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- Department of Environmental & Coastal Resources
- Lands and Survey Department
- Planning Department
- Tourist Board
- Turks & Caicos Hotel & Tourism Association
- Turks and Caicos National Trust
- Department of Environmental Health
- Fire Department
- Aviation Department
- Road Safety Department
- Department of Disaster Management & Emergencies
- Primary Health Care Department



Copies of TCI Environment - A Closer Look 2004 can be obtained by making request to DEPS or by filling up our order form in our official website at www.depstc.org/pubs/orderform3.html

Statistical Publications

Monthly

Trade Bulletin

Other

Standard of Living Assessment
Survey of Departing Visitors
Preliminary Census Report
Population and Housing Report Census 2001
TCI Gender Profile
TCI Environment A Closer Look

Annually

Turks and Caicos Islands Yearbook of Statistics
Turks and Caicos Islands Quick Facts and Figures
Social Indicators Trends & Statistics
Vital Statistics Report
Report on Government Finance Statistics
External Trade Report
National Accounts

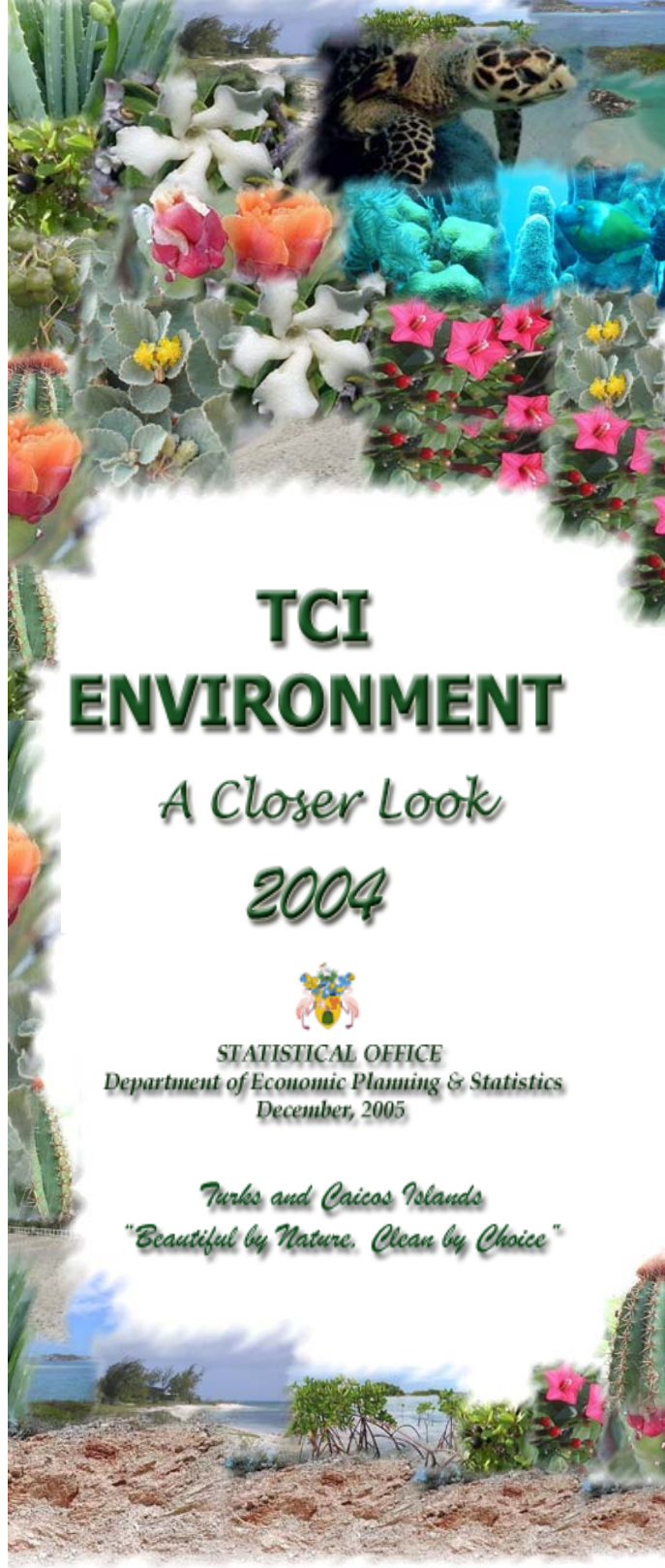


TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
TCI ENVIRONMENT—A CLOSER LOOK 2004

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HIGHLIGHTS

About the Report

The Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (DEPS), in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), is privileged to be leading in the initiative to promote environmental awareness in the conservation, protection and management of the natural resources of the TCI. The release of **"TCI Environment – A Closer Look 2004"** is the first official report of its kind for the TCI and presents statistics and analyses for a number of years on the state of the TCI environment and various environmental issues faced. These are discussed under major section heads: Population and Households, Tourism, Biodiversity, Coastal and Marine Resources, Tropical Dry Forest, Energy and Transport, Natural Disasters, and Environmental Health. The main objective of this report is to provide substantive data and information necessary for, planning, management, and monitoring of natural resources in the TCI in order to minimize and mitigate possible environmental impacts. Further, this report aims to assist in ensuring the goal of sustainable development of the TCI through the proper utilization of our natural resources for economic prosperity. The TCI has joined many other countries regionally and internationally which have answered the call of the Earth Summits (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002); responded to declarations, ratified agreements and made commitments to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – all in an effort to achieve sustainable development by the inclusion of environmental matters as a priority in our country's development.

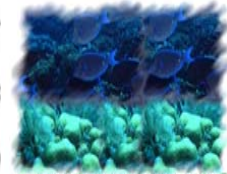
One of the challenges of an increasing population is that more people require more resources which could easily create environmental changes. The increasing population of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and the various human activities in the Islands, due primarily to development are manifestations of these changes. The Islands' population density, which is used to assess the impact of population growth on the environment, is increasing both at the country level and at island level for some islands.

Tourism industry account for the largest share of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This sector employed around 2,368 people or 23.26 percent of the employed population (DEPS, 2001). The natural environment which serves as the main attraction to visitors and source of income of many people in the islands therefore require effective and sustainable management where the government, the people of TCI and tourists themselves has great responsibility.



BIODIVERSITY

The TCI's unique marine and terrestrial life, reef system, and rich flora and fauna are some of the natural resources the country tries to preserve. More than 190 species of birds can be found in the islands and some of them are endangered. Laws and regulations are being imposed due to a number of threats to the biodiversity such as loss and extinction of species and pollution. Humans primarily affect biodiversity. One should realize the importance of protecting the environment and not harm the very system that allows existence.



COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES

The coastal ecosystems are important to maintain marine biodiversity. Fishing and tourism industries, two of the major contributing sectors to the economy of the country depend on marine creatures, some of which are vulnerable with extinction. Coastal ecosystems are facing threats from physical destruction and environmental stress.



TROPICAL DRY FORESTS

Tropical dry forests serve as habitat of plant and animal species and source of medicinal plants and other forestry products in the country, are susceptible to threats. There are 500 plant species that can be found in the TCI. Among these, there are 8 species within 7 genera that can only be found in the Islands. Progress and developments in the country should not mean therefore destruction of the ecosystems that would phase out all these natural resources.

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves."

All things are bound together. All things connect."

~ Chief Seattle, 1855



ENERGY & TRANSPORT

Despite the major role of energy and its by-products in all aspects of the country's socio-economic development, the environmental effects they produce should not be overlooked. Any form of energy requires the use of natural resources and the more energy are used, the more wastes are produced. Energy-use has the major contribution also to global warming.

When energy is burned for heating, greenhouse gas emissions increase causing air pollution and climate change. The TCI heavily relies on imported petroleum products for electricity and transport, indigenous biomass fuels for cooking, fossil fuel and other related products. Unfortunately, there are only a few, if not lack of, extensive assessments on environmental repercussions of energy sector at present in the country.



NATURAL DISASTERS

Natural disasters can be the worst threat to the environment as it could create adverse effects in an instant and cripple the whole economy. Hurricanes, tropical storms and floods are among the natural hazards the country usually experience. The impacts of these disasters vary with their type and magnitude and fortunately the country can easily recover based on past experiences. Since the country is highly prone to natural disasters and these occurrences cannot be prevented, the damage can be mitigated with adequate planning and comprehensive



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Where people choose to live and grow affects their quality of life and well-being since environmental factors play a major role in human development, health and disease. Exposures to contaminated water and other pollutants in soil, water and air are major causes of death, illness and disability.

These environmental health hazards also affect the development and function of the multiple systems of the body. In the 2001 Census conducted in TCI, majority of the households (95.77 percent) have sustainable access to improved water source and 68.29 percent are using flush toilet with septic-tank soakaway. Recorded cases of gastroenteritis, poisoning (food-borne diseases) and respiratory diseases among children below 5 years old are also increasing. Respiratory diseases slightly went down in 2004. Meanwhile glasses, plastics, cardboard and paper are the primary solid wastes problem in the Islands. Health risk reduction and public awareness should therefore be intensified.



POPULATION & HOUSEHOLDS



TOURISM