Designing an Assessment Tool for Tourism's Health Impacts in Developing Countries
Step 2: Asking the right question – an Example from Peru

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Background

Although there are many examples of tourism's positive economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts, the severity of some of its negative implications has attracted the attention of academia and the industry for a long time. The focus on tourism's impact on destination health is more recent and, so far, there is no tool that allows the prediction and monitoring of such impacts (Bauer, 2008). Impact assessment tools in other disciplines have been lacking the crucial inclusion of community-validated indicators. A tourism health impact assessment tool (TOHIAT) must focus on locals' concerns, values and views as it is they who bear the cost of a tourism development at their doorstep. Furthermore, the communities themselves should be able to use it rather than developers with vested interests (Bauer & Thomas, 2006). This poster presents Step 2 of the design process with Step 1 having been presented at the CISTM11 (Bauer, 2009). Thirty-five residents from two villages close to the Cordillera Huayhuash trekking circuit in Northern Peru discussed their views on the most important aspects of a healthy community and ranked their importance (Bauer, 2007, 2010). These aspects are, therefore, those that need particular protection from the ramifications of tourism projects.

The six most discussed topics were: work, harmony, environment, individual health, education, and family.

Priority	Interviews	Ranking
1	Work	Individual Health
2	Harmony	Education
3	Environment	Work
4	Individual Health	Family

The Main Concepts Important for a Healthy Community per Data Collection Method

Method

In order to progress with the design of the tool, these most often discussed key themes will be used to form the basis of the TOHIAT with themed questions, indicators, and a visual summary tool allowing quick reference to current assessments results and to changes over time.

Results

A small selection of sample questions per theme:

1) Work
- What direct work opportunities arise from the development?
- What supportive industries will be opened up for locals?
- Will employment divert from traditional sources of income and food production (e.g., agriculture, fishery)?

2) Harmony
- How will potential divisions in the community be counterbalanced or avoided ?
- How will village decisions regarding the development be honoured?
- Is the development affiliated with a particular worldview/religion?

3) Environment
- How and where will development-related waste be disposed of?
- How will the development assist locals in addressing their own waste disposal?
- How will potential soil, water, and visual pollution be mitigated?
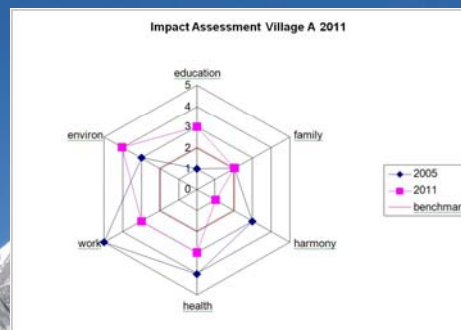
4) Individual health
- How can the development assist in improving the general health status of the community?
- What direct and indirect local health impacts arise from the development?
- How can locals benefit from tourism's health infrastructure?

5) Education
- What percentage of locals will be trained/educated to replace expats, and by when?
- How will local female education be improved?
- What measures are in place for increased general education opportunities?

6) Family
- In which way does the development avoid the creation of conflict of traditional roles?
- What influence has the development on family tradition and authority?

A Hypothetical Example of the Use of the Visual Summary Tool to Monitor Impact Trends

References
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Conclusion

Locals' concerns were successfully transformed into a manageable number of concepts that form the basis for the TOHIAT. This allows the inclusion of topics as they are of interest to local people rather than outsiders with their respective agendas. The next step will be to focus on the details per topic, specific indicators and their measurement, the user-friendliness of the tool, translation into Spanish and field-testing.