

# Sustainable Oceans in the context of the Green Economy and the eradication of poverty

Professor Harold Goodwin

ICRETH, Leeds Metropolitan University, the School of  
Natural Sciences at Bangor University and the  
International Centre for Responsible Tourism



# “the eradication of poverty”

- 1998 workshop paper on Sustainable Tourism and Poverty Elimination.
- 2002 WSSD Tourism and Poverty Alleviation and the ST-EP programme
- Pro-Poor Tourism Partnership and two programme evaluations for the Nederland government.

# A different perspective?

- A political scientist – strong believer in elected national and local government.
- In the UK, and in South Africa, and a host of individual businesses around the world, we have had success with the concept of responsibility
- Challenging businesses and others to take responsibility for making their tourism activities more sustainable.

# “tragedy of the commons”

- The beach and shoreline have traditionally been a common property resource – exclusion of access and denial of livelihood to local communities through enclosure
- Oceans subject to limited regulation – IMO

## **The Edge**

- sewage and waste “Surfers Against Sewage”
- coastal ribbon development – land use planning
- In some societies the norms of behaviour are relaxed at the seaside

# “Think global – act local”

- We’ve had success by focussing on what different group can do something about; and
- by focussing on what is locally important.
- ABTA in the UK, Cape Town and the national government in South Africa have made progress by forming partnerships to address what matters and what the particular stakeholders can do something about.

# Five classes of action:

1. Change the way you do business or carry on government.
2. Politics: to decide the public interest – which public? Elected, unelected, accountable or not?
3. Economic: incentives, subsidies, taxes, cap and trade (carrots)
4. Administration and regulation; pointless without enforcement (sticks)
5. Individual choice – don't drop litter, buy a new phone every year .....

New Institutions – perhaps but only if some failed institutions are closed and the staff do not merely rotate producing clones of the old institutions.

## Out of sight, out of mind

The continent-sized vortex of plastic waste blighting the Pacific

Approximate areas of 'rubbish soup'



Source: Greenpeace

Graphic: Alex Popovkin, John Bailey



1992 29,000

- 10 months: Alaska
- 3 years: Japan and Hawaii
- 8 years: the arctic ice
- 15 years: UK coast line



# Issues have to be created to be solved

- South Pacific rubbish gyration
  - Air pollution by aircraft and ships
  - Nitrogen
- Agreement that the issue needs collective action
  - Agree problem and make it an issue
  - Agreement on the cause and therefore what can be done about it
  - Implementable Solution – a practical solution and resources to implement it.

General consensus in the literature that sea based activity is responsible for only 20% of marine pollution



# Tourism & Climate Change

- 5% of global GHG emissions
- 75% of tourism related emissions are caused by transport
- International Shipping
- Passenger ships 7% of international fleets, ~7,000, 4% by tonnage.
- International shipping 2.7% of global emissions in 2007
- IMO regulation of marine fuel south of 60°

# Tourism: three areas

It is not just international tourism

1. Land based tourism in the coastal zone
  - Kerala has 7.5m tourists  
7m domestic
2. Recreational activities in the inshore waters (locals and tourists)
  - Monaco
    - Riviera 1% of global tourism
    - Monaco 8 m visitors
    - Each leaving an average of 1.5kg of rubbish
3. Ocean and coastal cruising

**Tourism as conspicuous consumption – one of the world's largest industries**

**Tourism as frivolous consumption**

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# Tourism is frivolous?

- UNEP estimates that on a business as usual scenario by 2050
  - Energy consumption will increase by 111%
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 105%
  - Water consumption by 150%
  - Solid waste production by 252%
- Doing nothing is not an option
- But much of the growth is in the emerging economies.
- 7m in Kerala alone.

# Tourism is NOT frivolous?

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- Doing nothing is not an option
- But much of the growth is in the emerging economies.
- 7m in Kerala alone.
- **For many LDCs, SIDS and developing countries tourism is an important part of the local economy**
- **Need to maximise the value to the local economy and local people**
- **Increase the yield**

# Resilience

- Extreme weather events on land and at sea
- In either scenario the coast is vulnerable
- Tsunamis.



- Boscastle Cornwall

# Regulation

- Land based tourism in the coastal zone
- Recreational activities in the inshore waters
- Ocean and coastal cruising
- Antarctica
- Local government or national park authority
- Local government or marine park authority
- International Treaty
- International Treaty

**Integrated Coastal Zone Management Min of Environment, Local Government, Planning**

# Priorities for action

- Tourism needs to look outside the silo – it needs to connect with other efforts towards sustainability.
- Land use planning and building control in the coast zone – demolish when the rules are broken.
- Licensing and regulation of recreational use in the coastal zone – noise, light, trampling and touching
- Regulate harvesting for souvenirs

# Livelihoods

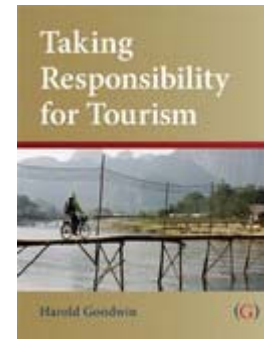
- More rewarding jobs and better conditions of employment .
- Create additional livelihood opportunities through the local supply chain and by encouraging discretionary spend by tourists.
- Added value for fishermen by selling to hotels and restaurants and setting up their own cafes
- Community labour agreements, enforced by councils, so that new jobs go to local people



# Rio+20

- It would be good to see some reporting on progress against the objectives set at WSSD in 2002.
- More integration between the agencies of the UN and more emphasis on what has been achieved (or not) rather than new approaches.
- More joined up thinking about biofuels and food security; about nitrogen pollution and the green revolution; about the consumption of fossil water.
- We need to learn from shortcomings and failures.
- CSD7 in 1999 demonstrated that environmental protection is not possible while people live in poverty.
- Poverty reduction and local development are the critical parts of the green economy.

# Thank you for listening



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[www.haroldgoodwin.info/links.html](http://www.haroldgoodwin.info/links.html)

[www.icrtourism.org](http://www.icrtourism.org)

[harold@haroldgoodwin.info](mailto:harold@haroldgoodwin.info)

[www.haroldgoodwin.info](http://www.haroldgoodwin.info)