

Sustainable Tourism in Galapagos: the perception of the stakeholders

PROBLEM

Tourism activity is important for the economies of many countries because the arrival of tourists implies the generation of foreign exchange, the creation of jobs, and also helps with infrastructure enhancements in destinations areas. Nevertheless, it can also negatively affect the environment and local communities.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To analyze the perceptions of local stakeholders in the public and private sectors of the Galapagos Islands regarding the sustainability of tourist activities, including concerns of environmental economic sustainability, basic services, tourist attractions, and facilities in the archipelago, specifically in the three main islands.



METHODOLOGY

- ❑ In-depth, in-person, semi-structured interviews
- ❑ March of 2022
- ❑ Interviews conducted in Spanish
- ❑ Average duration of 44 min.
- ❑ 16 open-ended questions
- ❑ Interviewees' perceptions of tourism activity in the Galapagos:
 - Concerns and environmental issues
 - Economic sustainability
 - Basic services
 - Tourist attractions
 - Facilities

Table 1. Public and private sector stakeholders interviewed.

	Private			Public	
	Hotel	NGO	Travel services	Local administration	National Park
Stakeholder 1	Tourism				
Stakeholder 2			Tourism		
Stakeholder 3				Tourism	
Stakeholder 4					Environment
Stakeholder 5				Community Tourism	
Stakeholder 6					
Stakeholder 7			Tourism		
Stakeholder 8		Environment			
Stakeholder 9					Tourism
Stakeholder 10			Tourism		
Stakeholder 11				Tourism	
Stakeholder 12					Environment
Stakeholder 13	Tourism				



RESULTS

Concerns

- Lack of facilities for people with mobility handicap
- Dependence on fossil fuel
- Natural resources are being overexploited



Public and private sectors share common concerns



The tourism and environmental stakeholders keep in mind their close relationship

Challenges

- Increasing efforts to achieve sustainability
- Achieving harmony between the protection of natural areas and socio economic activities



Alliances and joint work are needed to achieve their common goals.



Stakeholders have to define a clear and shared vision of tourism activity in a protected area



Much work remains to be done

Fig. 1 Stakeholder's perception

CONCLUSIONS

- The public administration will have to be the main driver of decision making, providing adequate coordination across sectors and stakeholders, including both those who are directly and indirectly involved with the tourist activity.
- This case study helps decision makers gain input from actors of different sectors and thus make the best decisions, responding not only to existing or potential problems but also responding to different requirements the tourism sector may have.

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