

Abstract

THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: A CASE STUDY OF SOUTH WEST TOBAGO

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This research seeks to contribute to the quest for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean. The thesis begins by reviewing the literature on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Tourism: including definitions, issues of measurement and strategies and policies for achieving same.

The thesis achieves this goal in the following manner. First, the thesis establishes the role of infrastructure, particularly sewerage infrastructure, in Sustainable Tourism. It then turns to a review of the growth of the tourism industry in Tobago, projects the continued growth of this industry and derives the demand for sewerage facilities.

The thesis proceeds to draw on a technical study which proposed the upgrade of sewerage infrastructure in Tobago, to significantly reduce the pollution of natural resources in SW Tobago, thus mitigating against further environmental degradation of the island's natural tourism product. The thesis undertakes and

presents the results of both an environmental cost benefit analysis (ECBA) of the proposed upgrade as well as a traditional cost benefit analysis (CBA) of the project. These analyses are done although some elements of the benefits and costs (both “with” and “without” the project) are omitted given data paucity. Notwithstanding these limitations, two (2) broad policy conclusions and seven (7) specific policy conclusions are drawn for an infrastructural approach to Sustainable Tourism Development in SW Tobago.

Keywords: Marlene Attzs; Sustainable Tourism; Tobago; Infrastructure; Sewerage Treatment.