much more complex issue that needs to be considered holistically (i.e., use of available resources needed to support tourism and the wastes generated/environmental stress, social impacts and the cultural implications to communities).

- There is a need to promote integrated/co-management approaches among sectors and institutions to address socioeconomic, political and environmental concerns associated with coastal tourism and livelihood.

- A combination of natural and social science is required to promote sound management at the local level, particularly in conservation activities and using these to inform stakeholders of the economic benefits.

- The private and public sectors need to link with the local communities to promote simple, sustainable tourism practices.

- Sustainable coastal tourism still faces a number of issues
  a. Environmental – coastal erosion and degradation, coastal hazards (tsunamis) and climate change
  b. Socioeconomic issues, such as conflicting demands of coastal areas
  c. Determining ways to realistically involve/engage local communities in all aspects — from development to implementation — of coastal tourism

- In order to address the issues of climate change and livelihood, there is a need for adaptation measures to be mainstreamed into national development plans, and downscaled to local plans.

PRESENTATIONS AND SOURCES

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