

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN CAPE VERDE BASED ON COMMUNITY TOURISM

Local Residents' Attitudes

Ana María Castillo Canalejo
Sandra María Sánchez Cañizares
Universidad de Córdoba
Córdoba, España

The main objective of the present research was to understand residents' opinions regarding community-based tourism in Cape Verde, with a special emphasis on their perceptions of the impacts that tourism has on their community and personal lives, as well as residents' influence through their contributions to higher levels of development. Quantitative methods were applied and a questionnaire was designed, using stratified random sampling to obtain a sample in proportion to each island's population. A total of 1,615 valid questionnaires were obtained. The findings show that Cape Verde residents do not have a favourable opinion of their country's economic situation and public security, but they are aware of the potential for more tourism development because of Cape Verde's excellent resources. Residents, therefore, have a high degree of acceptance of tourism development. However, tourism has evolved quite differently across the islands. In order for tourism in this country to be sustainable and to ensure that residents perceive the benefits they can receive from tourism, greater participation by local residents in tourism initiatives is needed. Policymakers, thus, must answer to the needs of local communities and ensure the benefits of tourism reach residents.

KEY WORDS: *Community-based tourism, sustainable tourism, Cape Verde, tourism development, resident's attitudes.*