

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

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Case Study Name:	POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF TOURISM		
Authors:	Susan C. Stonich		
Document Type:	Journal article		
Year:	1998		
Language:	English		
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Region:	Latin America		
Country:	Honduras		
Ecosystem Type:	Coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	Community islands		
Scale of Study:	National - Regional		
Resource Type:	Water, urban commons, tourism		
Type of Initiative:	Research-driven project		
Community-Based Work:	Tourism development, water and environmental health		
Keywords:	Political ecology, water, environmental health, Bay Islands, Honduras.		

Summary:	<p>This article uses a political ecology approach to examine the relationships among tourism development, water, and environmental health in the Bay Islands, Honduras. It identifies the various stakeholders involved in the tourism industry, their relative power with respect to control of water resources, and distributional outcomes related to water quality and environmental health. Integrating the findings of ethnographic, survey, and environmental research conducted since 1991 in three communities, it shows that while the Islands' freshwater, land, and marine resources are jeopardized by unchecked tourism development, adverse affects are not distributed equally among various stakeholders. Reinforcing earlier findings focused on socioeconomic and nutritional outcomes, it concludes that while significant environmental degradation is attributable to the actions of powerful national and international stakeholders, it is the Islands' impoverished ladino immigrants and poor Afro-Antillean residents who are the most vulnerable to environmental health risks emanating from those activities.</p>
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