

Tourism in a Changing Climate

Carlos M. Libosada Jr.
caloylibosada@gmail.com

EAS Congress
25 November 2009
PICC, Manila

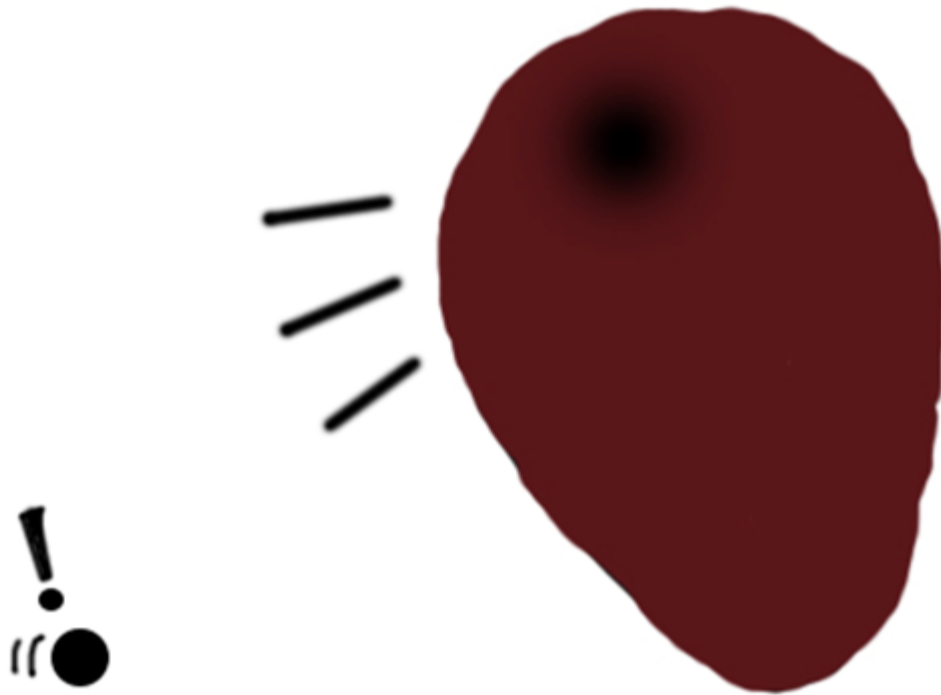
Climate Change

- A global reality
- Yet, events are often local (or regional)
- Impacts can be personal
- Impacts to an individual or groups of individuals; rarely to the totality of population

The Tourism Industry

- High exposure to Climate Change
- 5% contribution to green house gases
- At the frontline of climate change issues and solutions

Try to Imagine.....



Tourism can....

- Contribute to the problem
- Be part of the solution

Climate Change and Tourism

- Impacts may be localized
- Solutions are local **AND** global

- While mitigating or preventing the impacts of climate change (for self-preservation), tourism can actually contribute to the CC solutions

A look at the local events caused by CC and Roles of Tourism

Climate Change Impacts	Tourism as....		
	Spectator	Contributor	Provides Solution
Sea-level rise	X		
Flooding		X	X
Stronger Events	X		
Storm Surges		X	X
Drought	X	X	X
Coral Bleaching	X		
Eutrophication		X	X
Loss of species		X	X
Collapse of Ecosystems		X	X

What now....

- Climate Change is inevitable and is actually manifesting itself
- What we can do is to minimize the:
 - Intensity
 - Impact area (coverage)
 - Length of time of impacts
 - Affected communities
 - Dependence on CC-inducing Energy

Sustainable Development

Survival and Adaptation

Impacts on Turtles Islands Wildlife Sanctuary



Impacts on Turtles Islands Wildlife Sanctuary

- Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape; TIHPA
- Conservation International
- Impacts
 - Beach Erosion
 - Inundation of nesting areas due to sea level rise
 - Temperature-dependent sex ratio
 - Fluctuations in egg production (after El Nino events)
 - Possible Loss of potential tourism income (US\$5 Million per annum)

Testing the Limits of Nature

- Expensive
- Not necessary
- So many models and scientific bases
- Sets back business viability and sustainability
- Needless sacrifices

How Tourism Contributes to the Problem

- Ignorance and “Ignorance for convenience”
- Improper siting
- Improper design
- “Shock-and-Awe” designs with little regard to environmental and cultural dynamics
- Alteration of natural ecosystems (e.g. clearing of mangroves)
- Improper delivery of services
- Intensive waste generation

Being Part of the Solution

- Culturally-sensitive
- Proper Siting
- Proper design
- Minimal waste generation
- Extend life cycle of materials
- Involve staff and guests
- Minimal energy consumption
- The Rs

Economies of Scale

- Cost is a major deterrent to environmental solutions
- Tourism industry can help bring down the costs
- Industry-wide conscious effort to bring down prices
 - Photovoltaics
 - LEDs

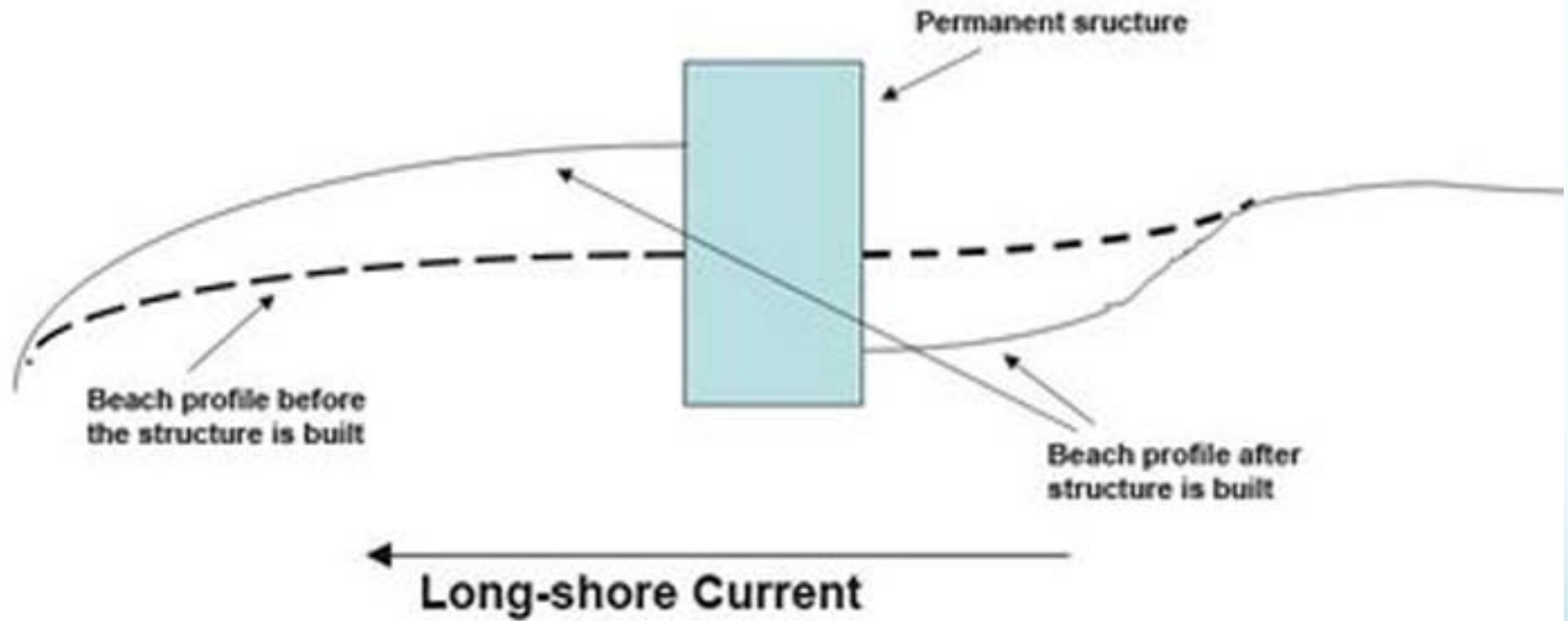


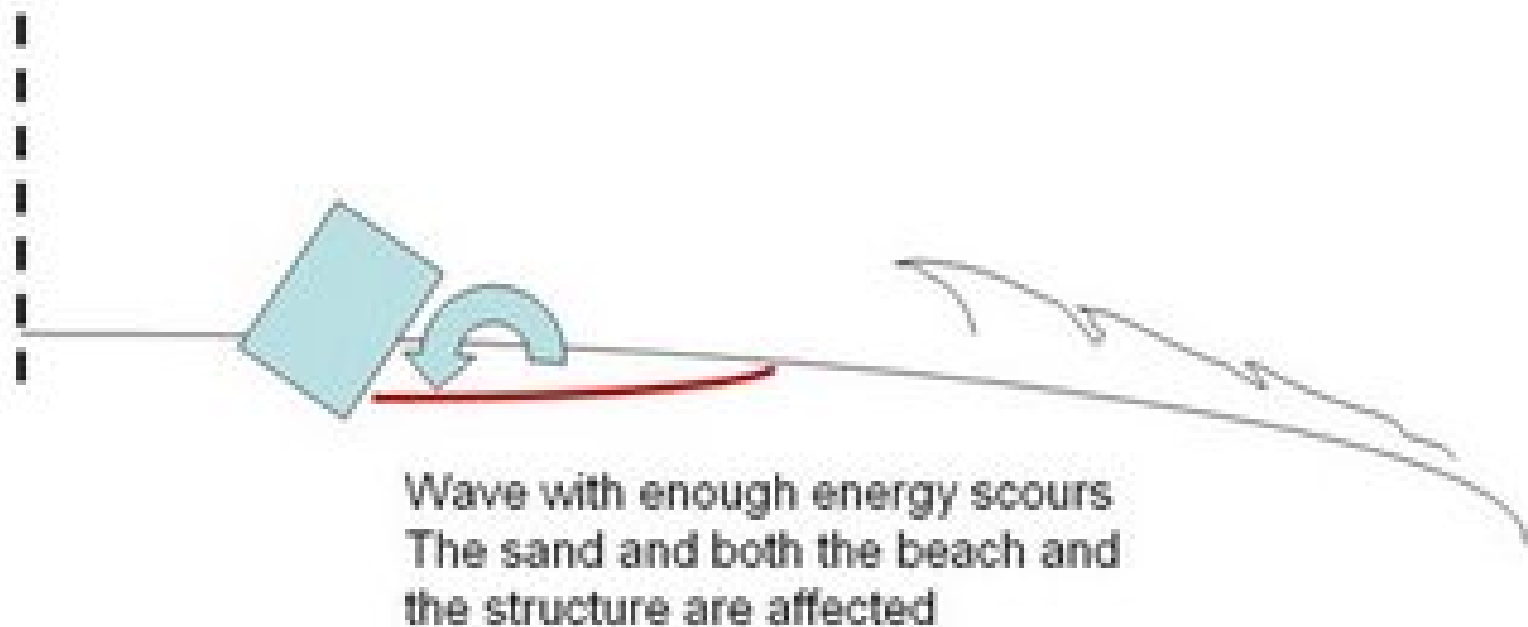
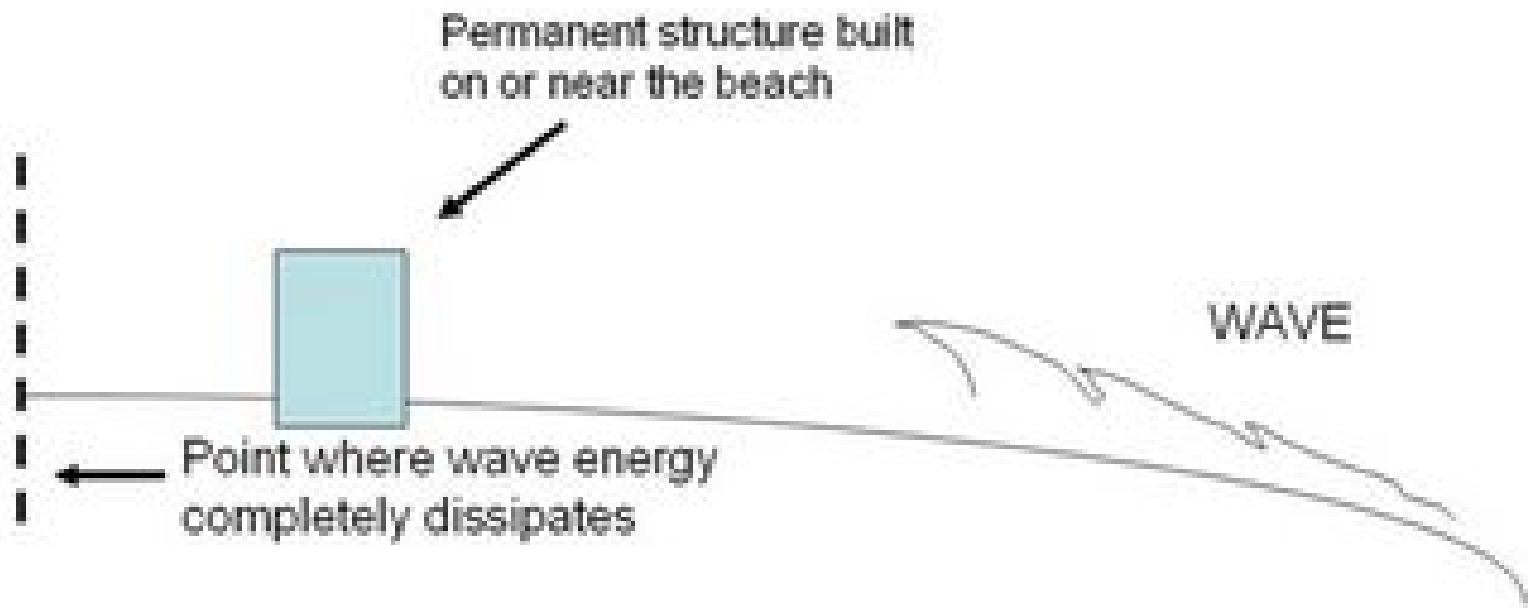
● Rice Terraces

- Turned mountains into agricultural lands
- 2,000 years old
- Still functioning
- Top forest left intact

Beach Management







Some Practical Principles

- Nature does not care
- Respect the limits of nature
- Understand the dynamics of nature
 - Leave the top of the mountains alone
- Respect the law of gravity
- Understand and adopt local knowledge and culture
- Green absorbs

In Conclusion

- Climate Change is a massive and a bewildering threat to nations relying on the tourism industry
- The tourism industry is only beginning to realize the impacts of Climate Change and the role of the industry to survive and contribute to the solutions
- Environmental principles can be embraced by the tourism industry in order to properly deal with climate change.
- Tourism has all the reasons to protect itself and affect the world with its small, but cumulative amounts of climate change solutions

Thank You!