

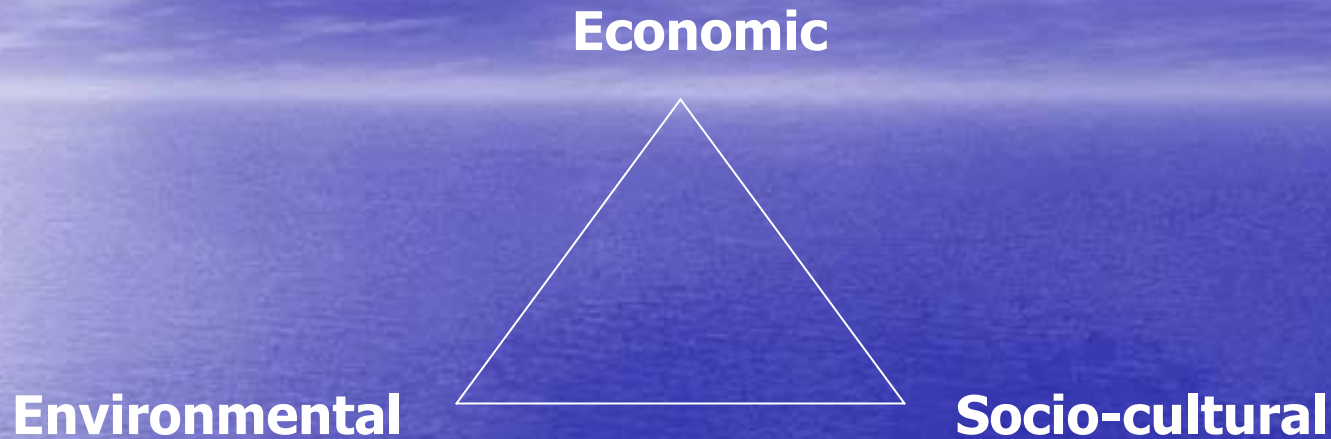
Perceptions of Cruise Tourism's Economic, Social & Environmental Impact: Qualitative Results

By

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'Real' vs. 'Perceived' Impacts



Business Owner Informal Interview Form FORM E

- 7) What are your total monthly SALES for the last 12 months?
- 8) What percentage of those sales would you estimate derive directly from tourists?
- 9) If you can, please estimate the proportion of your total sales that are from **cruise tourists** rather than tourists in general? %

Government Officials Form G

Perspectives on Community Development.

- 1) What are the main advantages or benefits of cruise stopovers for this community?
- 2) What are the main disadvantages or negative aspects in your view? How could these negative aspects be changed?

Table 1.0: Stakeholders Interviewed in Belize

Belize Government Officials	4
Port Authorities	4
Local Businesses	43
Farmers and Fishermen	16
Protected Areas and Mayan Archaeological Sites	11
Stayover Lodges	19
Tourism Sector Organizations	4

TOTAL

101

Perceived Impacts

Table 4.8: Perceived Impacts of Cruise Tourism Voiced by Informants

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Economic	Increased revenue & investments Increased jobs Infrastructure development	Insufficient spending Conflicts with stayover visits Insufficient trickle-down
Socio-cultural	Cultural sharing and learning	Increased crime & drug use Rise in land prices Overcrowding Traffic congestion
Environmental		Overcrowding Diminished access to resources Increased waste & pollution

Increased Jobs and Revenue

- Cruise tourism provides “income to many families that didn’t have one before.”
- Belize benefits from cruise tourism “mostly through increased job opportunities and labor.”



43 business owners or managers asked:

- What percentage of your total monthly sales from the last 12 months would you estimate derive directly from tourists?
- Please estimate the proportion of your total sales that are from cruise tourists rather than tourists in general?

Table 4.1: Business Owners/Managers' Perceptions of Tourists' Contribution to Overall Sales¹⁵⁷

	All Tourists N (%)	Cruise Tourists N (%)
0 –25%	2 (4.8%)	15 (38.5%)
26-50%	6 (14.3%)	3 (7.7%)
51-75%	7 (16.5%)	2 (5.1%)
76-100%	27 (64.3%)	19 (48.7%)
Mean	81.1%	54.9%
Median	92.5%	70%

43 business owners or managers asked:

- How much, on average, does a cruise passenger spend at your business (US \$)?
- How much, on average, does a stayover/overnight tourist spend at your business (US \$)?



Table 4.2: Business Owners/Managers Perceptions of Average Total Expenditures by Cruise and Stayover Passengers

Average Total Expenditures	Cruise Passengers	Stayover Tourists
	N (%)	N (%)
<\$5	13 (32.5)	10 (26.3)
\$10	10 (25.0)	2 (5.3)
\$25	6 (15.0)	5 (13.2)
\$50	3 (7.5)	3 (7.9)
\$75	4 (10.0)	2 (5.3)
\$100+	4 (10.0)	16 (42.1)
Mode	<\$5	\$100+
Mean	\$25	\$50
Median	\$10	\$50

- ***“Cruise passengers do not spend money when they come into our country. They refuse to buy a bottle of water and they complain that everything in Belize is expensive.”***

43 tourism businesses interviewed	Average cruise passenger expenditure (per day)	Average stayover visitor expenditure (per day)
14 tour operators	US \$25	US \$100
29 additional businesses (food, gift shops)	US \$25	US \$25 (excludes lodging)



11 Destination site managers asked:

- Approximately what percentage of the site's total budget would you say comes from foreign tourists as a whole?
- Approximately what percentage of the site's total budget would you say comes from cruise tourists specifically?

Cruise passengers “are not into the conservation part of the visit as much. They are only there for 1-2 hours, don’t remember as much or spend as much as stayover tourists.”

Table 4.4: Perceived Percentage of Destination Site’s Total Budget Due to Foreign and Cruise Tourists

Budget Due to Tourist Groups	Foreign Tourists N (%)	Cruise Tourists N (%)
0 –25%	2 (20.0)	5 (55.5)
26-50%	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
51-75%	0 (0.0)	2 (22.2)
76-100%	8 (80.0)	1 (11.1)
Mean	74.9%	27.4%
Median	92.5%	19%



“Stopover tourists [are] negatively impacted when they pay good money to be here and don’t want to be overcrowded. We’d be surprised if anyone wants cruise passengers to come here.”

Table 4.3: Hotel Owners/Managers’ Perceptions of Cruise Tourism’s Impacts

What effect has cruise tourism had on...	Negative N (%)	Balanced N (%)	Positive N (%)
...hotel occupancy?	2 (14.3%)	12 (85.7%)	0 (0%)
...the reputation and image of the nearest destination site?	12 (66.7%)	3 (16.7%)	3 (16.7%)
...experience of non-cruise visitors?	14 (73.5%)	3 (15.8%)	2 (10.5%)

A group of cruise passengers “creates a congestion in parks, and so, tours catering to overnight tourists visit parks before cruise passengers or after to avoid contact.”

Negative Economic Impacts

- Insufficient investments

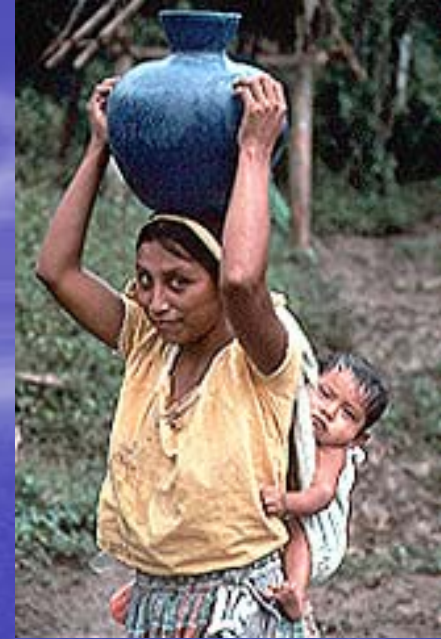
“Cruise ships are the main beneficiaries, receiving the bulk of income from cruise passengers... Also, very little of the economic benefits trickle down to the local economy of Belize. Even site profits stay within cruise companies. They are shrewd negotiators.”

- Inadequate dispersal of revenue

“Government should highly consider north Belize in infrastructure to develop a better increase in tourism, to help financially more people in the north, to develop new attractions or accommodations and facilities as a whole... Maybe some cruise passengers could come to other sites and relieve the ones used from stress.”

Socio-cultural Impacts

“Tourism and cruise tourism helps the country develop and helps get to know more people that could help the country.”



“It has become more difficult and more expensive to buy land.”

“Tourists were offered prostitution and drugs as they walk along the street.”



Environmental Impacts

“Income has been affected through the government’s preference of tourism over its fishermen. Many productive areas have been closed off to fishermen due to tourism,” forcing him and others to seek less productive waters that are farther away.



Environmental Impacts: Overcrowding



"Mass tourism always has a bad effect on the reef. We are not prepared to handle the increased number of tourists— an expected increase of 20% in cruise ship passengers over the last 5 years. The cruise reef tours have too many tourists at one time—the tour guide can't control 40 people at once. Non-cruise passengers purchase tours on Caye Caulker where the maximum number is 8-10 people per tour. This way, a guide can monitor the behavior of the tourists and make sure they don't harm the coral. I see the effects of the cruise tourists on the reef—many parts of the reef torn up and damaged now. There is a carrying capacity of tourists on the reef, and the cruise tourists exceed that."

Environmental Impacts: Waste

“Pollution from cruise ship passengers affects the rivers.”

“Cruise ships dump garbage at sea, [it] washes ashore.”

“Most of the debris that floats on the island comes from the cruise ships.”

Perceived Impacts

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“Everyone has as much right to see [Belize] as locals, guides and even archaeologists do. Tourism itself isn’t bad; it’s tourism management that’s bad. [It] can be good if managed appropriately, i.e., [if you] don’t compromise standards.”

Thank you!

