

DeAngelis, Jesse, “Environmentally Sustainable Tourism in La Fortuna, Costa Rica: Exploring Local Perceptions and Participation in Conservation among Hotels and Tour Agencies.” Advisor: Ivelina Romagosa. Ripon College. 2010. 43pp.

A study was conducted to explore perceptions of environmental sustainability in tourism in the community of La Fortuna, Costa Rica. Locals working in tourism responded to 70 questionnaires that demonstrate how factors such as job occupation, years lived in La Fortuna, years worked tourism in La Fortuna, and level of education affect opinions of environmental sustainability. Data from 32 interviews were analyzed to understand positive and negative contributions of tourism to the natural surroundings and existing benefits and challenges to protecting the environment. Results from One-Way Analysis of Variance comparisons indicated 6 significant differences between mean response ratings of 5 of the questionnaire questions and 2 of the demographic variables.