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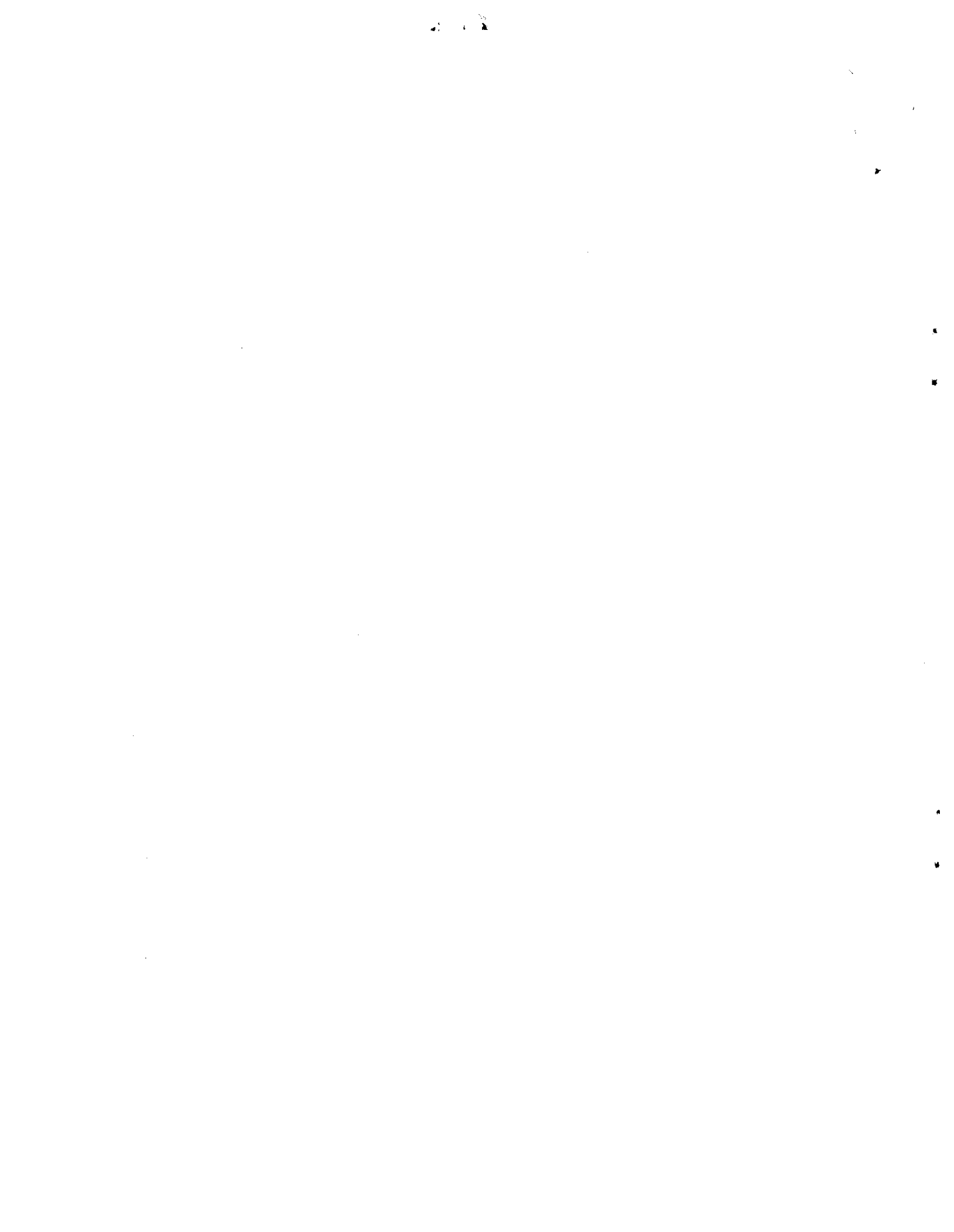
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT
OF
THE WIDER CARIBBEAN EXPERT MEETING
ON
TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT IN CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
(Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
2 - 4 December 1985)



I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Expert Meeting on Environment and Tourism in Caribbean Development was held at the Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 2-4 December 1985.

2. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as the culmination of the joint UNEP/ECLAC project 'Tourism and Environment in the Wider Caribbean.' This project was carried out within the framework of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. The major objectives of the project were:

(a) To carry out three representative case studies on tourism, development and environment in different parts of the region, and in particular to analyse the juxtaposition of tourism, resource utilisation, development and the physical and socio-cultural environment;

(b) To formulate guidelines and concrete recommendations for the Wider Caribbean Region in order to introduce the environmental dimension into the tourism industry from the planning stage through implementation and management;

(c) To present the draft case studies and draft guidelines to a regional experts meeting prior to their publication and presentation to the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme;

(d) To provide a solid foundation for tourism-related action at the national and regional levels, within the context of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme; and

(e) To encourage the use of the guidelines by governments and by international organizations working in the region, for environmentally sound development of tourism in the Wider Caribbean Region.

3. Within this framework the objectives of the meeting were:

(a) To discuss and consider the draft case studies which were prepared within the framework of the joint ECLAC/UNEP Project "Tourism and Environment in the Wider Caribbean;" and

(b) Through the discussion of the case studies and the exchange of technical experiences among the participants, to develop guidelines and recommendations and to prepare concrete follow-up actions to be considered by the countries. The policies should be designed to enhance the natural resource base and environmental assets in an attempt to achieve a more meaningful contribution from tourism to the overall economic and social development process.

4. Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Montserrat, the Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Saint Christopher/Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States Virgin Islands, Venezuela and various national, regional and subregional institutions attended. A list of participants appears at Annex I.

5. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected to preside over the meeting:

Chairman: Mr. Jack de Lima (Trinidad and Tobago)
Vice-Chairman: Ms. Stella Herrera (Netherlands Antilles)
Rapporteur: Mr. José Villamil (Puerto Rico)

6. The meeting proceeded according to the following Agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Opening statements.
3. Presentation and review of case studies.
4. Preparation of draft conclusions and recommendations in working group sessions.
5. Consideration and approval of conclusions and recommendations.

7. Opening statements were made by Mr. Trevor Harker on behalf of the Director of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Dr. Noel Brown, Director UNEP New York Liaison Office; The Honourable Wendell Mottley, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago; and Mr. Jorge Vega on behalf of the Honourable Biol. Alicia Barcena Ibarra, Deputy Minister for Ecology of Mexico.

8. The opening addresses highlighted the following principal issues related to the theme of tourism and environment:

(a) The need to place the discussions within the broader context of overall development policies, as well as within a global framework;

(b) The need to reverse the neglect of policy-makers which has afflicted tourism in the region;

(c) Recognition that an increasingly more competitive world will force countries to compete by offering higher quality and more unique tourism experiences for the traveller;

(d) Recognition that tourism is an industry which is particularly sensitive to environmental conditions, and that its viability depends to a great extent on how its various relations with the environment are managed; and

(e) Recognition that tourism needs to be placed within the wider socio-cultural context of the host country.

9. The meeting then proceeded with the presentation and discussion of the case studies. Six of the case studies were national in scope, one was regional and three concentrated on sectoral issues. A complete list of documents appears in Annex II.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

10. The case studies referred to above and the consequential discussions provided the participants with a rich and varied amount of information on the experiences in the region with respect to tourism and the environment. It became clear from the discussions, that participants viewed these relationships as encompassing a broad spectrum of activities. A number of themes were common to different presentations and represent a consensus of major issues present in the debate. They are summarized below.

11. Tourism, as one of the fastest growing areas of international trade, provides a powerful tool for national development, particularly for small Caribbean countries with limited alternative development options. It is a sector which is growing not only in size, but also in complexity in order to cater to the increasingly more sophisticated international traveller who seeks an unique travel experience, as well as to the mass market.

12. Perhaps, in no other developmental activity is the link with environmental quality more obvious than in tourism, since the environment is itself a significant part of the product which a destination has to offer. A successful tourism strategy will therefore seek to maximize the total benefits to development, while preserving or improving the natural and cultural environment upon which it depends.

The style of tourism

13. The predominant style of tourism in the region has been that which is based almost exclusively on the attraction of beaches, and the climate. This style of tourism blurs the differences which exist among the various countries. All become similar and interchangeable. In effect, each country competes with all the others catering to the same type of tourism. Such "beach tourism" neglects other attractions or resources which might be present in a country, precisely because they are less relevant to the particular demands which this tourism style generates. Not only has this style predominated in most Caribbean countries over the past three decades, but it is also one which characterizes parts of the Mediterranean coasts, Africa and, increasingly, other destinations such as the Seychelles and the South Pacific. In effect a global market has developed for this particular product.

14. There are alternatives which are being explored by a number of countries. Among these, one can mention the explicit policy decision on the part of Costa Rica to emphasize tourism based on its national parks and wildlife, the attempts at cultural and nature-oriented tourism in a number of countries, the interest in educational and social tourism in Colombia, linked to its national parks, and in general, the various attempts to have tourism respond to existing cultural and natural resources.

15. These alternative styles of tourism are based on the principle that tourism need not only be considered a consumer of natural and cultural resources, but can also be seen as a tool for enhancing local awareness of these resources and a contributor to their development and preservation.

16. In this respect the meeting noted the offer by the delegation of Costa Rica to provide technical co-operation with Caribbean countries in the areas of coastal zone management and national parks. This offer was welcomed

by the Secretariat which offered its assistance in the development of co-operation projects for interested participants.

Global context

17. Increasingly, beach tourism entails large beach front hotels, often run by a major chain or connected to an airline or travel organization. Transnational corporations have assumed a leading role in the development of tourism as an economic activity. A large proportion of trips worldwide are handled by the large wholesalers, and hotel chains are increasing their share of the industry. This has led to an increasing awareness that the globalization of tourism can generate instability for each of the countries involved as destinations. This instability is increased by the fact that multinationals are not inclined to invest in new facilities, but would rather enter into management contracts with the host country. In effect, this makes it easier for them to abandon any location when conditions become less attractive for whatever reason.

18. The increasing role of transnationals reinforces the tourism style which has been described in the previous section. It stimulates the uniformity of facilities and services, increases the need for large hotels and favours those locations to which direct airline connections exist. Management positions are held by expatriates who are promoted and transferred within the TNC, and there is a tendency to create tourist enclaves which make local conditions invisible to the tourist population, mainly because the tourist is not encouraged to visit the country as a whole but to visit a resort.

Impacts

19. Tourism can generate positive and negative impacts. In some cases it can provide the impetus for positive national developments and in other cases it may exacerbate weaknesses in existing natural and cultural systems.

20. Beach tourism has a particularly significant impact on the coastal zones. Construction near the beach eliminates plant life which acts as anchors for sand dunes, thus accelerating erosion. On occasion groynes are built without the proper research and erosion develops downdrift as a result. Sewage disposal by hotels is a serious problem throughout the

region, particularly where the scale of the project is such that the local capacity for handling it is insufficient. On occasion hotels establish their own treatment of plants which may or may not operate efficiently. The result, in many cases presented to the meeting, is pollution of the very beaches on which tourism depends. But large developments might provide a net benefit by justifying infrastructure and facilities for locals which might not otherwise have been possible.

21. The meeting noted that one particular set of problems can arise from high room densities. The impact on land costs can be substantial and the effects on local populations significant. Although large hotels create their particular kind of impacts the problem is not so much one of size but rather one of disproportionate user densities which cause a loss of balance between demand and the capacity to manage.

22. High densities and the lack of alternatives to beach front tourism create pressures in the utilization of the coastal zone. Such pressures force many governments to make difficult choices with respect to long-term optional balance and resource utilization, versus short-term problems like unemployment, and public sector and current account deficits.

23. The diversity of other natural and cultural resources offers great potential in support of tourism development which can restore this balance. Over-intensive use, however, must also be avoided.

24. The meeting concluded that the positive linkages between tourism and other activities have not been optimized. It emphasized the need to establish positive linkages wherever possible.

Planning and policy formulation

A principal consensus of the meeting was that tourism planning must be part of comprehensive development and land use planning. In this sense the problem has not been solely a lack of planning but also one of limited co-ordination and integration of sectoral planning efforts. The result is that tourism plans when prepared were often out of synchronization with national or even sectoral development. The meeting concluded that most countries lack precise policy guidelines for the development of

tourism as well as its integration with overall environmental protection and cultural development. This absence of policy directive made it difficult to plan the development of the sector in an effective manner, taking into account national needs and national resources.

26. The meeting recommended major policy guidelines to:

- (a) Improve the quality of the existing tourism product;
- (b) Emphasize the uniqueness of the various countries as tourism destinations, rather than surrender to the uniformity implicit in large international tourist facilities;
- (c) Provide a diversified tourism product whenever possible;
- (d) Maximize positive linkages with other economic sectors and increase the use of local resources and technology; and
- (e) Integrate tourism, cultural and environmental policies, to strengthen cultural identity and minimize negative environmental impacts.

27. The meeting further recognized that the planning approach required by emerging tourism destinations was quite different from that of mature destinations. Whereas the former might be in a position to plan the total development of tourism in a holistic fashion, the latter will have to take specific action, for example, to prolong that particular location's life cycle through restorations, modifications of uses of existing facilities and so on.

28. It was recognized that small countries in the region are faced with serious constraints in planning. In general, human, financial, technical and institutional resources are scarce and economic considerations make it impossible for each country to have the full scale of planning expertise necessary to carry out comprehensive tourism planning. This is particularly true when more complex technologies are utilized. There is also a certain degree of institutional fragility which makes the task of planning more difficult due to the absence of institutionalized means of co-ordination among agencies and methodologies to integrate planning in different areas.

29. These difficulties were recognized and give rise to the following recommendations:

- (a) That rapid environmental impacts assessment techniques which can be quickly applied to the evaluation of a project should be developed;

(b) The exchange of professionals in fields dealing with planning and environmental issues should be encouraged; and

(c) Environmental standards criteria and terminology should be such as to prevent unfair competition.

30. Within the area of planning, special mention was made of the potential role which the architectural heritage of the various countries can play as a resource for tourism development. It was noted that this was a different resource from those usually included as part of the country's cultural heritage. At the same time care must be taken to prevent the restoration of architectural resources from becoming merely scenic changes or from serving a purely cosmetic purpose. Planning would need to be creative in these efforts, assuring that restored properties serve useful purposes and contribute to the general welfare. It was also suggested that the process of gentrification which has characterised many restored areas, might be detrimental from a social point of view.

31. Finally, the whole question of technological assessment assumes a critical importance in the region. Countries are generally small, densely populated and poor. Technologies are developed in the large, rich and continental countries. The potential for disruption from the introduction of these advanced technologies is significant. Planning must then provide special attention to the matter of materials used, the energy requirements of various alternatives for tourism development and the various technologies available to deal with sewage and solid waste disposal. The observations made at the meeting seemed to favour the utilization of simpler, cheaper technologies which are less disruptive to the environment and which emphasize the use of indigenous resources.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

31. The meeting subsequently reconvened in the following three technical sub-committees:

- (a) Environmental impacts of tourism development;
- (b) Perceptions, socio-cultural impacts and natural-cultural attractions in support of tourism developments; and
- (c) Planning and management mechanisms.

Environmental impacts of tourism development

32. The meeting recognized that there are seven common impacts of tourism developments in the wider Caribbean region:

- (a) Sewage pollution;
- (b) Liquid waste disposal;
- (c) Solid waste disposal;
- (d) Sand mining;
- (e) Beach protection structures;
- (f) Removal of flora and fauna and destruction of coastal eco-systems;

and

- (g) Dredging and land reclamation.

Sewage pollution

33. Secondary treatment sewage package plants are commonly used methods for the treatment of sewage in the tourist industry. Although most packaged plants are designed as temporary facilities not meant to last more than a few years, in practice these plants are used permanently at the development site. However, malfunctioning of these plants has resulted in sewage pollution being evident at many of the beaches used by tourists and residents. The malfunctioning of these plants is due to inadequate maintenance of the plants both in terms of day-to-day maintenance and of the replacement of parts on a regular basis. In many instances inadequate daily maintenance is due to the fact that untrained people are required to operate the plants.

34. The meeting recommended that:

- (a) Planning agencies reassess whether package plants are the best method of sewage disposal on a long-term basis;
- (b) Developers be required to maintain such plants properly by establishing a system of incentives and/or penalties;
- (c) Capital cost of the development include the training of plant operators;
- (d) The effluent from package plants should be monitored by public health inspectors who have been trained to perform this task;
- (e) Fiscal incentives should be revoked from hotels which do not maintain their plants at the standard required;

(f) All package plants should be designed to eventually tie into a central sewage system where feasible;

(g) All hotels using package plants should be required to stock an adequate supply of spare parts; and

(h) The distance of marine outfalls from the shore be adequate and safe.

Liquid waste disposal

35. Liquid waste generated from the kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms of hotels does not, in most instances, generate severe negative impacts on the environment as it is recycled or goes directly into the sewer system along with the storm water. However, the liquid wastes from hotel kitchens and restaurants may contain oily wastes which could present a problem. Grease traps should be mandatory for hotels and restaurants. However, these must be adequately maintained.

36. The meeting recommended that:

(a) Public health inspectors be required to monitor the grease traps of hotels and restaurants to ensure that they are still in place and adequately maintained; and

(b) The use of grey water be stimulated.

Solid waste disposal

37. The problem of solid waste and the impacts resulting from inadequate disposal methods is a national problem in the Caribbean, and not a direct result of tourism. Therefore solutions to this problem must be national in scope. In islands where land space is rapidly becoming a limiting factor, it may be necessary to consider, instead of the establishment of sanitary landfills, the more expensive alternatives of incineration.

38. The meeting recommended that:

(a) Tourism facilities ensure that solid waste be disposed in a manner which conforms to the public health standards in that particular country;

(b) The site for a national sanitary landfill be chosen so that it is away from vital habitat areas such as wetlands, it should avoid areas having a high water table and be located preferably in areas where clay soils predominate;

(c) Continuing public education campaigns be pursued to encourage the public to take pride in their environment and not to litter; and

(d) Governments should give consideration to the adoption of the appropriate international conventions to ensure that the disposal of garbage by ships be controlled as effectively as possible.

Sand mining

39. Beach sand mining has severe impacts on the quality of the region's beaches. On the other hand substitutes to beach sand as an aggregate for the construction industry are often unavailable or expensive.

40. The meeting agreed that alternatives to beach sand mining should be stimulated. However, if sand mining is to be allowed the following guidelines should apply:

(a) The public, government and developers should be educated as to the adverse impacts of uncontrolled beach sand mining;

(b) Long-term studies should be initiated to measure the accretion and erosion rates of beaches or parts of beaches so that recommendations could be made to mine beaches or parts of beaches only during the accretionary period;

(c) There should be designated areas for sand mining. Sand mining should then be prohibited in all other beaches;

(d) The optimum quantity of sand which can be removed from a beach each year should be determined and extraction should be monitored;

(e) The development of alternatives to beach sand as an aggregate in the construction industry should be vigorously pursued.

Beach protection structures

41. The proliferation of beach protection structures along the coasts of some of the islands has in many instances done more harm than good. It was agreed that many beach protection structures are necessary due to the fact that developments take place in areas where active beach processes are occurring, thus upsetting the equilibrium.

42. The meeting recommended that:

(a) A setback of at least 50 metres from the main highwater mark be established as a guideline for all developments on the beach;

(b) Planning offices obtain the necessary expertise and database to assess the likely impact of all beach protection structures for new or existing developments;

(c) The "Guide to Developers" issued by the Planning Departments of islands include the likely impacts of the different types of beach protection structures, with a note of caution to the developer;

(d) There should be an exchange of existing reports between planning agencies of the different countries so as to learn from each other's experiences;

(e) Long-term studies on coastal processes be undertaken for the islands. That regional agencies be asked to assist in the undertaking of such long-term studies;

(f) Individuals be trained in coastal engineering and the monitoring of coastal erosion so that persons in the relevant ministries can in the future undertake the long-term studies or assess the likely impacts of proposed beach protection structures; and

(g) In the initiation of long-term studies priority be given to islands which have the greatest potential for tourism development or to those already heavily impacted by tourism development.

Removal of flora and fauna and destruction of coastal ecosystems

43. The meeting recognized that natural beach or marine flora and fauna is sometimes removed for sale to tourists. It noted that much of the natural flora and coastal eco-systems are unnecessarily destroyed during the construction of tourist facilities.

44. The meeting recommended that:

(a) Existing legislation to deter the removal of flora and fauna from land and the marine habitat be enforced and where such legislation does not exist, it should be instituted;

(b) The destruction of natural vegetation on the beach during the construction of tourist facilities should be minimized and that developers

should be required to replant the natural vegetation after construction rather than ornamental plants which are often shallow rooted and cannot perform the same beach stabilization function;

(c) It might be useful for the planning agency to identify for developers which of the natural species of plants should be retained on the site;

(d) The fisheries division of the various countries should be asked to address the problem of the over-exploitation of shellfish for the tourist industry. This should take the form of shellfish population studies, but would require the identification of alternatives in the short term to the obviously over-exploited species;

(e) Plans should provide for the preservation of important eco-systems e.g. mangroves, wetlands and reefs with the objective of establishing national marine and terrestrial parks.

Dredging and land reclamation

45. Dredging and the subsequent use of the spoil to reclaim land for tourism developments is quite prevalent in the region. Uncontrolled dredging can have severe impacts on marine and coastal environments.

46. The meeting recommended that:

(a) The dumping of dredge spoil in adjacent wetlands should be discouraged;

(b) The impacts of large scale reclamations should be monitored particularly where they may have changed the configuration of the coastline resulting in a change of current and sediment patterns;

(c) A regional database on dredging programmes and their impacts should be established.

Environmental impact assessment procedures

47. The meeting recognized that while the full environmental impact assessment procedure has not been formulated into the planning process in most countries of the Caribbean, some form of assessment of the environmental impacts of developments are required. In view of the constraints referred to in para 28 most planning divisions are unable to carry out such

an environmental impact assessment without seeking the assistance of additional technical expertise.

48. Apart from the recommendations referred to in paragraph 29 the meeting recommended that:

(a) All developers of large scale projects be required to submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the planning division;

(b) Such an EIS also indicate the demands the project will make on the existing infrastructure;

(c) Where planning agencies do not have the capacity to review large scale developments a task force comprising interministerial representatives and expertise from the professional community at large should be established to review such developments;

(d) That existing standards and criteria used by various planning divisions and other Ministries in the region be circulated to each other;

(e) That regional bathing beach standards i.e. water quality standards be established;

(f) The staff of the various planning divisions and assisting agencies be given formal training in the environmental impact assessment procedure;

(g) That data on environmental studies including reports to governments should be circulated to all planning divisions using the CARICOM Secretariat or the CDB as the clearinghouse; and

(h) That professionals of the region draw on the experience of their regional counterparts in research and development.

Planning and management mechanisms

49. The meeting concluded that because all social and economic activities are interrelated, the process of development planning must take into consideration the interrelationships between the various components. One of the most important considerations is the environment. Failure to integrate the environment into the planning process could have disastrous consequences.

50. Since past and present policies have for the most part consisted of an ad hoc response to tourism developmental proposals, there has been a relatively small commitment to integrated planning at the national level and as a consequence to multisectoral issues such as tourism and the environment. This has led to:

(a) A lack of information and inadequate dissemination of existing information regarding:

- (i) The relative contribution of tourism to development;
- (ii) The existing and potential intersectoral linkages and a clear policy on the best pattern of development for each sector;
- (iii) Natural resources, and policies for the allocation and use of such resources, as well as the capacity to evaluate the impacts of various developmental options upon them; and
- (iv) Trends in the market and developments in areas such as technology.

(b) Institutional weaknesses which are reflected by an incapacity to formulate and implement effective policies and programmes;

(c) Insufficient research resulting in:

- (i) Absence of formal or academic study of tourism generating scientific theories of tourism;
- (ii) A lack of multidisciplinary research on the interrelationship between tourism and the environment; and
- (iii) The absence of comprehensive analyses to ascertain the relative effects of different types of tourism on job creation, foreign exchange earnings, net national income, the environmental and the socio-cultural fabric of society.

51. As a consequence, in some countries there is a lack of clearly defined and communicated objectives relating to tourism and the environment in order to:

- (a) Clarify choices and strategies;
- (b) Identify conflicts and resolve them at an early stage;
- (c) Provide the basis to motivate people to implement policy;
- (d) Evaluate and monitor performance.

Recommendations

52. The meeting then recommended that the following initiatives be pursued at the national and regional levels and, where appropriate, assistance from the international community should be sought.

Information, collection and dissemination

53. Information needs to be collected and disseminated on:

(a) Natural resources, including carrying capacities:

(i) Available land, coastal and marine resources and their rational allocation;

(ii) Scenic value;

(iii) Coastal changes;

(iv) Wildlife population;

(v) Projected demand for water; and

(vi) Projected demand for sewage disposal services.

(b) The linkages between tourism and:

(i) The environment;

(ii) Agriculture and food production;

(iii) Direct and indirect employment;

(iv) Contribution to foreign exchange;

(v) Revenue generation and its distribution; and

(vi) Domestic tourism and regional linkages.

(c) International tourist trends:

(i) In the industry as a whole;

(ii) In the major market areas;

(iii) Areas of potential growth; and

(iv) In competing destinations.

Institutional development

54. Where necessary, institutions concerned with development, tourism and the environment should be strengthened to:

(a) Establish clear objectives for the type and impact of tourism desired;

(b) Co-ordinate and integrate the planning process among various government ministries with regard to tourism;

(c) Encourage linkages between the sectors;

(d) Emphasize the need for sound environmental practices beginning at the political and decision-making levels;

(e) Develop a public awareness of environmental issues;

(f) Integrate physical and economic planning in the preparation of tourism plans;

(g) Develop comprehensive coastal zone plans and the capability to review and evaluate environmental impact assessments for large development projects in coastal areas; and

(h) Establish a comprehensive legal framework.

Management mechanisms

55. In order to achieve the objectives of multisectoral planning and the rational integration of tourism and the environment, certain mechanisms are necessary. Some of these already exist, others will need to be created.

The mechanisms should address the following issues:

(a) Co-ordination and integration of all planning processes;

(b) Constant awareness by decision-makers of the interrelationships between tourism and the environment and the ongoing education of the public regarding the importance of the environment;

(c) Monitoring of coasts and adjacent sea areas to detect sources of marine pollution originating outside the immediate vicinity, e.g. oil spills from ships;

(d) Accession to international conventions relevant to tourism and the environment and accordingly the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat should be requested to identify those conventions most relevant to the region; and

(e) Development of a legal framework designed to regulate and protect the use of natural resources.

Perceptions, socio-cultural impacts and natural cultural attractions in support of tourism developments

56. The meeting concluded that the harmonious development of the tourism sector and its integration into wider economic, social and cultural context requires the formulation, adoption and implementation of policies regarding tourism development, cultural development and natural resource management.

57. It was accordingly proposed that any tourism policy (elements of which are contained in other sections of this document) should reflect an active approach to tourism development, rather than the passive response to externally generated opportunities.

58. In this context, intra-Caribbean tourism should be actively promoted as a means of diversification of the industry, as a tool for cultural exchange and as a way of defining new patterns which would eventually be responsive to the needs of diverse markets.

59. A cultural policy should aim at strengthening national identity, collective pride and individual self-esteem. This is seen as a precondition for the sharing of cultural experience between visitors and hosts, and for the use of cultural resources in support of tourism development.

60. To ensure the proper management and utilization of national resources, policies should aim at the preservation of unique and representative species and ecosystems, the rational utilization of resources on a sustainable basis, and the preservation of options for future development and alternative uses.

Institutions

61. To further the implementation of such policies the meeting recommended that an organizational framework should be established, at the national level, for the integration of tourism into broader environmental management and cultural development issues. This could be achieved through the establishment of interdisciplinary bodies on culture and on the environment, as well as through increased collaboration between public and private sector interests.

62. Efforts should be made for the establishment of appropriate agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, for the development and management of natural and cultural resources in support of tourism development, when such institutions do not exist.

63. National institutions should take greater responsibility for the definition of the 'tourism product and image' that the country wishes to project and promote.

64. At the regional and subregional levels, cultural institutions should be strengthened to actively promote and implement cultural policies. In particular, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) could consider the establishment of a cultural desk with the objectives of stimulating the exchange of artists, and promoting a mutually beneficial relationship between artists and tourism.

65. Based on inventories and resource assessment activities, plans should be formulated and implemented for the preservation, development and interpretation of natural and cultural attractions.
66. Criteria for the selection and development of these attractions should be based on uniqueness, representativeness, conservation requirements and carrying capacity, educational, scientific, cultural, recreational potentials, and tourism potentials.
67. Promotion and development of these attractions should address in priority the needs of nationals, and should be done so as to facilitate communication between hosts and visitors. Interpretation of historical and cultural resources should be placed within the appropriate context.
68. The national and regional capability to assess properly tourism development in relation to socio-cultural and environmental units should be developed.
69. High priority should be given to the restoration of historic buildings, monuments and sites, and their utilization and adaptive use as part of the social, economic and cultural life of the population.
70. National and regional capabilities to define and promote Caribbean tourism destinations should be increased, so as to ensure that resources allocated to promotion can be utilized locally and that the quality of the 'product' advertised reflects the uniqueness and diversity of the countries involved.
71. Intra-Caribbean tourism should be actively promoted. The desirability and feasibility of a 'Caribbean Market Demand Study' should be investigated by regional institutions. Such a study would consider, inter alia the demands and resources, seasonal fluctuations, means to facilitate travel, and special needs such as accommodation.
72. Existing research institutions concerned with varied aspects of tourism development should be given the support and the mandate to properly assess, monitor, project and orient activities within the sector. Multi-disciplinary research activities should be conducted in collaboration with other institutions so as to allow a proper understanding of the relationship between tourism and other socio-economic sectors.

73. Institutions of higher learning should include tourism issues in their research and training programmes, in order to produce the knowledge and expertise required.

74. The study of tourism, which already forms part of the existing school curricula in most parts of the region, should be encouraged so as to develop public understanding and appreciation of the industry's importance and significance.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
WP/ETCD/L.85/1	Provisional Agenda
WP/ETCD/L.85/1/Add.1	Annotated Provisional Agenda
WP/ETCD/L.85/2	Tourism and Environment in Caribbean Development with Emphasis on the Eastern Caribbean
WP/ETCD/L.85/3	Tourism and Environment - Case Study of Fort James Dickinson Bay, Antigua
WP/ETCD/L.85/4	Tourism and the Environment - A Case Study of the Vieux Fort Area (Saint Lucia, West Indies)
WP/ETCD/L.85/5	Evaluation of Alternatives in Touristic Development of Belize
WP/ETCD/L.85/6	Tourism and the Environment - A Case Study of Frigate Bay, St. Kitts
WP/ETCD/L.85/7	The Significance of the Preservation of the Architectural Heritage in relation to Tourism
WP/ETCD/L.85/8	Origin, Fate and Effects of Oil Pollution in the Marine Environment
WP/ETCD/L.85/9	Planning, Tourism and the Environment: The Puerto Rican Experience
WP/ETCD/L.10	Preventing Marine Pollution
WP/ETCD/L.11	Investigation upon the Environmental Impact and possibilities for development of Tourist Activities in the Tayrona National Park, Department of Magdalena, Colombia
WP/ETCD/L.12	Tourism and Health in the Caribbean
WP/ETCD/L.13	Environmental Management in the Development of Coastal Tourism

