



Tourism and climate change:

NZTRI Cases from the Arctic

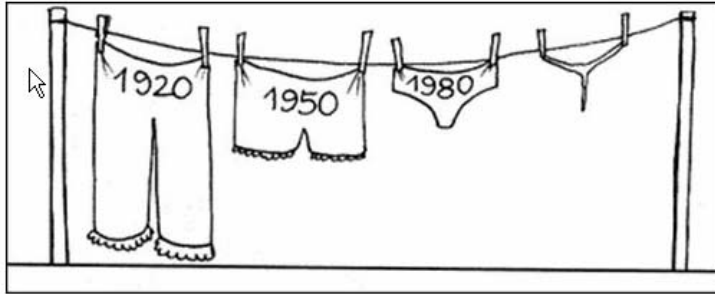
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Many Strong Voices Workshop
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Purpose of Presentation

- Background
- Policy
- Circumpolar Initiatives
- Case Studies
 - Nature-based Tourism Network
 - Port Readiness Program -- Greenland Cruise Industry
- NZTRI Resources

For those who need proof that the planet is warming up



The Arctic

- 30,000,000 sq. km²
- North of the tree line/zone of continuous permafrost.
- Arctic Ocean and neighboring seas.
- 8 countries
 - Russia/Canada (80%)
 - Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Greenland (18%)
 - Alaska (4%)
- Mosaic of topographies, landscapes, peoples
- 3.75 million people living permanently

(Source: Pagnan 2003)



Climate Change

Empirical and Anecdotal Evidence



- Average Arctic temperature has risen at almost twice the rate of the rest of the world.
- 8% reduction of Arctic sea ice/30 yrs
- 8 cm sea level rise/20 yrs
- Widespread melting of glaciers
- Rising permafrost temperatures
- Shifting flora/fauna
- Changing precipitation patterns
- Increased fire/insect outbreaks
- Later freeze up/earlier break up
- Result: significant changes to economic/cultural human systems

(Source: ACIA 2004, Dawson et al 2007)

Tourism

- Increasing interest in exploring one of the last unknown, wild regions of the earth.
- Tourists attracted to scenery, wildlife, traditional peoples and their cultures.
- Industry dominated by SMTEs.
- Increasing number of adventure/expedition cruise ships.
- Uneven visitation
 - Alaska, Norway, Iceland vs. Greenland, Nunavut, Russia

(Source: Hall and Johnston 1995, Grenier 2003, CANAL 2004)





Only the best for People and Nature!



Challenges

- High cost of transportation/ infrastructure.
- Short summer tourist season dependent on favorable weather.
- Essentially nature-based, vulnerable to climate change.
- SMTEs and industry not prepared to respond to climate change impacts.
- SMTEs need support from industry associations and government to implement action plans.

(Source: Pagnan 2003, Hall 2005)

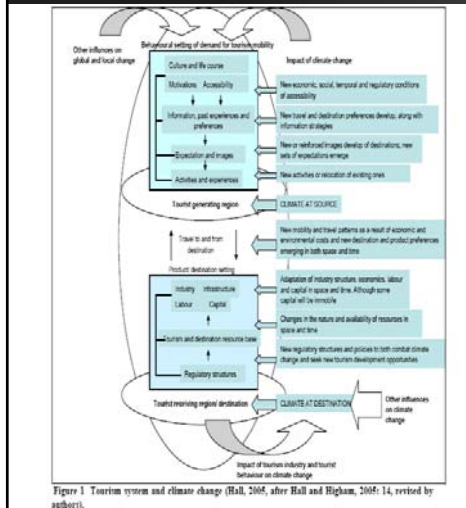
International Policy

WTO's Derba Declaration, 2003

- Acknowledge two way relationship:
 - Tourism has obligation to minimize adverse impacts on environment.
 - Changes in climate will have direct impact on tourism destinations and industry.
- Recommendations
 - Continue research efforts
 - Encourage sustainability
 - Raise awareness
 - Use declaration as framework for future action

(Source: WTO 2003)

Tourism and Climate Change



- Policymakers advocating holistic, systems-based approaches to evaluate impacts of climate change on industry:

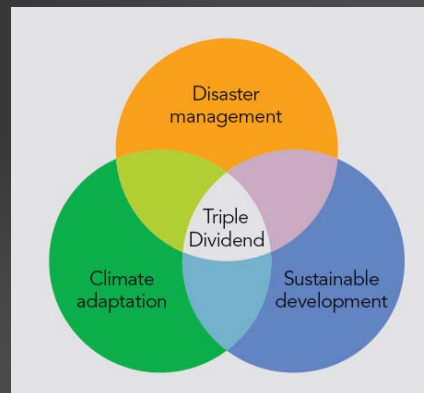
- Direct
 - Attractions/activities
- Indirect
 - Transport/access
 - Infrastructure
 - Capacity

(Source: Hall 2005, Hall and Higham 2005, Johnston 2006, Dawson et al 2007)

Adaptive Capacity

The Triple Dividend

- Build local capacity and resilience by linking disaster management (vulnerability), adaptation, and sustainable development. (Source: UNEP 2006)



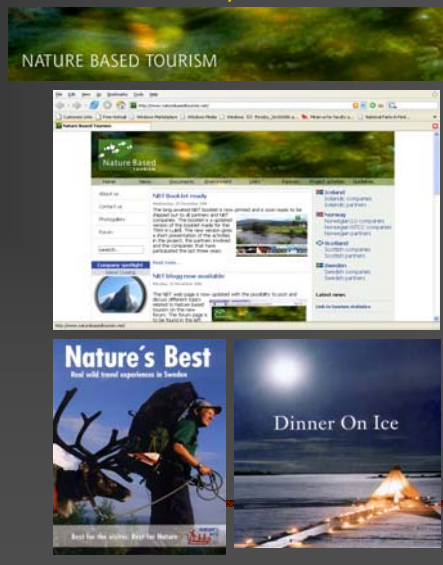
Circumpolar Initiatives



- **ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment)**
 - Evaluate/share knowledge
- **SMART initiative:** aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the Arctic
 - Develop standards
 - Build capacity
 - SATA founded
- **The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)**
 - We are dedicated to managing environmentally-friendly and safe expeditions in the Arctic.

NZTRI Case Study I: Nature-based Tourism Network (NBT) (www.naturebasedtourism.net)

- **Partners from:**
 - Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Iceland, Canada
- **Over 70 businesses in program**
- **Climate Change Impacts:**
 - Changes in snow cover
 - Retreating glaciers
 - Declining seabird populations
- **Elements of program:**
 - Cooperative marketing
 - Product development
 - Transnational networking
 - Greening
- **Instructional Handbook funded by NORA**
 - Greenland, Faroes, Iceland, Norway, Canada
 - Best practices/training



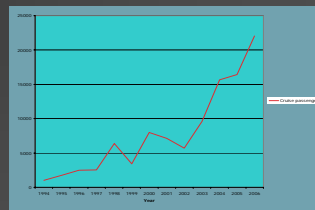
Case Study II: Building Port Readiness in Greenland (www.cruisetosuccess.blogspot.com)

- **Facts:**
 - 20 new cruise ships to be added to North Atlantic by 2009.
 - 8 expedition cruise companies in North Atlantic planning to expand offerings.
- **The goal of the Port Readiness Program is to inform key ports of:**
 - Opportunities for local revenue generation
 - Employment enhancement
 - Excursion planning
 - How to host a cruise ship
 - Sustainability/greening
- **Canadian Program offered to stakeholders across North Atlantic.**
- **Building local capacity as a result of increased access in Arctic.**

Greenland Tourism & Business Council



Cruise Passengers Visiting Greenland Ports of Call 1994 - 2006



NZTRI Resources

- **Network of researchers**
 - Arctic Tourism Research Network
 - Iceland Tourism Research Centre
- **Case Study Pilot projects**
 - Nature-based Tourism Project
 - Cruise Port Readiness Project
 - Northeast Iceland Strategic Plan
 - Arctic Protected Area Planning
 - Nordhunt
- **Research capabilities**
- **Capacity building/training**
- **Information sharing**
- **Fund-raising**

