



Inclusive Growth

The Key to India's
Sustainable Development

Dr. Meenakshi Bawa

Foreword by Dr. R.B. Patil

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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Tourism and the Environment Issues of Concern in the Coastal Zone of Goa

SANCHILIANA FARIA E RODRIGUES

I. INTRODUCTION

The India travel and tourism industry is ranked 5th in the long-term (10-year) growth and is expected to be the second largest employer in the world by 2019. The Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency for the development and promotion of tourism in India and maintains the "*Incredible India*" campaign. Moreover, India has been ranked the "best country brand for value-for-money" in the Country Brand Index (CBI) survey conducted by *Future Brand*, a leading global brand consultancy. India also claimed the second place in CBI's "best country brand for history", as well as appears among the top 5 in the best country brand for authenticity and art and culture, and the fourth best new country for business.

Tourism has become a major service industry in the world. Tourism and environment should benefit from each other mutually. Tourism relies on the environment for its existence and success. Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes.

Goa is the smallest state in India in terms of population and has a coastline of 104 kilometres, with a total of 269 kms of

national highways, one major port, one airport, besides rail connectivity and is well connected to other parts of the country.

This paper highlights the nature of tourism, growth of tourism, future plans to boost tourism and the issues and the implications of tourism on the coastal marine and the socio-economic environment of Goa. It also throws light on the environmental issues of tourism development in the context of tourism in Goa. The tourism sector in Goa has raised issues of concern related to the environment and threat to the endangered plants, and other species.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study about the nature and growth of tourism in Goa,
2. To examine the issues and the implications of tourism on the coastal marine and the socio-economic environment of Goa,
3. To suggest measures to be adopted by the policy makers towards environmental protection and conservation in Goa.

The study is based on the secondary data collected from the Economic survey, Government of India and Goa, journals and websites. The present study overviews the environmental issues of tourism development in the context of tourism in Goa. Various facts and figures and contemporary publications have been reviewed for this purpose.

2. TOURISM IN GOA AND ITS GROWTH STATUS

Tourism is one of the largest service sectors in Goa, which attracts domestic and international tourists from different countries of the world to view the beautiful beaches, and natural spectacle of Goa. Most of the tourism in Goa is concentrated in the coastal stretches of Bardez, Salcete, Tiswadi and Mormugao taluka. Goa ranks among the top 12 tourist destination states in India. Goa was chosen as the best Indian destination for relaxation at lonely planet awards in June 2014 (GOG, 2014). Goa, with its magnificent scenic beauty superb beaches, rich cultural heritage and architectural splendours of its temples, forts, churches, cultural festivals, music festivals, cuisine and old Portuguese houses, has made it a favourite spot for tourists from

all over the globe. Goa is said to be India's richest state with a per capita income of two and half times that of India and was ranked as the best place by the Eleventh finance commission for its infrastructure and ranked on top for the best quality of life by the National Commission on population based on 12 indicators (GOG, 2013).

Revenue Earned by Government of Goa from the Tourism Industry

Goa is visited by two types of tourists, namely, domestic and international tourists. According to Kamat (2014) foreign exchange earnings from foreign tourist arrivals in Goa could hover between Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 15,000 crores annually. According to a Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) Report, Goa's thriving tourism industry attracted 2.63 million domestic and 492,000 international visitors in 2013 and the new airport at Mopa, will potentially boost growth further as well as facilitate increased outbound travel numbers. Goa earned a revenue of Rs. 119.29 lakh by issuing permissions for erection of huts, tents, temporary shacks in private properties for the tourist season 2014-15. Revenue towards Government shacks of Rs. 111.95 lakh and towards deckbeds Rs. 7.34 lakh has been earned till 13.01.2015 for the year 2014-15. During the year 2014-15, the revenue earned by the Government towards other leases is Rs. 3.82 lakh. Besides Rs. 1.75 lakh was earned from Private shacks/Huts, and Rs. 12.92 lakh from water sports. The Government of Goa has earned revenue of Rs. 53.63 lakh towards hotel registrations, renewals and penalties in 2014-15 (GOG, 2014).

Number of Domestic and Foreign Tourists Visiting Goa

CAPA reported that, during the financial year 2013-14, Goa Dabolim handled four million passengers, making it the ninth largest airport in India with domestic passenger movements accounting for 82% of total traffic. Over the last decade Goa's domestic traffic grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.5%, while international passenger movements increased at 10.2%. According to the Goa Department of Tourism statistics foreign visitors arrival in Goa has increased by just 4.6% for the last 10 years compared with all India statistics of 9.6% at the all-India level (GOG, 2014). The State received 40.58 lakh tourists in 2014 (January to December) compared to 31.21 lakh tourists in the

previous year, thereby reflecting a growth of over 30 percent. The number of tourists (both domestic and foreign) who visited the state in the last four years is given in Table 1.

TABLE I
Year-wise Tourist Arrival in Goa

Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
2011	2225002	445935	2670937
2012	2337499 (5.06)	450530 (1.03)	2788029 (4.38)
2013	2629151 (12.48)	492322 (9.28)	3121473 (11.96)
2014	3544634(P) (34.62)	513592(P) (4.32)	4058226(P) (30.01)

Source : Economic Survey, 2014-15, Government of Goa.

The above table shows that the percentage of domestic tourists increased as compared to the previous year. It was 5.06 percent in 2012, went upto 12.48 percent in 2013 and further to 34.62 percent in 2014. Similarly, the percentage increase in the number of foreign tourists which was 1.03 percent in 2012 went up to 9.28 percent in 2013. However, in 2014, the percentage increase in foreign tourists dropped to 4.32 percent which was due to a decrease in the number of tourists coming from the continents of North America, Africa and some parts of Europe. Table 2 indicates the Nationality-wise foreign tourists arrivals during the year 2014.

Table 2 indicates the country-wise number of foreign tourists who visited Goa during the year 2014. As per Table 2, Russian tourists are top in the chart of tourist arrivals followed by Britishers and third are German tourists whose number has been declining. Foreign tourists who arrived in Goa were 5,41,000 in the year 2015 as against 513,592 in 2014. In the first three months of the current tourist season (i.e. October 2014 to December 2015), Since the Russian economy is in crisis and there is expected shortfall of Russian tourists for the 2015-16 tourist season, Goa's tourism ministry should look to re-invest in tourism promotion in case of British tourists (Lobo, 2015). Table 3 gives month-wise domestic and foreign tourist arrivals during the year 2014.

TABLE 2
Nationality-wise Tourists Arrivals in Goa during the Year 2014

Sl. No.	Countries	Number of tourists arrived	Sl. No.	Countries	Number of tourists arrived
01.	U.K.	129901	15.	Denmark	1577
02.	Russia	189486	16.	Austria	1642
03.	Germany	33942	17.	Holland	2050
04.	Finland	2519	18.	Portugal	6339
05.	France	18292	19.	Ireland	1292
06.	Switzerland	12001	20.	Belgium	222
07.	Sweden	17729	21.	Norway	142
08.	U.S.A.	6291	22.	Iran	802
09.	Australia	8214	23.	U.A.E.	1891
10.	South Africa	2241	24.	New Zealand	192
11.	Brazil	2342	25.	Greek	42
12.	Italy	4294	26.	Lithuania	92
13.	Canada	7901	27.	Czech	840
14.	Japan	802	28.	Others	60514
Total				5,13,592	

Source : Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, 2015.

TABLE 3
Month-wise Number of Tourist Arrivals in Goa during the Year 2014

Month	Domestic	Foreign
January	241450	73359
February	156081	67573
March	171398	55917
April	209017	29901
May	211281	12456
June	196969	12583
July	96780	4462
August	130458	7177
September	160408	19353
October	648704	43956
November	639508	76085
December	682580	110770
Total	35,44,634	5,13,592
Grand Total	(3544634+5135592)	40,58,226

Source : Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, 2014-15.

Table 3 indicates the number of tourist arrivals by chartered flights during the tourist season (October to May) 2014. The number of chartered flights has increased from 910 in 2011-12 to 1128 in 2013-14. 488 chartered flights with a total of 95,672 tourists have landed in the State. In 2013-14, Goa airport handled 1141 charter flight movements and that number declined to 889 during last season till May 2015. The percentage of domestic tourist who arrived in Goa was 87.34% and the foreign tourists were 12.66% in 2014.

3. IMPACT OF TOURISM ON GOA

According to Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Goa's unbridled tourism is having an adverse impact on the states environment and society. The Goa Institute of Management conducted a study and the findings of the study are as follows:

1. Goa's economy is confronted by solid waste management problem and the state has not been made to ensure proper solid waste management mechanism. For e.g. The garbage issue at Sonsodo, Curtorim is still not yet solved by the present government and at Mormugao the garbage treatment plant is handling garbage more than its capacity and there are lack of adequate garbage segregation plants in Goa.
2. There is large scale growth of tourism leading to increasing pressure on both society and the environment. Preserving the natural heritage and reducing environmental degradation has become crucial issues for concern.
3. The public transport available in Goa is the Kadamba Transport Corporation which is not sufficient, as a result of which private transport is highly expensive in Goa. Due to this the taxi operators also charge exorbitant fare. Absence of efficient public transport has increased the growth of motorbikes and cars substantially. This too has aggravated environmental pollution.
4. The tourism sector is blamed for breeding ground of touts and commission agents which hike up hotel tariff and transport cost. There is an absence of proper regulatory mechanism to check the price rise.

4. ISSUES OF CONCERN ABOUT TOURISM IN GOA

During past three years Goa has witnessed several tourism infrastructure projects undertaken to provide better facilities for the tourist visiting Goa. Although tourism is concentrated along the coastal zone in Goa, it had a number of positive impacts in terms of increased incomes, improved standard of living, increased employment, improvement in roads, increase in retail malls, development in non-industrial areas, added avenues for upward mobility for locals, increased revenue and increased foreign exchange earnings. With the increasing number of tourists there will be pressure on the available natural and resources and serious effect on the environment.

Smriti Chand (2014) observed that unplanned and unrestricted growth of tourism has detrimental effect on the environment. Unmanaged and unplanned tourism is a threat to all natural resources. Maximum use and abuse of resources for tourism will lead to loss of biodiversity thus having an adverse impact on wildlife, vegetation, marine and coastal environment, mountains and water resources. Tourism also is responsible for depletion of the ozone layer. However, there are also some socio-economic and environmental impacts associated with these benefits that need to be highlighted.

Kalidas Sawkar, *et al.*, (1998) studied on the Tourism and Environmental Issues of Concern in the Coastal Zone of Goa. They have highlighted the impact of tourism development in marine life, land of coastal zone and environment. Some problems they found were the loss of mangrove, reducing fish catch and species, erosion, sanitation, and depletion of water resources, etc. These impacts have arisen as a result of the trajectory that tourism has followed in Goa and can be summed up as follows:

The following are some of the issues of concern about tourism on the economy of Goa:

1. *Environmental Impact on Tourism:* The impact of tourism on the environment is complex. It involves many activities which have adverse effects on the environment such as provision of additional infrastructure such as construction of roads, road widening, new airport, tourism facilities, resorts, marinas, golf courses, etc. In Goa, the Government has already started

construction of the new Mandovi bridge, Mopa airport, as well as the new Zuari bridge due to huge traffic congestion. The construction of Mopa airport, marinas at Sancoale, golf courses in Tirakol, in Goawas protested by the general public as it had adverse impact on the environment. Some of the impacts on environment are discussed below:

a. Impact to the Marine Part of the Coastal Zone

The National Institute of Oceanography, at Donapaula, Goa conducted a survey on the eco sensitive coastal areas of Goa. The following impacts on the marine part of the coastal zone were observed in the survey:

- (i) *Erosion*: The coastal stretches in Goa are subjected to forces of erosion due to siltation, excessive extraction of sand and construction of jetties. Beaches of Colva, Miramar, Agonda, Paloleim, and Calangute, etc., are subjected to erosion
- (ii) *Reduced fish catch and species*: A steady decrease in the total annual fish catch has been observed in Goa in the year 2015. More specifically in Goa, there is decrease in production of certain varieties of shellfish and crabs, which is due to the land reclamation of mangrove swamps and more heat in the sea. Some of the factors responsible for reduction of fish catch are as follows:
 - (i) *Unscientific fishing practices*: Some of the traditional fishermen, and trawlers use nets with mesh of size smaller than the permissible limit during the spawning time of fish and also catch beyond sustainable yields. These practices are carried out as there is high demand of seafood in the market.
 - (ii) *Loss of spawning grounds*: The spawning grounds for fish are disturbed due to mangrove deforestation, land reclamations, etc. There is a need to protect the mangroves and land which will benefit and conserve the ecology.

b. Impact to the Land Part of the Coastal Zone

All along the coastline of Goa, for example, between Chapora and Sinquerim in Bardez, Caranzalem and Miramar in

Panaji, Salcete Coast in Central Goa and in Galgibaga, Talpona, Palolemin South Goa, there has been a boom in construction activities, most of which are for tourism or for associated purposes. To make space for and to use them as a component of cement for construction, sand is being extracted in substantial amounts. During the year 2013-14, there was a ban on sand extraction, but still there is illegal sand extraction taking place exceeding the permissible limits in Goa. There is need to quantify and monitor such sand losses and their ecological impacts.

The following impacts have been observed on the coastal stretches of Goa due to development activities:

- (i) *Loss of Sand Dunes*: Sand dunes have borne the brunt of construction activities along the coastal stretches of Goa. Anjuna and Baga-Calangute-Candolim stretches in North Goa, and Salcete beaches comprising of Betalbatim, Colva, Varca, Cavelossim and Mobor in central Goa, were the first beaches to lose their dunes.
- (ii) *Tidal Ingress*: The ceaseless mining of sand and sand-dunes have effectively razed gentle slopes of sand which stop the tides from rushing further on the shore. The consequent tidal ingress has reduced the area of beach at different places, such as Miramar in Panaji, Baga-Calangute-Candolim-Sinquerim stretch and Anjuna in Bardez, Colva in Salcete and Mormugao on the north and central coasts of Goa.

2. *Failure to Strike Balance between Food Prices for Locals and Tourists*: Fish, curry and rice is the staple food of Goa, however, locals have to pay high price for daily consumption like fish and other daily necessities. Food, beverage and accommodation comprises the largest component of expenditure for both domestic and international tourist. Food, beverage and accommodation is expensive in Goa. Increasing the amount of local food used in the tourism industry is a way of increasing backward linkages from tourism involving the local community, therefore, moving towards more diversified and sustainable development. The policy makers have not yet focused on strengthening the economic linkages between the tourism and food industry. Till today there is no balance striked between ensuring food supply for the locals and the tourist.

3. *Regional Imbalances:* Goa's tourism development is concentrated in the four coastal stretches of Goa namely, Salcete, Bardez, Tiswadi, and Mormugao. These talukas have infrastructural facilities. These areas are, similarly, the most developed regions of Goa, accounting for approximately 66 percent of Goa's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Goa also has many interesting locations but there is an imbalance between the coastal and the hinterland regions in infrastructural development.

4. *Social Aspects:* Some of the social concerns are as follows:

- a. *Migration and Traditional Occupations:* In the tourist belts of Calangute-Candolim, Bardez, Colva in Salcete, a shift in the composition of the resident population has occurred to include a large number of migrants from the country of Nepal, and states of Manipur, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Kashmir, etc. due to potential employment in the tourism industry. Most of these people are engaged in selling artisanal pieces, handicrafts, garments, food products and other items at commercial prices.
- b. *Traditional Occupations:* In Goa, due to tourism there is a hike in land prices. The locals sell their land to the landsharks thereby increasing the competition and prices of land. The locals who were predominantly engaged in agriculture and fishing activity have given up their primary occupation and started shacks and hotels near the beach side to earn a living. Land has been converted from agricultural to non-agricultural use. Traditional fishing operations have been constrained by lack of shore space and dumping of garbage by resorts.

5. *Impact on the Goans Sense of Community:* Much of this activism has been targeted at international tourists, unplanned growth, use of state machinery to promote tourism, which is perceived as distorting the image of Goa and Goan society. Tourism in Goa has led to inflation in the form of rising prices and high cost of living. Locals have to pay high price as the prices of land has inflated. Most of the land has been already sold to non-locals who are willing to pay high prices. Locals have

become foreigners in their own land. Most of the locals in Goa have migrated to U.K, USA, Gulf and other countries in search of employment due to unavailability of jobs in Goa. Consequently, the growth of tourism in Goa has been accompanied by strong anti-tourism activism. In most of the beaches and other parts of Goa there is illegal sale of drugs, narcotics, gambling and cases of rape, illegal prostitution on the rise. Most of the resorts/beach shacks have violated the CRZ norms causing overdevelopment of the coastal strip. The bottom-line is that there has been little involvement of the public and the environmentalists in the policy decision-making process that are affecting the lives of the local community.

6. *Impact of Recreational Activities:* Recreational facilities also affect the coastal environment. The tourism industry overuses water resources for hotels and restaurants, swimming pools, golf courses. Increasing tourists in Goa has increased the demand for more supply of water in resorts causing shortages of regular water supply for the locals of Goa.

- a. *Swimming pools:* The water for this is invariably drawn from subsurface aquifers. The withdrawal of large amounts of ground water in a limited area is detrimental to the water table of the region, particularly since it is a source of drinking water.
- b. *Water sports:* These water sports use motor boats in shallow coastal waters continuously disturbing the habitats of endangered species and other marine life. They also degrade water quality by the discharge of oil and grease.
- c. *Beach accommodations:* Some domestic tourists in Goa travel with their own transport from other states and stay near the beach side thus littering the shore by engaging in way side cooking activities, and littering the beach with waste and liquor bottles.
- d. *Sanitation:* Goa lacks modern treatment and disposal systems for both sewage and garbage. The sonsodo garbage issue at Curtorim is still not yet resolved.
- e. *Beach Litter:* Plastics are among the very serious problems in a number of Goan beaches, and an action plan is urgently needed to mitigate the problem.

Government has placed signboards of 'No Garbage Zone' at different places, with legal action and fine imposed for violation, but still these rules are violated by the public, hotels and resorts. Some parts of Goa like Margao, Panaji, Vasco, etc., the municipality corporations have started door to door garbage collection campaign but the problem of garbage still remains unsolved. Despite garbage recycling plants there is heaps of filth and garbage found littered on the beaches, roads and public places which is a concern for tourism industry stakeholders. Both the last mentioned problems could be solved through improved enforcement of regulations and infrastructural improvements. However, recently Goa has passed the Goa Waste Management Bill 2016 in order to address the problem of Garbage issue in Goa.

7. *Impact of Expanded Transport:* Even though tourists in Goa are almost exclusively accommodated in coastal areas, they arrive and depart Goa by some kind of transportation operating in other areas of the state. While the air and sea travel would cause negligible damage to the environment in broad terms, motor vehicles cause air pollution by their uncontrolled exhaust fumes.

5. MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BOOST TOURISM IN GOA

The tourism industry in the state is all geared up to build world-class tourist infrastructure and also begin operations in the new airport terminal this year, all of which they hope will only further fuel this growth. In an effort to achieve fullest potential of tourism sector in the State, consultants have been appointed to prepare Tourism Master Plan and Tourism Policy for the State. The Department participates in National and International events for promoting tourism in Goa.

The following measures are suggested by the Government of Goa, to increase the overall growth of tourism industry in Goa.

1. The Government of Goa has listed 34 infrastructural projects to be completed over the span of next two to

three years in Goa to boost the tourism industry. Till July 2016, 5 projects of new hotels have been approved and sanctioned by the Investment Promotion Board, Goa.

2. A stringent beach cleaning programme was undertaken by the Tourism Department so that the shores of Goa will soon be listed as one of the cleanest beaches in South- East Asia.
3. Tourism infrastructure projects are in various stages of planning and implementation spread across the State to create facilities like sanitation, changing rooms, toilets, pathways, sitting arrangement, parking facilities, etc. The work of up gradation/renovation of the existing toilet block at Calangute beach has been completed and the GTDC (SPV) has leased it out for operation. Upgradation/renovation of the street lighting from Saligao Church to Calangute Church has been completed. Plans for beautification of Baina beach have been finalized and are completed. The capital city has been facing acute vehicle parking problems. In order to overcome this difficulty, an ambitious project of construction of multilevel car parking at Patto, Panaji has been initiated to accommodate about 450 cars. The project is nearing completion will help to ease traffic congestion in Panaji city. Pay parking is already implemented in the capital to ensure smooth flow of traffic.
4. In an endeavour to create employment/business opportunities to the locals the government has issued 343 permissions for erection of temporary shacks in Government property and 02 permissions for erection of temporary shacks in private property. The locals are also encouraged to invest in the tourism sector, under which interested people are issued NOC for erection of tents/huts in their private properties. During 2014, the Department has issued permissions for erection of 89 tents/huts in private properties in order to enhance accommodation facilities to the budget tourists.
5. The promotion of safety and cleanliness in the state, attractive offers during monsoon and spreading the

- word about Goa as a destination with multiple holiday options has also worked in the state's favour.
6. The Department of Tourism, Goa, has planned several campaigns and programmes to ensure safety of tourists, and a clean state. Apart from these, the Department of Tourism has aimed to celebrate various festivals and events in a manner that reflects the true spirit of Goa.
 7. The Department of Tourism is exploring the possibility of tie-ups with private hotel chains to take GTDC properties to world class standards".
 8. A policy for regulating water sports in the State has been finalized. To provide hassle free service to the tourists a mobile based services for Goa Tourism aims at providing user friendly tourist guidance services through mobile devices to the final user.

6. MEASURES SUGGESTED FOR PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION IN GOA

There is a need to create awareness as regards the principles of sustainability and the norms related to the conservation of the environment and ecology.

In order to have sustainable tourism in Goa, the following measures are suggested:

1. A systematic study of the environmental impacts of tourism. Goa coastal Zone Management Authority has decided to demolish or stop operations of the illegal or unauthorized structures like shacks, huts, cottages operating without Coastal Regulation Zone clearance and cancel licences issued to such structures by the Tourism Department (Kamat, 2016).
2. Policies which recognize the type of interconnections among tourism, local communities and the environment, to ensure that tourism contributes to a sustainable development agenda (Rizal, and Ashokan, 2014).
3. A monitoring and management system to ensure the effectiveness of coastal and environmental regulations. Need to conduct an environmental impact assessment

and studies of Goa coastal stretches including estuaries and backwaters.

4. Awareness of responsible tourism which aims to minimize adverse environmental and socio-cultural impacts, and generate greater economic benefits for the locals (ICRT, 2003, and Weeden, 2005).
5. Promote family oriented tourism to reduce the mass evils of tourism, ie. prostitution, rape, pedophilia, drug abuse, etc.
6. The government should deal firmly with foreigners doing illegal business in Goa.
7. The Department of Tourism should have tourist-friendly, internationally competitive, efficient delivery and availability of tourist requirements. The law and order needs to be stringent. There is need of proper regulatory system to check price hike and need to have stringent laws and quick legal action to be taken on all who violate the laws such as local taxi drivers who overcharge tourists, hotels who charge high tariffs, resorts which pollute the environment by dumping the garbage in the sea, tourists involved in illegal business, tourists who litter the beaches with alcohol bottles and surroundings, illegal stay in Goa by foreign tourists, etc.

7. CONCLUSION

There is a need to increase the percentage of foreign tourists in Goa by promoting the tourism industry as it helps to bring foreign exchange to Goa which is a contributor for Goa's GDP and overall economic development. There is an urgent need to set-up various sub-committees such as shack and beach monitoring, airport committee, hinterland tourism, airport and civil aviation, home stay committee, heritage and guest house, ecotourism, etc. to boost tourism in Goa and conserve and protect the environment, (Messias, S., 2016).

We have a great barrier to overcome and we have to be vigilant to track down negative impacts of tourism. Environmentalists, NGOs, social activists and the general public need to defend themselves whenever atrocities arise so that in the near future we might not find ourselves in a foreign land called 'GOA'.

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