

Carrying Capacity of Small Island Developing States

Anyone who has to wake up early and drive to work in the rush hour in Aruba knows the feeling.

While you are stuck in slow moving traffic, you cannot escape the thought whether the rapid economic development in Aruba has really brought the progress and prosperity everyone hoped for.

In 1986 Aruba was one small happy island with some 67,000 inhabitants, a couple of hotels, some 20,000 cars and some 15,000 plus commercial buildings and residential dwellings.

Nineteen years later, add 15 hotels and 5,000 plus hotel rooms, some 25,000 extra motorized vehicles, some 40,000 additional people, and a sizeable 10,000 extra buildings, all interconnected by kilometers of new roads, and for all of which a lot of natural vegetation and landscapes had to be destroyed and cleared.

Chinese supermarkets and restaurants, high rise hotels, and cheesy shopping malls mark the landscape, urban sprawl runs rampant and everywhere everyone seems to be frantically going somewhere in a hurry and the transport of choice in Aruba seems to be a big fat fuel guzzling, air polluting SUV.

If you thought we had reached the limit, think again, dozens of residential community projects are still advertising their properties and new ones seem to be springing up, as are new shopping malls and Chinese restaurants and supermarkets.

When is enough really enough?

The Aruba Chamber of Commerce, together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs organized a workshop on carrying capacity in November 2003, which was a follow-up on a presentation in 2002 by Sasaki Associates, Inc, done on the same theme. Currently the Aruba Chamber of Commerce is running a community awareness raising campaign called "Nos Isla, Nos Futuro" (**Eng:** Our Island, Our Future), and has organized events and lectures in collaboration with the Aruban Central Bureau of Statistics and the University of Aruba on this and related themes.

Now what really is carrying capacity?

The generally accepted definition of this concept is as follows:

"Carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals of a defined species that a given environment can support over the long term. The notion of limits is fundamental to the concept of carrying capacity."

Agenda 21 is the blue print manual for sustainable development as defined by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

Section I on the Social and Economic Dimensions of Agenda 21 mentions seven topics of relevant importance to the development in developing countries:

1. International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies;
2. Combating poverty;
3. Changing consumption patterns;
4. Demographic dynamics and sustainability;
5. Protecting and promoting human health conditions;
6. Promoting sustainable human settlement development; and
7. Integrating environment and development in decision making.

All of these seven topics are relevant to the carrying capacity, so how to make sense of it all, in particular if we want to define and quantify the problem and solutions for it? This is of particular importance to Small Island Developing States, which are particularly vulnerable.

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Capacidad di Carga den Estadonan Insular Chikito den Desaroyo



Cualquier hende cu tin cu lanta trempa y core auto pa bai trabao y ta pega den trafico conoce e sensacion. Mientras cu bo ta pega den trafico lento, bo nor por scapa di pensa si e desaroyo economico rapido na Aruba verdaderamente a trece e progreso y prosperidad cu tur hende tawata spera.

Na 1986 Aruba tawata un isla chikito feliz cu alrededor di 67.000 habitante, algun hotel, un 20.000 auto y den careda di 15.000 of mas edificio comercial y cas residencial.

Diesnuebe aña despues, pone 15 hotels y un 5.000 camber di hotel mas, algun 25.000 vehiculo motorisa extra, mas

40.000 hende adicional, y un considerabel cantidad di 10.000 edificio y cas extra, tur interconecta pa kilometernan di caretera y caminda nobo, y pa tur esaki un cantidad enorme di vegetacion natural y paisahenan a ser destrui y roza.

Supermercado y restaurant chines, high rise hotel, y centronan comercial vulgar ta marca e bista awor, urbanisacion incontrola ta na orden di dia y tur caminda tur hende tin pura pa bai un sitio liher, y e transporte di preferencia a para bira un SUV cu ta come gasolin y scupi polucion.

Si bo a kere cu nos a yega e limite, pensa bon, dozenas di proyecto di comunidad residencial ta keto bai vendiendo propiedad y proyecto nobo ta parece di sigui bin acerca, cual tambe ta conta pa centronan comercial y supermercado y restaurant chines.

Ki ora basta ta basta anto?

E Camara di Comercio di Aruba, hunto cu Ministerio di Asuntonan Economico a organisa un workshop riba capacidad di carga na november 2003, cual tawata un follow-up riba un presentacion na 2002 duna pa Sasaki Associates, Inc, riba e mesun tema.

Actualmente Camara di Comercio Aruba ta coriendo un campaña di concientisacion yama "Nos Isla, Nos Futuro", y a organisa evento y lectura den colaboracion cu Oficina di Estadistica di Aruba y Universidad di Aruba riba e tema aki y tema relaciona.

Awor ta kico ta en berdad capacidad di carga?

E definicion acepta generalmente ta lo siguiente:

"Capacidad di carga ta e number maximo di individuo di un especie defini cu un medio ambiente (entorno) especifica por sostene a largo plazo. E nocion di limite ta fundamental pa e concepto di capacidad di carga."

Agenda 21 ta e manual pa desaroyo sostenibel, manera defini na e Cumbre pa Medio Ambiente y Desaroyo di Naciones Uni, teni na Rio de Janeiro, Brasil na 1992.

Seccion I tocante Dimension Social y Economico di Agenda 21 ta menciona siete topico di importancia relevante pa e desaroyo den paisnan den desaroyo:

1. Cooperacion internacional pa accelera desaroyo sostenibel den paisnan den desaroyo y temanan di politica domestico relaciona;
2. Combatimento di pobresa;
3. Cambio di patrono di consumo;
4. Dinamica demografico y sostenibilidad;
5. Proteccion y promocion di condicion di salud humano;
6. Promocion di desaroyo di vivienda humano sostenibel; y
7. Integracion di medio ambiente y desaroyo den tomo di decision den comunidad.

Tur siete topico aki ta relevante pa capacidad di carga, pues con pa haci pa esaki tin sentido, particularmente si nos kier defini y cuantifica e problema y su solucionan?

Esaki ta di particular importancia pa Estadonan Insular Chikito den Desaroyo, cual ta especialmente vulnerabel.

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