

determine if the tourist industry is being sustainably developed in the small island of St. Lucia.

ABSTRACT

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Traditionally, the economies of many small island developing states (SIDS) have been built on income generated from the production and export of primary products. However, with the decline of these industries, many of these states have turned to the service sector, particularly tourism, as their main source of income. The experience of many of these islands has been the evolution of a dynamic tourism industry accompanied by attendant negative economic, social and environmental impacts.

Given the importance of the tourism sector to economic development in many of these islands, the challenge then becomes one of maximising the returns from the sector while simultaneously minimizing the attendant fallouts. In short therefore, the challenge is one of **sustainable tourism development**.

This thesis applies a case study approach to

determine if the tourist industry is being sustainably developed in the small island of St. Lucia.

Although it cannot conclusively be said that the tourism industry in St. Lucia is being sustainably developed, the findings reveal that there has been an attempt to incorporate a sustainable element to the industry's development. This notwithstanding, there are considerable areas of the industry that are incongruous with the concept of sustainable tourism. Consequently, policy recommendations which foster favorable conditions for sustainable tourism development have been advanced for St. Lucia.

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