Between Carrying Capacity and Limits for Acceptable Change: Lessons from Rural Tourism Communities

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Selected case studies

Upper Chagres, Panama

The dead Sea, Israel

San Andres, Colombia

Predappio, Italy

Kibbutz Yir’on, Israel
Seeking a Balance between Tourism & Rural Communities
The Interplay
## Cross Impacts: Tourism and Rural Communities

### Impacts on the Community

- The “Zoo Syndrome”
- Privacy intrusion
- Exclusion vs. inclusion
- Relocation and immigration
- Cultural offence (crossing “red lines”)
- The imitation syndrome
- Doxey’s “irridex” model

### Impacts on Tourists

- Tourist experiences
- Tourist satisfaction levels
- Spatial avoidance/preference
- Willingness to consume
- Overall tourist expenditure
- Willingness to return
- Future destination choice
- Future travel behavior
The overplay

The Top-Down Approach
ALL ABOUT DUBROVNIK.
The way to “over tourism”: (Doxey’s Irridex Model)
The Top-Down Code of Conduct in Tourism-Rural Communities Relations

• A **Glocal** approach based on: “think globally and act locally”.
• Adopting a **standardization approach** in managing tourism-community relations
• Lack of understanding that each community is **different**.
• No discourse on **attainability** of balance between tourism and the host community.
• Accused for promoting tourism dominance which may lead to a **dependency syndrome**.
• Often **excluding** communities and denying them access to local tourism
• Tourism sustainability as an **absolute concept**
The underplay

The Bottom - Up Approach
Trends in Conceptualizing Host Communities’ Sustainability
The Carrying Capacity Concept
Limits for Acceptable Change - LAC

Upper Level of Acceptable Change

Lower Level of Acceptable Change

Range of Acceptable Change
Alternative Approach to Community – Tourism Interface

• Assumption that each rural community is different
• Successful rural tourism planning, development and management must be based on “bottom up” approach
• Socio-cultural feasibility study should be a prerequisite
• All solutions must take into account the locals’ measurable Limits for Acceptable Change- LAC
• Socio-cultural sustainability must be treated as a relative term.
• Sustainable rural tourism should be dynamic and based on attainability of local communities’ calibrated targets
The VS model + NGT – An integrated tool for enhancing sustainable tourism communities

The Tool:

- Normative Socio-cultural “Value Stretch” Model
- Nominal Group Technique (NGT)
The Value Stretch Model

- **Expectation Level**
- **Reconciliation Gap**
- **Current Situation Level**
- **Tolerance Gap**
- **Tolerance Level**

Value Stretch
Scenarios for VS application

• As a tourism planning process for “untouched” rural communities
• Assessing the impact of tourism development processes on local rural communities
• Improving poor tourism performances affected by hostile host community
• A rural community call for help due to operation of a tourism system beyond the community’s LAC
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Grazie Mille!

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