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Sustainable resort construction: A tool for economic development? The cases of Rosalie Bay Resort, Dominica and MT. Plaisir Estate, Trinidad.

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Abstract

Tourism has been identified by “developing world” governments and multilateral lending agencies as an important driver for economic development. Current research is focused on improving tourism operations’ (pro-poor) economic linkages with the local community. The aim of this study is to evaluate the extent to which the *construction phase* of sustainable resort development can contribute to these strategies, in rural coastal areas.

This qualitative study is conducted by means of a comprehensive literature review and multi-case study evaluation. The *construction phase* of Rosalie Bay Resort, Dominica, and Mt. Plaisir Estate Hotel, Trinidad, are evaluated according to a ‘value chain’ analysis of economic linkages, leakages, and their accompanying socio-economic impacts. The findings demonstrated that the construction process makes a valuable contribution to tourism-led economic development, through the provision of temporary and sustained employment opportunities; alternative livelihoods; increased earning capacity; diversified income sources; improved employability; and heightened self-esteem.