**kinary archipelago CASE STUDY**

The **kinary archipelago** is found in the Southern West Indian Ocean. **Kinary archipelago** consists of 300 islands of granitic and coralline origin. It extends some 850,000 km2.

**Strawberry** is the main island of the **kinary archipelago.** The population estimate for **Strawberry** **Island** is 130,000. Its area is 620 km2 and has a coastline of 110 km.

The land mass of **Strawberry** rises steeply to over 1200 meters, fringed by a narrow coastal plain where some 80% of the population is based. During the past decades, there has been an increase in the number of migration towards the coastal areas. The main reason behind this migration is a decline in the island’s production of sugar cane as well as rum. Large portions of land that were previously used for growing sugar cane are being abandoned because the new generation had moved out from the inland villages.

The capital city of **Strawberry** is **Melody. Melody** is the city whereby the population is highly concentrated, some 42,000 people. The next largest town in terms of population, 23,000 is **Rose** and is found on the Eastern coast. There are several smaller towns that grew up around traditional fish processing activities in the 19th century. The remaining of the coastal population lives in small settlements built on land whose value has soared.

There is a coastal road which links **Melody** to **Rose.** This extends inland above **bonbon bay** and then rejoins the coasts. **bonbon bay** is accessible only by boat. The main inland road serves the observatory on **Beautiful Peak**. Smaller roads link the inland villages.

Water supplies within the islands of the archipelago are considered as sufficient to sustain life. Furthermore, on one of the islands, there a military camp/base whose ownership is now disputed. Many of the islands provide nesting for significant populations of seabirds and turtles. There is also a fishing village which comprises of a small diving resort and is considered as a private reserve.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF KINARY ARCHIPELAGO**

As per the 2004 National Economic Growth Plan, tourism and fisheries have been identified as key development sectors.

**Tourism**

Coastal tourism is considered as **Strawberry** **Island’s** largest revenue, earning more than 50 % of foreign exchange. In 2005, there was a peak in the arrival of tourists. However, in 2006, due to a hurricane named **swan,** there was a drop in the number of tourists visiting the island. Moreover, **swan hurricane** caused damage to the 3 star and 4 star hotels found on the Eastern coast. Many hotels are still raising the funds to rebuild beachside facilities including bungalows, bars, restaurants and jetties. At the same time, the IPCC has warned that Indian Ocean islands could also be threatened by potential changes in the frequency and intensity of cyclones.

About 14,000 people work on a part time or full time basis in the tourism related industries: hotels, restaurants, snack stalls, souvenir manufacturing and sales, diving, whale watching and recreational fishing. The majority of tourism is based on the beach with some water-sports, visits to historical monuments, the **bonbon bay** water-falls and markets. There are a small number of “live-aboard” diving boats, some specialist ornithological tours, a three day coastal and inland walking trail and a number of backpacker hostels that attract independent travellers. The port at **Rose** is the main departure point for tourist trips to **bonbon bay** as well as whale-watching and game fishing trips.

The Tourism Master Plan of 1991 has identified the east coast as a major development zone. The Plan requires updating since the capacity anticipated for 2010 was already exceeded by 2001. One controversial measure, not yet implemented, was to introduce a one off visitor landing fee that would be used for social and environmental projects.

The Wildlife Society, a Non Governmental Organisation has raised an issue: the project of a major four star new hotel complex proposed at **Flamingo,** in the Southern part of the island may affect the beach which the nesting place of one of the most important populations of hawksbill turtles in the Indian Ocean. However, the hotel developer has made a suggestion that the turtles could nest further along the beach where large deposits of sea grass at high tide deter tourists. The new project if realised, will create direct employment to some 320 people. Also, this will cause an increase in the tourism capacity by 4% on a yearly basis. Moreover, there is another interested developer who wishes to construct a luxury boutique hotel providing an exclusive getaway for wealthy celebrities on the same proposed site.

The airport at present is facing some logistic problems: the main runway is already operating at its capacity due to an increase in the size of cruise liners. Seasonal cruise ship visits cause a boost in the number of visitors in the high season. Cruise operators have recently asked the Department of Transport to extend the commercial jetty in order to facilitate landings from its mega-liners. Conversely cruise operators are not willing to increase their landing fee. Day-trippers from the cruises currently spend relatively little money on the island. At the same time, 2 major charter airlines have asked the Airport Authority for additional landing slots. They are threatening the authorities to take their customers elsewhere if the slots are not provided. The south runway, built in the early 1970s on a reclaimed area, supposed to accommodate the then new jumbo jets, is running at capacity with landings from dawn until midnight. Noise from low flying jets has resulted in complaints from residents in the wealthy suburb of **orchid**.

**Fishing**

Most of **kinary**’s fishing fleet operates offshore in its vast EEZ. Direct revenues from this type of fishery combined with licensing fees based on agreements for overseas fleets are **KINARY’s** second most important source of foreign exchange earnings. This fishery industry employs about 2000 people (in fishing, the modern fish processing factory and the local markets).

Small -scale fisheries operate out of most of the coastal settlements: serving local markets and increasingly the hotels. Local fishermen have complained that they no longer get access to their traditional landing areas in some areas of the west coast. Also, scuba divers and snorkelers regularly disturb their traps and cut their lines and nets.

**Other Industries**

**KINARY’s** Government is the largest single employer employing one in six of the island’s workforce: the majority being in the police force, education and health services. Approximately 600 people work in the sugar industry and associated small scale distilleries. There is a small and specialised workforce providing financial services support linked to the demand of 24 hour banking in the US. The construction sector has thrived as a result of public and private sector investment over the past 20 years.

**Coastal Erosion**

The eastern coast is protected by an extensive fringing reef that bears the brunt of hurricane action. This extensive fringing reef has helped in the protection of hotels from damage. The northern tip of the reef was destroyed when the port in **Rose** was developed. Increased wave action on the shorefront in **Rose** forced the town council to contract engineers to build a sea wall at the back of the town beach. This sea wall has now largely disappeared. They are currently considering building an offshore breakwater to reduce wave and tidal energy. The cost is estimated to be over 3000 USD per meter.

In the south-west, the airport extension has also created local erosion problems and local defences have had to be built to protect the coast road.

**Institutional Framework**

A recent survey commissioned by the Legal Service in the newly formed Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources indicated that there are more than 60 different laws and regulations. These laws are focused on activities in the coastal zone, ranging from 1821 Wreckers Act that prohibited access to beaches after nightfall to a recent ban on sand mining.

Few of these regulations are enforced as there are contradictions and loopholes, i.e. few offenders have been successfully prosecuted. The same survey suggested that few policemen are aware of or believe they have the tools to enforce much of this legislation.

The Ministry has established an interdepartmental working group including the Departments of Forests, Fisheries, Environment and Tourism to look at coastal affairs. However, the Planning Department of powerful Ministry of Finance has refused to participate and has at times issued planning permits against the advice of its sister Ministry. Sceptics point to the fact that the Director of Planning serves on the boards of two major hotel groups.

The Director himself is quite clear about the choices he faces: the hotel development in the North, the port extension and a new airport runway. All of which are going to attract new valued investments and also improve employment opportunities on the island.