

An Assessment of Eco-Lodges in the Commonwealth of Dominica

Texas A&M Study Abroad in Dominica 2010

Submitted By

Ali Minarcik, Laura Duffie, Sammy Reinhart, Travis Roof, Kate Turner

June 11, 2010

## **Abstract**

During a short study abroad session in Dominica, we researched ecotourism establishments on the island. We focused on establishments advertising themselves as eco-lodges, attempting to pick two locations per region of the island. At each eco-lodge, we interviewed a staff member, asking them questions about sustainability and conservation practices utilized at that lodge. During our research, we discovered that there are varying levels of eco-lodges advertized on Dominica. This report compares the various eco-lodges based on modified standards from international groups and the availability of products in Dominica.

## **Introduction**

The Commonwealth of Dominica, a volcanic island in the Lesser Antilles, provides numerous nature-based attractions to tourists. Due to a large number of inaccessible regions on Dominica, development has remained inadvertently restricted preserving the pristine environment. Commonly referred to as the Nature Island of the Caribbean, Dominica attracts a different type of tourist looking for an atypical experience. From hiking to diving, the nature-based activities are endless. In the past ten years, Dominica has begun marketing the island as an ecotourism destination which has led to a substantial increase in the tourism industry. Ecotourism, a type of sustainable tourism, minimizes effects to the environment while benefiting the local community. “Environmental impacts from tourism result from the design and construction of tourism facilities,” this paper assesses the eco-lodges on Dominica and the degree to which they exemplify sustainability and conservation of the environment around them (Cochrane and Font, 2005).

## **Methods and Materials**

Through personal recommendations, reference to Experience Dominica, and online research, we attempted to interview two lodges per region in order to represent aspects of the island, however this was not always possible due to transportation and time constraints. In order to determine whether an eco-lodge was truly an ecotourist destination rather than a mass tourism destination, we interviewed a number of people and hoteliers per eco-lodge. We created a list of questions, (Appendix 1) to interview each person based on our interpretations of numerous international guidelines with respect to the various ecosystems and cultures of Dominica. We visited the eco-lodges of Tia's Bamboo Cottages (Wotten Waven), Rainforest Shangri-La Resort (Wotten Waven), Roxy's Mountain Lodge (Laudat), Papillote Wilderness Retreat (Trafalgar), Picard Beach Wellness Eco-lodges (Picard), Rosalie Forest Eco-lodge (Rosalie), and Jungle Bay Resort and Spa (Delices). At each lodge, we documented the interview with a handheld video camera, took pictures of the establishment while on a personal tour, and noted the answers to each interview question. The following contributed information to our report:

David Williams

Director of Parks

Tia

Owner and Operator of Tia's Cottages

Ron Hefner

Temporary operator of Rainforest Shangri-La

Fred Phillips

Manager of Rainforest Shangri-La

Lize Bardoiuille

Marketing Director of Roxy's Mountain Lodge

Evelyn Dennis

Manager of Papillote Wilderness Retreat

Jem Winston

Owner of Rosalie Forest/Three Rivers Eco-lodges

Nancy Atzenweiler

Reservations Supervisor of Jungle Bay Resort and Spa

Helene Castran

Director of Operations of Jungle Bay Resort and Spa

## **Results**

### **Tia's Bamboo Cottages:**

Tia's Bamboo Cottages, which have been in business for nine years, started off as a one room cottage built on the land Tia lived on. Currently, there are five cottages and a restaurant, and Tia's business will soon be expanding to eight cottages. Located in Wotten Waven, a small village outside Roseau, it is the prime location for tourists interested in relaxing in the natural hot springs. The area also appeals to tourists because of the close proximity to attractions like Boiling Lake and Morne Trois Pitons National Parks. At the same time, most of the locals do not frequent Tia's business because they feel entitled to free access to the hot springs.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we were able to tour Tia's Bamboo Cottages and interview Tia himself. Upon arriving at Tia's, the first thing to catch our eye was the intricate bamboo work forming the structurally sound cottages. Venturing through the hanging wooden door beads, we arrived inside Tia's restaurant. Tia greeted us warmly, and we soon began our interview. During the interview, Tia informed us of the type of tourism he sees and explained the sustainable nature of his

establishment. According to Tia, most of his business comes from tourists that have previously visited the island or Dominicans that reside in other cities outside of the Roseau Valley. It appeared to us that Tia and his guests were both environmentally conscious, viewing nature as entity to be respected and preserved. Using the abundant renewable resource of bamboo, Tia himself constructed the cottages in his own personal design that had never been seen before in Dominica. Along with sustainable building materials, the cottages have an impeccable septic system, and the water supply is diverted from local sources. Along with clean, natural drinking water, Tia provides traditional cuisine obtained from local gardens and community markets. While no recycling program exists on Dominica, Tia usually disposes of organic food waste into his garden and flower beds. After our interview questions, Tia led us on our tour of two private hot spas, down a cobblestone trail lined with luxuriant vegetation to the public hot spas next to a picturesque stream. Each cottage contains a full size bed with a mosquito net, a small bathroom with an outdoor shower, and a hammock to relax in on the porch. The cottages rely on crosswinds and natural ventilation rather than an energy wasting air conditioning. The only electric consumption per cottage is two light bulbs. No television or internet access was available except for one television in the restaurant and a communal radio.

#### Rainforest Shangri-La Resort:

Shangri-La, located in a Roseau reed grove in the village of Wotten Waven, contains five cottages: three singles and two duplexes. The grounds of Shangri-La contain multiple sulfur springs which have been harnessed for use as hot water and diverted to create three sulfur spas. Shangri-La focuses on the balance between nature, body, and the mind, offering yoga, massages, and spa relaxation centered on natural minerals. Shangri-La attracts international long term tourists along with locals interested in an isolated getaway. These tourists learn of the

establishment by word of mouth, due to the fact that the proprietors do not wish for mass tourism. Shangri-La offers both local and international cuisine based on the desires of the guests.

Our initial interview was conducted with Ron Hefner, the temporary manager, who was from Alabama. He was watching over the establishment while the owner, Fred, was away on business in Paris. Fred is originally from Tennessee and is a world-renowned masseuse, mastering eleven different styles of massage. In construction of the grounds, Fred used imported storm damaged wood from America and built all of his cottages without cutting down any trees in the area. Bamboo and local wood certified and purchased from the Forestry and Wildlife Division were also used when building. All organic waste is composted at Shangri-La, and water is supplied from a personal source on site. They have a septic tank and a separate grey-water system, which is significantly unusual for the area. According to Fred, most Dominicans allow grey-water to flow back into the rivers. The only electricity used in the cottages is by ceiling fans and light bulbs. Wi-Fi is available at Shangri-La, but power outlets are only located at the reception hall. A backup generator is present on the grounds in the event that the hydroelectric power source should fail.

#### Roxy's Mountain Lodge:

Roxy's Mountain Lodge, located in Laudat, has been a family business since 1978. The Rocks family has expanded their business to sixteen rooms, with single, double, and triple occupancy options. The vast majority of their guests are hikers, looking for the perfect spot to start their adventures. The lodge is an ideal starting point for the Boiling Lake and Freshwater Lake trails. In addition, Roxy's offers national park passes for sale in collaboration with the Forestry and Wildlife Division. Roxy's Mountain Lodge has a rustic feel and is constructed from

stone and hardwood. In January 2010, Roxy's hired a new marketing director, Lize Bardoillle, who answered our questions about the property.

Roxy's Mountain Lodge advertises themselves as an eco-lodge, however, they do not use sustainable building materials or products on their property. Roxy's Mountain Lodge occasionally uses biodegradable materials when they are accessible. At one point in time, Roxy's Mountain Lodge attempted a certification through Green Globe but soon dismissed the idea. With water supplied from the government, Roxy's offers heated water to their guests through the use of electric-powered water heaters. They have a septic system and have not experienced any problems with it. All staff are local and traditional meals are provided by means of community agriculture.

#### Papillote Wilderness Retreat:

Papillote Wilderness Retreat is located in the village of Trafalgar, in close proximity to the mass tourist destination of Trafalgar Falls. Established in 1967, the retreat is locally owned and operated by a Dominican citizen and his American wife. Papillote, with seven available rooms, also offers a restaurant, gift shop, and well-maintained tropical garden. Papillote appeals to scientists, artists, and photographers of an elite and educated crowd. Papillote's tropical gardens cover 14 acres with winding trails, leading to two waterfalls, natural volcanic springs, and bathing pools. More than a hundred genera of plants are represented and over six hundred individual species. Papillote offers packages tailored to the type of tourist they have attracted, including adventure packages, garden packages, and a build your own package option. Due to its remote location, Papillote provides transportation to all guests.

Papillote contracts out local tour services for transportation of the guests, and they also work with villagers to comprise their staff. Papillote uses local produce in order to stimulate the village economy. In addition, the intricate iron butterfly window gates were made by Dominicans, as well as the wicker chairs in the restaurant area. Red cedar was imported to construct most of the buildings on site, while their hot and cold water supply is locally sourced. They utilize a septic system, which they empty every five years without any problems. At one point in time, Papillote attempted certification with Green Globe, but according to our interview with Evelyn, the manager disliked the program. Also, we were told that the manager wished to reduce their utility bill, but they were not making any effort to conserve energy due to the fact that hydroelectric power is solely used at the retreat. Papillote desired to work with the Forestry and Wildlife Division to establish their system of trails as part of the nationally recognized trails.

#### Picard Beach Wellness Eco-Cottages:

Picard Wellness Eco-Cottages is located in Picard, just South of Portsmouth next to Ross University. Not only does it serve as lodging for tourists, but it also houses students. There are eighteen cottages at Picard, and dormitories are available for students. Twenty five years ago, a local Dominican established Picard because it was prime property to be developed, in close proximity to the school and the beach. Picard Wellness Eco-Cottages mostly attracts Americans looking for a beach getaway to dive or snorkel, visiting from three days to four weeks.

Picard Wellness Eco-Cottages use local people to fill their staff, however most of their food is imported from America. Little local food is used, and all ordered take home food is served in Styrofoam. Each cottage has air conditioning, television, internet, water heaters, and all the amenities. The cottages were built by a local company, but sustainable materials were not



used. Some biodegradable cleaning products are used at Picard when available, and they also have a fully functioning septic system. Both water and electricity is supplied from the government to Picard.

### Rosalie Forest/Three Rivers Eco-lodges

Rosalie Forest/Three Rivers Eco-lodges is located in Rosalie and was built nine years ago in the wake of September, 11<sup>th</sup>. The British owner, Jem, was forced to market to other islands due to lack of travel from Americans after 9/11. The eco-cottages are built on eight acres of secondary succession rainforest, which Jem had purchased as a previous banana plantation. Rosalie Forest provides a truly rugged experience, which coexists in complete harmony with nature. There are four types of rooms available: tree houses, dormitories, tents and cottages. Rosalie attracts eco-minded people, usually hikers, backpackers, or birders looking to be immersed in local culture and secluded in the rainforest. Most of the guests at Rosalie are well informed after perusing Jem's detailed website. Very seldom a tourist will book with a separate agency, and may sometimes be unprepared for the realities of this rainforest experience. Jem's ultimate goal is to alter a guest's mindset to become more environmentally aware and ecologically friendly.

Rosalie Forest/Three Rivers was first built with imported wood and local bamboo, but later Jem realized that was not a sustainable practice. After a green revelation, Jem used fallen forest trees and certified replanted wood. Each lodge has an outdoor shower, some of which are built into tree trunks with thatch exterior. All toilets are composting toilets, and the tap water in the tree houses is collected rain water. In addition, drinking water is sourced from local streams. All soap provided in the cottages is local and biodegradable. Biodegradable cleaning products

are almost always used at Rosalie. All electricity is derived from solar panels or an onsite wind turbine, but at one point in time hydroelectric power was solely used. Due to a separation of business partners, the hydroelectric power infrastructure was lost to the sold property.

Hydroelectric power is a main priority for the future and will be reestablished when funds become available. Besides renewable energy, giving back to the local community is extremely important. A local family prepares meals for all of the guests, and all of the fruits and vegetables come from surrounding farms. A few other food items are bought at the market in Roseau, and almost nothing is imported from outside of Dominica. Along with local food, the community also partakes in various activities that Rosalie Forest offers. The community happily educates tourists about local agricultural practices, handmade crafts, and even local reggae and calypso music. Jem also works with a nongovernmental organization called the Sustainable Living Initiative Center. Rosalie is also certified by the International Ecotourism Society and Green Globe. In addition to working with the locals, Jem also allows universities to come to Rosalie Forest to study renewable energy.

### Jungle Bay

Jungle Bay Resort and Spa is located in the small village of Delices on the southeastern side of the island. There are 35 cottages nestled in the canopy of the forest within a hundred feet of the Atlantic Ocean. Ocean views are reserved for honeymooners, but there is a spa available to all guests. Massages, facials, and even yoga are offered at Jungle Bay. The cottages are stunning, with handsome wood work and upscale decorating. A guest can stay in a room with two double beds or one king size bed, which includes an amazing outdoor shower and a comfy hammock to relax in on the balcony.

Each cottage includes intricate, handcrafted furniture made by local Dominicans, and all food is purchased from the community. In addition, Jungle Bay does not serve red meat because beef is not available on the island, and therefore would have to be imported. Beginning construction ten years ago, only local workers were used to build Jungle Bay. The wood used to build the cottages was damaged waste wood, but it was imported from Guyana. There is a freshwater pool at Jungle Bay, and the stones used in it and the main reception building are from streams in the area. Also, Jungle Bay is constantly searching for more Dominican made products to use at their hotel. Solar panels have been attempted on the cottages, but there was not enough sunlight due to the rainforest canopy. Solar power is in the works for the future hot spa, but for now only diesel is used for electricity.

## **Discussion**

Immediately walking into to Tia's, one can see and feel how much work and care was put into the building and managing of this establishment. The bamboo work in the quaint little restaurant and in each cottage is intricate and perfectly crafted with great detail. When you speak with Tia, he has so much pride in his work and a love for the land that he makes his living on. One of the key things that he said in the interview really explains how he runs his lodge and why his business is truly sustainable. His eyes lit up as he said "If I could build this whole place and not cut down even a leaf, I would." Every item and product he purchases, all the food he buys, all the water he uses, both hot and cold, and the people he employs are local. It genuinely is a place that benefits and has a fairly positive impact on the community, even if the locals sometimes disapprove due to the fact that they believe the hot springs should be free to them. On

the other hand, Tia believes he has to make a living somehow. We would also like to note that even though this business is not 100% eco-friendly, Tia does things that make his place sustainable without even realizing it because it is just what he does naturally. This is due to the fact the he is a local and appreciates the land and nature, and we believe his guests can feel that too.

After compiling all of the research data, we believe that the Rainforest Shangri-La Resort is very sustainable in practice. The use of local natural hot and cold springs, the composting of all organic waste material, and the restrictions on wasteful electricity consumption provide the basis for this stance. However, due to the marketing restrictions and the isolated feel of the resort, it appears that the guests who stay there actively search out the resort leading to the conclusion that the guests are already very ecologically minded. As such, the main attraction of the resort seems to be the isolation and seclusion of the resort followed by the environmental friendliness. This is exemplified by the placement of each cottage, including the yoga studio, in spots that were partially hidden from the main trail throughout the resort as well as the dense reed groves in between each cottage. Overall, the Rainforest Shangri-La Resort personifies its name for those who wish to have a secluded get away while at the same time being environmentally sustainable, but for those who wish more local interaction another eco-lodge might provide a more social vacation.

While Roxy's advertises themselves as an eco-lodge, it seems to us that they do not meet the qualifications due to the fact that they are not actively trying to improve their lodging, are not concerned with their waste management, and are not conscious of their electricity consumption. With the recent hiring of a marketing director many changes may come to pass, however at this moment they are not making any changes for the conservation of the surrounding wildlife or

sustainability of their grounds. Roxy's is not concerned with biodegradable products unless they are convenient, and they are about to add a chlorine pool to their grounds. While Roxy's is a convenient and comfortable lodge for hikers to stay in, it is more rustic than ecologically friendly.

A good way to describe Papillote would be elegant nature. When you enter into the restaurant, you are enraptured by the incredible view of the gardens and waterfall. The garden is the main draw of the lodge. The rooms were very much like a hotel and will keep you comfortable, but the wind moderates the temperature of the room since there is no air conditioning. The garden is gorgeous and contains different colors from all the fruits, spices, ornamentals and flowers. Most of the species in the garden were invasive or introduced, such as their variety of gingers. This is all very beautiful, and if you are looking for a controlled nature experience, this is it. During our tour of the garden we noticed that some of the workers were cleaning out the leaves and sticks from the river, showing us that it is not very "natural". The local community is supportive of the retreat because it creates jobs and all the food is bought from them. Papillote claimed that every five years the young men in the village are employed to redo the chairs in the restaurant and all the iron work as well. During our interview, a few things struck us as odd. The manager seemed very well rehearsed when answering our questions, and when asked about biodegradable cleaning supplies there was a little bit of fumbling about it. Although there was a discussion about being Green Globe certified, it turned out the owners did not like this. From what we have discovered on the island, it is quite a chore to actually become certified. However, another lodge on the island was able to accomplish it, so it comes into question how much effort Papillote would like to put into becoming sustainable.

Picard Beach Wellness Eco-Cottages, though advertised as an eco-lodge, falls to the bottom of the list of the lodges researched. When first approaching the cottages we noted the air conditioning units and the sounds of televisions flowing through the doorways. When asked, the staff said that they are not concerned with energy use, do not use biodegradable products, and while their buildings were made by a local company, none of them were made with sustainable materials. The majority of their food is imported from large western countries, leaving the local agricultural economy unsupported. They do not offer educational programs to the community or their guests and are not showing any signs of contributing in the future. The owner is said to have picked this spot purely for the draw of the ocean and therefore is interested only in the quantity and not the quality of the guests. In reality the lodge serves as a stay for guests visiting students, divers, and those searching for scenes used in *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Jungle Bay offers high quality cottages with raised environmental standards. The resort undoubtedly caters to upper class travelers, primarily those looking to explore Dominica while still having the option of a relaxing spa treatment after a long day's hike. Jungle Bay strikes a fine balance, acting as both a luxury hotel and eco-lodge. Surprisingly, Jungle Bay offers only a few "ocean view" cottages. Since Jungle Bay was one of two ocean side eco-lodges we visited, we were astonished that they chose to not fully capitalize on their coastal setting. The management pointed out that a true ocean view would require the removal of any trees blocking the ocean landscape. We were happy to hear that Jungle Bay preferred to preserve as many trees as possible on their property.

Rosalie Forest/Three Rivers Eco-lodges takes the lead in Dominica's ecotourism industry. Though a good distance from Roseau, Rosalie Forest effectively separates itself from the mass tourism industry through marketing as a secluded getaway surrounded by nature. From

green building materials to composting toilets, Rosalie Forest has a minimal effect on the environment, while still allowing guests to truly experience the wonders of Dominica. Not only does Jem promote green living and eco-friendly thinking at his lodge, but he also wishes to immerse his guests in local culture. The classes offered by Jem in conjunction with the local villages promote understanding of culture and also benefits the community economically. While Jem already support the locals through job offers at his eco-lodge and purchasing various products from the community market, he also brings sustainable tourism to the Dominicans. One interesting part of our interview with Jem was a discussion of how to define ecotourism. Jem explained that his idea of an eco-lodge revolved around a group of categories: organic, chemical free, renewable energy, education, community, and conservation. As long as a hotel was attempting a legitimate effort in each of these categories, then they were making a substantial contribution to global sustainability. He elaborated that it did not matter how small or large a business was nor whether the improvements they made were a conscious effort or not; as long as the small step was made, then a hotel, business, or person could be considered green. This seemed like a very progressive concept of ecotourism, coming from a rational, intelligent man. It was a view that we as a group could respect and understand. Rosalie Forest's countless awards and certifications do not lie, it is the most environmentally friendly and sustainable place on the island.

Jungle Bay actively works with the nearby town of Delices. The majority of its staff is local and the restaurant uses fruit and vegetables grown in the community. Furthermore, Jungle Bay helped fund the construction of a nearby hospital for mentally-impaired children. In addition, they even sponsor a book drive to promote child literacy. An eco-lodge should help and protect the environment, yet it should also give back to the community. When a town is

supported by a nearby eco-lodge, the citizens are more likely to learn, aid, and promote eco-friendly practices. Jungle Bay really has made an extra effort to help Delices, leading to a positive feedback loop for everyone. While not Green Globe certified, Jungle Bay offers promise as a true eco-lodge. The resort already follows some sustainable practices, however, there always remains room for improvement.

## **Conclusion**

In this report we attempted to make an assessment of the eco-lodges on Dominica according to modified standards from international groups and availability of products on Dominica. We interviewed a wide range of managers and employees with questions centered on the sustainability and conservation of the practices at their lodges. A summation of this data shows that Tia's, Shangri La, and Three Rivers were the most sustainable and environmentally conscious. Papillote and Jungle Bay follow closely, but are more catered towards a resort style vacation than an ecological vacation. We believe that Roxy's is under a false impression of what sustainability and conservation are. With a clear understanding of what the requirements are, we feel Roxy's could join the other eco-lodges. Picard is not by any definition an eco-lodge due to its unsustainable practices and we feel is falsely advertising to its guests as such.

## **Acknowledgements:**

We would like to thank Nancy Osler, Iara Lacher, Clem James, and all of the managers and hoteliers that donated their time to answer our questions and assist in our research. We would also like to thank Dr. Tom Lacher for providing us with transportation and direction.



## Work Cited

- Etienne-Manley, Mara, Henry, Terri, Honychurch, Lennox, Paul, Rosely **Experience Dominica: The Nature Island 2010**. West Indies Publishing Ltd., 2010.
- Cochrane, Janet and Font, Xavier. Integrating Sustainability into Business: A Management Guide for Responsible Tour Operations. United Nations Environment Programme, 2005.

## Appendix 1

### Hotel and Guest Specifics

- 1) How many rooms for rent do you have?
- 2) Is your firm locally – or foreign- owned?
- 3) How many years has your firm been in business?
- 4) Do you know how the owner acquired this property?
  - a. If you know, is there a reason for this location?
- 5) Does your business experience seasonal ups/downs in volume?
- 6) What is your average annual occupancy rate?
- 7) What services other than lodging do you provide?
- 8) What activities do your guests do while staying with you?
- 9) What is their average length of stay with you?
- 10) Age/ demographic
- 11) How often do guests check out early?
- 12) How often do people cancel reservations? How often do people not show up at all?
- 13) What are the main tourist destinations? By what frequency?
- 14) Is there a tourist season? Frequency and distribution?
- 15) What services do tourists ask for which you do not offer?
- 16) How many interested in eco tourism vs. other?

### Operations and the Business Climate

- 17) How would you rank your annual food, payroll, and facilities maintenance expense to share of total expense?
- 18) Do you know of any hotels that have failed in the last 15 years? ( if yes) Which, and why?
- 19) Do you know of any failing now? If yes, which?
- 20) Do you know of any hotels started but not completed in the last 15 years? If yes, which, and why?
- 21) What limitations are constraining the growth of your business?

### Ecotourism Background AND Marketing

- 22) Would you consider your lodge/hotel to be environmentally friendly? **If so, how?**
- 23) Do you market your lodge as an eco-tourist destination? **If so, how?**
- 24) Is your business part of an international ecotourism organization? If so, what standards are required?
- 25) Do you promote any destinations? **What kind?**

### Land Development and Ecosystem Impacts

- 26) Do you believe your lodge impacted the natural environment? **If yes, in what way?**

- 27) Do you take efforts to prevent soil loss on your property?
- 28) How do you minimize damage to the land from tourists?
- 29) Do you use detergents, oils, etc. on your property? **If yes, what kind?**
- 30) What is the source of your drinking water?
- 31) Is caring for the natural environment important to your lodge/hotel?

#### Carbon footprint

- 32) Do you try to save energy? **If yes, how?**
- 33) Do you try to save water? **If yes, how?**
- 34) Do you have septic or sewer?
- 35) Do you try to minimize waste (trash, etc)? **If yes, how?**
  - a. Do you recycle at your hotel? **If so, what products?**
  - b. Is waste water treated and disposed of? **If yes, how?**
- 36) Are there ever problems with water/ power/ sewer/ waste removal?
- 37) Do you provide any transport for guests?
- 38) How do guests get around?
- 39) Do you think there is an adequate public transport system on Dominica?
- 40) Do you feel you ever lose business due to your location or the lack of public transport?
- 41) Do you know what a carbon footprint is?
  - a. If no – explain. “amount of water/energy used”
  - b. If yes, are you taking steps to reduce this?
- 42) Were sustainable materials used to build your hotel/lodge? (i.e. recycled materials or certified timber products)

#### Local Community Involvement

- 43) Is the local community in support of this type of lodge?
- 44) Do you hire locals?
- 45) Do you buy or produce local food for your lodge/hotel? **If yes, Where do you buy food items?**
- 46) How often is a trip made to buy food items or get them delivered to you?
- 47) Given a choice of buying food items made in the Caribbean region or made abroad—which would you buy?
- 48) Must your employees travel to work? If **yes**, how far? If **no**, how do they get to/ from work?
- 49) Do you provide transport?
- 50) Is distance a problem with providing employment to locals?

#### Tourists and Education

- 51) Do Natural educational programs exist for tourists?

- 52) Do you promote environmental awareness and respect of nature? If yes, how?
- 53) Are tourists interested in learning about the flora and fauna of Dominica?
- 54) Are tourists informed of your lodge's environmental standards?
- 55) What information is given when guests sign in?
- 56) What feedback have you received from tourists?
- 57) How do you feel tourists benefit from an eco-lodge vs. a non-ecologically friendly hotel?
- 58) Is there cooperation between your lodge and the forestry and wildlife division? If yes, how?
- 59) Are there any plans for improvement of your hotel/lodge in the future?
  - i. What kind?