

Climate Change: A Business Perspective of the Tourism Industry in the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve

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Abstract

Mass tourism in the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina is depleting natural ecosystems, which are precisely the basis that supports the local economy. Since the establishment of the free port in the territory, the region's development has been promoted without considering the loss of its environmental resources. However, after the islands were declared the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve in 2000, actions have been taken to counteract the situation, envisioning a more environmentally friendly productive performance that provides the income necessary to guarantee the well-being and quality of life of islanders. Despite this, intensive economic activities prevail in the department, showing that the path towards sustainability under these conditions is difficult to achieve.

Climate change has highlighted the importance of finding sustainable alternatives for islands. In this case, it is necessary to discourage conventional means that threaten the biodiversity of the territory and to promote business schemes that are more environmentally respectful. This will be possible through the strengthening of governance in the Biosphere Reserve and its coordination with different interest groups. In this article we estimate the relevance of the topic for the most important industry in the territory - tourism - to provide key elements for this discussion.

Keywords: Climate change. Mass tourism. Small islands. Sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEAFLOWER BIOSPHERE RESERVE

