

Title: Exploring the Use of Environmental Instruments as a Method to Promote Sustainable Tourism in Islands: The Case of Savusavu, Fiji

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Abstract:

Small islands such as Gili Trawangan in Indonesia, require the sustainable use of resources and conservation of their wildlife in order to continue to thrive as a tourism destination. As the draw to many islands is the natural resources, these destinations must protect the resources that sustain them. In the case of Gili Trawangan, which is known as the sea turtle capital of the world, it is in their best interest to conserve their marine and land based resources in order to ensure their longevity as a tourist destination. A rapidly growing tourism destination that has reached its carrying capacity, excessive pollution and disturbance from fisherman and tour boats has led to the negative management of the land and sea resources. Despite these forces of negative change however, the community has come together and instituted several innovative ways to create sustainable change. Through the development of the Gili Eco-trust and its associated eco-tax several community based initiatives have been implemented that has led to the empowerment of the local community to fight the negative consequences of unplanned tourism development. This paper aims to discuss several community based initiatives that have been implemented in this island to create empowerment and positive change. It is based on four qualitative studies that have been conducted in the island from 2005 to 2012. This case study explores how collaboration at a community level can create the implementation of several initiatives such as an environmental impact assessment, eco-trust, eco-tax, and the involvement of an environmental coordinator that leads workshops on environmental education, fights the slaughter and mismanagement of the marine and land ecosystems and leads to partnerships that empower this community to fight the negative impacts of tourism development.
