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PRESS RELEASE

New Studies on Coastal Tourism and Vacation Home Trends in Costa Rica and Mexico To be Presented at World Bank, Washington, DC May 27th ~ 12:30 - 2 p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over the last decade, the shore lines of Costa Rica and Mexico have become epicenters for rapid beach resort and vacation home development closely tied to the U.S. market. Two new studies on coastal tourism-related development will be presented on Thursday, May 27 at a luncheon forum hosted by the World Bank Tourism Beam. First, the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) will present key findings from its 2-year study of the impacts of resort, residential and cruise tourism along Costa Rica's Pacific coast. The study, carried out by a team of 16 Costa Rican and U.S. researchers, examines the rapid "boom and bust" of beach resort and vacation home development over the last decade and concludes with ten top policy recommendations. Second, the International Community Foundation will discuss the findings from a recent survey of 840 U.S. retirees living in coastal communities in Mexico. Analysis on trends in health care, real estate, and civic engagement will be discussed, as well as recommendations for decision-makers.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, May 27th, 2010
Time: 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (Bring your lunch)
Place: World Bank, Washington, D.C.
701 18th Street, NW, (You must present a picture ID)
Room: JB1075 in the basement of the J Building
RSVP: Whitney Cooper at 202.347.9203 ext 414 and wcooper@responsibletravel.org

About the Speakers:

Dr. Martha Honey - Co-founder and Co-Director of Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), and one of the authors of the Costa Rica coastal tourism study. She has written and lectured widely on ecotourism, Travelers' Philanthropy, coastal tourism development and certification issues. Her books include *Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise?* (Island Press, 1999 and 2008) and *Ecotourism and Certification: Setting Standards in Practice* (Island Press, 2002). She worked previously for 20 years as a journalist based in East Africa and Central America and holds a Ph.D. in African history. She was Executive Director of The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) from 2003 to 2006.

Anne McEnany - Senior Advisor for Environment & Conservation for the International Community Foundation and an author of the U.S. retirees in Mexico study. Anne has over 18 years of conservation experience working in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, and the Andes Region. McEnany is a graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A. in Latin American Studies) and Tulane University (Masters of Science, Applied International Development with a

concentration in environmental planning).

About Center for Responsible Travel (CREST):

Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) is a policy-oriented research institute affiliated with Stanford University and headquartered in Washington, DC. It is committed to using tourism as a tool for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation. CREST's network of experts provides interdisciplinary analysis and innovative solutions through consultancies, research and field projects, publications, conferences and courses. Core programs include Coastal and Marine Tourism, Market Research, Travelers' Philanthropy, Ecotourism, and Certification.

To download CREST's coastal tourism Summary Report (In English and Spanish) as well as 18 individual reports written as part of this project, go to www.responsibletravel.org.

About the International Community Foundation:

Established in 1990, International Community Foundation is a public charity working to foster lasting philanthropy to benefit under-served communities throughout the Americas and Asia. With over 70% of the Foundation's recent grantmaking benefiting charitable causes along the Baja California peninsula, International Community Foundation is committed to assisting U.S. donors with charitable giving needs from Tijuana to Los Cabos.

The Foundation's research reports are available at: <http://www.icfdn.org/publications/rra.php>

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