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B.Sc. (Architecture), M. Environmental Design (Architecture)

**Some Risks are Worth Taking:
Tourism Risk Management in Tropical Coastal Areas**

Doctor of Philosophy

**James Cook University
School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography**

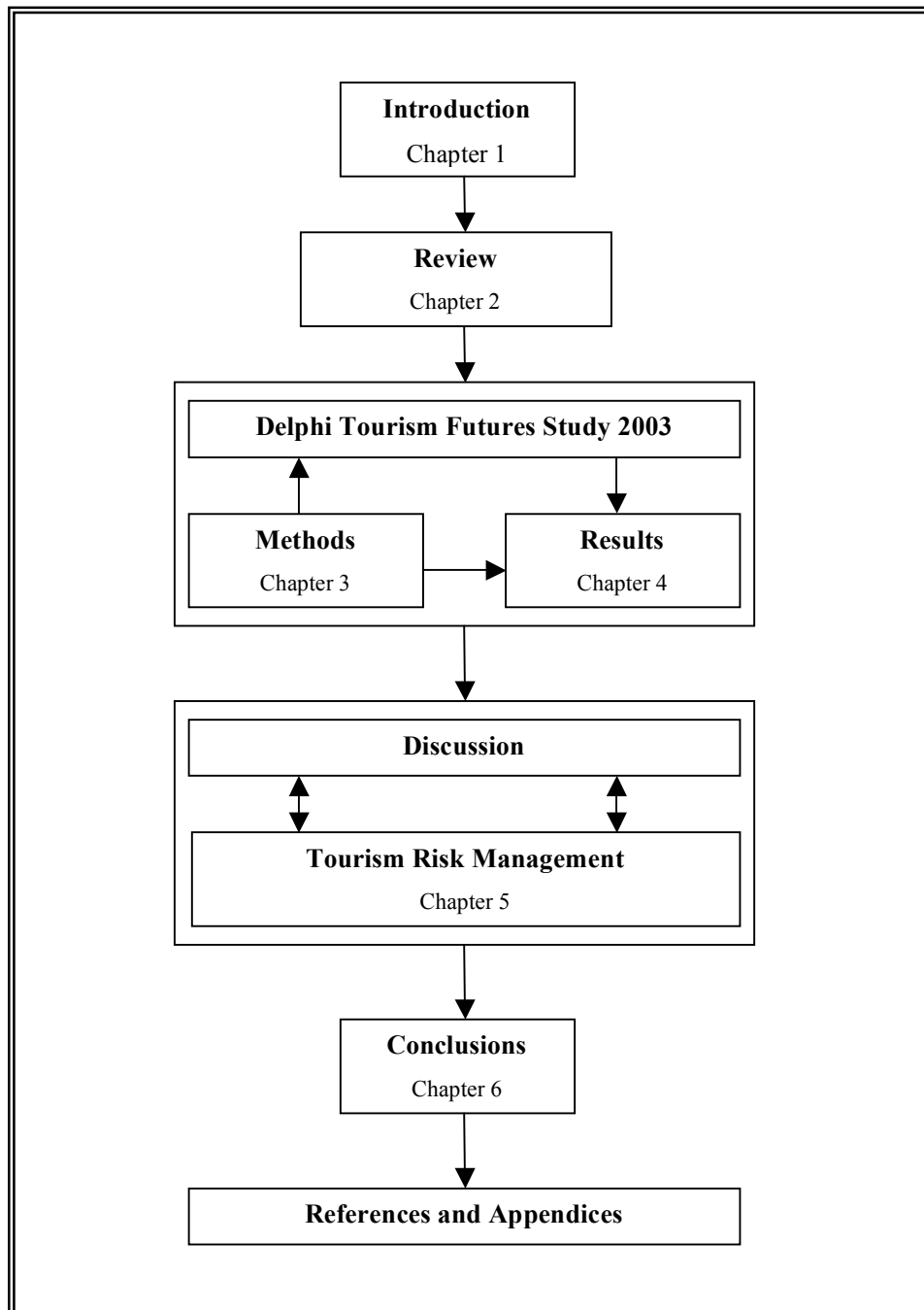
24 January 2005

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Information
Technology of James Cook University.

Dedication

This work is dedicated to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami which occurred on 26 December 2004. It is hoped that a contribution can be made to mitigative and forward planning efforts aimed at minimising the scale of losses and maximising risk management in all coastal tropical areas, particularly for those most vulnerable; the communities and natural resources that support small and medium (tourism) enterprises, and foreign and domestic tourists.

Some Risks are Worth Taking:
Tourism Risk Management in Tropical Coastal Areas



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Statement on the Contribution of Others Including Financial and Editorial Help

The research received ethical clearance from the James Cook University Experimentation Ethics Review Committee (Approval Number: H1420). A copy of this approval is included in the Appendix. The research presented and reported in this thesis was conducted within the guidelines for research ethics outlined in the *National Statement on Ethics Conduct in Research Involving Humans* (1999), the *Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and guidelines on Research Practice* (1997), the *James Cook University Policy on Experimentation Ethics. Standard Practices and Guidelines* (2001), and the *James Cook University Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice* (2001).

No fees or stipend support have been paid to the author of this thesis to prepare thesis material contained in the document to follow. A portion of the costs associated with the survey and database were awarded from School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography (TESAG) funds. Editorial costs for Ms. Jill Greaves (JCU English Literature) were paid by the author. The work has been self-funded from the outset. The Centre for Disaster Studies has afforded me the opportunity to contribute to a Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre (STCRC) applied research project throughout 2004 allowing for the use and application of some the thesis research findings. Supervision and statistical support from supervisors was more than adequate while I have been able to maintain residence overseas for much of the candidature, minimising the use of university infrastructure during that time.

Abstract

A model for tourism risk management has been developed in the thesis arising from the literature review and data from the primary research survey, the Delphi Tourism Futures Study 2003. This web-based survey used experts from around the world to collect opinion and data on a variety of risk- and futures-related tourism development information. The methodology was appropriate (qualitative forecasting) to the task, and the modelling of total risk for tourism was supported by the survey results.

Important terminologies were redefined to fit the concept of a tourism risk management model that draws on terms used in the disaster and emergency management discipline, international development, and the tourism and insurance industries. The model was built on the original 'risk triangle' concept (risk being a product of hazard, vulnerability and exposure), and a later adaptation developed by Granger (1999) that replaced exposure with 'Elements at Risk'. The new model has added one additional element termed 'Risk Environment' that is made up of three components using a broad definition of environment. Safety and security emerged as the primary concern for tourist destination choice in the coming decades.

Indications of the increasing level and extent of crises and catastrophic events affecting tourism in tropical coastal areas suggest a need to study the future. The recent (26 December 2004) Indian Ocean tsunami has heightened awareness of the need for coastal areas to prepare for all types of natural hazards, especially for tourism businesses in vulnerable coastal areas. It is hoped that the research to follow could have a positive impact on: i) building awareness of risk management needs of the tourism industry, and ii) on the role of long-term forecasts in tourism risk management. It is envisaged that tourism risk management will develop into a necessary component of responsible and sustainable tourism development planning. The research to follow suggests that this is plausible, and that tourism risk management can provide a practical planning and management tool.

Acknowledgements

Firstly I would like to acknowledge my grandparents, [REDACTED] for their inspiration and support to achieve this goal, and my wife [REDACTED] for everything else.

Of course there are a number of people, without whom I could not have created the document to follow, some of whom are named below, but many others are not named. They know the value I have placed on their support and assistance.

My sincere thanks to the following individuals especially: Jill Greaves for her editorial thoroughness, Colin Lemmon, IT database expert from JCU for a workable system that seemed too ambitious, Linda Anderson-Berry for early camaraderie, Jon Nott for occasional logic, all the Delphi panelists who contributed to the richness of the survey, Alison Cottrell for her supervisory role and subtle advices, and David King for supervisory thoroughness, friendship and sound guidance. I should also thank the School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography and James Cook University for the small but appreciated contribution to the cost of preparing a doctoral thesis.

And finally to all those friends and colleagues who offered criticism, positive comment, and helped me sustain enthusiasm throughout, and ensured that I maintained the rigour and comprehensive approach that is vital to the process of long-term planning and risk management.

SC

24 January 2005

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Most documents are in PDF format, there are however a few Word files. Some folders have multiple files in the folder.

1. WTO Classifications.pdf
2. Literature Sources.pdf
3. DTFS Web Site Information (3 files)
4. DFTS 2003 (10 files)
5. DFTS Instructions to Panelists (8 files)
6. Delphi - Journal Publication
7. DTFS Panelist Correspondence (10 files)
8. DFTS Open-Ended Responses (15 files)
9. Travel Agent Liabilities
10. Global Warm Timeline
11. Ethics Approval
12. Kyoto Protocol
13. Additional References

End Front Matter