

Residential tourists in Guanacaste, Costa Rica

—
who are they, and what is their local
involvement?



Residential tourists in Guanacaste



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Executive Summary

Global processes like globalization and the possibility to travel around the world are offering affluent people the possibility to travel around the world easily and to return to the places they like. In this thesis I discuss who the tourists, residential tourists and foreign residents that go to Guanacaste in Costa Rica are, how they regard the local place and environment and how involved they are in that local place and environment.

Guanacaste, the research area, is a rural province at the West coast of Costa Rica. Not only the diverse landscape and tropical climate make the country attractive for tourists, also the political stability and the wealth of the Costa Rican population are attractive. Since 2001, the development of (residential) tourism projects increased dramatically in Guanacaste but since 2007 it slowed down because of the economic crisis.

Scholars use different terms to describe the temporal migrants who move for lifestyle reasons: amenity migration, lifestyle migration and residential tourism. Various authors warn that the development of (residential) tourism in a developing country only increases social and economic inequality. Others argue that tourism can be or become a development-stimulating sector if conditions like a strong, democratic government, involved and pro-active local population and involvement between the tourists and the local population are met. Tourism and residential tourism can have a positive and stimulating effect in the tourist-receiving area, if the tourism sector has enough linkages with other economic sectors. The local environment should be carefully watched when tourism development emerges. Nature is in a tourism destination one of the most valuable assets and the area cannot afford to lose that pull factor. Tourists are not only interested in nature, but also in typical food, clothing, dancing and other entertainment. Although residential tourists are often no legal citizens in the tourist-receiving area, they might still be powerful because they are usually affluent people who are used to stand up for their rights and opinion.

I divided the respondents in three groups: tourists, foreign residents and residential tourists. The majority of all respondents is from North America and is highly educated. The residential tourists are usually retired. The foreign residents are via their jobs or own businesses more involved in Costa Rica than the residential tourists or the normal tourists. There is a clear difference in spending patterns between normal tourists and residential tourists. Residential tourists and especially foreign residents spend more on supermarket shopping and flight tickets. These things do barely contribute to the local economy; most of it leaks away to, for instance, North American airlines or super market owners. Residential tourists spend a bit more on luxury and touristic things which comes back in the local economy like housing, trips and tours and eating or drinking out.

The climate or weather of Costa Rica is indeed listed as the number one reason to go there. Second are the beach and nature. Also the residential tourists were highly attracted by the climate, but they were more than the other groups attracted by the property prices and services. In general, the climate, nature and relaxed lifestyle of Guanacaste are the pull factors for all groups of respondents. For the residential tourists and the foreign residents, the home country politics, tax systems and other regulations are mentioned as motives to move, so the push factors.

The Costa Rican nature is far more important for the residential tourists and foreign residents than economic development or social wellbeing. They argue that the nature is what makes Costa Rica so unique, services like hospitals, gyms and internet access can be found somewhere else in the world. After nature, social wellbeing and economic growth were equally chosen by the respondents as important for Guanacaste's future. They argue that social wellbeing is necessary to work and enjoy nature or that via economic development social wellbeing and the nature are developed. Unemployment and stagnation are seen as only temporal and not so negative as environmental degradation. Possibly the respondents see it that way because most of them do not necessarily need a flourishing economy immediately because they are the ones who were strong enough to financially survive the crisis. The respondents showed a strong preference for what they see as original Costa Rican culture and habits. The majority of them prefer to live in a small quiet place and prefer a quiet beach. Only some like both, although several respondents mention they like to live in a small rural environment but in

the proximity of a big city with all kinds of services. There has to be a balance for the interviewees between tranquility and services: tranquil should not mean isolated and having access to services should not mean that those services are only delivered by international companies in big cities.

The residential tourists indicated that they would prefer Guancaste to develop in a way that is well controlled, responsible and balanced, with everything thought out on beforehand and environmental and aesthetic concerns taken into account, like is usually the case in their home countries. The idea that the well-thought-out plans make it possible to control the speed and direction of the local economic growth is attractive to them. So, the residential tourists and foreign residents can handle an economic crisis, but when Costa Rica becomes crowded, polluted and with all services they were used to in their home countries, the reasons for their move to Costa Rica are gone.

The majority of the residential tourists and foreign residents talks in a very positive way about the economic crisis. People have to live with less money, but they say to be happier this way. The crisis is seen as an opportunity: a good reason to take a step back, reflect and slow down the development of enormous projects.

The residential tourists and foreign residents are socially involved in both Costa Rica and their home country. The type of involvement differs per country. In Costa Rica, the respondents were mainly involved via the local media and in local organizations, but not so much in social life with Costa Ricans. Because there are so many other people from English-speaking countries, it is easier to get contact with them than with only Spanish-speaking people. Besides that, almost all respondents use internet to stay in contact with family and friends in their home countries so the respondents do not even need to contact Costa Ricans or Nicaraguans for their social life. Striking is that residential tourists and foreign residents are involved in local organizations, so that they want to do something for the community. In their home country, the respondents were still socially involved, mainly via internet, but not so much in social organizations. It is not possible to be an active member of, for instance, a political organization when you can never attend meetings. The residential tourists and foreign residents mainly miss non-transportable things from their home country, experiences that cannot be shipped to Costa Rica. To experience these things like the four seasons and snow at Christmas etcetera, the respondents are able to flight back in general once a year.

There is a certain feeling of despair or discrimination among the residential tourists. They have the feeling that although they want to do the right thing and that they are engaged in protecting the environment, the Costa Ricans do not take them serious, left out that they would be able to make a change. Most residential tourists and foreign residents see themselves as powerless because they have the feeling that local population and the government do not even want to listen to their ideas and plans. But on several cases the residential tourist and foreign residents have been partly successful in changing plans. When is taken into account that a considerable part of these people is only on tourist visa in the country, they have a remarkable influence.

Introduction

Ok, if you all gringos wanna save Tamarindo, the best you could do is leave the country and never come back cause you all bring pollution to my country, you come and believe that this country is yours when is not, we "ticos" let you in cause we are friendly people, you bring your big projects and we don't complain. But you do complain about the ticos, ticos this ticos that ticos are this and that but you forget whose land is this. I agree with you when you build hotels and restaurants cause that'll keep our families fed and employed, as I said before and I will say it again, this country belongs to us not to gringos, and when I talk about us I talk about ticos. We are the one who have to take control of this kind of situations not foreigners who come and just because they lived for a year or two believe they are costa ricans, that's not how it is, I ask myself the same question over and over, how come gringos can come to costa rica and ticos can't go to the states, why do we need a visa and they don't, they just come like if this was their house. What the fuck. not just gringos, canadians, europeans, you've come to mess with our culture, habitat, everything we have, you've been slowly pushing us away from Tamarindo. Why are you getting donations for? Don't you all have enough money, you come from developed countries right? Its time for you to mind your own business, go back to your respective countries and make your own life away from costa rica. Pura Vida also means good bye. So Pura vida to all of you.

- Costa Rican Cadillac Duck on the foreign-based website of Save Tamarindo, 2009 -

Since 2005, land acquisitions are happening on a large scale in developing countries. *Land grab* or the more neutral terms *land acquisition* or *the foreignisation of space* became in 2011 a prominent issue on the development agenda. Because of the recent food crisis and biofuel targets in investor countries, most of these land acquisitions are for agricultural purposes or biofuel production (World Bank, 2010; Cotula et al, 2009). Scholars are warning that, although there might be some positive effects for developing countries' governments, this could be a very dangerous trend for 'the poorest of the poor' in developing countries. Cotula et al (2009) focus on land acquisitions in Sub-Saharan Africa but emphasize that these developments also take place in Latin America and Central and Southeast Asia. However, they are only taking into account the real large-scale land acquisitions of a thousand hectares and more. In this way, a clear and stated overview and analysis of the current foreignisation of space can be given. However, what happens on a smaller scale remains out of sight. Residential tourism is becoming an increasingly important player in the foreignisation of space processes. The residential tourists themselves or (residential) tourist project developers buy land plots, usually near the coast, and build their houses or apartments on it. Although it is impossible by law to own a beach in Costa Rica, these projects can stretch out far and make it practically impossible to go to the beach for people without access to the (residential) tourism project.

In his book *Residential Tourism. (De)Constructing Paradise* Mason McWatters asks the reader who can possibly resist the idea of being 'like a king in his own paradise'? Until 2007, residential tourism was heavily expanding through Latin America. From February to May 2011 I have been in the province of Guanacaste, at Costa Rica's Pacific coast, to do my Master thesis research on this topic. While I was conducting surveys and interviews, I was thinking about how strange the phenomenon I was researching actually is: when a whole group of – usually not in a financially bad position – foreigners arrives in a poorer country and the process of integration or the mixing of cultures starts. Cadillac Duck represents with this fierce and passionate argument above the part of Costa Rican population that is not pleased at all with the fast development of residential tourism in his home country. During my research, I stayed at the house of a local family. The mother of the family was 50 years old and she had seen the environment changing. There used to be a river with clean water where people could wash themselves, and she showed me where it had flowed – now completely dry. She did not want to go to the beach anymore because it changed so much that she did not recognize it as the beach where she has had her youth and romances. When I was doing my research, I sometimes felt like I was in between two innocently fighting children: who has to adapt

to whom, and whose fault is it that the local environment is changing? Who started those processes? The main focus in relevant academic literature was on the local population: how did they suffer or profit because of residential tourism? I could hardly find any literature focusing on the residential tourists themselves: who they are, what they think, what they like or dislike, how powerful they are and how powerful they think they are etcetera. In this research I have tried to picture the residential tourists.

The main research question is *Who are the residential tourists and foreign residents involved in residential tourism development in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, how do residential tourists and foreign residents regard the development of residential tourism and the changes it brings in Guanacaste, how do they try to influence the tourism-related changes and how involved are they in both Guanacaste and their home country?*

The first chapter of this report gives an overview of existing relevant theories in the subject of residential tourism, and shows how and why is chosen for doing a research that focuses on residential tourists themselves. The theories of migration and residential tourism will be discussed, and I give an overview of the relevant theories about the socio-economic, environmental, cultural and economic effects of residential tourism on the local place. After that, chapter two is first about Costa Rica as a whole – the geography, socio-economics and the relevant policies. After that I zoom in to residential tourism in Guanacaste, the research area. In the third chapter I explain which research questions, methods and techniques I have used and I present the conceptual model, the basic assumptions and the definition of various key concepts. The fourth chapter is about the demographic and economic characteristics of the respondents and their spending behaviour and staying circumstances. In chapter five I focus on the respondents' view on the local place and environment. First I show how and why they became attracted to Guanacaste and after that I show how the respondents perceive the local environment, economy, social relations, culture and the balance between them. The sixth chapter goes deeper in to the respondents' opinions about changes in the local place and environment, and the influence the residential tourists have in the region. Chapter seven is about transnationalism and the way the residential tourists and foreign residents are involved in Both their home country and Guanacaste. In chapter eight I present the conclusions of my research. Chapter nine and ten are respectively the list of relevant literature and the appendices.

1. Theoretical framework

This chapter discusses the relevant theories about residential tourism and its effects on social relations, economy, environment and culture.

1.1 Migration and residential tourism

What is residential tourism exactly? There are different terms for similar migratory movements. All these terms refer to a comparable phenomenon, focussing on a different part of it. The differences are found in the motivation, circumstances and length of the move. *Retirement migration* is an example: retirees leave their home countries to live in a place with a nice climate. This type of migration means for the retirement migrants to have the chance to start a new social life elsewhere. The climate and social and health facilities in the destination area are very important, and the move is fulltime (Rodríguez et al, 2004).

Benson and O'Reilley (2009) prefer to use the concept of *lifestyle migration*. It is only different from the more 'traditional' labour migration flows in motivations and conditions. Globalisation, increased travel possibilities and increased wealth in Western areas are circumstances that create the change for people from developed countries to migrate to exotic and relatively cheap countries. Lifestyle migration is similar to other forms of migration in its objective of having a better life. However, lifestyle migration means the migration of people from the developed world who migrate to regions with an image that fits better to their own ideas about themselves. The main difference with retirement migration is that lifestyle migrants are increasingly not-retired.

Pera (2008a) discusses the terms *exurban migration*, *second home migration*, *lifestyle migration* and finally she chooses to use *amenity migration*. Since globalization and wealth increased there are new groups of affluent people, looking for a lifestyle change. They are attracted by the image of living in a country with a slow pace of life, pristine nature, recreational activities and lower living costs. Pera (2008a) mentions that the amenity migrants or residential tourists mainly move because something that is called *quality of life*. Both environmental and cultural reasons to move are captured in that quality of life. Janoschka (2009) shares Pera's ideas about amenity migration. He mentions five reasons for the current 'lifestyle mobility' to Latin American countries. The political stability, a lower cost of living for the Northern migrants, the access and price of public and private health care, the quality of life and the adventure of living abroad (pp. 4). Also in this thesis the terms lifestyle migration or amenity migration could have been used. It is chosen to use the term residential tourism because the main characteristic of this group of migrants is that they *reside* in the receiving country for a longer time than a tourist but not year-round: they are still tourists and if they stay for less than 90 days, they can stay on tourist visa. What the reasons of the residential tourists may be will be discovered in chapters four, five, six and seven. In this thesis, a residential tourist is a person from outside Costa Rica who stays more than a month a year in Guanacaste, with the main purpose of vacation or relaxation. That they are called residential tourists is to make clear that there is a strong connection with normal tourism: residential tourists can stay in tourism accommodations and do tourist-like activities during their stay.

1.2 Effects of tourism

The arrival of groups of foreigners changes social relations in the destination area. First of all, tensions between (residential) tourists and local inhabitants – maybe working in the gardens of the projects or hotels the tourists are staying can emerge, as Canada (2010) describes. Swords and Mize (2008) give the example of locals in Puerto Rico climbing the hotel fences and swimming in the hotel's swimming pools on Sunday mornings – when the tourists are still asleep – as a substitute for access to the beach, which they lost. Local population seems to get the worst position of all: triangulated between real estate speculators, tourist accommodation developers, local government and tourists they seem to be almost powerless. *With continuing labour exploitation, no*

compensation for the social reproduction of labour, racialized and gendered concepts of service, land segregation and 'economic apartheid', tourist development exacerbates inequalities between tourists and service providers (Swords and Mize, 2008). Torres & Momsen give the example of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico: "Globalization and capitalist development in the Yucatan have exacerbated existing inequalities and created new uneven geometries of power at multiple scales. These inequities involve not only power and economics but are also evident in the subordination of local cultures, social structures and environments."

There are various ways of 'alternative' tourism, focusing more on stimulating the local economy and environment, but it appears that also this alternative tourism has some problems. Cañada rages against the so-called *pro-poor tourism strategies*, arguing that that way of tourism is only a way for tourists to deal with their conscience (Alba Sud, 2011). He mentions as well the hard working conditions Nicaraguan construction workers are facing when they are working in Costa Rica. They have to deal with low salaries, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions and poor housing conditions, but terms like pro-poor tourism and inclusive business give an image of a well-thought-out development strategy (Cañada, 2010).

Brohman warned in 1996 that the development of the tourism industry is only another outward-oriented development strategy, possibly creating larger foreign dependency and therefore a loss of control over resources. According to him, the success of tourism as a development strategy is not in the number of tourist arrivals, but in the way tourism stimulates the development of local communities. National and local institutions should keep power to control this processes. Brohman strongly argues that a democratically chosen strong government should make sure that the development of the tourism sector is linked with other economic sectors and infrastructure, and that it happens in a sustainable way.

Figure 1.1: Locals protesting against tourist accommodation developments in Cancun, Mexico



Source: Cañada, 2010

1.3 Social relations and political influence in (residential) tourism

It appears that tourism is more a threat than a blessing for the tourist-receiving country, a double-edged sword. But the authors discussed above barely see the tourists themselves as active actors who have a choice. Janoschka (2009) mentions that although there is hardly done any research on them, residential tourists or lifestyle migrants are willing to engage in local processes as long as they have an interest in it. This attitude can appear to local inhabitants as only self-interested but it is a difference compared to the idea that the tourists or residential tourists have no interest at all in their holiday destination. The difference with normal tourists is that residential tourists have an

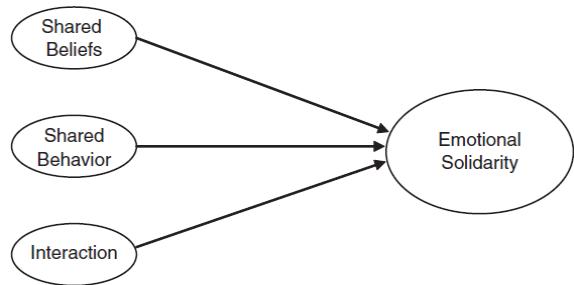
interest in having a good relationship with local people who clean their houses, pools and gardens.

Woosnam et al (2009) researched the emotional solidarity between local inhabitants and tourists in South Carolina. Figure 1.2 shows their hypothesis that shared beliefs, shared behaviour and interaction between tourists and inhabitants lead to emotional solidarity. It turned out that both groups indeed regarded their relationship as more than only purely economic, and that local inhabitants said to have positive feelings for the tourists. Although this was research done in South Carolina, USA, and not representative for developing countries struggling with different economic or power relations, it demonstrates that when tourists and locals have more in common, they are having more positive feelings for each other. Van Fossen and Lafferty (2001) compared the two contrasting ways in which the government of the Hawaiian Islands and the government of Queensland planned their land use. The governments dealt in different ways with community protest against massive tourism developments. In general, the community protests and actions in Queensland were regarded by the government as small hindrances on the road to development. The Hawaiian people instead knew a long tradition in organizing community movements to protect water and land, and their actions are getting attention from the government. Van Fossen and Lafferty show how community involvement and knowledge of citizen rights can make the change for the way the area is being developed.

John Ap (1992) suggests that a 'social exchange paradigm' might be used as the theoretical framework in research about the local resident's perception of tourism impact: it accounts both the positive and the negative impacts. The social exchange theory assumes that when the exchange of resources and power is high and balanced, the local inhabitants regard tourism as a positive development. When the exchange of resources and power is low or unbalanced, the tourism impact is considered to be negative (Ap, 1992). Halarambopoulos (1996) did a case study on the *perceived* impacts of tourism on Samos, a Greek island. He found out that especially the respondents who depended on the tourism industry for their income were more positive about tourism development than the respondents who depended on other industries. Economic factors as employment and tax revenues were regarded as positive effects of tourism, but also the changing view towards the role of youngsters and women in the community was considered to be a positive outcome of tourism. Samos' inhabitants agreed that the negative effects of the tourism industry are found in increasing individual crimes, vandalism, sexual harassment and drug abuse.

There is also a juridical part of this story. According to Pera (2008b), citizenship is *about legal membership in a nation state* (pp. 23), and the rights and obligations of these members. This makes residential tourists interesting: they do not all have this 'legal membership' in the receiving country. In Costa Rica, after the three months one can stay on tourist visa, it is necessary to be out of the country for 72 hours. But what are the rights and obligations of this group of foreign people, officially tourists but in their behaviour far different than tourists? Before, labour migrants who did not speak the language of the migrant-receiving country, used to be socially marginalized (Pera 2008b, pp 9). But this group of affluent residential tourists is used to stand up for their rights, and they are used to be listened to. Also according to Janoschka (2009), residential tourists especially are a group with the power to change local politics and policy. When personal interests are at stake the lifestyle migrants start to protest quickly, because they are used to have an influence and stand up for their opinion. So although residential tourists are often no legal citizens, they can have informal power because their self-awareness, education, ethnicity and financial position.

Figure 1.2: Model of emotional solidarity

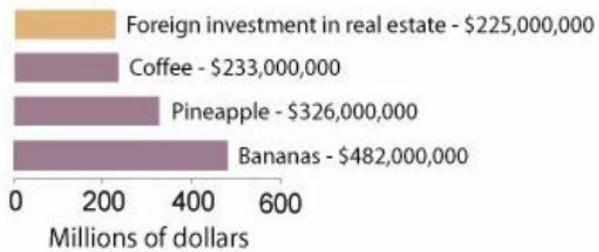


Source: Woosnam et al (2009)

1.4 Effects on the local economy

The amount of money going on in the real estate and tourist accommodation development can be an attractive point in residential tourism. Figure 1.3 shows the foreign real estate investment in Costa Rica in 2005, compared to the top three export products. Cañada takes position against residential tourism development and argues that tourism industry makes use of poverty. According to him it is evident that the tourism industry benefits from the structural conditions of poverty. The expectation of new jobs that come along with tourism developments stops a critical interpretation of the consequences of tourism development. Cañada argues that the tourism industry has managed to build a positive image of the sector and even one of commitment to the conservation of the environment and poverty reduction, as tourism developers engage in social actions as part of their corporate social responsibility (Cañada, 2009). Also Swords and Mize (2008) mentioned the *economic apartheid* created by tourism industry in Mexico and Puerto Rico. Service workers are low-waged and tourists pay a dollar per night for an education fund for children. Swords and Mize describe these kinds of programmes as good public relations and feel-good but low-cost charity. Pera (2008b) indicates that although the attraction of foreigners has been a success for Costa Rica on the macro-economic level, it increased inequalities. Only a few Costa Ricans are able to benefit from tourism because they are capable to respond to the rapid changes and make the best of it. The others are left behind.

Figure 1.3: Costa Rica's earnings in real estate compared to top three export products in 2005.



Source: Pera, 2008b, pp. 3

1.4.1 Linkages versus leakages

The best way to generate economic growth and stability via tourism is, according to the UN, to create strong linkages between the tourism sector and other important economic sectors as agriculture, construction and manufacturing. The idea is that when the tourism sector uses locally manufactured products, food and services, it generates additional income. But there is a substantial part of tourism expenditure that is lost for the local area: the leakages. The UN distinguishes two types of leakages; internal and external. The internal leakages are in general 'import coefficient' leakages, "*the proportion of imported goods needed to provide a service*" (UN, 2007). Internal leakages are higher in regions without adequate equipment to produce sufficient goods, food and services for the tourism sector. External leakages refer to leakages that are 'out of reach' for the local area, such as international exchange rates which make the tourists loose some of their money before they spent it.

The literature emphasizes the importance of linkages between the tourism sector and other economic sectors, therefore creating business opportunities for local small-and medium sized businesses. However, in this thesis not tourists but residential tourists are in the centre. Tourists have a different spending behaviour than residential tourists or foreign residents (see chapter 4).

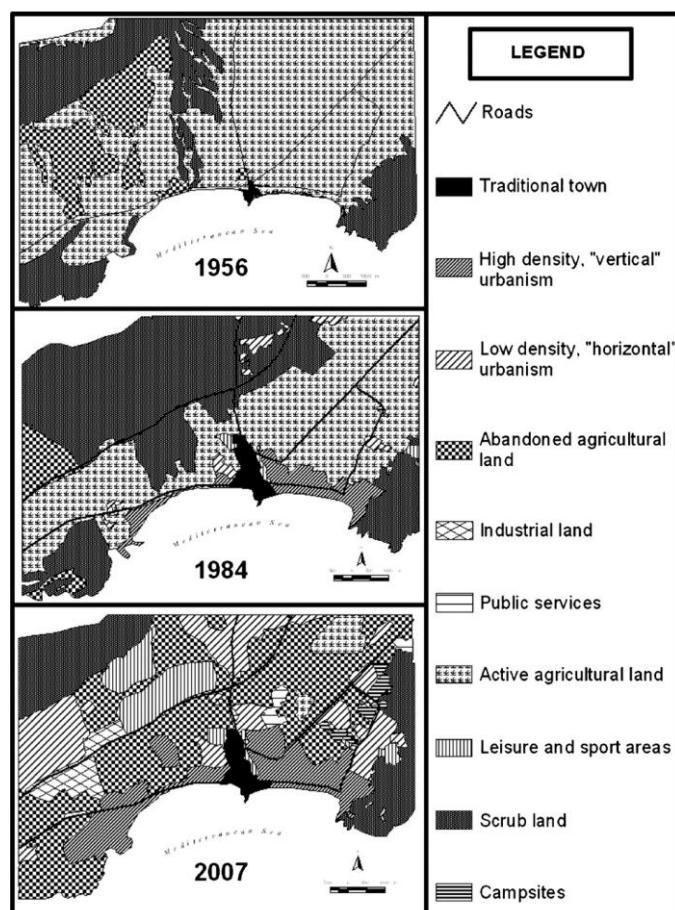
1.5 Effects on the environment

Scholars warn for the expansive and unintended outcomes tourism has on the environment. Especially former remote rural areas which became reachable through globalisation are in danger because local governments do not know how to control the rapid changes (Torres and Momsen, 2005). The example of Spain, since long familiar with residential tourists on its coasts can give an idea of the impact of residential tourism on the environment and landscapes. Figure 1.4 demonstrates how the landscape around Benidorm changed because of (residential) tourism. Rico Amoros et al (2009) mention the pressure on water resources in the region and the tensions that emerged. Van Eeghen (2011) focuses in her thesis on a water conflict in Sardinal, in Guanacaste. One of her main conclusions is not only that residential tourism has severe impacts on the environment of the destination area, but also that these environmental problems are the easiest ways of local population to get attention from international organizations for the changes in their home areas.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is an agency from the United Nations which aim is to promote *responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism*. According to the UNWTO, sustainable tourism is a useful instrument for reaching the Millennium Development Goals. In 2007, the United Nations developed a tool to discover how sustainable the *sustainable tourism* actually was. In order to do so, they described what makes tourism sustainable. At least, the tourist area should make sure that it keeps its tourism assets; the reasons why the tourists go to the area. These assets are divided in two groups: natural and cultural assets. Tourism activity indicates to what extent the area uses its potential.

Gossling (2002) researched the way how tourism changed the view at local environment from both hosts and guests in the tourism industry. He distinguishes three self-enforcing processes that created interest in tourism. First, his research shows that once people discovered other countries they get more interested in seeing other new countries. Secondly, tourists from industrialized countries are more aware of the value of the pristine nature in their destination country. As Gossling puts it: "*The experience of places of natural beauty, often in combination with information provided by guides, will result in a heightened environmental consciousness and an interest in nature—probably one of the major reasons leading to more tourism.*" So, when tourists are from an industrialized country, nature itself is one of the reasons to travel to a less industrialized country. Finally, the relationship tourists have with home society and nature loosens.

Figure 1.4: Land use changes in Benidorm, Spain, 1956-2007



Source: Rico Amoros et al, 2009.

1.6 Effects on culture

1.6.1 McDonaldization versus Glocalization

While globalization is making the world relatively smaller, attractive and exotic holiday destinations become closer. Also Momsen and Torres (2005) and Benson and O'Reilly (2009) mention the way globalisation has facilitated the growth of international tourism. Over the last 10 years, tourism and real estate spendings have more than doubled in many Latin American countries.

The effect of tourism on culture can be seen from two sides. One the one hand, it is very well known that in almost every country in the world one can find the famous yellow M of MacDonalds and some big multinational hotel chains. On the other hand the word 'glocalisation' can be in its place. This concept carries the idea that, in a world that is becoming more and more the same everywhere, local cultural expressions become more important to distinguish from the other (Daniels et. al., 2005, pp 308). Also according to Woosnam et al (2009), tourism can have a stimulating effect on local culture. Tourists are interested in cultural expressions, which can create self-esteem and pride among local inhabitants. However, the question remains how authentic these local cultural expressions remain, when main reason to make them is to earn money or attract tourists with them. Also Mantecón and Huete (2009) researched residential tourism, they focused on the importance of *authenticity*. They define it as "a property, which real objects may or may not possess, which refers to their credibility and originality" (pp 361). Both argue that, though most policy makers ignore the importance of (cultural) authenticity, some policy makers are using it as a way to bring original culture back. One of their conclusions is that local policy makers should protect local original nature and culture (pp 372).

1.6.2 Transnationalism

Mazzucato (2003) mentions that before residential tourism – or migration based on a lifestyle change and amenities – increased, migration studies were mainly about the labour migrants in the seventies and eighties. These labour migrants were regarded to either adapt completely to the receiving culture, or to go back to their country of origin. During the last decades, these migrants had more and more opportunities to stay connected with their home country and their destination country. Transnationalism does no longer regard migration as a discrete movement, but as flows and series of movements of goods, people, ideas and money (pp. 131). The development of transnationalism went along with the development of communication techniques like e-mail, fax and internet. It is not per se a new concept. Mantecón and Huete (2009, pp 360) define residential tourism as a movement *between* tourism and migration, which brings along a transnational way of life. Morales (2008) mentions that labour migrants and retirement migrants are both transnational but in a different way. The main differences are in the economic situation: retirees have the economic resources to make return trips and to buy advanced communication technology to stay connected with their friends and family in their home country. Morales also mentions examples of groups of residential tourists and retirement migrants who do not become active in a US citizens group but neither in a Mexican group. Gossling (2002) argues that the majority of the international arrivals are tourists from the developed world going to developing countries, taking with them their values and culture to the developing world. That means that (residential) tourism does not really cause transnationalism, but more introducing the Western values to developing countries' societies. Thomas Faist (2008) argues to see (labour) migrants as transnational development agents, they have to adapt to both countries and are flexible people with transnational knowledge. But it is striking that labour migrants or South-North migrants are seen as transnational development agents and residential tourists mainly as polluters and the ones bringing in money in the destination area.

Residential tourists seem to be part of some kind of paradoxical situation. As different scholars (McWatters, 2009; Benson and O'Reilley, 2009; Torres and Momsen,

2005) argue, residential tourists or lifestyle migrants are while they are buying their own piece of paradise, destroying it at the same time. They state that future research should examine the impact that this migration of affluent Northern migrants has on the receiving countries. On the next few pages will be discussed which sectors or structures and in what ways they are influenced by residential tourism.

1.7 Conclusion

Globalization and the possibility to reach the whole world in a day are offering affluent people the possibility to travel around the world easily. Scholars use different terms to describe the temporal migrants who move for lifestyle reasons: amenity migration, lifestyle migration and the term used in this report: residential tourism. Different authors like Canada, Torres and Momsen and Swords and Mize, warn that the development of (residential) tourism in a developing country only increases social and economic inequality. Others argue that tourism can be or become a development-stimulating sector if conditions like a strong, democratic government, involved and pro-active local population and involvement between the tourists and the local population are met. Although residential tourists are often no legal citizens in the tourist-receiving area, they might still be powerful because they are usually affluent people who are used to stand up for their rights and opinion. Tourism and residential tourism can have a positive and stimulating effect in the tourist-receiving area if the tourism sector has enough linkages with other economic sectors. The environment should be carefully watched when tourism development emerges. Nature in the tourism destination is one of the tourism assets of the area and the area cannot afford to lose that pull factor. Tourists are interested in typical food, clothing, dancing and other entertainment. Although this stimulates the local population to invest in their own culture or nature it commercializes it as well, making it less authentic.

Residential tourists are living a transnational life: they are socially involved in both their home countries as in their destination countries. But they do not really exchange ideas and information between the two countries, but usually they bring more information from their home country to their destination country, thereby changing that destination country a little bit towards their home country.

2. Residential tourism in Costa Rica

This chapter gives more insight in the development of residential tourism in the province where the research was carried out: Guanacaste. The first part of this chapter is a short overview of data about Costa Rica. The second part is about Guanacaste's history and the recent developments in tourism and residential tourism in Guanacaste. The chapter ends with a conclusion.

2.1 Geography

Figure 2.1 shows that Costa Rica is located in Central America, the small strip of land that connects North and South America. Because Costa Rica is located between the tropic of cancer and the equator, the climate is – except from high in the mountains – tropic. It has both a Pacific and a Caribbean coast, while inwards the country is crossed by mountains and volcanos. This diverse landscape, in combination with the countries' tropical climate makes Costa Rica an attractive holiday destination. Climates differ somewhat throughout the country. The east coast is quite humid with year-round rainfall while the west coast has a dry season and a wet season. Six provinces make the country, Guanacaste, Alajuela, Heredia, Limón, Cartago, San José and Puntarenas (see figure 2.2). This research is carried out in the province of Guanacaste, near the village of Tamarindo (marked in red).

Figure 2.1: Location of Costa Rica



Source: Venaventura.com
Figure 2.2: Costa Rica, in provinces



Source: HBHCR, 2011

Guanacastes microclimate makes it very attractive for tourists and that is why there are different large tourism projects: Reserva Conchal next to Brasilito, Hacienda Pinilla at Pinilla and Proyecto Papagayo near Playas del Coco. Guanacaste has a dry season from the beginning of November until half or the end of May. The air is less humid than in other areas, which makes the heat not too hot but comfortably warm.

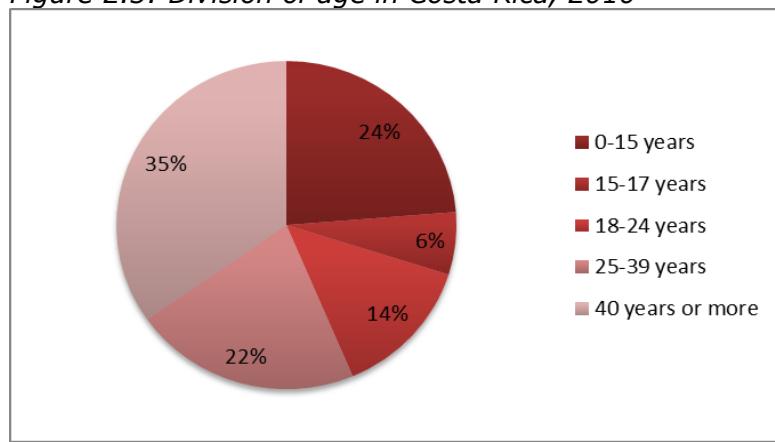
2.2 Socio-economics

The first statement that the Lonely Planet traveller's guide makes about Costa Rica is that it is often being referred to as 'the Switzerland of Central America'. Costa Rica has the reputation of being a rather well-developed, stable country with a peaceful democracy and beautiful nature (Lonely Planet, 2010, pp16). Also among academics Costa Rica is being praised for its long historical democracy and stability (Ryan, 2004). Or, as Bowman (1999) mentions: *Samuel Huntington (1987) lauds Costa Rica as the only less-developed country in the world to make simultaneous progress toward all five of his goals of development: autonomy, democracy, equity, growth, and stability* (Bowman, 1999, pp. 123). This paragraph gives a more detailed picture of the country, with basic data of Costa Rica's demography, economy and education.

2.2.1 Demography

According to data from July 2010 of the INEC, *Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos* or the National Statistics and Censuses Institute, Costa Rica has 4,5 million inhabitants. A slight majority of 2,8 million people live in the cities and 1,8 million live in rural areas. Figure 2.3 shows that nearly one-third of the population is younger than 18 years old, one-third is between 18 and 39 years old and the last one-third of the population is older than 40 years. In the Netherlands in 2011, 51% of the population was older than 40 years (CBS, 2012). So the Costa Rican population is younger, but not characteristic for a developing country: because of the accessible education and healthcare systems, life expectancy at birth was 79,3 years in 2010. Mother and child mortality rates are relatively low. Fertility rates decreased between 2000 and 2010 from 2,4 to 1,8 so birth control is common in Costa Rica. This 1,8 fertility rate means that, when there would be no migration, Costa Rica's population would slowly decrease because population stays equal when the fertility rate is 2,1.

Figure 2.3: Division of age in Costa Rica, 2010



Source: INEC, 2012

2.2.2 Economics and poverty

In 2000, Costa Rica's most important trade partners were North America and the European Community. In 2010, also Asian countries and Central American countries have become important trade partners: the export to other Central American countries doubled in ten years' time and export to Asian countries quadrupled in that decade. Although Costa Rica's dependency on North America decreased between 2000 and 2010, still 46% of the annual export value is to North America (INEC, 2012).

Exactly 20% of the population, 1,1 million, lives in poverty of which 300.000 in extreme poverty. Half of all the poor live in urban areas; the extremely poor mostly live in the rural areas. Table 2.1 makes clear that over all, the unemployment rate is 7% and the net participation rate is 61%, but that differences between the poor and the not poor are striking. A rural poor family has on average one extra household member than a not poor family, but less employed people per household. So, the employed person in a poor household has to take care for more people. The average unemployment level in Costa Rica is relatively low: 7,2% in 2010. In the United States for example, the unemployment level was higher than 9% in the same year (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012). Among the not poor part of the population, the unemployment rate is lower than 5% but among the poor, unemployment rates are high, more than 20%.

Table 2.1: Urban and rural employment data in Costa Rica, 2010

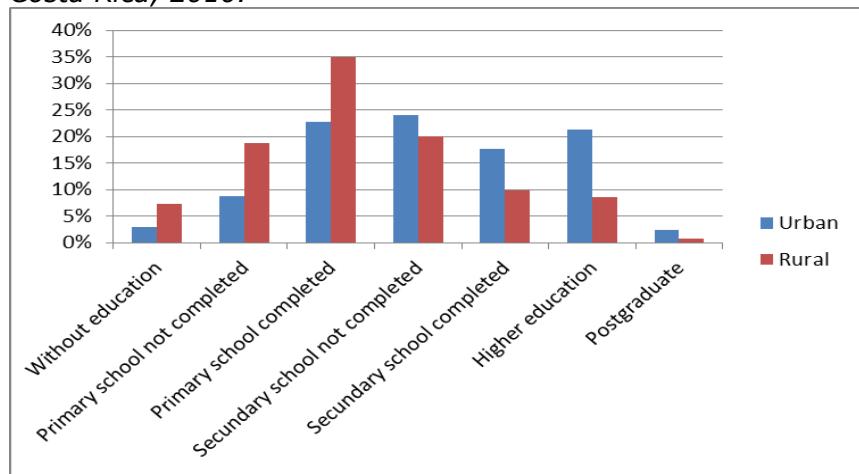
		Total population	Not poor	Poor total	Not extremely poor	Extremely poor
Urban	Household members per household	3,46	3,36	3,92	3,98	3,75
	Occupied persons per household	1,52	1,65	0,97	1,08	0,59
	Unemployment rate	7,17%	4,74%	22,28%	17,19%	43,44%
	Net participation rate	60,62%	63,46%	47,43%	48,10%	44,83%
Rural	Household members	3,65	3,47	4,13	4,07	4,24
	Occupied persons per household	1,37	1,53	0,92	1,03	0,70
	Unemployment	7,17%	4,74%	22,28%	17,19%	43,44%
	Net participation rate	60,62%	63,46%	47,43%	48,10%	44,83%

Source: INEC, 2012

2.2.3 Education

There are no significant differences in education level between men and women in Costa Rica. Although Costa Rica might seem to be a *machismo* country, woman can achieve high positions. The current president, Laura Chinchilla, is an example of that. The differences in education between the rural and the urban population are more striking, as figure 2.4 shows. The rural population is less well educated; 25% of them did not finish primary school versus 12% of the urban population. On the other hand, this means that 75% of the rural population and 88% of the urban population did finish primary school or has had higher education.

Figure 2.4: Differences in education level between the urban and rural population in Costa Rica, 2010.



Source: INEC, 2012

2.3 Law and tourism policy

2.3.1 Past

Since the 1950s, Costa Rica's governments have been interested in attracting tourists, even more since the prices for Costa Rica's main export products coffee and bananas decreased in the 1970s (Pera, 2008b, pp. 14). But while the global trend in the 1980s was, on request of donor agencies, to liberalise land markets, Costa Rica's government was cautious in doing the same (Van Noorloos and Zoomers, 2010; Janoschka, 2009). The liberalization of land markets was supposed to stimulate (foreign) investment and efficiency, but later it turned out that the liberalization increased social inequality and environmental degradation. In Costa Rica, laws for foreign retirees have always been somewhat restrictive, but other policies have been aiming at attracting (residential) tourists. In 1985 the government passed a law called the Tourism Development Incentives Law. Because of this law, tourist companies could import goods without paying duties and sometimes taxes. The wars in neighbouring countries Nicaragua and El Salvador limited the effect of this law until Costa Rica's president received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987. During the same period the government was easy in giving residency statuses and tax incentives to *pensionados* and *rentistas*, but the tax incentives were rapidly stopped (Van Noorloos, 2010). Together, these dispositions resulted in tourism becoming a more important part of the economy than export products coffee and bananas in 1993, so the government started to restrict the tourist-attracting laws (Pera, 2008b).

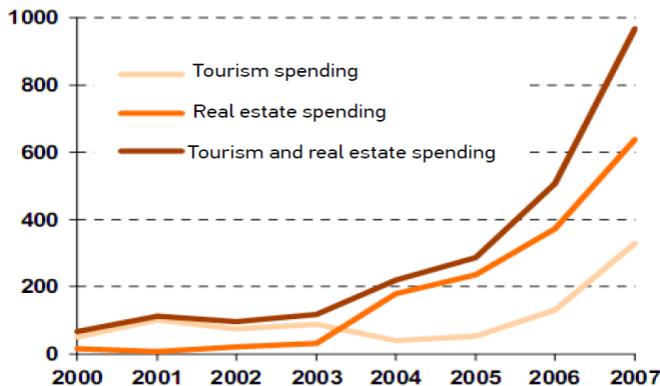
2.3.2 Present

Costa Rica's attractiveness for tourists and tourist accommodation developers today can partly be maintained because not all national laws are completely strictly followed. For instance, the maritime-terrestrial zone law (the ZMT) which declares that a zone of 200 meters from the high tide line is protected, has often been ignored (Van Noorloos, 2010). Especially large tourism projects like the Gulfo Papagayo tourism resort easily got building permits on the zone 200 meters from the high tide line, sometimes closing off the beaches for the public. Although the tax incentives for foreign retirees are stopped, tourism developers and airlines are stimulated by the Costa Rican government by special tax incentives. The government stimulates (residential) tourism arrivals in another way as well. Before 2002, Guanacaste's capital Liberia had a military airport. In 2002 the government decided to make Liberia Airport an international airport, mainly for citizens. In Costa Rica the liberalization of land never became an official policy, but there are several policies that – sometimes indirectly – stimulate tourism development (Van Noorloos, 2010, pp7).

Below, figure 2.5 shows the rapid increase in tourism and real estate spending in Costa Rica over the last years (the 2007 figures are estimates). This figure shows quite clear that tourism and real estate development is big business, and that before the economic crisis of 2008 it was growing so rapidly that it could be doubted if it was a well-controlled process.

Figure 2.5: Growth in foreign tourism and real estate investment in Costa Rica 2000-2006

Costa Rica: Foreign Tourism and Real Estate Investment, 2000-2007*
(US\$ millions)



* 2007 figures are estimates

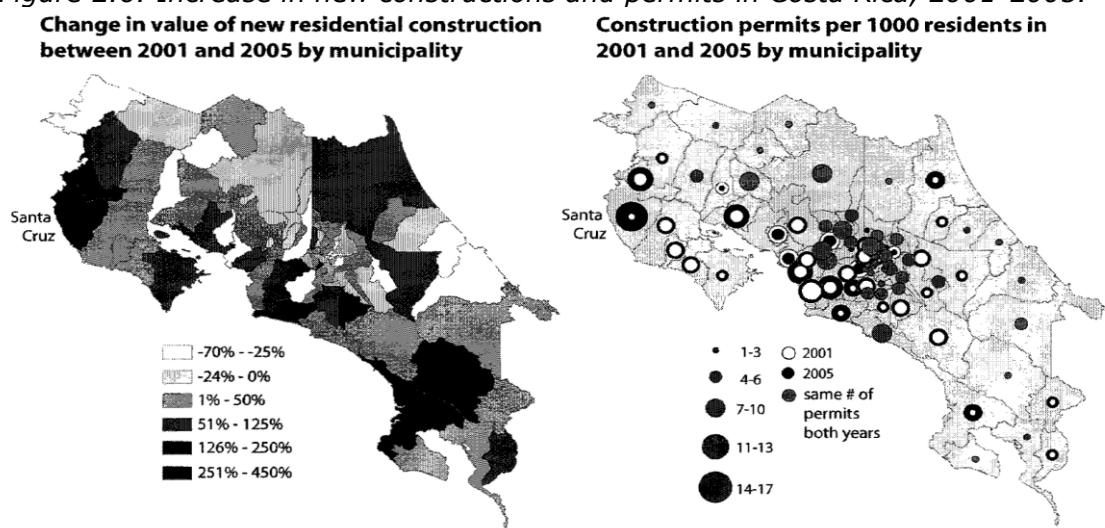
Source: Cañada, 2009.

2.4 History of Guanacaste

Guanacaste used to be an agricultural and ranching province. Until 1825 it was part of Nicaragua and there is still some competition between people from the Central Valley and the *Guanacastecos*. According to several of my respondents, the people from capital San José regard the *Guanacastecos* as only farmers or cowboys and second-range citizens. One of the respondents mentioned that in the Easter week, when Costa Rican families traditionally spend the holiday at the beach, the people from the Central Valley use that holiday to the beach to dump their waste in Guanacaste.

Since 1970 foreigners started to buy plots of land and put them on sale in North American magazines. Before the 1980s land market liberalization, the majority of the land in Guanacaste was already private-owned (Van Noorloos, 2010, pp 6). These lots were not sold as rapidly as now because foreigners had to fly to San José international airport, which was at least six hours driving on roads in a bad condition to Guanacaste's capital Liberia. In 2003 Liberia opened an international airport which resulted in a dramatic increase in new constructions, as figure 2.6 shows. The research area is being governed by the municipality of Santa Cruz, visible in the map. The map on the left hand shows clearly that in the municipality Santa Cruz, the number of building permits per 1000 residents rose from 1-3 in 2001 to 14-17 in 2005. In concordance with that, land values in Tamarindo rose with 400% between 2001 and 2005 (Pera, 2008b).

Figure 2.6: Increase in new constructions and permits in Costa Rica, 2001-2005.



Data source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), 2006

Source: Pera, 2008b pp. 126

2.5 Recent residential tourism in Guanacaste

While previously foreigners had to adapt to living in a less convenient society, the newly arriving North Americans or Europeans are making Guanacaste like what they left behind. Interviewees mentioned that with more and more foreigners arriving, an 'international community' emerges which makes it no longer necessary to learn Spanish to get around. According to that respondent, the new arrivals are forcing Guanacaste to adapt to their needs instead of them adapting to Guanacaste. These newbies are also being able to keep contacts in their home countries.

Table 2.2 below shows the foreign real estate spending per province. Guanacaste and Puntarenas at the Pacific coast appear to be the most popular provinces. Figure 2.7 makes clear that the coastline between Tamarindo and Playas del Coco remains attractive for residential tourism development projects. The foreign real estate spending in Guanacaste doubled between 2004 and 2007, and in neighbouring Puntarenas it increased fivefold. But since the economic crisis the real estate boom has stopped and building of new projects delayed or cancelled. Figure 2.8 shows an unfinished building that should have been completed in May 2009. It is only one example of the various similar cases in the area. Van Noorloos (2010, pp 15) mentions that although lots of building permits were given, only a few new projects are built recently.

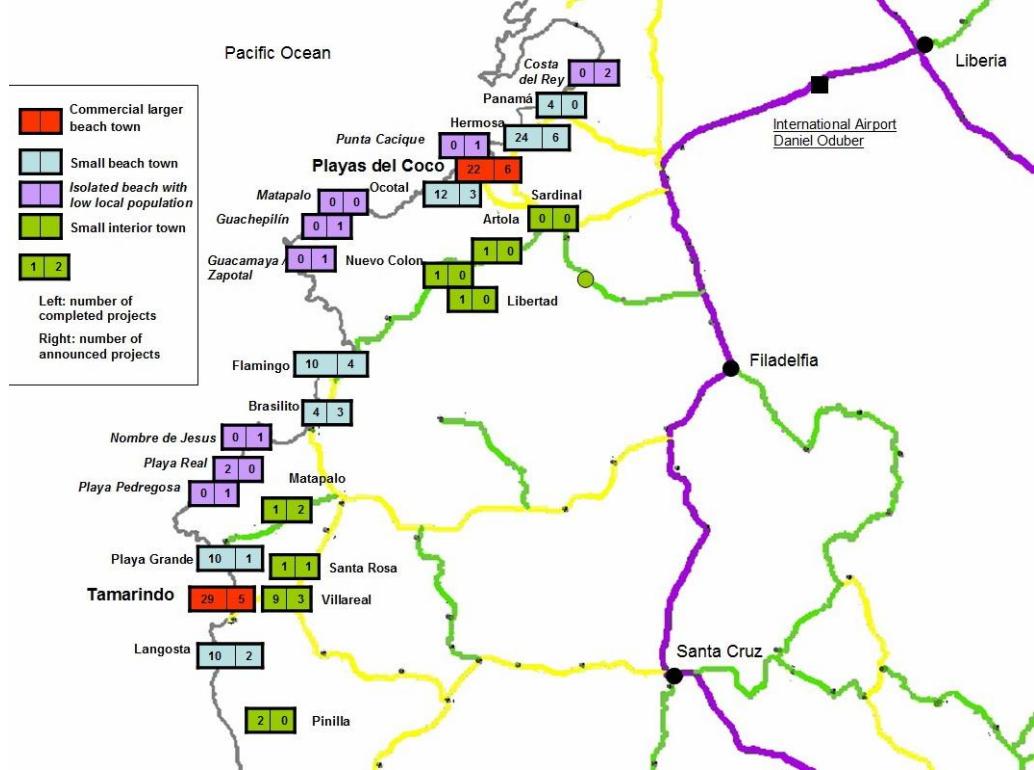
Table 2.2: Foreign real estate spending in Costa Rica, 2004-2007

	2004	2005	2006	2007*	Subtotal	
					2004-2007	
Guanacaste	64.4	82.8	131.5	127.4	406.1	29%
Puntarenas	39.8	56.6	90.8	214.4	401.6	29%
San José	37	37.8	45.5	89.3	209.6	15%
Alajuela	13.5	15.7	45.9	103.1	178.2	13%
Heredia	13.3	17.2	23.8	18.6	72.9	5%
Cartago	5	9.6	10.9	15.6	41.1	3%
Limón	3.5	4.9	15.6	51.7	75.7	5%
Total	176.5	224.6	364	620.1	1385.2	100%

* Estimación.

Source: Cañada, 2009

Figure 2.7: Residential tourism development between Tamarindo and Playas del Coco.



Source: Van Noorloos, 2010

Figure 2.8 Unfinished buildings that should have been completed May 2009, near Tamarindo.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011

2.6 Conclusion

Costa Rica is a Central American country between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, with a diverse landscape and a tropical climate. Not only the nature and climate make the country attractive for tourists. It is the combination with the political stability and the wealth of the Costa Rican population that attracts tourists. Guanacaste is a rural province at the West coast. Since 2001, the development of (residential) tourism projects increased dramatically in Guanacaste but since 2007 it slowed down because of the economic crisis.

3. Research objectives and methodology

This chapter presents the research framework that was developed to carry out the research. The chapter includes the research objectives and questions, the conceptual model and the operationalization.

3.1 Objectives and Research Questions

This research tries to map the residential tourists, their behaviour, their ideas and knowledge about the changes in local place and environment they see because of residential tourism in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

3.1.1 Research objective

The aim of this research is to study residential tourism from the point of view of residential tourists and foreign residents, including their characteristics, views on local place and environment, local and transnational involvement. Understanding of the residential tourists and foreign residents, their ideas and their behaviour can be of vital importance for tourist-receiving areas in order to manage the residential tourism flows in a sustainable manner.

3.1.2 Research question

Who are the residential tourists and foreign residents involved in residential tourism development in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, how do residential tourists and foreign residents regard the development of residential tourism and the changes it brings in Guanacaste, how do they try to influence the tourism-related changes and how involved are they in both Guanacaste and their home country?

This broad research question encloses more specific questions about the residential tourists and their opinions and ideas about Guanacaste, the role of different stakeholders and the way they are influencing tourism issues.

3.1.3 Sub questions

1. What are the main basic characteristics of the residential tourists and foreign residents in Guanacaste in terms of socioeconomics and their daily acts?
2. How do the residential tourists and foreign residents regard local place and environment and the ways residential tourism changes local place and environment?
3. In what ways do residential tourists and foreign residents attempt to have an influence on the changing local place and environment?
4. How does the involvement of the residential tourists and foreign residents in their home country compare to their local involvement in Guanacaste?

3.1.4 Sub- sub questions

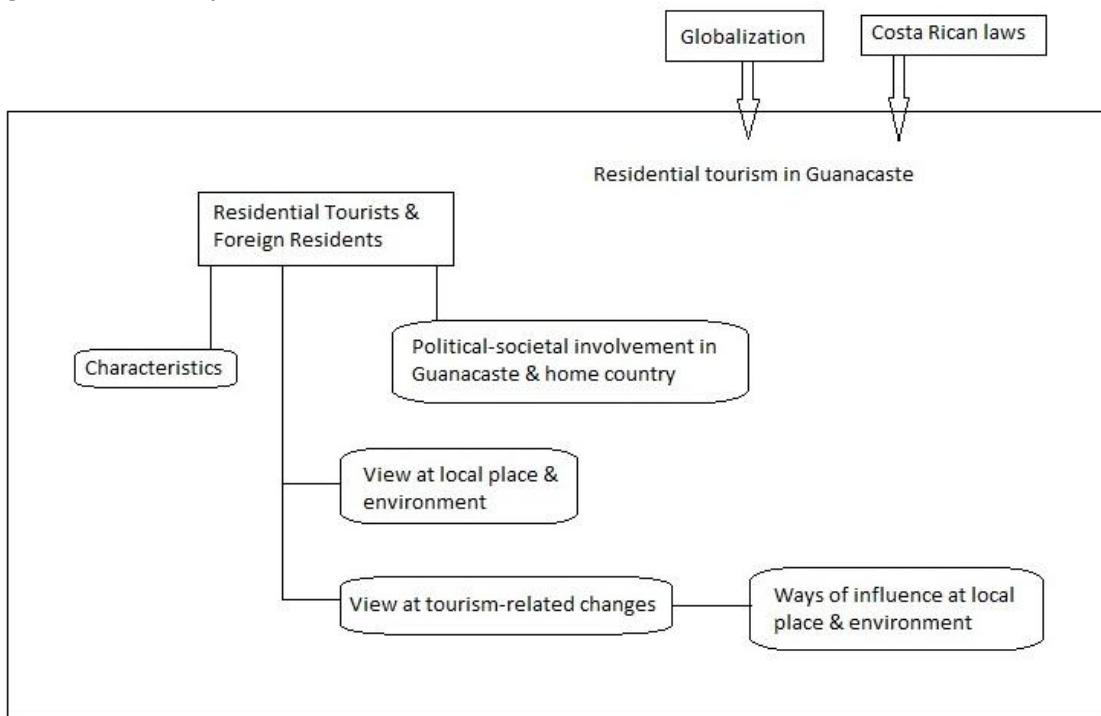
- 1.1 What are the main demographic characteristics of the residential tourists and foreign residents in Guanacaste?
- 1.2 What are the main socio-economic characteristics and the spending behaviour of the residential tourists and foreign residents in Guanacaste?
- 1.3 What are the staying circumstances of the residential tourists and foreign residents in Guanacaste?
- 2.1 How do the residential tourists and foreign residents view local culture, social relationships, economics and environment?
- 2.2 What do the residential tourists and foreign residents think about the changes in local culture, social relationships, economics and environment?

- 3.1 To what extent do the residential tourists and foreign residents try to have an influence in the changing local place and environment?
 - 3.2 In what ways are residential tourists involved with local place and in decision making?
 - 3.3 How does this relate to the views of the residential tourists and foreign residents as expressed in sub question 2?
- 4.1 To what extent are the residential tourists socially and politically involved in Guanacaste?
 - 4.2 To what extent are the residential tourists socially and politically involved in their home country?

3.2 Conceptual model

3.2.1 Conceptual model

Figure 3.1 Conceptual model: residential tourism in Guanacaste, Costa Rica



Source: Author, 2012.

3.2.2 Assumptions

Global processes like globalization cause possibilities to travel cheap, fast and comfortable, so the whole world is reachable in 24 hours. Costa Rican national laws are influencing how attractive it is for foreigners to live fulltime or part-time in Costa Rica. Together, these global and national processes are influencing the number of residential tourists going to Costa Rica and, more specific, Guanacaste. The first empirical chapters of this thesis zoom in at the characteristics of the foreign residents and residential tourists. Residential tourists and foreign residents, as described in the previous chapters, influence the local place and environment of Guanacaste. The speed and direction of the change are (partly) influenced by the behaviour of the residential tourists and foreign residents themselves. The ones that return year after year to the same area and see it changing might change their own behaviour so their impact on local place and environment will be different.

The wish to have an influence for the residential tourists is dependent on their view at local place and environment, and the way they see the (residential) tourism sector influencing the local place and environment. Because most residential tourists and

foreign residents do not have any legal representation, their involvement in local organizations in Guanacaste is a good way to measure their influence and involvement.

3.3 Operationalization

3.3.1 Definition of concepts

General characteristics

The general demographic characteristics of the respondents are things like their age, nationality, home town, the family size, religion and education.

Socio-economic characteristics

The economic characteristics of the respondents are defined as things like their economic situation (do they have an own business or job or are they jobless or retired), where the respondents spend their money when they are in Guanacaste, when they spend it, how much they spend, where they do their daily and other shopping and their main daily activities.

Residential tourist

A residential tourist is from outside Costa Rica and he stays more than a month a year in Guanacaste, with the main purpose of vacation or relaxation.

Foreign resident

Foreigner from North America or Europe who stays for six months or more per year in Guanacaste, for the lifestyle and holiday but also for work or business opportunities.

Normal tourist

A normal tourist stays for less than a month per year in Costa Rica and has as main purpose of the trip to be on holiday.

3.3.2 Research methods

The research is done in 3 months between February and May 2011. I used mixed research methods: a household survey for the quantitative data gathering and in-depth interviews to obtain the more qualitative data. These two research methods are complementary: with the household surveys I was able to obtain the exact and comparable data and via the interviews I was able to get more in-depth data about respondents' opinions and views. As Desai and Potter (2010, pp. 123) describe in their book *Doing development research* that "*Wherever possible, most research will use an integrated methodology. Using complementary methods enables researchers to consolidate strengths, and cross-check and triangulate any information which is central to the particular research questions concerned.*"

The first two weeks of the fieldwork were used for orientation in the region. Some residential tourists were approached at the beach about the changes they had seen in the region during the past years. After a survey had been developed and tested, 81 surveys were carried out in the region, as is visible in figure 3.2. The first version of the survey was criticized and tested, but still there were some possible improvements. The different versions of the surveys are in Appendix 2.

All versions of the survey consisted of five sections. Below will be explained what information was obtained in which section.

Section one is about general household characteristics and time in Costa Rica.

Respondent	Household characteristics	Costa Rica vs home country
Name	Nationality	How much time in Costa Rica
Sex	Education	Children/grandchildren in Costa Rica
Civil state	Sex	Parents in home country
Age	Age	Own/rent house in home country
	Economic situation	Where stay in home country

	Religion	
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Section two is about the properties of the respondent and the move to Costa Rica

Property	Travels	Move
Own/rent	Year trip started	How first interested in Costa Rica
Purpose	Length of stay	Reasons to choose Costa Rica
From who rented/bought	Purpose of stay	Why another country than home
Pool	Place of stay	Why Costa Rica
Number of rooms		Why specific region
Price		Planning to buy property in Costa Rica
Custom-designed or ready-made		Ways in which information about moving was obtained
Furnishing		

Section three is about the involvement in the country of origin.

Visits	Contacts
Family/friends living here	Ways to maintain contact
Family/friends visited last 2 years	Internet connection
Products brought from home country	Phone/internet calls
	Politically engaged
	Use of media

Section four is about the involvement in the local place.

Contacts	Activities
Contacts with different groups	Type of activities done or planned to do
Spanish speaking skills	Involvement and type of involvement in local organisations

Section five is about the daily living and spending characteristics of the respondents.

Shops and services	Activities
Use of shops	What type and how often use of transport
Use of household services	Own or rent transport
Use of medical services	Recreational activities
Spendings	

Quantitative survey

The sampling for the survey and interviews was a combination of opportunity sampling and cluster sampling. Because the municipality of Santa Cruz did not want to share the information about where foreigners stay or where the projects are, we had to discover by ourselves where to find the foreigners and doing simple random sampling was not possible. We had to go to places where we knew that foreigners lived, and knock on the doors there. In a project or street where residential tourists stay, not necessarily all houses are occupied during the time the research was done. Although not all residential tourists who actually stayed in Guanacaste during the research period were at home or able or willing to participate the moment they were approached, those were the exceptions. The response from the possible respondents who opened the door was enormous and the respondents were interested in the research. So, the respondents were sought in different types of projects – from gated communities to ‘loose’ houses in neighbourhoods with foreign residents – and in different places. The strategy was to knock on each door and return only once to each unopened door. In this way, we got a diverse group of respondents. It was first seen as a problem that we could not just go to the projects we wanted to and do a perfect random sampling, but in the end it turned out as an advantage that we were able to create such a diverse group of respondents.

The 81 respondents did not all respond to exactly the same surveys. After some time, we thought that asking people on the beach if they would like to participate in a questionnaire and so we made a beach version of the survey. However, the respondents of the beach survey were mainly just normal tourists, who are interesting to compare with foreign residents and residential tourists, but not the respondents we were looking for. When Femke met a woman with plenty of contacts in the region who gave her a list

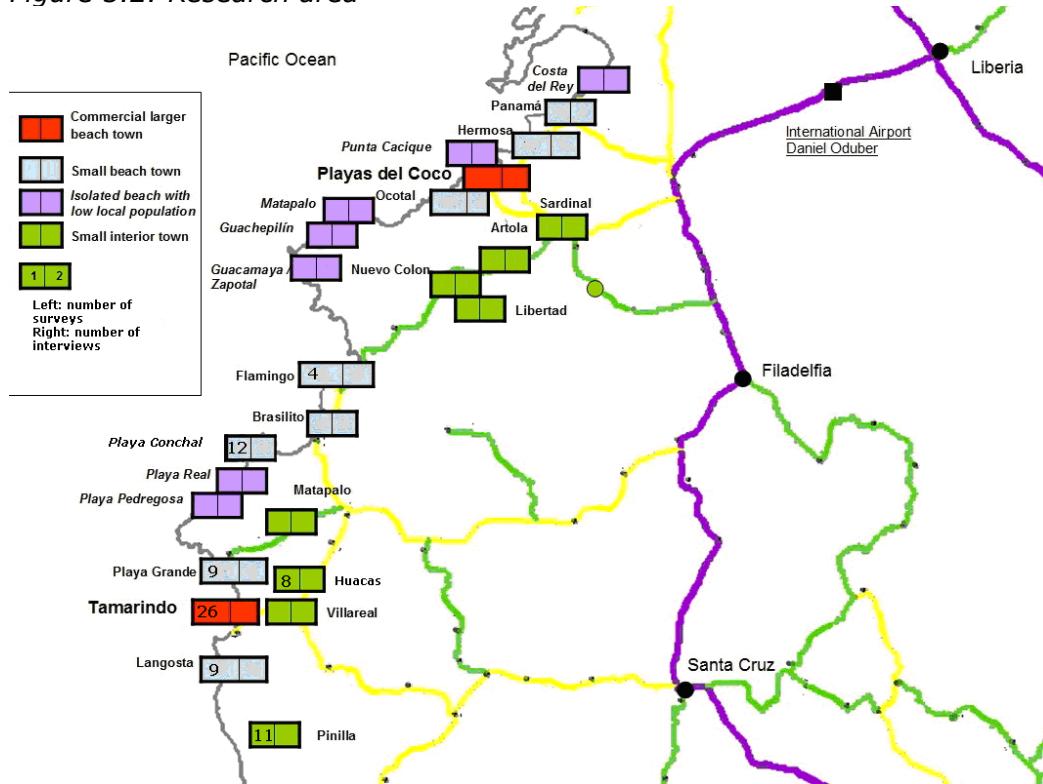
with email addresses, we had another opportunity to get more respondents. Femke developed an online survey, which was answered by 8 respondents in Guanacaste.

The original plan was to do at least 100 surveys, but some difficulties were faced. First of all, it turned out to be more time-consuming than expected to find the residential tourists. There are also some normal tourists included in the test because they stay mixed with the residential tourists. In most cases, there is no one home or only a gardener who tells that the owner is not at home. Although it was not our aim, it was interesting to see how 'empty' all the projects were and that there were so many normal tourists. When I saw the advertisements in the region for Hacienda Pinilla I got the idea that it was an enormous 'enclave' of residential tourists and foreign residents but after some visits it turned out that there are possibly more gardeners than inhabitants of the project.

Second, there were some problems with obtaining access to the different projects which asked for our creativity and courage. The majority of project managers did not respond to e-mails and guards reacted different when they were asked in advance whether they would give access to the project in the future or when the researchers needed immediate access. So, after a few tries to get access via the official way the strategy changed. Just walking in to a project in a beach dress, with a beach bag and sunglasses and acting like you know the directions in the property turned out to be a more effective and creative way to enter a project. For the gated communities this was more difficult, but it worked out to take a side road via the beach and act again like you know where to go. In this case, it was an advantage that I am obviously not Costa Rican, but a tall blond girl who looked like she stayed in a tourist project.

Third, the public transport system in Costa Rica is working pretty well, but not very frequent so travelling to another town is a time-consuming or – when it is done by taxi – very costly expedition. As figure 3.2 shows, the result was that although a major part of the respondents stayed in Tamarindo, the majority is from different places in the region.

Figure 3.2: Research area



Semi-structured Interviews

The interviews were done in the same area, from Playa Flamingo in the north down to Playa Langosta. Because the interviews were done in May, the month in which the rainy

season starts, it was a bit more difficult to find residential tourists. In May, the weather in North America starts to be good and warmer as well, while in Guanacaste it starts to rain. So the interviewees usually stay longer than the respondents of the survey which also might influence their answers. The sampling was the same as with the surveys, combined with snowball-sampling. In the region I saw various advertisements for the Beach Community Church, an English-spoken church, so I went to a service and asked people if they would like to participate in my research and if they knew others who might like it to participate. This resulted in a few respondents for me and via these respondents other respondents.

An interview structure (see Appendix 1) was developed to make answers more comparable without taking away the possibility for respondents to put things in their own words. The respondents were shown series of pictures and had to pick one out of two pictures at a time, and they were asked why they chose the specific picture above the other. I chose for this type of interview because the respondents started to tell more. The first four interviews I did were done in a different way and were far less informative and less structured and therefore less comparable. I wrote down what the respondents answered. The interviews might have taken more time because of that, but it gave me the opportunity to think about follow-up questions, and sometimes respondents started to tell more when I was silently writing down their answers. Usually, the respondents trusted immediately that I was a student from Holland and only one respondent wanted me to write down my name and the name of the university. Probably it was again my appearance as blond blue-eyed student that convinced the respondents to trust me and to tell me what they did and did not like in Guanacaste.

The interview took usually an hour or sometimes more when the respondent was talkative. There was one respondent who did not completely understand why she had to choose between two pictures and she became irritated when I asked her why she preferred one picture above the other. She wanted to talk about other things, especially about the church, and she did not want to make an argued choice between pictures so at a certain point I decided to skip some photo-questions.

Data analysis and my role as researcher

The answers of the surveys were put in SPSS, a computer program to analyze quantitative data. With SPSS, it is easy to create frequency tables or to compute means and standard deviation etcetera. It is also easy to select several cases, so to select the tourists, the residential tourists, the foreign residents or other groups I could wish to select and analyze separately. I exported the frequency tables to Excel to make graphics, because I am more comfortable with editing graphics in Excel.

The interview data were analyzed by hand. I wrote down the complete interviews in Word and I made a document in which I did put all the answers on a specific question together, so I could see easily if respondents agreed or disagreed with each other and what kinds of words they used to express their opinions. Because I used an interview structure I was able to compare the answers in this way.

The answers for the interviews might be somewhat biased because, as I mentioned before, the sampling was not random but snowball- and opportunity sampling. This resulted in the fact that a considerable part of my interview respondents attends the Beach Community Church. It might be so that religion has an influence on the way people regard their environment and the changes happening in it. The female respondent I mentioned before for instance mentioned as a reason why she did not go back to the United States that "*God has a task for me here, I cannot leave.*" The other bias is that the pictures I used might have influenced or steered the answers of my respondents. It was clear for the respondents that I was doing this research to discover their part of the story and that I was interested in their different points of view. So, it might have been easy for the respondents to talk to me because they regarded me as 'one of them', a *gringa* too.

Time path of the research

The time path table in appendix 1 gives more insight in how and when the specific parts of the research were carried out. It shows as well that during the fieldwork some things did not go as 'smoothly' as hoped or expected. This resulted, for instance, in a lower amount of questionnaires and interviews. However, in comparison with colleague students no real problems like severe sickness such as malaria, problems with translators or non-reacting supervising NGO's were experienced.

4. Characteristics of the residential tourists and foreign residents

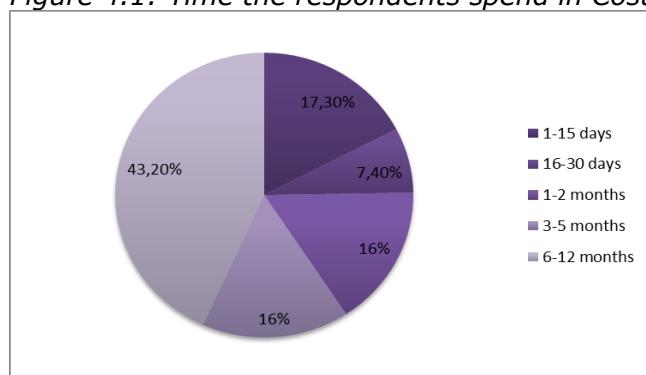
4.1 Introduction

In the next chapters I discuss the results of the research. First, the research questions are brought back in mind and after that, the results of the surveys and interviews are given. The main research question is: *Who are the residential tourists involved in residential tourism development in Guanacaste, Costa Rica and how do different stakeholders – residential tourists in particular – regard the development of residential tourism in Guanacaste, and how do they try to influence decision making on residential tourism related matters?* This chapter discusses the sub question *What are the main basic characteristics of the residential tourists in Guanacaste in terms of socioeconomics and behaviour?*

I divided the 81 respondents of the survey in three groups. First of all there are the Tourists, who only are once or twice in their life in Costa Rica for less than a month. Of the 81 respondents, 20 are tourists. They can be retired but they can also be a young couple celebrating their honeymoon for instance, or a young family. Secondly there are the residential tourists. 26 of the 81 respondents were residential tourists. They stay for a couple of months every year and they are retired or semi-retired. 56% of them have one child or more in their home country. Most of these children are over 18 years old and do not depend on their parents anymore. The last group is the group with the foreign residents. There are 35 foreign residents in the survey. They stay for more than six months a year in Costa Rica, they usually own the home and for them; Costa Rica is home. Their country of origin might still feel as a home too, but their main activities are in Costa Rica. Some of the foreign residents are families, consisting of a median-aged man and woman with some kids in primary school or high school age. These families usually stay for more than six months a year so Costa Rica actually becomes their home country although they are not necessarily legal citizens or residents. The children are going to a local or international school in Costa Rica and the parents have an international (online) job.

Figure 4.1 makes clear that 43 percent of the respondents stay for more than 6 months a year in Guanacaste. One out of four stays for only a month or shorter. The same pattern is logically visible for the other household members.

Figure 4.1: Time the respondents spend in Costa Rica during their current trip.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 81

For a considerable part of almost 20% of the respondents, the trip when they were interviewed was their first trip to Costa Rica. 9 out of the 15 respondents for whom this was the first time in Costa Rica were there for less than a month, so only for a vacation.

4.2 Demographic characteristics

The age of the respondents varied enormously from 16 to 78 years old. The average age of the respondents was 53 years. The average age of the second household member was approximately the same, 54 years. That is quite explicable: 69% of all respondents are living together with their partners. The other household members are strikingly younger. They are the under aged children or sometimes the friends of the younger respondents. 52% of the respondents was male, 48% was female. 56 of the 81 respondents were in Guanacaste with their partners. Of the 25 singles, 13 respondents were in Costa Rica alone. Others were with their kids, parents or friends. There were 14 respondents who had one or more kids staying with them in Guanacaste. Approximately half of the respondents or their partners still have parents at their home countries.

A majority of 72% of the respondents and their other household members is originally from North America: Canada or the United States. They are in general high-educated. 45% of the respondents has a university degree or higher, and another one third has finished college. An explanation for this might be that living cost and going on holiday in Costa Rica is not *that* low: you need to have had a good job to be able to live there fulltime or part-time. Striking is the fact that also the partners are well-educated: they show approximately the same pattern as the respondents. Only a small part of the respondents or their partners has been a housewife/man, so most of the respondents had a double income of two high-skilled people. The other household members are still going to school and did not finish high school yet or still attend primary school, mainly because they are mostly still children.

4.3 Economic characteristics and spending behaviour

4.3.1 Economic situation

Of all respondents, 37% has an own business, 32% is retired and 14% is being employed. The numbers become more interesting when looking at the differences between the different groups. Table 4.1 shows these differences. The tourists are mostly employed (38%), retired (25%) or have an own business (22%). Obviously, the majority of the residential tourists is retired (56%), 22% of them have an own business and 16% is employed. The foreign residents are more business-oriented: 43% of them have an own business, 31% is being retired and 12% is employed. It is explicable that the residential tourists are mostly retired: to be able to live more than a month a year in another country than your own country means in general that you need to be retired to have that time or that you need to have a very flexible job. In the case of the foreign residents, an own business in Costa Rica or even in the country of origin, via internet, is the solution.

Nearly 80% of the own businesses based in Costa Rica is in the tourism or real estate industry. This means that these business owners have to stay connected in both their home country and Costa Rica: their clients live in North America, but their jobs are in Costa Rica so they have to watch and follow the news and laws in both countries to be able to give the most up-to-date service.

Table 4.1: Economic situations of the tourists, residential tourists and foreign residents, first and second household members.

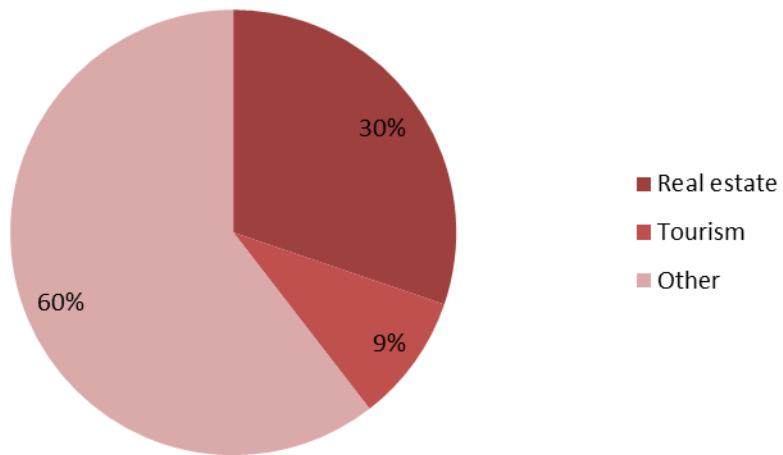
Economic situation	Tourists	Residential tourists	Foreign residents
	N = 36	N = 45	N = 59
Retired	25%	56%	31%
Employed	39%	16%	12%
Own business	22%	22%	42%
Student	6%	0%	3%
Housekeeper	3%	2%	2%

Retired and business-employed	0%	2%	3%
Sabbatical	6%	0%	3%
Unemployed	0%	2%	3%

Source: Fieldwork, 2011

Appendix 2 shows what kind of occupation types or business types the respondents and their second household members who are employed have or previously had. The list is too extended to put it down here. When only focused on current own businesses, the distinction between tourism industry, real estate industry and other business is visible in figure 4.2. The share of respondents who currently have an own business in tourism or real estate industry is 39% all together. When also former businesses are taken into account, this share is slightly more with 43%. Looking only at the foreign residents, 20% works in tourism industry and 42% in real estate or property management. Of the tourists, more than 80% works in a non-tourism related sector. So somehow, the people who (part-time) moved to Costa Rica were more interested in working in the tourism or real estate business. An explanation of this might be that of all respondents working in tourism or real estate or property management business, 72% rented out their property the last time they were away. So, for some of the respondents their job (partly) exists in renting out their own house.

Figure 4.2: Type of current businesses of respondents and their household members: tourism, real estate industry or other.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 43

Table 4.2 shows in which countries the respondents and their partners currently work. Not surprisingly, all tourists jobs or own businesses are in their country of origin. The foreign residents are in their jobs the ones who are most involved in Costa Rica. None of the residential tourists and their partners has a job in Costa Rica, and only two of them have a business that is (partly) based in Costa Rica. Apparently residential tourists do barely move to Costa Rica for the job or business opportunities but for other reasons and they hardly become involved in business when they are in Costa Rica, whereas foreign residents more often lead semi-retired lives with own businesses or work in Costa Rica. Also Pera (2008a, pp. 11) mentions that many of the affluent migrants rely on the tourism industry for their own income, while overdevelopment of the region destroys its attractiveness and so the businesses of the migrants. 42% of the own businesses of the respondents is completely or partly based in Costa Rica. Again, there is a difference when the respondents are split up in different groups. Of the foreign residents who currently own or formerly owned an own business, 64% is or was based in Costa Rica or both Costa Rica and the country of origin. Tourists only own businesses in the country of origin. The businesses of the residential tourists are barely based in Costa Rica either.

Four of them indicated to have or have had their business based in Costa Rica or internationally.

Table 4.2: Countries where the current occupations or businesses of the respondents and the second household members are based.

	All respondents		Tourists		Residential tourists		Foreign residents	
Occupation								
Costa Rica	6	21%			0		6	86%
Country of origin	21	75%	14	100%	6	86%	1	14%
Transnational	1	4%			1	14%		
Other					0			
Total	28	100%	14	100%	7	100%	7	100%
Business								
Costa Rica	15	35%			1	11%	14	54%
Country of origin	22	51%	8	100%	4	44%	10	38%
Costa Rica and country of origin	3	7%			1	11%	2	8%
Transnational	2	5%			2	44%		
Other	1	2%			1	11%		
Total	43	100%	8	100%	9	100%	26	100%

Source: Fieldwork, 2011

4.3.2 Spending behaviour

The supermarket is by far the most popular shop among the respondents. The majority of them goes weekly or more often to the supermarket, most of them even more than two times a week. 75% of all respondents mentioned the Automerçado as frequented supermarket. The SuperCompro is on the second place, with 30% of the respondents mentioning it as frequented supermarket. Smaller shops like greengrocers, butchers, bakeries and especially the farmers markets are less popular: respectively 35% and 43% says to never go there. So, mainly the (bigger) supermarkets profit from the foreigners in the area. These supermarkets are not necessarily Costa Rican-owned. Overall, going to clothing stores is the least popular: more than half of the respondents never go to a clothing store during their stay in Costa Rica and another thirty percent only goes monthly or less. Having a meal out is common for the respondents; a majority of nearly 90% of them has a meal out at least more than once a week. Drinks out are less popular as only half of the respondents goes out for a drink once a week or more.

The hairdresser or having a beauty treatment is less common but still 45% of respondents go monthly or more often. Most of the respondents did not indicate the health facilities as a top-three reason to move (temporarily) to Costa Rica, but it is attractive that – if necessary – medicines and treatment are within reach. Although 30% of the respondents never go to the pharmacy, 70% does at least once a year. Appendix 3 shows the differences between tourists, foreign residents and residential tourists in these numbers. For instance, 80% of the tourists say to never go to the supermarket, while only 6% of the foreign residents and 31% of the residential tourists never goes there. All tourists do go out for a meal at least two to three times a week, while only 35% of the foreign residents and 46% of the residential tourists does so. 47% of both foreign residents and residential tourists have a drink out at least once a week. For the tourists, this is 65%. Again, it is understandable that people on vacation live a bit more luxurious than people who live fulltime or part-time in Costa Rica. The picture is different when looking at the use of beauty treatments: 75% of the tourists, only 18% of the foreign residents and 42% of the residential tourists never uses them. 59% of the foreign residents and 43% of the residential tourists have a beauty treatment at least once a month. Apparently, the tourists do prefer not to use the services of local hairdressers or

pedicures while the foreign residents and the residential tourists actually have to use them: they cannot go back to their home country every time they need a haircut.

People who only stay for a week or so just because they are on vacation do not visit a dentist or doctor because they will probably have access to better medical services at home. So, for the graph of figure 5.5, the answers of the tourists are not taken into account. The local dentist is extremely unpopular; not a single respondent has been there in the last year, while nearly 60% of the residential tourists and foreign residents have been to a private dental clinic. In general, the 'private' options like a private doctor or clinic are clearly more popular than the public ones. The health facilities in Costa Rica are seen as good, so there are also some residential tourists who go to the public hospital (12%) or local Ebais (7%). So, mainly the private medical services are being used, but not that much that there can be spoken of a medical tourism. The private clinics and doctors are more expensive, but still relatively cheap compared to the medical services in North America and the residential tourists are not Costa Rica's poorest inhabitants. Of all respondents, 50% has a medical insurance in their home country which covers emergency health costs in Costa Rica. 25% has a Costa Rican or international or both home country and Costa Rican based medical insurance and the last 25% has no medical insurance covering health costs in Costa Rica at all.

Table 4.3 shows the spending per week and the spending per year on flight tickets of the respondents. They are split up in groups again, which shows that the different groups have quite different spending patterns. Tourists spend less on grocery shopping, but far more on eating and drinking out and entertainment, trips and tours, transportation and their accommodation rental costs. Per week, a tourist spends almost three times as much as a foreign resident or residential tourist. It is understandable that for only a couple of weeks of holiday, tourists rent a luxurious house, go out for their meals, make trips to parks or entertainment and that they rent a car. This means that tourists bring a lot more money in the local economy than foreign residents or residential tourists do. The last two groups spend a lot more per year on flight tickets but that does not contribute to the local economy; the flight tickets are the leakages mentioned in chapter one. Residential tourists spend less than foreign residents on house maintenance and electricity, water, phone and internet, but they spend more on the rent or on buying their accommodation. The most striking differences between residential tourists and foreign residents are that residential tourists spend a bit more on the touristic things to do like eating out, trips and tours and transportation than the foreign residents. Striking is that residential tourists spend less on wellbeing and medical treatments and grocery shopping. Apparently, the residential tourists like the idea of medical services being of good quality, but they prefer not to use them in Costa Rica. So, tourists spend almost three times more per week than residential tourists, especially on 'linkages' like restaurants, entertainment, transportation, trips and tours and accommodation. Residential tourists spend more on leakages like international flight tickets. On the other hand, the residential tourists stay for a longer time than normal tourists. When a tourist goes out for dinner every day for one week, and a residential tourist goes out for dinner one day a week and he stays for 10 weeks, the main difference between the tourist and the residential tourist is in the *intensity* of the spending.

Table 4.3: Mean spendings of the respondents in US\$ per week.

	Total	Tourists	Residential tourists	Foreign residents
		N = 20	N = 25	N = 33
Grocery shopping	190	161	173	222
Eating/drinking out, entertainment	198	421	142	106
Trips and tours	86	191	67	38
House maintenance	77	15	67	123
Electricity, water, phone, internet	74	9	64	122

Transportation locally	118	243	96	57
Wellbeing, beauty and medical expenses	30	33	11	42
Other	18	27	18	14
Accommodation, rental costs	426	1206	214	97
Total per week	1223	2304	874	810
Flight tickets per year	2861	1865	2643	3647

Source: Fieldwork, 2011

4.4 Property ownership and use

4.4.1 Time and place of stay

Approximately half of all respondents own a house or apartment in Guanacaste, the other half rents. If the group is split up in tourists, residential tourists and foreign residents again, the numbers are slightly different as table 4.4 shows.

Table 4.4: Respondents rent or own the house they are staying.

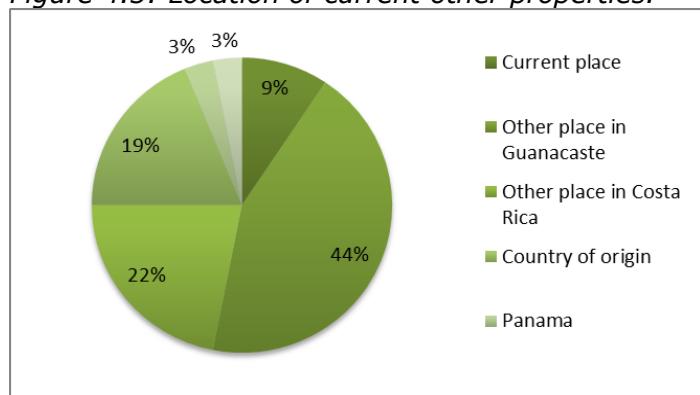
	Tourist	Residential tourist	Foreign resident
	N =20	N =26	N =35
Own	15%	46%	66%
Rent	70%	54%	34%
Shared ownership	10%		
Other	5%		

Source: Fieldwork, 2011

66% of the foreign residents own the house they were staying during their stay in Costa Rica. People who come for the first time or who only stay for 2 weeks a year in Costa Rica prefer to rent a house or condominium instead of buying one and being responsible for the maintenance. 42% of all respondents regard the house in Costa Rica as their main home, and 42% sees it as a vacation home. For the remaining 16%, the Costa Rican house is not only the main home or vacation home, but also an investment. When only the house owners (38) are taken into account, only 24% regards the house in Costa Rica as a vacation home and for 47% it is the main home. For 35% of the home owners the house in Costa Rica is both their home as an investment.

Together, the respondents own 32 properties outside their home country, mainly as vacation home or investment. Figure 4.3 shows where these properties are. Six respondents previously owned another property in Belize, Mexico, Russia, the Dominican Republic, Greece or somewhere else in Guanacaste.

Figure 4.3: Location of current other properties.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 32

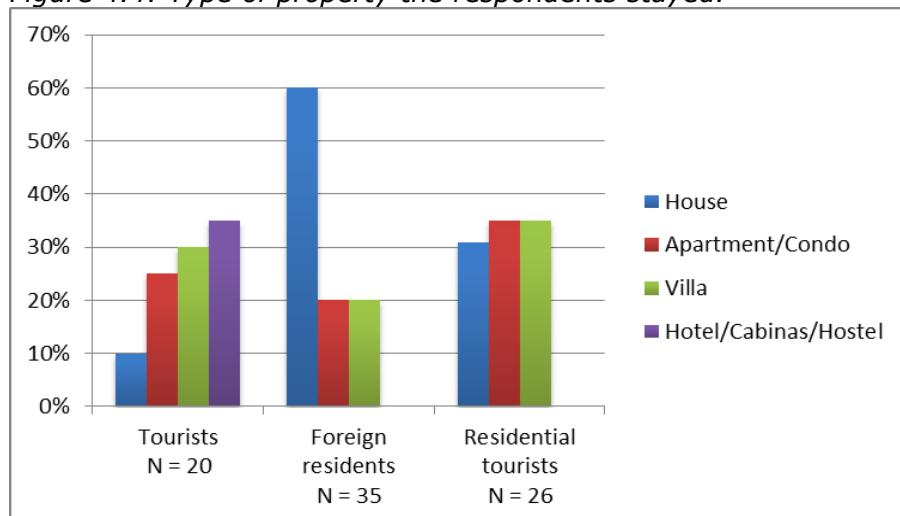
4.4.2 Housing and property type

It is striking that although a considerable part of the respondents said to regard the house in Costa Rica as their main home, only few consider keeping it as their main home in the future. Usually, the respondents who own a house in Costa Rica bought it directly from the developer (62%). One-fourth (26.5%) bought the house directly from the previous individual owner. The previous owners or the developers are mostly from North America or Costa Rica. Renting out the property during the absence of the owner is quite popular as more than half of the respondents who answered the question do so, mostly privately. So for even more people than mentioned above the house in Costa Rica is used as an investment as well and not only a vacation home. If the houses are rented via a company (e.g. not directly from the owner), these agencies are mainly from North America. But almost half of the respondents who rent their house in Costa Rica do this directly from the owner.

The average house of the residential tourist has almost seven rooms, including all bathrooms and the kitchen. The respondents were a lot more closed when they were asked about they paid for their houses. 16 have told what they paid for their house or for the plot of land – sometimes years ago. The mean price paid is \$351 975, but it has to be said that this does not say too much as prices vary widely from \$46 000 up to \$900 000. It is possible that the respondents who did not answer the question did not want to do so because they paid so few or so much money for their house that they did not want any others to know. The overwhelming majority of 90% of the respondents has a pool at the house, either private (34%) or shared (56%). A slight majority of the respondents who own the house in Costa Rica bought it ready-made, the other part custom-designed it. Almost 90% of the respondents with their own house furnished it themselves, with the majority of the furnishing from Costa Rica.

Figure 4.4 below shows in what type of property the respondents stayed during the interview. It is clear that the tourists mostly stay in a hotel or hostel (35%) and none of the foreign residents or residential tourists does so. Obviously, people who stay for a longer time or year-round do not want to stay in a hotel or other tourist accommodation but they prefer a house, villa or apartment. 20% of the tourists and 23% of the residential tourists stayed in a gated community. For the foreign residents, living in a gated community is apparently slightly more attractive as 31% of them stays in a gated community.

Figure 4.4: Type of property the respondents stayed.



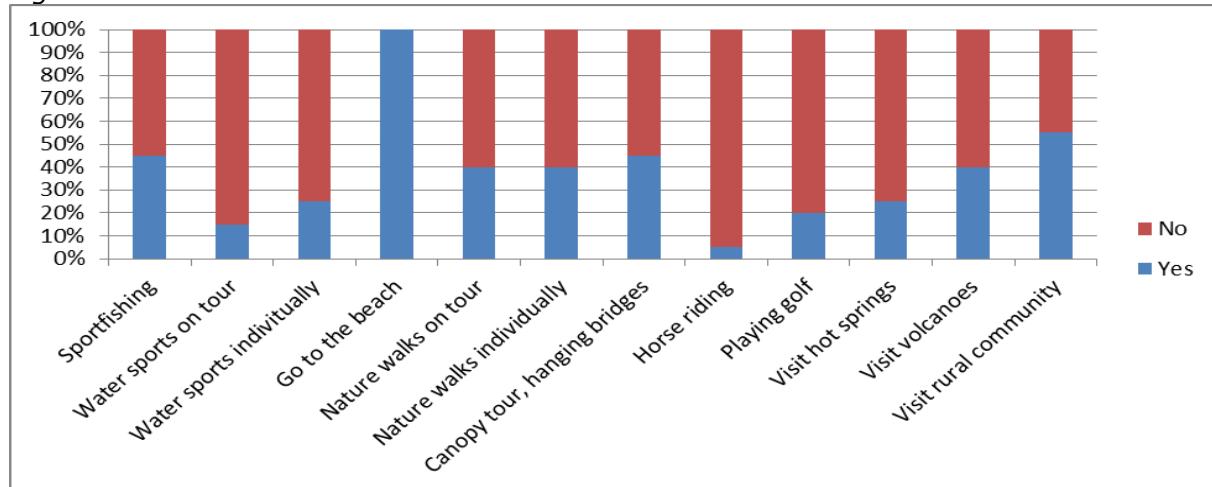
Source: Fieldwork, 2011

4.4.3 Activities during the stay

As most of the respondents are not working fulltime, they have plenty of time for recreational activities. Almost all of them go regularly to the beach to swim or relax. Figures 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 show the differences between tourists, foreign residents and

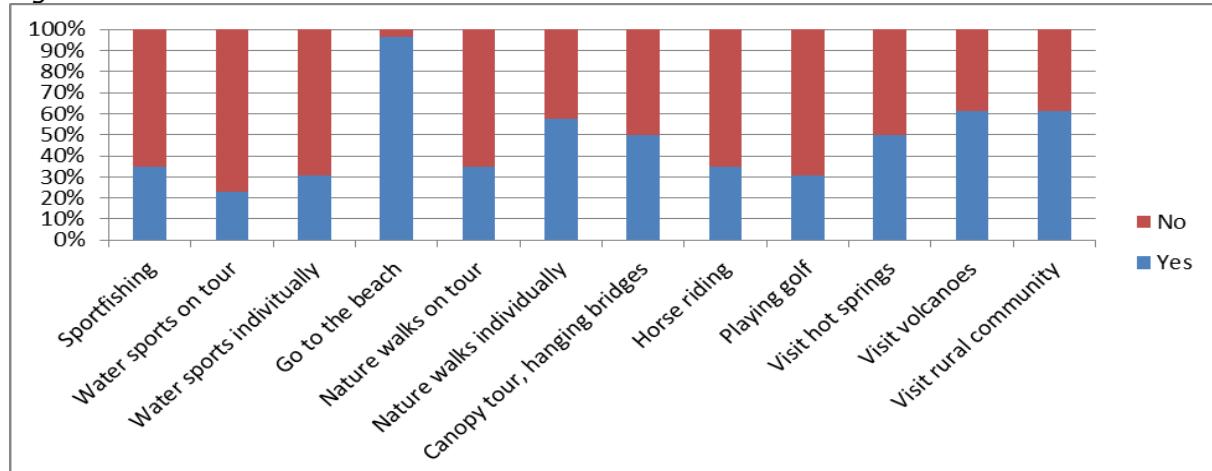
residential tourists. The tourists usually visit more parks, beaches and other tourist spots. All tourists go to the beach while 12% of the foreign residents does not. Residential tourists and foreign residents do usually less often the tourist things to do like horse riding, a zip line tour or visiting the volcanoes. Because they have already been several times in Costa Rica they do already know these tourist activities, so they only do them when they have guests from their home country or for a special occasion. Playing golf is something different. Especially respondents who live in the gated communities like Reserva Conchal and Hacienda Pinilla – which have golf courts – are doing that on a regular basis. Also figure 4.8 shows that after some time the nature is taken somewhat more for granted as well. Nearly one third of the respondents did not visit a national park or protected area in the last 12 months. That is striking because the respondents – as will be discussed in chapter five – mentioned Costa Rica's nature as an important reason to go there.

Figure 4.5: Recreational activities of the tourists



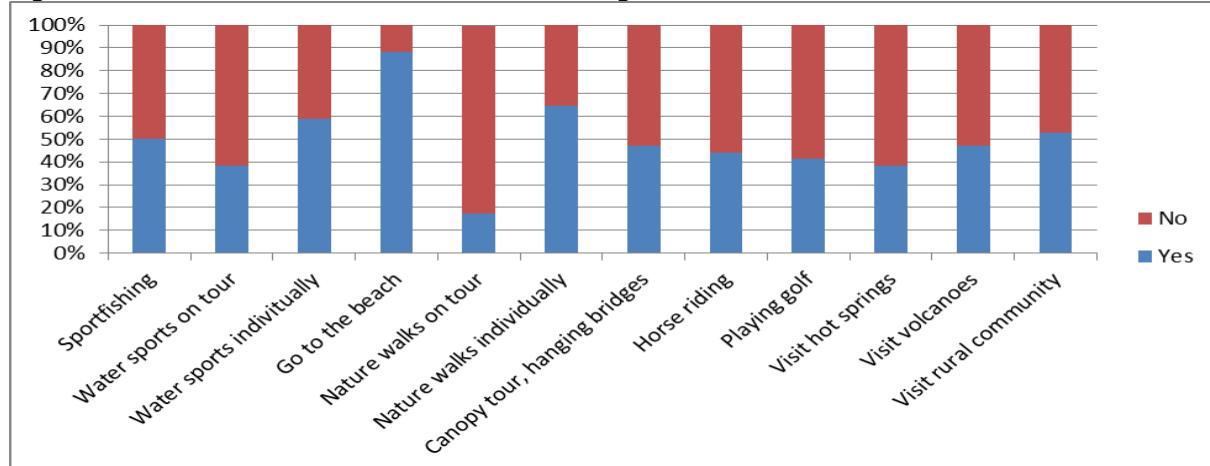
Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 20

Figure 4.6: Recreational activities of the residential tourists



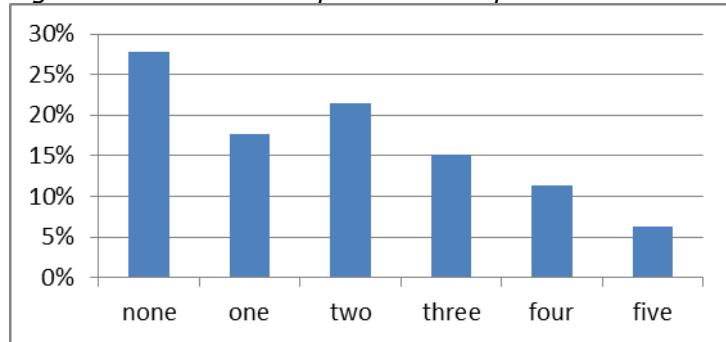
Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 26

Figure 4.7: Recreational activities of the foreign residents



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 34

Figure 4.8: Number of parks the respondents visited in the last 12 months.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 79

4.5 Sub conclusion

I divided the respondents in three groups: tourists, foreign residents and residential tourists. The majority of all respondents is from North America and is high educated. The residential tourists are usually retired. The foreign residents are via their jobs or own businesses more involved in Costa Rica than the residential tourists or the normal tourists. Some respondents see their house as their own business; they are making their money with renting out their house when they are away. Only a few residential tourists have a business based in Costa Rica and none of them has a job there.

The respondents usually go to the supermarket for their daily shopping, with the Costa Rican Automerçado being the most popular supermarket. Going out for a meal at least once a week is normal for almost all respondents. Smaller shops for groceries and other shops for souvenirs and clothes are far less popular. There is a clear difference in spending patterns between normal tourists and residential tourists. Residential tourists and especially foreign residents spend more on supermarket shopping and flight tickets. These things do barely contribute to the local economy; most of it leaks away to, for instance, North American airlines or super market owners. Residential tourists spend a bit more on luxury and touristy things which comes back in the local economy like housing, trips and tours and eating or drinking out.

In general, the more time a foreigner spends in Costa Rica, the more likely it is that he buys a house. For some respondents the advantages of renting do not outweigh the (possible) disadvantages and dangers of buying their own house. As mentioned before, for a significant amount of respondents their house is an investment as well. The houses are usually bought from the developers, who are usually from North America or Costa Rica as well.

Nearly all respondents have a pool at their house, which is mostly shared. Mostly the house is furnished by the respondents themselves, with the majority of the furnishing

from Costa Rica. None of the residential tourists or foreign residents stays in a hotel or hostel. Almost 25% of the residential tourists prefers to stay in a gated community: its safety and services are attractive, but even more for foreign residents. Foreign residents usually go to Costa Rica with the purpose to live there the 'relaxed Costa Rican lifestyle' and only one fourth of them came with the purpose of vacation and/or buying a house. Residential tourists instead usually come to Costa Rica for their holiday, or a vacation combined with buying a property in Costa Rica.

When respondents have already been several times in Costa Rica, they do already know these tourist activities so they only do them for a special occasion. After some time the nature is taken for granted: nearly one third of the respondents did not visit a national park or protected area in the last 12 months. That is striking because that nature is an important reason for the move to Costa Rica.

5 Residential tourists and foreign residents view on local place and environment

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the second sub question: *How do the residential tourists in particular regard local place and environment and the ways residential tourism changes local place and environment?*

In the first two paragraphs, the results of the quantitative survey are discussed. From paragraph 5.3 on, the interview results are used, as described in the methodology chapter. For most of the interview respondents, the main reasons to move to Costa Rica were retirement or business or simply 'to live in Costa Rica'. On average, the interviewees spend more time a year in Costa Rica than the participants of the survey. That might be because the surveys were being executed from February till the end of March, and the interviews were done from the end of April till the end of May, which is not anymore the tourist season. For a huge part of the respondents of the survey, the climate in Guanacaste is a major reason to live part-time in Costa Rica: when it is cold in the north, Guanacaste is dry and warm. This turns in May, when in the northern countries it is spring and when the rainy season starts in Costa Rica. So, the interviewees who stay during the rainy season are somewhat different than the average residential tourists, so it is likely that the answers might be a bit different as well. The majority of the interviewees is still happy to live in Costa Rica and should make the same choice if they had to choose again. A convincing majority of 17 of 22 interviewees does not consider going back. Again, the picture might be blurred because the ones that did not have the financial capacity to stay during the economic crisis or that wanted to leave are already left and so their stories cannot be included. The group of interviewees is quite varied. Some respondents were single, others were retired together with their partners and others live in Costa Rica with their partner and children.

5.2 Motivation and view before the move

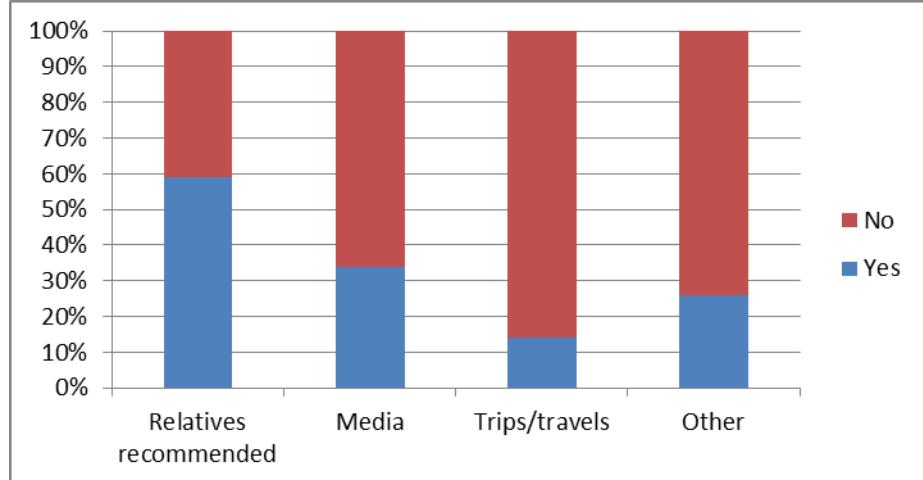
5.2.1 Reasons and ways in which respondents got interested in going to Costa Rica

The respondents were asked how they first got interested in going to Guanacaste. The next figure shows that mainly via family or friends that have been on holiday to Costa Rica, people started to think about going too. Strikingly, there was not a single respondent that was motivated by a travel agency to go to Costa Rica.

As figures 5.1 and 5.2 show, the characteristics of Costa Rica related to climate, nature and beach are extremely important to the respondents, far more than the facilities or low prices. Although there were some differences between the tourists, foreign residents and residential tourists, in general all groups showed the same pattern. The biggest differences were that for only 5% of the tourists, the availability and price of the health facilities was a reason to go to Costa Rica, while it was a reason for 27% of the residential tourists. Foreign residents were less attracted by the nature, beach and luxury housing than the other respondents. The residential tourists were highly attracted by the climate (100%) and were more than the other groups attracted by the property prices and services. Striking is that less than 20% of the respondents mentions that family or friends who are fulltime or part-time staying in Costa Rica is one of the reasons for them to move there as well, while in the previous diagram it was shown that family or friends who recommended to go to Costa Rica were the most important way in which respondents first got interested in Costa Rica. With 34% of the respondents picking it at most important reason to Costa Rica, the climate or weather of Costa Rica is listed number one. Second are the beach and nature. Facilities like shops, luxury housing and health facilities are apparently less important to the respondents. Striking is the fact that also the democratic and peaceful image that people have of Costa Rica was an important reason for the respondents to go there. It is even mentioned more often as a reason than

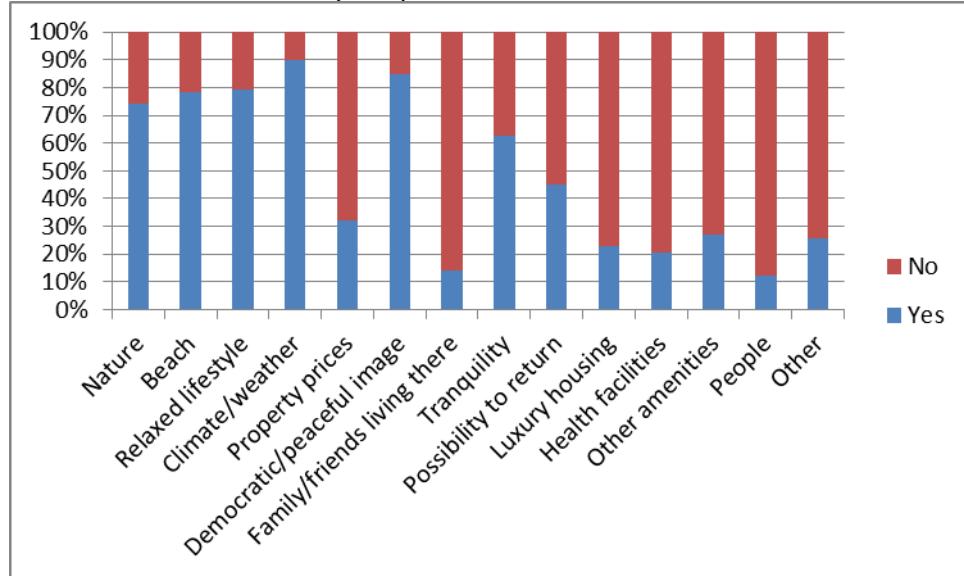
the tranquility. This made clear that the respondents did not only consider the immediate advantages for themselves of living part-time in Costa Rica, like the climate or the low property prices, but that they have taken into account that it is also likely to be safe on the long term. Neighboring countries Panama and especially Nicaragua are considered as less safe to make that investment (Pera, 2008a).

Figure 5.1: Ways in which respondents got interested in going to Costa Rica.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 70

Picture 5.2: Reasons why respondents chose Costa Rica

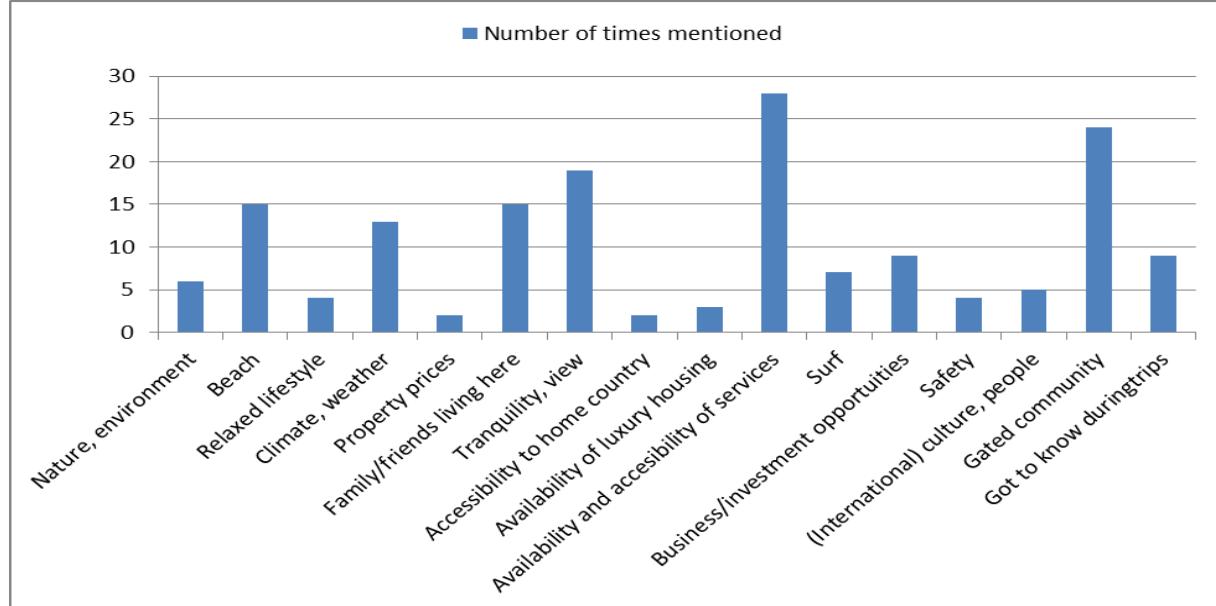


Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 78

When the respondents were asked to say in their own words why they decided to live fulltime or part-time outside their home country, the weather and climate were mentioned most as reasons. After that the quality of life and the relaxed Costa Rican lifestyle appeared to be, again, an important reason to move to Costa Rica. These factors can be seen as Costa Rica's pull factors. The respondents also mentioned which factors pushed them away from their home countries. The government and tax systems in the home country are seen as reasons to move away from the home countries. Some respondents experienced a lack of freedom there because of increasing taxes and because they were unsatisfied with the government. Another group says to be experienced in living a traveling life, so they do not really see their official home country as a home. As mentioned in the theoretical chapter, this generation of people is used to be able to travel the whole world because of globalization.

When people were asked why they chose for the particular town or for particularly Guanacaste, almost one out of four says to have done so because of family or friends are fulltime or part-time living there. Figure 5.3 shows that the safety of a gated community appears to be attractive for residential tourists as well. When it comes to the direct environment of the respondents, the availability and accessibility of services is suddenly seen as highly important; one out of four respondents mentioned it as a reason why he chose the particular town or region where he stayed.

Figure 5.3: Reasons for choosing the specific town or region.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 67

Vacation or recreation was the main purpose of most of the trips for half of the respondents. One out of four respondents was during the interview in Costa Rica to live there either fulltime or part-time, because of the quality of life. In table 5.1, these numbers are split up per group of respondents. Obviously, the tourists only had the purpose to go on holiday for some recreation. Also the residential tourists mainly want to be in Costa Rica for vacation: other purposes are far less important. The foreign residents indicate that for them mainly living in Costa Rica is important. So, the residential tourists are indeed behaving in between tourists and residents. Also buying a house is a reason for them to go to Costa Rica.

Table 5.1: Purpose of the current trip of the respondents

	Tourists	Residential tourists	Foreign residents
	N = 20	N = 24	N = 30
Vacation, holiday, recreation	100%	54%	17%
Visit to family/friends	0%	4%	0%
Health	0%	4%	0%
Work/business	0%	4%	13%
Part-time or fulltime living; life quality; work/business	0%	13%	60%
Vacation and buying house	0%	21%	7%
Other	0%	0%	3%

Source: Fieldwork, 2011

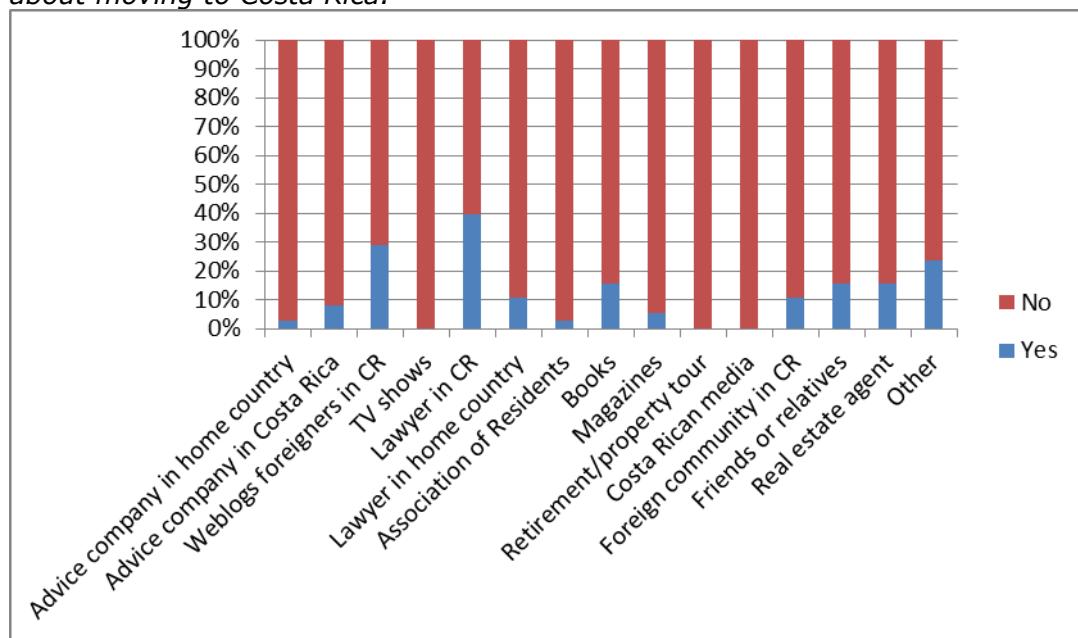
During the trip when the interview was conducted, most respondents (85%) stayed only at the property where they were during the interview. Only a few tourists were travelling

around. That was different during the previous trips of the respondents because then they used to stay somewhere else in Guanacaste.

5.2.2 Ways in which the information for the move was gathered

How did the survey respondents get the information they needed to make the choice where in Guanacaste they could buy a house that fits best to their needs? Figure 5.4 shows clearly that, after a Costa Rican lawyer, weblogs of other foreigners living in Costa Rica is the most popular way of obtaining information about moving fulltime or part-time to Costa Rica. The house owners relied most at sources they knew before or got to know like the lawyer, a real estate agent, friends or relatives, weblogs or a community of other foreigners in Costa Rica. Apparently, 'cold' information from television or an advice company is good for a more general image, but not specific enough to fully rely on for fulltime or part-time migration. There is plenty of supply of advice companies, retirement tours etcetera but apparently it is not used by the respondents.

Figure 5.4: Ways in which residential tourists and foreign residents obtained information about moving to Costa Rica.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 38

5.3 View at environmental, economic and social development

5.3.1 Environment

The interview respondents were asked where they would prefer to live and had to choose between a picture of a completely empty beach and a picture with some scattered low-rise buildings (see appendix 1). Two-third of the interview respondents preferred the empty beach picture. That picture was loved because of its tranquility; "*it is being exactly the same as how it was a thousand years ago*". That means on its turn that there is enough space on the empty beach for turtles. For some respondents, the empty beach picture is their goal, the reason they came to Costa Rica. In the picture with the low-rise building they can already see the badly implemented regulation plans representing greed. Even very few houses use light so the turtles will stay away there. A respondent mentioned that he is "*not against development, but it has to be decent. I do not want it here to become like Europe or Japan*". It is mentioned that there has to be a good balance of livability: there have to be some services nearby. That is exactly what the respondents who were more in favor of the low-rise buildings picture said. They saw that picture as not too overdeveloped either, but with the advantages of services and clients for their businesses. A respondent said she felt hypocritical because now she lived in a

beautiful quiet beach town she did not want anyone else to come. Other respondents said they liked a complete empty beach for a couple of days or one week, but certainly not for their whole life. "*I do not want to be like the Amish – you know them? – so isolated!*"

When the respondents had to choose between the low-rise-buildings picture and a picture of Tamarindo, with mixed high rise and low rise buildings, the arguments were essentially the same, although the respondents agreed more with each other. Only three respondents preferred the mixed picture above the low rise picture. The respondents liked that the houses were more embedded in the environment, the mountainside and the green surroundings than was the case in the Tamarindo picture, it has less impact on nature. The low-rise picture is seen as not over-commercialized and not obstructing beautiful views, better for most of the area. The Tamarindo picture was being associated with the government that cannot handle waste or wastewater, and with greed. The high rise represents illegal and unplanned building for high profits, resulting in an ugly skyline. It is seen as a danger to the region because of various reasons. First of all, the high rise buildings are going to cause more traffic and high density population. High density population is on its turn going to change the relaxed atmosphere people moved to Costa Rica for. Secondly, it does not blend in with nature anymore so it really changes the view. At last, it is feared that nature cannot cope with this high rise buildings and high population density anymore so it is going to be polluted and animals like monkeys will probably stay away from the town. A few respondents would prefer to live in the Tamarindo picture. They recognized that they are currently living in it, and that the beaches are still wonderful. A Costa Rican respondent from capital San José preferred to be somewhere with some action and people, which is better to find in Tamarindo than in a small quiet beach town. Another respondent mentioned that the dispersion of people among the region might be worse for the environment than when they are all together at one place, polluting only that one place and not the whole region. After that, the Tamarindo picture is seen as more beneficial to local people, more development but still not over-commercialized. Finally, a respondent mentioned to love it in Tamarindo because it is just a perfect place to surf.

Reactions became stronger and more passionate when the respondents had to choose between the Tamarindo picture and a picture of a Spanish coast town with only high rise buildings on it. Respondents chose massively, with again only three exceptions, for the Tamarindo picture. They did not mention overwhelmingly many arguments in favor of the Tamarindo picture, but were mainly arguing against the Spanish coast picture. As positive things of the Tamarindo picture was mentioned that 'at least Tamarindo is Costa Rican' and that it looks greener and better developed, more natural. Respondents preferred the simplicity of life in Tamarindo and the lack of traffic and pollution. When the picture of the Spanish coast was showed, several respondents first reacted with shouting things like "*Oh my God! Where is that?*" They regarded it as dirty, causing pollution, too much concrete and not developed in the right way. "*There is no chance in that city to get away from the crazyness and materialism, it is horrible.*" "*Those developers had the 1950's mentality on environment.*" Only a few had some positive comments on the Spanish coast picture. It is mentioned that the Spanish picture is not even pretentious anymore, and that it is still near the ocean. Some respondents would like to go there for a weekend or have a condo for things to do like shopping. The Costa Rican respondent was actually the one who loved that picture and who said to love the smog and the action of a big city.

The opinions were a bit different when the question was put different. Respondents had to choose again between two pictures, first one of a complete 'empty' ocean, and secondly one of the ocean with some small boats for fishing or recreation. Half of the interview respondents chose for the picture with some boats on it. Apparently, boats are seen as something attractive. Respondents mentioned that they liked the boats because the local people need boats to make some money so it means that you live in a place where people live and work and can make a living. Some respondents just like to see boats because it looks nice or peaceful. It is not too much and it shows that "*it is obvious that people like to go there.*" The empty picture shows nothing according to some respondents: "*You do not want to be the only person at the planet.*" Again, a

completely empty beach is regarded to be only nice for one week. Only few respondents prefer to see a tranquil and complete empty beach without any other people on it. There is a respondent that does not like the gas smell when the boats are polluting the water. Strikingly, the other respondents do not relate the boats to water pollution or population density like they already had when they saw a few houses on a picture.

When respondents had to choose between the picture with the boats and a picture with a complete marina on it the reactions were similar as with the Spanish coast picture. The marina picture is seen as a cause of contamination problems and to represent overdevelopment and illegal things happening there. It represents a 'show what you have' and materialistic lifestyle of rich people; the respondents would probably not have the money to invest there. One mentioned that "*There is nothing tasty about that picture*". The picture with only some boats is seen as more personal and spacious, with minimal pollution and representing the local town life. Again the Costa Rican respondent was different than the others; she liked the people and action that go along with the marina picture. Another respondent thinks that it might be good for Costa Rica just to have a few marinas. Not too much, but concentrated. It is seen as hard to manage a marina; a respondent thinks that Costa Rica does not have the knowledge yet how to manage it well. Pera (2008b, pp. 89) quotes one of her respondents in her report: "*I guess we should be careful what we wish for. I was coming here for several years and finally I just said if I want to buy I have to do it now because Tamarindo is going to explode. But I had no idea that growth also meant Burger King and Pizza Hut, you know, that's what I came here to get away from*" The majority of the respondents prefer to live in a small quiet place and prefer a quiet beach. Only some like both, although several respondents mention they like to live in a small rural environment but in the proximity of a big city with all kinds of services.

5.3.2 Economy

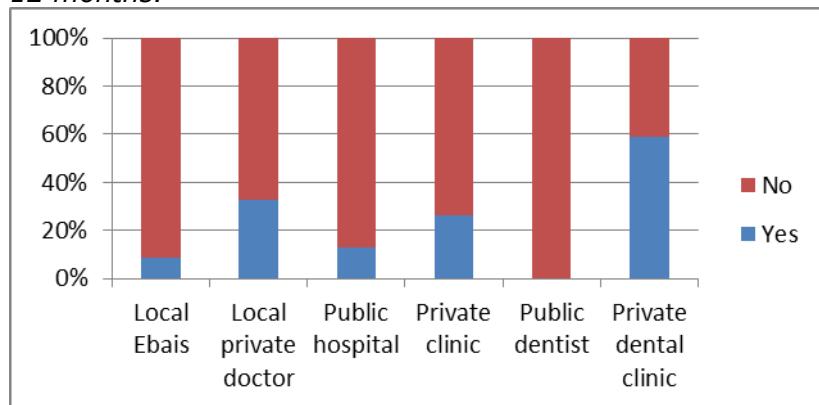
The respondents had different opinions when it came to the question how they would prefer the Guanacastecan economy to develop. The respondents chose between two pictures again, as explained in chapter 3. The first picture represented a more modern way of economic growth and the other one represented a smaller, local traditional economy with nature guides and pottery.

Reasons why half of the interviewees wanted Costa Rica to develop in the more modern way are that the modern picture is the way the world is going, and Costa Rica needs to stay up with that. Foreigners need the convenience of Wi-Fi internet and cheap and easy airfares. That way of development is seen as a development that brings more and mainly better jobs than the more old-fashioned way. The old-fashioned way of development is seen as a bit simple, not a positive picture for the future and only based on tourism: guides and pottery bakers do not make good money and after returning to Costa Rica for 6 years, tourists do not want the pottery anymore.

The ones that were in favor of the less internationally focused way of development saw that one as more natural, more cultural and special for Costa Rica. That way is seen to have less impact and cause less disruption for the environment. Wi-Fi is on more places of the world and it represents mainly the first world's influence in this part of the world and it is seen as ugly. Two of the respondents argued that both ways of development are necessary: "*You should have both ways of development. You can't just have the traditional one, and Liberia is an international city. So the blend is better.*"

In short, the respondents had different arguments about why they preferred the Guanacastecan economy to develop either modern or more traditional. The arguments for the modern way of development were mainly that it would be better on the long term for the local economy to develop modernly. For the more traditional picture the main arguments were that it is more Costa Rican and causing less pollution.

Figure 5.5: Use of medical services by residential tourists and foreign residents in the last 12 months.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 60

5.3.3 Social relations

The interviewees were asked where they would prefer to live: in an unregulated town where people can build what they want; in a segregated gated community; in a clearly zone planned town or in a mixed town. A significant majority of the interview respondents chose for the zoning plan. For them, the zoning plan represented a controlled, responsible and balanced way of development, with everything thought out on beforehand and environmental and aesthetic concerns taken into account. Also the idea that the well-thought-out plan makes it possible to control the speed and direction of the local economic growth appeared to be attractive to the interview respondents. A few preferred the segregated gated community picture, mainly because of the safety coming along with living in a gated community.

5.3.4 Culture

The interview respondents were asked to choose between a picture of a local market and a picture of a part of San José. Only two of them chose the San José picture, the respondents preferred the 'organic' look of the market picture. They mentioned that one was more eye-catching, representing a rural tranquil lifestyle which is more balanced, connected to earth, Costa Rican and community centered. There is an absence of traffic and a low population rate so the beaches are supposed to be quiet. This was the opposite of what respondents said about the city picture. That was seen as an "*ill-planned crowded concrete jungle, representing stress, crime, violence, McDonalds and commercialization.*" The respondents emphasized that they do not miss the shops and that if they want to they can always go there, but here in Costa Rica they chose to live without the shops. The only positive things that were mentioned about the San José picture were economic things: the city picture represents a growing Costa Rica, which means development. Striking is that no one mentioned the services that a city can have. The only negative things that were said about the market picture had to do with the lack of services: "*You can never find underwear in the right size there*" and "*It is like Asia: all the same poverty around the world*". When the respondents had to choose between the city picture and a picture of a shopping center with brands on it like AutoMercado and Burger King, they were a bit more divided. 11 respondents preferred the city picture and 7 preferred the picture with the brands.

It is mentioned that the AutoMercado means quality of groceries, and that it represents the services of a city but with some green in it so it is more balanced. There are things to do for kids too. The city picture is according to some still too crowded, unsafe and urban. The respondents that were more in favor of the city picture said that they liked San José and its people, the ambiance and services of the city: it has more authenticity than the big conglomerates of McDonalds: they came to Costa Rica to escape that. Individual businesses are seen as nicer than the international ones. The city picture shows pedestrian walkways and green trees, which makes it more personal and

'fresh'. Especially the mass production and 'foreign' commercialization of the brands picture is what the respondents dislike. "*That McDonalds M is a satanic ritual symbol*" and 'Malls like that you can find anywhere in the world, that fast food is making the world sick' are some quotes that demonstrate how passionate some of the responses were. This attitude is striking because the respondents of the survey were praising the Automercado and 75% of them mentioned the Automercado as frequented supermarket.

The respondents showed a strong preference for what they see as organic Costa Rican culture. There has to be a balance for the interviewees between tranquility and services: tranquil should not mean isolated and having access to services should not mean that those services are only delivered by international companies in big cities.

5.3.5 Balance and economic crisis

As described in the methodological chapter, one of the questions in the interview forced the respondents to decide what they thought to be most important: economy, social wellbeing or nature. For each topic there were two pictures: one showing a flourishing variant and the other one a negative variant. A majority of eleven of the respondents indicated that nature was more important for them than economic development or social wellbeing. If they could design Guanacaste's future and had to choose only one positive scenario and two negative ones, they picked the flourishing nature as the positive one. Mentioned is that the nature is what makes Costa Rica so unique, services like hospitals, gyms and internet access can be found somewhere else in the world. Besides, people argue that via the beautiful nature social wellbeing and economic prosperity could be reached – if managed well. Nature was an important reason for the respondents to move to Costa Rica. After nature, social wellbeing and economic growth were equally chosen by the respondents as the most important factor for the future. They argued that either social wellbeing is necessary to work and enjoy nature or that via economic development you can develop the other two, social wellbeing and the nature.

When the respondents were allowed to pick two positive scenario's for the future and only one negative one, they still chose for nature as most important one and after that for social wellbeing. The unemployment and stagnation picture is seen as the least negative one. Respondents did not like to see the environmental devastation picture or the picture showing social problems. Some of them have kids so they want to see their children growing up in a safe and clean environment. Unemployment is seen as only temporarily and most of the respondents do not necessarily need a flourishing economy immediately because they are, as mentioned before, the ones who were strong enough to survive the crisis. Natural degradation and social problems are more likely to bother them before economic stagnation does. The respondents are financially strong enough to survive some problems so some local economic problems do not bother them.

When the respondents were asked if they thought a balance between those three factors would be possible in the future, they were optimistic. Sixteen out of the 18 thought that a balance would be reachable. Respondents mentioned that the government already made various good laws. According to the interviewees those laws only have to be properly implemented and enforced, and corruption should be controlled. Better education is mentioned as well as a way to reach the balance between nature, economy and social wellbeing. According to two respondents, the current situation in Guanacaste is already the perfect balance. It is striking that, when the respondents were asked which picture(s) best reflect the current situation, both the unemployment and the economic growth pictures are mentioned most.

5.3.6 Power relations

Four respondents argued that all actors have gained at least something from residential tourism. The respondents mentioned that nearly all actors have had more income or business possibilities; the local and central government had more tax income and that the environmentalists and protesters did at least gain some media attention and maybe more donations as well. 13 of the respondents mentioned there has been an economic or financial benefit for different actors. Also the word *corruption* is mentioned several times. All respondents thought that both the local and the national government

and the airlines gained from tourism; there was not a single respondent who thought the airlines had lost because of (residential) tourism. Also the developers, hotel owners, residential tourists, Nicaraguans and locals are in general seen as winners. As mentioned before, some people had the opinion that everyone gained a little bit of something – money, power or attention –, but the environmentalists, protesters and local organizations are seen as the biggest losers. That is notable because the environmentalists have had some successes in the past, for instance in the Sardinal water case. It appears that the interviewees do not recognize that as real successes, or they see them as too small to really make a change. They argued that tourism has only become bigger and so environment only had to suffer more. Another respondent mentioned that "*All they are standing for or where they believe in is away now or threatened.*" The crisis is mentioned as a process that hit the vulnerable and again the government is being blamed of stealing from the poor local organizations and environmentalists.

The local government in Santa Cruz is seen as the most powerful actor in Guanacaste, but only slightly more powerful than the national government. The real estate developers are the third in the list, but with a huge gap and not that convincing: approximately the same amount of respondents thought that developers are powerless, mainly because of the economic crisis.

The interviewees indicated that there are a lot more powerless actors than powerful ones. The group with the least power according to the respondents is the Nicaraguans. Directly after them are the residential tourists, the locals and migrants from San José. Also hotel owners, local organizations and protesters, airlines, and environmentalists are considered as powerless by more than half of the respondents. It is striking that the airlines are seen as powerless because without the Liberia airport – and airlines offering cheap flights from North America to Liberia airport – tourism in Guanacaste would not have developed so fast. Costa Rica as a whole is seen as a corrupt country where it is very hard – if not impossible – to make a real change. 'Airlines' are so big and impersonal that respondents might see them as giants who do not even notice that they just crushed some small ants. Again it is mentioned that the government is corrupt and therefore powerful, so the other groups have less power because they cannot stand up against the corruption: "*It is all about corruption and networks of friends and money. It is not about who you know but who knows you.*" There is a mixture of interests among powerful players in Costa Rica. Another respondent mentioned for instance that Costa Rica is ruled by a *bankster*: the vice president of the national government is the Chief Executive Officer of the Scotiabank at the same time. Costa Rica is such a small country that it is likely that the few leading and powerful persons know each other. Only one respondent mentioned the residential tourists themselves in his or her power-top-three. He mentioned that the residential tourists have the money to have some power, while most other respondents regarded them as rather powerless. Also Jennifer Pera's respondents mention that 'things work' in Costa Rica via bribery: "*Many respondents mentioned how they simply needed to pay a small bribe in order to expedite their residency papers or be able to build before receiving all of the official clearances and permits*" (Pera, 2008b)

During the last years, the power relations have changed a bit according to half of the respondents. The economic crisis is mentioned as the root cause of that change: "*The developers lost power because of the crisis. The ones who were bad left because they only wanted to make quick money. The ones that are still here are normal human beings who just want to make a living. That is positive: there is more a community feeling now. The ones who stayed have a heart for Tamarindo.*". It is also mentioned that the attitude of the locals towards the *gringo's* has changed because the local Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans became more aware of the fact that they need these foreigners financially.

5.3.7 Economic crisis

Only four of the interviewees said to be not really effected by the economic crisis. All others of the 22 respondents had to deal with the financial consequences of the economic crisis. Striking is that although a few respondents got poor, the majority is

talking in a very positive way about the crisis. People have to live with less money, but they say to be happier in this way. One respondent even said that "*the crisis is the best thing that could have happened to Costa Rica*". People needed to slow down a bit and after some time they concluded that their life quality is even better now. The crisis is seen as an opportunity to take a deep breath and look at what happened in the years just before the crisis: a good reason to take a step back, reflect and slow down the development of condo projects etcetera. So also their direct environment changed in a positive way for the respondents as it became quieter, less criminal and less overbuilt. It is important to realize that these stories are only part of the whole picture. Logically, the ones that could not financially survive the crisis went back to their home countries or somewhere else.

5.4 Sub conclusion

Respondents started to think about going to Costa Rica mainly via family or friends that have been there too. The climate or weather of Costa Rica is listed as the number one reason to go there. Second are the beach and nature. Foreign residents were less attracted by the nature, beach and luxury housing than the other respondents. The residential tourists were highly attracted by the climate and were more than the other groups attracted by the property prices and services. So in general the climate, nature and relaxed lifestyle of Guanacaste are the pull factors for all groups of respondents. For the residential tourists and the foreign residents, the home country politics, tax systems and other regulations are mentioned as motives to move, so the push factors.

Nature is far more important for the residential tourists and foreign residents than economic development or social wellbeing. They argue that the nature is what makes Costa Rica so unique, services like hospitals, gyms and internet access can be found somewhere else in the world. After nature, social wellbeing and economic growth were equally chosen by the respondents as important for the future. They argue that either social wellbeing is necessary to work and enjoy nature or that via economic development you can develop the other two, social wellbeing and the nature. Unemployment and stagnation are seen as only temporal and not so negative as environmental degradation. Possibly the respondents see it that way because most of them do not necessarily need a flourishing economy immediately because they are, as mentioned before, the ones who were strong enough to financially survive the crisis. The respondents showed a strong preference for what they see as original Costa Rican culture and habits. The majority of them prefer to live in a small quiet place and prefer a quiet beach. Only some like both, although several respondents mention they like to live in a small rural environment but in the proximity of a big city with all kinds of services. There has to be a balance for the interviewees between tranquility and services: tranquil should not mean isolated and having access to services should not mean that those services are only delivered by international companies in big cities. The residential tourists and foreign residents did not have a unanimous view about whether Guanacaste should become a modern or more traditional economic area. For the more traditional picture the main arguments were that it is more Costa Rican and causing less pollution. Others mentioned that they were selfish to hope that Guanacaste would stay like it was when they arrived, without further development, and that Guanacaste should develop in a modern way in order to stimulate welfare for the local population. The interviewees indicated that they would prefer Guanacaste to develop in a way that is well controlled, responsible and balanced, with everything thought out on beforehand and environmental and aesthetic concerns taken into account, like us usually the case in their home countries. The idea that the well-thought-out plans make it possible to control the speed and direction of the local economic growth is attractive to them. So, the residential tourists and foreign residents can handle an economic crisis, but when Costa Rica becomes crowded, polluted and with all services they were used to in their home countries, the reasons for their move to Costa Rica are gone.

The local and the national government and the airlines are unanimously seen as the ones who gain from tourism, mainly financially. Some people had the opinion that everyone gained a little bit of money, power or attention, but the environmentalists,

protesters and local organizations are in general seen as the losers. The local government is also regarded to be the most powerful actor in Guanacaste, together with the national government. Residential tourists think that there are a lot more powerless actors than powerful ones, and that Nicaraguans have the least power of all. It is often mentioned quickly that the local and national government are so corrupt that other population groups barely have the chance or power to stand up against the corruption. Most residential tourists and foreign residents see themselves as powerless because they have the feeling that local population and the government do not even want to listen to their ideas and plans.

The majority of the residential tourists and foreign residents talks in a very positive way about the economic crisis. People have to live with less money, but they say to be happier in this way. The crisis is seen as an opportunity: a good reason to take a step back, reflect and slow down the development of enormous projects.

6. Ways of influence residential tourists and foreign residents have on local place and environment

6.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the question *In what ways residential tourists and foreign residents deal with or influence the changing local place and environment?* will be discussed. Because only a part of the foreign residents and residential tourists are legal citizens, they do not have the same rights and duties as formal citizens do. The right to vote is in this case an important one. Pera (2008b, pp. 105) mentions that non-profit organization Pro Mejoras is 'the closest they can get to formal representation'. As the residential tourists are the ones with enough money to have some serious impact, in which ways are they trying to influence their surroundings when it is changing in a way that they do not like? The residential tourists and foreign residents may not have too much legal rights, but they can leave Guanacaste, write letters to the government or organize meetings and protests.

6.2 Influence and involvement of residential tourists and foreign residents in Guanacaste

6.2.1 Leave Guanacaste

Of the 16 respondents who answered the question, 11 would leave if Guanacaste would change and start to look too much like the overbuilt Spanish coast pictures. Although half of house owners in the survey do not consider selling the house in the future, the other half would consider selling the house or even had the house for sale when the interview was done. Still, half of the interview respondents think Guanacaste is not going to change that fast that they will be bothered by it. They argue that it will take years before Costa Rica will be overbuilt, so it will never become like that or at least not in their lives. If it would really change that fast, most of the respondents would go to 'somewhere else in Central America or South America'. There was a respondent actually packing bags during the interview because she was leaving, back to the United States. Her story might be representative for disappointed residential tourists in Guanacaste: "*We were told that Reserva Conchal was a green project with solar energy and per house one acre of land for nature and animals. But then we came here and there was no solar energy and I heard chainsaws at night. I called the manager, but still nothing happened and you can still hear the chainsaws at night, so that's why we're leaving as well. After the hurricane Katrina Brad Pitt did so good with donating money for solar houses for the poor who lost their houses. It is so possible to do it the right way but it just doesn't happen here.*" This story shows that the residential tourists might indeed not be that powerful as they wish to be and as may be good. They were interested in living in an eco-friendly environment and spending their money on a way that it promotes (sustainable) development, but forces working against them appeared to be stronger. It can sound like an excuse to say that there is so much bribery by the developers of corrupt government members, because corruption is not controllable and the government was not very cooperative or willing to provide information, but the fact is that certain environment-protecting laws are not strictly followed.

6.2.2 Protest

The respondents were divided about the question whether they would protest against Guanacaste becoming overbuilt or not. Half of them said not to protest in any way because, as they see it, protesting is useless. The respondents do not trust the Costa Rican politicians and they think it is vice versa as well. Or how a respondent did put it: "*when you have blue eyes, you are always wrong here*". The other half of the respondents would be or has been more pro-active when it comes to their own direct environment. Some of them are already supporting local organizations, signing or

making petitions and attending meetings. Out of their answers speaks a bit resignation: they would definitely want to do something at the overbuilding in a peaceful and reasonable way, but at the same time they know that those kinds of actions are not going to be very effective because of corruption. The high rate of possible active protesters, probably higher than the local population, shows the involvement of the foreign residents.

Although the respondents have very little trust in the Costa Rican politicians and officials, they are very positive about the coastal land policies and the prohibition of private beaches. They agree with the policies that you cannot own a beach and that the coastal zone has to be protected but still the respondents are skeptical about the effectiveness of the laws. One of the residential tourists gave an answer that is more or less a summary of the answers given before by the other respondents: "*There is a bunch of good laws but they are not implemented or respected because of the bribery. The laws are there, but they do not make any sense. Where is the police at night, for instance? They are giving speed tickets with extremely high fines so you can bribe them. It is just like the development plans: there is no quality control.*" Another representative answer was as follows: "*If we could make a difference, we would do whatever. But Costa Ricans do not want us to be involved so I do not really think that we can make a difference. But hey, look at the Pacific Rental[new high rise building in the center of Tamarindo] building: nobody is in it because that building does not make any sense and it takes away the character of Tamarindo.*" This reaction shows that there is a certain feeling of despair or discrimination among the residential tourists. They have the feeling that although they want to do the right thing and that they are engaged in protecting the environment, the Costa Ricans do not take them seriously, left out that they would be able to make a change.

The interviewees were asked about their knowledge of local tourism-related conflicts in the region. The most important subjects of the conflicts they mentioned were nature- or water related. Also several conflicts on government or authority related issues, buildings and social relations were mentioned, but in these conflicts all factors relate to each other. For instance there was a conflict with the Barceló hotel. The Barceló hotel was built in a national park, so possibly the Barceló owner or developer bribed a government official, or at least the environment-protecting law was not followed properly. The mangrove was cut and the wastewater was being dumped in the ocean, so the community protested against that. Another example is the Langosta road conflict. Langosta is a small village where mainly foreigners live. There are some hotels, like the Barceló, some condominium projects and some villas of foreigners. The road from Tamarindo to Langosta is unpaved and dirty: in the dry season it is dusty and in the rainy season muddy. Both are bad conditions for cars and it is impossible to drive faster than approximately 25 to 30 kilometers an hour. The inhabitants of Langosta decided that, if the government did not want to pay for the paved road of approximately 3 kilometers from Tamarindo to Langosta, they would pay it themselves. They collected the money and made a deal with the government that the road would be fixed. Somehow, it did not happen and it turned out that the money was 'disappeared'. A couple of years later again the Langosta inhabitants decided to collect money and stimulate the government to fix that road but again, the money disappeared. So now there is still only a dirt road, and the inhabitants do not have the slightest bit of confidence in the local government; they are disappointed that their cooperation did not have any effects. The story about Sardinal is somewhat different. Sardinal is a small village near the coastal tourist town Playas del Coco where various new projects were planned. The inhabitants of Sardinal protested on the streets when they heard that the water from their village would be used for the new projects. They got attention for their protests and the plans were changed. Some respondents mention other cases in which plans or habits were changed. The beach clean-up sessions which are organized by surfers, or the prohibition of quad driving on the beach which destroys turtle nests are examples of successful actions of foreigners.

The groups joining any protests in general, so not the examples above, were, according to the respondents, mainly gringo's themselves. Not the tourists, but people

who stay for a longer time per year and are more involved. Locals have an interest in not protesting – they can make money out of the new projects so they will not stop their own possible income. The only ones hurt by those new and not-so-sustainable projects are – according to the respondents - indeed the residential tourists themselves because their view is obstructed, their houses might lose their value and they are noticing first the environmental degradation. In the end the other stakeholders will be influenced as well but the residential tourists are seeing it first. So, the groups or persons who are held responsible are mainly the government – especially the mayor of Santa Cruz – and developers or land or real estate owners. According to some other respondents, it is hypocritical to join these protests as the people gaining money with it should not protest against other people who want to do the same. The respondents reacted divided about the question if they would join these protests or not. They mentioned various times that they are only guests in Costa Rica and that they feel that locals would not want them to get involved in those conflicts, or that the protests are not that effective. The others argue that protests can be dangerously effective. Both the non-protesters and the would-protesters mention that better education and support of the national government would improve the power of the local population. More than half of the respondents said not to be involved in any conflict, their reactions were a bit reserved towards that topic. "*I'm not involved, I don't need enemies*" or "*I'm not involved, I'm a gringo!*" are common reactions. There is only one respondent who said not to be involved in protest actions because she likes the dirt roads because with the dirt roads no other foreigners will move over.

Pera (2008b, pp. 110) elaborates what the problem is in the decision making process. The foreign residents and residential tourists do usually not have the right to vote, they can only try to influence their employees to vote what they want to vote. The employees do barely live in Tamarindo but in the village nearby, Villarreal. Villarreal and Tamarindo are both in the municipality of Santa Cruz, so there is no one who has an interest in improving the situation in Tamarindo: no politician can get a vote or political support and the local population is – if interested at all – more interested in improving things in Villarreal.

6.3 Relation between views and actions of foreign residents and residential tourists

The residential tourists and foreign residents moved to Guanacaste because it is a quiet, rural area with beautiful nature, in a country with a stable democracy. In the countries where they are from, they used to have influence – they are usually well-educated and had higher level jobs. Furthermore, they are used that citizens in their home countries do have some power because policies or government plans can be changed when citizens raise their voices. In Costa Rica, the situation is different. The impact residential tourists or foreign residents can have on policies and implementation is very limited, whether they are legal citizens or not. The remaining options are to leave the country or the region or to protest via petitions, meetings, sending letters to the government or to join in demonstrations. The interviewees clearly indicated that neither the local population nor the local or national government wants to hear them.

Actions and protests of foreign residents and residential tourists are primarily focused on protecting the environment, what they came to Costa Rica for, or on stimulating development. In the next chapter the involvement of these foreigners in local associations will be discussed more in detail, but more than 30% of all foreign residents and residential tourists was involved in a developmental organization or school. The respondents moved to Costa Rica with the idea that they could do something good, like the example at the beginning of this chapter. That respondent wanted to employ a gardener and a housekeeper and live in a eco-friendly house, but the negative experiences made her realize that it was not possible yet to live that way in Guanacaste and so she left. Although several argued that they are only guests in Costa Rica and they just had to accept what was going on, others mentioned the frustration when buildings that do not meet the law are built right in front of them. On the other hand, protests in

the past demonstrated that they can be very effective. The case of the Sardinal water is an example of a very successful protest.

In short, although they have limited rights and legal power, the residential tourists and foreign residents can still have influence in the way tourism in Guanacaste develops. There is a certain frustration among them because in their home countries they were used to fix those issues quicker and in Guanacaste, sometimes they have the idea that nobody listens to them.

6.4 Sub conclusion

Although the residential tourists and foreign residents doubt if Guanacaste will change that fast that they will be bothered by it, a majority of them would leave if Guanacaste would change and start to look overbuilt. If it would really happen that fast, most of the respondents would go to 'somewhere else in Central America or South America'.

Protesting is seen as useless and there is very few trust in the Costa Rican politicians. The other half of the respondents would be or has been more pro-active; some of them are already supporting local organizations, signing or making petitions and attending meetings.

Although the respondents have little trust in the Costa Rican politicians and officials, they are positive about the existing coastal land policies and the prohibition of private beaches. The groups or persons who are held responsible for the violation of these policies are mainly the government – especially the mayor of Santa Cruz – and developers or land or real estate owners. The foreign residents and residential tourists hope that on the long run, these policies will be properly implemented.

According to some other respondents, it is hypocritical to join these protests as the people gaining money with it should not protest against other people who want to do the same. They mentioned various times that they are only guests in Costa Rica and that they feel that locals would not want them to get involved in those conflicts, or that the protests are not that effective. The others argue that protests, like in Sardinal, can be very effective. Both the non-protesters and the would-protesters mention that better education and support of the national government would improve the power of the local population.

There is a certain feeling of despair or discrimination among the residential tourists. They have the feeling that although they want to do the right thing and that they are engaged in protecting the environment, the Costa Ricans do not take them serious, left out that they would be able to make a change. But on several cases the residential tourist and foreign residents have been partly successful in changing plans. When is taken into account that a considerable part of these people is only on tourist visa in the country, they have a remarkable influence.

7. Transnationalism of residential tourists and foreign residents

7.1 Introduction

In this chapter the sub question *How does the involvement of the residential tourists and foreign residents in their home country compare to their local involvement in Guanacaste?* Will be discussed. I will compare the ways in which the respondents were involved in their home countries and Costa Rica. The second paragraph zooms in to the sociocultural and political-societal involvement in Guanacaste and the third paragraph is about the sociocultural and political-societal involvement in the respondents' home countries. The chapter ends with a sub conclusion.

7.2 Involvement in Guanacaste

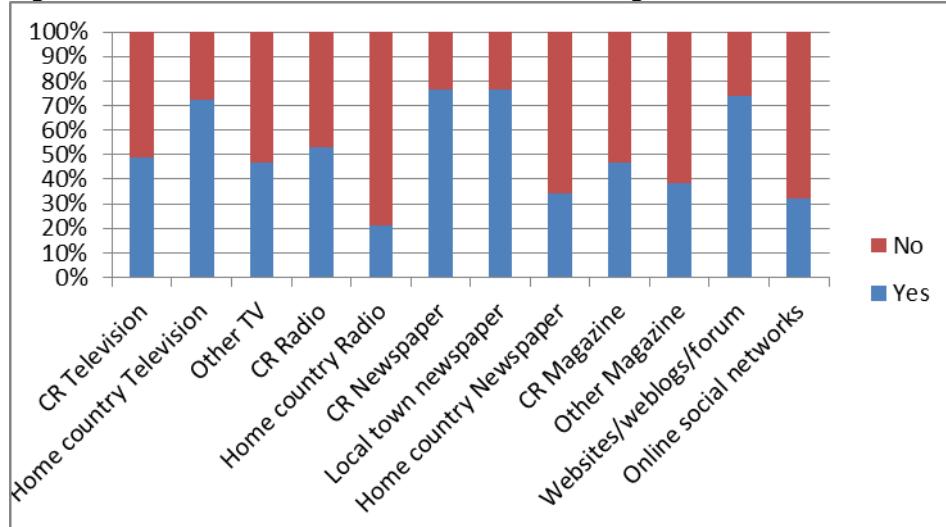
7.2.1 Social involvement

As is visible in appendix 1, the survey respondents were asked to indicate with which groups they had contact during their stay in Costa Rica. They had to rank four groups from 1 to 4: Costa Ricans, Nicaraguans, other people from their home country and other people from other countries. Rank 1 meant that they had most contact with that group, and rank 4 meant that they had least contact with that group. Respondents clearly said to have least contact with Nicaraguans during their stay in Costa Rica. Not a single respondent mentioned to have the most contact with a Nicaraguan, while 80% did put the Nicaraguans at last. Most respondents do have the most contacts with people from their home country. Second and third place are for local Costa Ricans and people from other countries. Mostly, these people from the home countries and other countries were North Americans (Canadians or people from the United States) or Europe. The contacts with Costa Ricans are mainly because the Costa Ricans are employees of residential tourists and secondly as friends or neighbours. Nicaraguans are also mainly contacted as employees, but they are not so much mentioned as friends or clients or neighbours. The types of contacts with people from the respondents' home country or from other countries are not so different: preliminary friends or social life, like meeting people at the pool or beach or supermarket, or clients or neighbours. Slightly more than half of the respondents sees their Spanish speaking skills as bad or very bad, the other half is regular, good or even very good. Pera (2008b, pp. 101) mentions how striking it is that the words 'an international community' usually refer to the English-speaking community. The actual language in Tamarindo is English, you do not need to know any Spanish to get around.

7.2.2 Socio-political involvement

The socio-political involvement of the residential tourists and foreign residents is a different picture than the social involvement. Figure 7.1 makes visible that nearly 80% of the residential tourists or foreign residents read Costa Rican newspapers. 60% only reads Costa Rican newspapers which are only in English. The remaining 40% reads only Spanish (28%) or bilingual, both Spanish and English (12%), newspapers. The majority of the residential tourists is well-informed about local news as more than 70% reads local town newspapers or more general Costa Rican newspapers. But also home country television is in general being watched, as more than 70% of the respondents said to do so. Again, internet possibilities are popular as well: 75% of the respondents stays up-to-date via internet websites, weblogs or forums. Apparently, the residential tourists feel connected to the news and happenings in both their home country and Costa Rica or the local town.

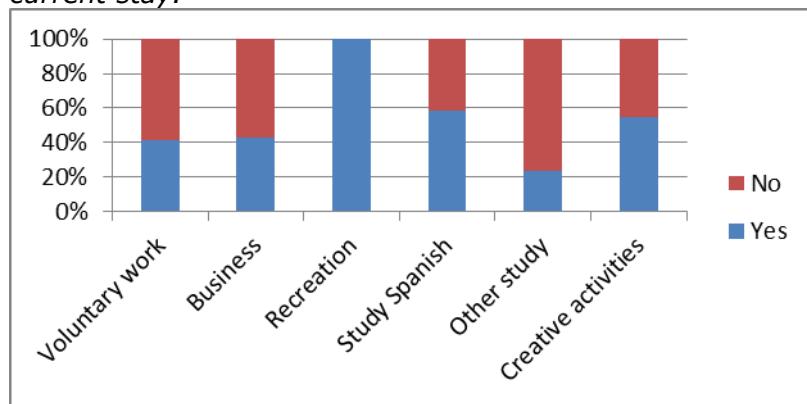
Figure 7.1: Media residential tourists and foreign residents use for news.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 47

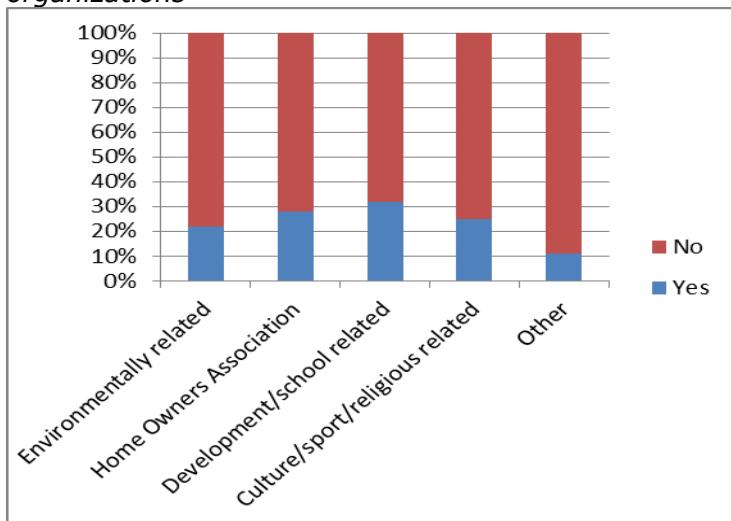
The residential tourists and foreign residents were asked which kinds of activities they did or planned to do during their stay. Obviously, all respondents did some recreational activities. Nearly 60% of them did or planned to learn Spanish or creative activities like photography. Doing business, voluntary work or other studying were a bit less popular as 40% of the respondents did or planned to do so. In figures 7.2 and 7.3 that is visible. The involvement in local organizations and associations is not overwhelming, but still more than onefourth of the respondents is or has been active for a home owners association, and one of every three foreign residents or residential tourists is or has been active in a developmental organization or local school. Striking is that while the foreign residents and residential tourists highly appreciate the nature of Costa Rica, only slightly more than 22% of them said to be involved in an environmentally related organization. However, 22% is not a very low rate, it is probably higher than the local population.

Figure 7.2: Planned activities of the foreign residents and residential tourists during their current stay.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 51

Figure 7.3: Involvement of residential tourists and foreign residents in Costa Rican organizations



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 55

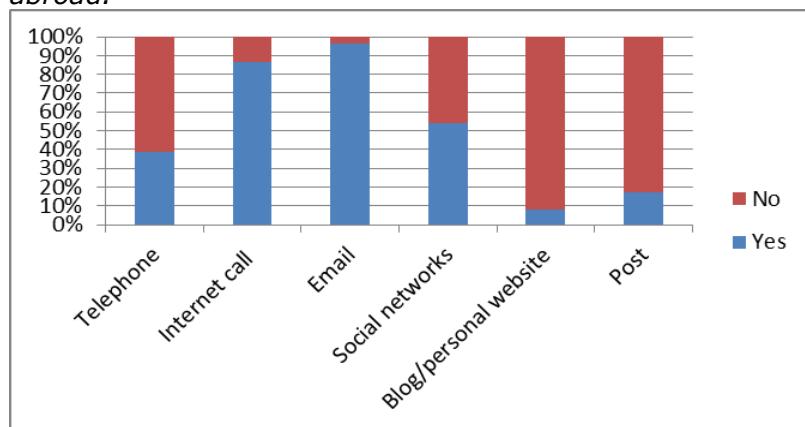
7.3 Involvement in home country

7.3.1 Social involvement

Almost 30% of the foreign residents and residential tourists had friends or relatives from their home country who were during the interview living fulltime or part-time in Costa Rica. Most of these relatives were friends or children (respectively 53% and 22%). In the survey, it is equally divided whether those relatives were in Costa Rica before or after the respondent came there the first time. On average, 10 family members or friends visited the respondent in Costa Rica during the last two years. 90% of all visitors stayed for less than a month. More than half of the visitors went not only to Guanacaste but visited other parts of Costa Rica or even other countries like Nicaragua as well. Still, 40% of the visitors only stayed near the complex or local town or the surrounding beaches. It is likely that some good friends visit Costa Rica more than once in their lives, so after a few visits they have seen a lot of the touristic highlights of the country and they mainly want to relax at the beach with their friends.

As figure 7.4 shows, the most common and most used way for the foreign residents and residential tourists to stay in contact with family or friends in the home country is via e-mail. Nearly all respondents use e-mail to keep those connections. Directly after that, internet calls like Skype are popular as well with more than 80% of the respondents using it. Also social online networks, like Facebook, and the telephone are regularly used by 54% of the respondents as a way to get contact with relatives abroad. Normal mail or personal websites and weblogs are strikingly less popular. Obviously, the possibilities of contacting people abroad via internet outweighed the old letter or postcard. The generation of residential tourists has enough computer skills to make use of its possibilities, as all respondents said to have an internet connection in their house. Internet is nearly everywhere available: in bars, restaurants, hotels and also in the residential tourists' houses and apartments.

Figure 7.4: Ways in which the respondents stay in contact with their friends and family abroad.



Source: Fieldwork, 2011. N = 56

The interviewees return on average 1,33 times a year to their home country. A few are combining these visits with their work, but the majority is there only to visit family and friends. The interview respondents gave more insight in what it is specifically what they miss from both their 'homes' when they are away. They mentioned a range of different things they miss when they are in Costa Rica. Not only family and friends are missed but also typical food, clothes, the convenience of shopping malls and services, cultural events and things to do (also for kids), natural light after 6 p.m. and baseball. But when the question is asked what the respondents really need that much that they order it or ship it, most answer 'nothing'. Sometimes friends bring things when they come over for a visit, but practically no interviewee ships it. Shipping is expensive and looking at the list of what respondents actually miss when they are in Costa Rica, those are mainly non-transportable things: it is impossible to ship a baseball stadium or the different seasons of the year. The fact that there are no big shopping malls in the coastal towns of Guanacaste is part of its attractiveness so maybe the respondents do not even want that to change. Although few respondents said they have become too poor to go back to their country of origin as often as they would like to, most of them simply chose to live in a small rural village outside their home country. That decision meant that they have to live without the convenience they were once used to.

7.3.2 Socio-political involvement

A considerable one-third of the residential tourists and foreign residents did not vote during the last national elections in their home country. Most of the ones that did not vote stay in Costa Rica for 6 months a year or more, so they might not have been able to vote. Nearly two-third of the respondents is not a member of a political party. From the non-tourist respondents that are from North America and that are member of a political party, 54% is member of the Democratic Party and 31% is Republican. These numbers do not say too much because there were only 13 answers which could be taken into account. Only 10% of the foreign residents or residential tourists from North America have been involved in any way in home country politics during the stay in Costa Rica. When the interviewees were asked if they were still active in an organization like a sports club, environmental, cultural, religion or other organization, they mostly answered they were not.

7.4 Sub conclusion

The residential tourists and foreign residents are socially involved in both Costa Rica and their home country. The type of involvement differs per country. In Costa Rica, the respondents were mainly involved via the local media and in local organizations, but not so much in social life with Costa Ricans. They were mainly having contact with other North Americans or Europeans, but less with Costa Ricans and not with Nicaraguans.

One-third of the foreign residents and residential tourists had friends or relatives they knew from their home country who stayed fulltime or part-time in Costa Rica. Because there are so many other people from English-speaking countries, it is easier to get contact with them than with only Spanish-speaking people. Besides that, almost all respondents use internet to stay in contact with family and friends in their home countries so the respondents do not even need to contact Costa Ricans or Nicaraguans for their social life. Striking is that residential tourists and foreign residents are involved in local organizations, so that they want to do something for the community.

In their home country, the respondents were still socially involved. As mentioned before, via internet they have the possibility to stay connected with friends and relatives, and to follow the news. The political-societal involvement in the home countries of the respondents was lower. It is not possible to be an active member of, for instance, a political organization when you can never attend meetings. Another reason might be that for some of the residential tourists and foreign residents, the home country politics and rules and tax systems were a reason to move to Costa Rica: they gave up the hope to make a positive change in their home country. The residential tourists and foreign residents mainly miss non-transportable things from their home country, experiences that cannot be shipped to Costa Rica, but to experience them the respondents are able to flight back in general once a year.

8. Conclusion

First of all, I will shortly summarize the research data. After that, the use of this new information will be discussed.

Global processes like globalization and the possibility to travel around the world are offering affluent people the possibility to travel around the world easily. Scholars use different terms to describe the temporal migrants who move for lifestyle reasons: amenity migration, lifestyle migration and residential tourism. Various warn that the development of (residential) tourism in a developing country only increases social and economic inequality. Others argue that tourism can be or become a development-stimulating sector if conditions like a strong, democratic government, involved and proactive local population and involvement between the tourists and the local population are met. Tourism and residential tourism can have a positive and stimulating effect in the tourist-receiving area, if the tourism sector has enough linkages with other economic sectors. Also the environment should be carefully watched when tourism development emerges. The nature in the tourism destination is one of the tourism assets of the area and the area cannot afford to lose that pull factor. Tourists are interested in typical food, clothing, dancing and other entertainment. Although residential tourists are often no legal citizens in the tourist-receiving area, they might still be powerful because they are usually affluent people who are used to stand up for their rights and opinion.

Guanacaste, the research area, is a rural province at the West coast of Costa Rica. Not only the diverse landscape and tropical climate make the country attractive for tourists, also the political stability and the wealth of the Costa Rican population are attractive. Since 2001, the development of (residential) tourism projects increased dramatically in Guanacaste but since 2007 it slowed down because of the economic crisis.

I divided the respondents in three groups: tourists, foreign residents and residential tourists. The majority of all respondents is from North America and is relatively well-educated. The residential tourists are usually retired. The foreign residents are via their jobs or own businesses more involved in Costa Rica than the residential tourists or the normal tourists. There is a clear difference in spending patterns between normal tourists and residential tourists. Residential tourists and especially foreign residents spend more on supermarket shopping and flight tickets. These things do barely contribute to the local economy; most of it leaks away to, for instance, North American airlines or super market owners. Residential tourists spend a bit more on luxury and touristy things which comes back in the local economy like housing, trips and tours and eating or drinking out.

The climate or weather of Costa Rica is indeed listed as the number one reason to go there. Second are the beach and nature. The residential tourists were highly attracted by the climate and were more than the other groups attracted by the property prices and services. In general, the climate, nature and relaxed lifestyle of Guanacaste are the pull factors for all groups of respondents. For the residential tourists and the foreign residents, the home country politics, tax systems and other regulations are mentioned as motives to move, so the push factors.

Nature is far more important for the residential tourists and foreign residents than economic development or social wellbeing. They argue that the nature is what makes Costa Rica so unique, services like hospitals, gyms and internet access can be found somewhere else in the world. After nature, social wellbeing and economic growth were equally chosen by the respondents as important for the future. They argue that either social wellbeing is necessary to work and enjoy nature or that via economic development you can develop the other two, social wellbeing and the nature. Unemployment and stagnation are seen as only temporal and not so negative as environmental degradation. Possibly the respondents see it that way because most of them do not necessarily need a flourishing economy immediately because they are, as mentioned before, the ones who were strong enough to financially survive the crisis. The respondents showed a strong preference for what they see as original Costa Rican culture and habits. The majority of

them prefer to live in a small quiet place and prefer a quiet beach. Only some like both, although several respondents mention they like to live in a small rural environment but in the proximity of a big city with all kinds of services. There has to be a balance for the interviewees between tranquility and services: tranquil should not mean isolated and having access to services should not mean that those services are only delivered by international companies in big cities.

The residential tourists indicated that they would prefer Guanacaste to develop in a way that is well controlled, responsible and balanced, with everything thought out on beforehand and environmental and aesthetic concerns taken into account, like is usually the case in their home countries. The idea that the well-thought-out plans make it possible to control the speed and direction of the local economic growth is attractive to them. So, the residential tourists and foreign residents can handle an economic crisis, but when Costa Rica becomes crowded, polluted and with all services they were used to in their home countries, the reasons for their move to Costa Rica are gone.

The majority of the residential tourists and foreign residents talks in a very positive way about the economic crisis. People have to live with less money, but they say to be happier in this way. The crisis is seen as an opportunity: a good reason to take a step back, reflect and slow down the development of enormous projects.

The residential tourists and foreign residents are socially involved in both Costa Rica and their home country. The type of involvement differs per country. In Costa Rica, the respondents were mainly involved via the local media and in local organizations, but not so much in social life with Costa Ricans. Because there are so many other people from English-speaking countries, it is easier to get contact with them than with only Spanish-speaking people. Besides that, almost all respondents use internet to stay in contact with family and friends in their home countries so the respondents do not even need to contact Costa Ricans or Nicaraguans for their social life. Striking is that residential tourists and foreign residents are involved in local organizations, so that they want to do something for the community. In their home country, the respondents were still socially involved, mainly via internet, but not so much in societal organizations. It is not possible to be an active member of, for instance, a political organization when you can never attend meetings. The residential tourists and foreign residents mainly miss non-transportable things from their home country, experiences that cannot be shipped to Costa Rica, but to experience them the respondents are able to flight back in general once a year.

There is a certain feeling of despair or discrimination among the residential tourists. They have the feeling that although they want to do the right thing and that they are engaged in protecting the environment, the Costa Ricans do not take them serious, left out that they would be able to make a change. Most residential tourists and foreign residents see themselves as powerless because they have the feeling that local population and the government do not even want to listen to their ideas and plans. But on several cases the residential tourist and foreign residents have been partly successful in changing plans. When is taken into account that a considerable part of these people is only on tourist visa in the country, they have a remarkable influence.

This thesis gave more insight in the views and ideas of the residential tourists and foreign residents. At first sight, the arrival of residential tourists and foreign residents seems to be something undesirable for Guanacaste. The way normal tourists spend their money contributes far more to the local economy; residential tourists and foreign residents spend their money in a way that most of it leaks away to big (foreign) companies. On the other hand do the residential tourists and foreign residents stay for a longer time: their spendings are more foreseeable. Besides that, residential tourists and foreign residents are more involved in the local area. In general, they want to invest time and some money to preserve the environment and to develop Guanacaste in a sustainable way. Their problem is that the residential tourists and foreign residents usually do not speak Spanish very well. They have sufficient knowledge of the language to have a small chat, but not enough to express themselves in formal representations. Another restraint the residential tourists and foreign residents experience, is that local population and

government do not *want* them to be involved in local decision making in any way. In this thesis it is not researched whether local population and the government really state that opinion, but the fact is that the majority of the residential tourists and foreign residents have the feeling that their involvement is not appreciated. I do advice to the local government to give the residential tourists and foreign residents, although they are not all legal citizens, a legal or formal representation. In this way the government acknowledges that most of the residential tourists and foreign residents are more than normal tourists, although they stay formally only on tourist visa. A formal representation could take away the frustrations of the foreigners. In exchange the residential tourists and foreign residents could do useful activities to protect the local environment, stimulate the economy and societal life. The only problem in this case is that the residential tourists and foreign residents *have* to improve their Spanish.

9. Literature

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10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1

Time path

Next follows a weekly overview of what has been done and when, during the internship from February 4th until May 31st. Except from the first weeks, most weekends were seen as working days as well because things went slower than hoped.

Week & date	Done	Any difficulties
Week 1: Feb 4 – 11	Travel to Tamarindo Stayed at a language school to learn basic Spanish Search for housing	-
Week 2: Feb 11 – 18	Talked to first residential tourists on the beach to get a first impression of what is going on Discover area	No internet connection or phone signal at house
Week 3: Feb 18 – 25	Emailed projects to ask for entrance Worked further on theoretical framework Assisted on designing survey with Femke van Noorloos Thought about interview topics	Discovered that there are several projects in the region that are empty or not build yet because of economic crisis
Week 4: Feb 25- March 4	Tested survey Conducted first surveys in Tamarindo	Some projects would not let us enter (Diria, Pacific Rental, Oaks)
Week 5: March 4 -11	Trip to Monte Verde Conducted Surveys in Langosta and Playa Grande Bought bike to be able to transport easily and cheap in the area	Heat Travelling costly or time-consuming Lots of empty houses: time-consuming
Week 6: March 11 - 18	Conducted Surveys in Tamarindo, Langosta and Grande Discovered that Santa Rosa is unbuilt yet and in Villareal are practically no foreign residential tourists.	Bike stolen Heat
Week 7: March 18 – 25	Conducted surveys in Huacas and Gated Community Hacienda Pinilla	Having to sneak in via beaches was time-consuming Heat
Week 8: March 25 – April 1	Conducted surveys in gated communities Hacienda Pinilla and Reserva Conchal	Having to sneak in via beaches was time-consuming Heat
Week 9 – 11: April 1 – 22	Vacation Trip to Nicaragua because of visa	-
Week 12: April 22 – 29	Further designing interview structure Try interview structure Adapt interview structure Go to Beach Community Church to find some foreign residents	Most residential tourists are gone: mainly foreign residents are over Time-consuming process of finding respondents because projects are even emptier than before

Week 13: April 29 – May 6	Interviews in Tamarindo, Huacas and Conchal	Most residential tourists are gone: mainly foreign residents are over Time-consuming process of finding respondents because projects are even emptier than before
Week 14: May 6 – 13	Interviews in Tamarindo, Huacas, Flamingo, Portero and Conchal	Most residential tourists are gone: mainly foreign residents are over Time-consuming process of finding respondents because projects are even emptier than before
Week 15: May 13 – 20	Interviews in Playa Panamá, Playa Hermosa and Ocotal Writing report Interviewing foreign residents active in organisations	Most residential tourists are gone: mainly foreign residents are over Time-consuming process of finding respondents because projects are even emptier than before
Week 16 & 17: May 20 – 31	Last days work Leave to Netherlands	

10.2 Appendix 2

10.2.1 Complete survey - final version

Survey residential tourists Guanacaste – 3

Serial Code:		
Town:	TOWN	
Name of project:	PROJNAME	
Indication of address:		
Type of property: a. House b. Apartment c. Villa	TYPEPROP	
Date of interview: ____/____/2011		
Interviewer:		

Section 1. General household characteristics & time in Costa Rica

1.1 What is your name? _____

1.2 What is your nationality? _____

1.3 Which town or state are you from? _____ TOWNSTATE

1.4 Who do you share this apartment or house with? >> We would like to know some characteristics of your household members. For person x,

1.4 Relationship respondent: (s)he is respondent's: 1. Respondent 2. Partner, 4. Child 5. Parent 6. Other relative, specify 7. Friend 77. Other, specify	1.5 M/F	1.6 Age	1.7 Nationality 1. Costa Rican 2. US 3. Canadian 4. German 5. Italian 6. Portuguese 7. French 8. Dutch 9. Israeli 10. Spanish 88. Other, specify	1.8 What is the highest level of education you've completed? 1. None 2. Preschool 3. Elementary school 4. Secondary school 5. College 6. University 7. Graduate school 88. other, specify 1.9a. In which country are you currently enrolled in education? 1. Costa Rica 2. Country of origin 88. other, specify	1.9 <u>For those of 25 and younger</u> Currently, are you enrolled in any education? 1. None 2. Preschool 3. Elementary school 4. Secondary school 5. College 6. University 7. Graduate school 88. other, specify 1.9a. In which country are you currently enrolled in education? 1. Costa Rica 2. Country of origin 88. other, specify	1.10 Who contributes the most to your household income? 1.this person 2.not this person	1.11 What is your current economic situation? 1. retired > go to 1.12 2.unemployed > go to 1.12 3. employed > go to 1.13 4. own business > go to 1.14 88. other, specify	
HHREL	SEX	AGE	NATION	EDUCOMP	EDUCU	EDUCO	HHINC	ECSIT
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								

1.12 What was your economic activity before you retired or became unemployed? 1. Employed > go to 1.13 2. Own business > go to 1.14 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	1.13 What is your current main occupation / what was your main occupation before becoming retired or unemployed? See list 1.13a. In which country is / was your main occupation based? 1. CR 2. country of origin 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	1.14 What type of business do you currently run, or did you run before you became retired or unemployed? (open) 1.14a. Where is/was it? 1. CR 2. country of origin 88. Other, specify	1.15 What is your religion? 1. Catholic 2. Christian Protestant 3. Jewish 4. No religion 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	1.16 How much time did you spend in Costa Rica in last 12 months? 1. 1-15 days 2. 16-30 days 3. 1-2 months 4. 3-5 months 5. 6-12 months 1.16a. Do you usually spend this amount of time in CR? 1. Yes 2. No, usually more 3. No, usually less 4. This is my first time 88. Other 99. n/a
ECSITOLD	OCCUP	OCCUPCO	BUSTYPE	BUSCO
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

For respondents (no 1) & their partner (no 2) who are NOT from Costa Rica and spend more than 1 month in CR per year (last year and/or generally)

Costa Ricans & short stay visitors: go to section 2

For children, grandchildren & house/apartment from BOTH partner & respondent, fill out ONLY in no 1.

1.17 Do you have any children who are currently in your country of origin and if so, how many? 1. 1 child 2. 2 children 3. 3 children 4. 4 children 5. >4 children 6. None 99. n/a 1.17a. How many of them are under 18? 1.17b. How many of them are over 18?	1.18 Do you have any grandchildren who are currently in your country of origin? 1. 1 grandchild 2. 2 grandchildren 3. 3 grandchildren 4. 4 grandchildren 5. 5 grandchildren 6. 6 grandchildren 7. >6 grandchildren 8. None 99. n/a	1.19 Do you have parents who currently live in your country of origin? 1. Yes 2. No 99. n/a	1.20 Do you currently own a house or apartment in your country of origin? 1. Yes > If yes, go to section 2 2. No > If no, go to 1.21 99. n/a	1.21 Where do you stay when you are in your country of origin? 1. Rented house 2. Family/friends 99. Other: _____
CHILCO	CHILUN	CHILOV	GRCHICOO	PARCOO
1				OWNHCOO
				STAYCOO

2							
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Section 2. Property & move to Costa Rica

In this section we would like to know something about this house where you're staying and your property.

1. About THIS property (where you are now):
2. Other properties you own or rent at this moment, including your home country. 2a. (See 1.20) First, about the house you own or rent in your home country....

Other No 2's: Then: do you *own* any other properties in your home country?

Do you *own* any other properties in Costa Rica?

Do you *own* any other property anywhere else in the world?

3. Have you *owned* any property *outside your home country* BEFORE (which you have sold later)?

For 2b till 3> Ask purpose of the properties> if main home, don't ask more

2.1 Do/did you own or rent this proper ty? 1. Own 2. Rent 88. Other, specif y <i>If 1, skip 2.7</i>	2.2 In which year did you BUY or START RENTING this property? <i>2.2a. For No 3 (sold properties):</i> <i>If 2, skip 2.5-2.6</i>	2.3 Where is it located? 1. current place, e.g. Tamarindo 2. Other place in Guanacast e, specify <i>2.2a. For No 3 (sold properties):</i> <i>If 2, skip 2.5-2.6</i>	2.4 What is/was the main purpose for this property? 1. Main home <i>>skip 2.4b</i> 2. Vacation home 3. Investment 88. Other, specify 99. n/a 2.4a. (<i>for current properties</i>) Do you plan to make this your main home later on? 1. Yes 2. No 77. Don't know 99. n/a 2.4b. (<i>for current properties</i>) Would you consider selling this property in the near future? 1. Yes, I am selling it 2. Yes, I would consider 3. No 77. Don't know 99. n/a	2.5 <i>for CURRENT properties IN Costa Rica</i> From whom did you buy this property? 1. Real estate company 3. Directly individual owner 4. Directly with developer 5. Individually from family/friends 88. Other 99. n/a 2.5a. Where is the company/ individual/ developer from? 1. Costa Rica 2. US/Canada 88. Other, specify 77. Don't know 99. n/a	2.6 <i>For current properties IN Costa Rica</i> Did you rent out the property the last time when you were away (or now)? 1. yes, privately 2. yes, through project developer's rental system 3. yes, through other rental company <i>> go to 2.4a</i> 4. no 99. n/a 2.6a. <i>For current Costa Rica properties:</i> Where is the rental company from? 1. CR 2. US/Canada 88. Other 77. Don't know 99. n/a (WHORENTCO)	2.7 <i>For CURRENT properties IN Costa Rica</i> From whom did you rent this property? 1. Travel agency 2. Timeshare agency 3. Vacation rental / real estate agency 4. Directly with owner 5. Individually from family/friends 88. Other 99. n/a 2.7a. Where is the agency/owner from? 1. Costa Rica 2. US/Canada 88. Other 77. Don't know 99. n/a (WHORENTCO)						
OWNRE	YEAR PRO	YE SE	LOCPRO	PURP RO	PURPM AIN	PURPS ELL	WHOPRO	WHOPRO CO	RENTOU T	RENTOU TCO	WHOR ENT	WHOREN TCO
		Xx	1									
a	xxxxx	Xx	4				xxxxxx	xxxxxx				
b	xxxxx		Xx									
c	xxxxx		Xx									
d	xxxxx		Xx									
e	xxxxx		Xx									
f	xxxxx											
g	xxxxx											
h	xxxxx											
i	xxxxx											

8. Why did you sell x property/ properties (*for all No 3 in the table*)? WHYSSELL

Questions on this property where you are now (no 1)

2.9. Does your house have a pool?	POOL
1. yes, private 2. yes, shared 3. No 99. n/a	
2.10. How many rooms does your house have? (incl. living room, bathrooms)	ROOMS

2.11-2.13a: Only for those who own this property

2.11. What was the approximate price of your property when you bought it?			PRICPROP
US\$	CRC	n/a	
2.12. Did you custom-design your home, or did you buy it ready-made?			DESIGN
1. Custom design	2. Ready-made	88. Other:	
2.13. Did you furnish your home by yourself, or have it furnished by others?			FURNISH
1. Myself go to 2.13a	2. Others	88. Other:	
2.13a. Where did you buy the majority of the things for furnishing?			BUYFURN
1. in Guanacaste	2. in other part of Costa Rica	3. outside Costa Rica	

Questions on your travels to Costa Rica (for non-Costa Ricans)

Costa Ricans move to section 4

How many times have you been in Costa Rica, when, for how long, what was the main purpose, and where did you stay? ***Include your current stay!!***

TRV	2.14 When: Approx. year the trip started	2.15 Approx. total length of stay 1. 1-7 days 2. 8-15 days 3. 16-30 days 4. 1-2 months 5. 3-5 months 6. 6-12 month 7. >12 months, specify 88. Other, specify	2.16 Main purpose 1. Vacation, holiday, recreation 2. Visit to family/friends 3. Health 4. Work/business 5. Buying property / informing about emigration 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	2.17 Where did you stay? 1. This property 2. Other property I own(ed), specify which 3. Other place, specify where 4. Travelling around 77. Don't know 99. n/a
1: current stay	TRVYEAR	TRVLENGTH	TRVPURP	TRVPLACE
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

2.18. How did you first become interested in coming to Costa Rica?		
1. Family or friends who have been on holiday to CR recommended	FICR1	5. I read an article or commercial in newspaper or magazine
2. Family or friends live in CR	FICR2	6. I saw a TV commercial about CR

recommended						
3. Information websites			FICR3	7. Through the company where I work		FICR7
4. Travel agency suggested CR			FICR4	8. Other, specify:		FICR8
2.19. Which of the following were reasons for you to choose Costa Rica?						
1. Nature (natural amenities & diversity)	REA1	8. Tranquility, not mass tourism				REA8
2. Beach	REA2	9. Possibilities to return to home country frequently / when necessary				REA9
3. Relaxed lifestyle	REA3	10. Availability of luxury housing				REA10
4. Climate, weather	REA4	11. Availability, price, quality of health facilities				REA11
5. Property prices	REA5	12. Availability of other amenities (shops, supermarket, internet, entertainment)				REA12
6. Peaceful / democratic image CR	REA6	13. Other, specify:				REA13
7. Family/friends living there	REA7					
2.19a. Of the above reasons, could you rank your three most important reasons for choosing Costa Rica?						REASRANK
REASRANK 1:	REASRANK 2:	REASRANK 3:				
2.20. <u>If you have or have had properties in other foreign countries</u> Why did you choose x other country / countries?						REASCO
2.21. <u>If you have or have had properties in other foreign countries</u> Which country do you prefer (Costa Rica or x other country) and why?						REASCRCO
2.22. Can you explain in your own words why you decided to buy property and/or live in another country than your own?						REASMOV
2.23. Can you explain why you chose THIS PARTICULAR TOWN OR REGION for living or buying property? (<u>possible follow-up question:</u> Have you considered any other parts of Costa Rica, and why chose this instead?)						REASREG

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2.24. <i>If don't own a property in CR</i> Are you planning to buy property in Costa Rica in the near future?								PLANPROP
1. yes		2. No		77. Don't know		88. Other, specify		99. n/a

2.25. <i>If you own a property in CR</i> In which of the following ways did you obtain information or advice about buying property in to Costa Rica?								INFOCR
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--------

1. Companies that offer advice and information on emigration, property etc., in home country		INFOCR1	8. Books		INFOCR8
2. Companies that offer advice and information on emigration, property etc., in Costa Rica		INFOCR2	9. Magazines		INFOCR9
3. Websites / weblogs of foreigners living in Costa Rica		INFOCR3	10. Retirement tour / property tour		INFOCR10
4. TV shows		INFOCR4	11. Costa Rican media		INFOCR11
5. Lawyer in Costa Rica		INFOCR5	12. Foreign community in CR		INFOCR12
6. Lawyer in country of origin		INFOCR6	13. Friends or relatives		INFOCR13
7. ARCR (Association of Residents)		INFOCR7	14. Other, specify:		INFOCR14

Section 3. Involvement in country of origin: visits & contacts

For respondents who 1) Are NOT from Costa Rica 2) Spend more than 1 month in CR per year (last year and/or generally)

Costa Ricans & short stay visitors: go to section 4

3.1. Do you have any family or friends from your place of origin who currently live full-time or part-time in Costa Rica, BUT WHO ARE NOT NOW PART OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?								FAMCR
1. Yes	2.No		99. n/a					

	3.1a. What relationship do you have to them? > (s)he is my.....							3.1b. Did they come to live in Costa Rica before you came, or after?		
	FAMCRREL							FAMCRTIME		
1. Child	2. Grandchild	3. Parent (in law)	4. Brother/ sister	5. Other family	6. Friend	88. Other	1. Before me in CR	2. After me in CR	88. Other	

3.2. How many family members or friends have visited you here in Costa Rica in the past 2 years?										FAMVISIT
3.2a. How many days did the last visitors stay?			1. 1-10 days		3. 20-30 days		5. >3 months			FAMVISDAY
3.2b. For the last visit: Where did you take them/ what did you or they do?										VISITACT

3.3. For those who live in CR more than 6 months per year Could you estimate how many times you have visited your country of origin in total since you've lived here?										VISCOO
3.4. When you travel from your home country to Costa Rica, what products do you usually buy to bring with you?										VISPRO
VISPRO1			VISPRO4			VISPRO7				
1. Grocery products, food, specify:			4. Household appliances, specify:			7. other, specify:				
3.5. Which of the following ways do you use to maintain contact with your family and friends abroad when you are here?										CONTCOO
CONTCOO1			CONTCOO3			CONTCOO5			CONTCOO7	
1. Telephone			3. Email			5. I write a weblog / personal website			7. Other:	
CONTCOO2			CONTCOO4			CONTCOO6				
2. Internet call or direct messaging (e.g. Skype, MSN)			4. Online social networks (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)			6. Post				
3.6. Do you have an internet connection in this house/apartment?					1. yes	2. no	88. other		INTCON	
3.7. How many phone calls or chat-calls to your family and friends abroad have you made last week?										NUMCALL
3.7a. Do you usually make this amount of calls/chat sessions per week?										NUMCALLUS
1. Yes	2. No, usually more		3. No, usually less		88. Other		99. n/a			
3.8. Have you voted during the last national elections in your home country?										VOTECOO
1. Yes	2. No		77. Don't know		99. n/a					
3.9. Are you an active member of a political party or political organization in your country of origin?										POLITCOO
1. Yes, specify:			2. Yes, prefer not to tell which			3. No			99. n/a	
3.9a. Does this party or organization have a branch in Costa Rica?			1. Yes	2. No	77. Don't know		99. n/a		POLITCOOCR	
3.9b. Have you been involved in any way in home country politics while being in Costa Rica during the past 5 years?										POLITOTH
1. Yes, through CR branch of my party				2. Yes, I have campaigned here						
3. Yes, in other ways, specify:										

MEDIAUSE					
3.10. What kinds of media do you use for news, backgrounds and entertainment when you are in Costa Rica?		1. Yes	2. No	99. n/a	
1 Costa Rican television	MEDIAUSE1				
2 TV from country of origin	MEDIAUSE2				
3 TV from other countries	MEDIAUSE3				
4 Costa Rican radio	MEDIAUSE4				
5 Radio from country of origin	MEDIAUSE5				
6 Costa Rican newspaper:	MEDIAUSE6				
3.10A. Which one? _____	MEDIANEWS				
7 Local town newspaper	MEDIAUSE7				
8 Country of origin newspaper	MEDIAUSE8				
9 Costa Rican magazine	MEDIAUSE9				
10 Other magazine	MEDIAUSE10				
11 Websites / weblogs / forums	MEDIAUSE11				
13. Online social networks: Facebook, Twitter etc.	MEDIAUSE13				
14. Other: _____	MEDIAUSE14				

Section 4. Involvement in local place: contacts and activities

5.1. We would like to know how often and in what situations you have contact with different groups of people when you are in this town/region. Could you order the following groups, with 1 being the group you have contact with most often, and 4 being the group you have less contact with?

5.1a. In which situations do these contacts mostly take place?

		5.1. CONLOC Rank 1-4	5.1a. CONSIT Situations	
Local Ricans	Costa	CONLOC1		CONSIT1
Nicaraguans		CONLOC2		CONSIT2
Other people from my country		CONLOC3		CONSIT3
People from other countries, specify: _____ _____ _____		CONLOC4		CONSIT4

5.2. How well do you speak Spanish on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being very bad and 5 being very good)?						SPANISH				
1. Very bad		2. Bad		3. Regular		4. Good		5. Very good		
5.3. Which of the following activities have you done or do you plan to do during this stay in this town/region?						ACTIVCR				
ACTIVCR1		ACTIV3		ACTIV5		ACTIV7				
1. Volunteer work		3. Recreational activities		5. Other study		7. Other, specify: _____				
ACTIV2		ACTIV4		ACTIV6						
2. Paid work or business > go to 5.3a		4. Study Spanish		6. Creative activities (arts, theatre, photography etc.)						
5.3a. If not yet specified in Q1.11-1.15: What kind of paid work or business?						TYPWORBUS				

5.4. In which of the following local organizations (i.e. in THIS town/region where you are now) have you ever been involved or contributed ?

Then: in what ways, and are you still involved?

	INVORG	INVORGNAM	INVORGTI
	5.4 Type of involvement 1. No 2. Leading member / board 3. Normal member 4. Volunteer 5. Financial contributor 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	5.4a. Name of org.	5.4b. When 1. Now 2. Not anymore 88. Other, specify
1. Local town association for infrastructure, recycling, cleaning etc. (e.g. ADIO, ProMejoras)			
2. Local water association			
3. Local protest organization, e.g. for water or environment			
4. Environmental organization			
5. Home Owners Association			
6. Local cooperative			
7. Animal rescue association			
8. Local development organization (e.g. Cepia, Lion's Club)			
9. Local school			
10. Cultural club, e.g. reading group, art club			
11. Sports club/group			
12. Church / religious organization			
13. Other:			

5.4C. <u>If type of involvement 2,3, 4, 5 or 88:</u> What activities do or did you do for this organization? (specify per numer)	ORGACT
---	--------

5.4d. <i>If type of involvement 2,3, 4, 5 or 88:</i> Why did you get involved in this organization? (specify per number)	ORGWHY
5.4e. <i>If not anymore involved,</i> Why have you stopped contributing or volunteering? (specify per number)	ORGSTOP

Section 5. Daily living and spending characteristics

In this section we will ask you about your activities and spending behaviour during your CURRENT STAY in Costa Rica.

6.1. – 6.16

We would like to know something about the shops you go to and services you use in this place. You only have to indicate how often you use them, not your spending.
(see Q2.14a for *)

I. OVER THE PAST MONTH, how often did you go to the following stores here in Costa Rica? You can indicate the number of times per day, per week, or per month.

* If person has been there less than one month, please indicate it over the PAST WEEK.

* If person has been there less than one week, please indicate how often you EXPECT to go in the NEXT WEEK.

II. OVER THE PAST MONTH, how often did you have meals out? Please count each meal: breakfast, daytime and evening meals. You can indicate the number of meals out per day, per week, or per month.

How often did you have drinks out? This can be both afternoon coffee or nightly drinks. You can indicate the number of drinks out per day, per week, or per month.

* If person has been there less than one month, please indicate it over the PAST WEEK.

* If person has been there less than one week, please indicate how often you EXPECT to go in the NEXT WEEK.

III. OVER THE PAST MONTH, how often did you go to the following stores / services? You can indicate the number of times per day, per week, or per month.

* If person has been there less than one month, please indicate it over the PAST WEEK.

* If person has been there less than one week, please indicate how often you EXPECT to go in the NEXT WEEK.

IV. When you stay at this property, how often do you generally hire or receive the following services? You can indicate the times per week, per month, or per year.

<u>SHOP</u>	1. 2-3x a day	2. Daily	3. 2-3 days a week	4. 4-6 days a week	5. Weekly	6. Bi- weekly	7. Monthly	8. Quarterly	9. Annually	10. Never	77. Don't know	99 n/a
I. Groceries, daily shopping												
5.1 Supermarket												
SHOPSUPER												
5.1a. Which supermarket do you usually go to?	SHOPSUPERWH											
5.2. Grocery market, street sale												
SHOPMARKET												
5.3. Smaller shops for groceries (greengrocers, butcher, bakery)												
SHOPGROC												
5.4. Pharmacy												
SHOPPHARM												
II. Meals and drinks out												
5.5. Meals												
SHOPMEAL												
5.6. Drinks												
SHOPDRINK												
	1. 2-3x a day	2. Daily	3. 2-3 days a week	4. 4-6 days a week	5. Weekly	6. Bi- weekly	7. Monthly	8. Quarterly	9. Annual- ly	10. Never	77. Don't know	99 n/a
III. Personal services / stores												
5.7. Hairdresser, beauty treatments, massage												
SHOPBEAUTY												
5.8. Clothing stores												
SHOPCLOTH												
5.9 Gift / souvenir stores												
SHOPGIFT												
5.10. Electronic stores												
SHOPELECT												
5.11. Household items stores & ferreterias												
SHOPHHST												
IV. House services												
5.12. Gardening & pool cleaning												
SHOPGARD												
5.13. Cleaning												
SHOPCLEAN												
5.14. Laundry												
SHOPLAUND												
5.16. Household repairs & painting												
SHOPHHREP												

Where did you hire these services?	1. Included with rent/developer/ Home Owners Association	2. Other local company	3. Local individual	88. Other, specify	99. N/a
6.12a. Gardening & pool cleaning SHOPGARDWH					
6.13a. Cleaning SHOPCLEANWH					
6.14a. Laundry SHOPLAUNDWH					
6.16a. Household repairs & painting SHOPHHREPWH					

6.17-6.23. How do you transport yourself in and around the area with the following means during your current stay here?

	1. Often	2. Sometimes	3. Never	88. other	99. n/a
TRANSCAR	6.17. Car				
TRANSSCO	6.18. Scooter				
TRANSBIC	6.19. Bicycle				
TRANSWAL	6.20. Walking				
TRANSTAX	6.21. Taxi				
TRANSBUS	6.22. Public bus				
TRANSOTH	6.23. Other, specify:				

A. About your means of transport: Do you own or rent it?		B. Where did you buy it?			
1. Own	2. Rent	88. Other	99. n/a	1. Costa Rica	2. Country of origin
6.17a. Car	TRANSCAROW			6.17b.	TRANSCARBU
6.18a. Scooter	TRANSSCOOW			6.18b	TRANSSCOBU
6.19a. Bicycle	TRANSBICOW			6.19b	TRANSBICBU
6.23a. Other, specify:	TRANSOTHOW			6.23b	TRANSOTHBU

HEALTH	6.24. In the past 12 months, have you been to any of the following health facilities for advice or treatment here in Costa Rica?				
HEALTH1	HEALTH2	HEALTH3	HEALTH4	HEALTH5	
1. Local Ebais	2. Local private doctor	3. Public hospital	4. Private clinic	5. Public dentist	
HEALTH6	HEALTH7				
6. Private dental clinic	7. Other:				

SOCSEC	6.25. Do you pay any medical insurance which covers health costs in Costa Rica, and if so, which one?				
1. No	2. Yes, Costa Rican CCSS (Caja)	3. Yes, other Costa Rican	4. Yes, in country of origin		
5. Yes, both in CR and in country of origin	88. Other, specify:			99. n/a	

6.25-6.37. How often have you done the following recreational and sports activities on average -

* if stay 1-12 months during your current stay in Costa Rica?

* if stay > 12 months over the past 12 months?

* if stay < 1 month How often have you done them and are you planning to do them during this stay (alltogether)

REC	1. Several times a week	2. Weekly	3. Monthly	4. 6-10 times a year	5. 1-5 times a year	6. Never	99. n/a
RECFISH	6.25. Sportfishing, boat trips						
RECOWNB	6.25a. Do you own a boat? 1. Yes 2. No	99. n/a					
RECWATTOUR	6.26. Water sports on a						

	tour (e.g. snorkeling, diving, rafting, canoeing)						
RECWATIND	6.27. Water sports individually, e.g. surf, snorkel						
RECBEACH	6.28. Go to the beach to swim or relax						
RECNATTOUR	6.29. Nature walks with guide / on a tour						
RECNATIND	6.30. Nature walks without guide, individually						
RECCAN	6.31 Canopy (zip-line), hanging bridges						
RECHORSE	6.32. Horse riding						
RECGOLF	6.33. Golf						
RECTHERM	6.34. Hot springs visit						
RECVOLC	6.35. Visit to volcanoes						
RECRURAL	6.36. Visiting a rural community						
RECSPORT	6.37. Other sports / movement (e.g. soccer, cycling, yoga)						
RECNP	6.38. Which national parks and protected areas have you visited in the last 12 months?						

6.39.-6.47. * If you have been here less than one week, Could you estimate the amount that you expect to be spending in Costa Rica on the following categories? You can either estimate it over the next week or over the next month.

* If you have been here between a week and a month, Could you estimate the amount that you have spent during the past week in Costa Rica on the following categories?

* If you have been here one month or more, Could you estimate the amount that you have spent in Costa Rica on the following categories? You can either estimate it over the past week or over the past month.

For all: If you are uncomfortable or don't know the amounts for different categories, you can also estimate the total amount you spend altogether. Currency can be in US\$ or CRC.

6.48. (if you RENT your property) Could you please mention the amount that you spend on accommodation or house rental costs here during this visit? You can either estimate it per week or per month.

6.49. Could you estimate the amount you spent on international flight tickets to and from Costa Rica during the past 12 months?

		US\$ week	US\$ month	CRC week	CRC month	US\$ year	CRC year	99. n/a
SPENDGRO	6.39. Grocery shopping					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDEAT	6.40. Eating / drinking out, entertainment					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDTRIP	6.41. Trips & tours					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDHOU	6.42. House maintenance: the amount you spent on improving your house, but also incl. cleaning, gardening etc. <u>If owned house></u>					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	

	<i>estimate the amount, also if included in HOA. If rented > don't fill out if included in rent.</i>						
SPENDBILL	6.43. Electricity, water, phone, internet <i>if rented > don't fill out if included in rental cost</i>				xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDTRA	6.44. Transportation locally				xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDMED	6.45. Medical expenses, wellbeing & beauty, medical insurance (only if in CR)				xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDOTH	6.46. Other, specify				xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDTOT	6.47. Total				xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDACC	6.48. Accomodation / rental costs						
SPENDFLI	6.49. Flight tickets international	xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx		

Thank you very much for your participation. We really appreciate your help.

Occupation types:

- | |
|--|
| 1. Management occupations |
| 2. Business and financial operations occupations |
| 3. Computer and mathematical occupations |
| 4. Architecture and engineering occupations |
| 5. Life, physical, and social science occupations |
| 6. Community and social services occupations |
| 7. Legal occupations |
| 8. Education, training, and library occupations |
| 9. Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations |
| 10. Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations |
| 11. Health technologists and technicians |
| 12. Healthcare support occupations |
| 13. Fire fighting and prevention, and other protective service workers including supervisors |
| 14. Law enforcement workers including supervisors |
| 15. Food preparation and serving related occupations |
| 16. Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations |
| 17. Personal care and service occupations |
| 18. Sales and related occupations |
| 19. Office and administrative support occupations |
| 20. Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations |
| 21. Construction and extraction occupations |
| 22. Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations |
| 23. Production occupations |

24. Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers, and other transportation workers except motor vehicle operators
25. Motor vehicle operators
26. Material moving workers
88. Other

10.2.2 Beach survey

Survey residential tourists Guanacaste – beach version

Serial Code:			
Town:	TOWN		
Date of interview:	_____/_____/2011		
Interviewer:			

Section 1. General household characteristics & time in Costa Rica

1.1 What is your name? _____

1.2 Where are you staying at the moment?

1.2a. Town: _____

1.2b. What type of accomodation?

1. Hotel / cabinas / hostel	2. Condo/ apartment I rent	3. Villa I rent	4. House I rent	5. Condo / apartment I own	
6. Villa I own	7. House I own	8. At family or friends' place		88. Other, specify:	

1.2c. What is the name of the hotel, villa or condo complex?

1.2d. Is it located in any specific community or project? Which one?

1.3 What is your nationality? _____

1.4 Which town or state are you from? _____ TOWNSTATE

1.5 Who are you here with? >> We would like to know some characteristics of your household members. For person X,

1.5 Relationship respondent: (s)he is (my): 1. Respondent 2. Partner 3. Child 4. Parent 5. Other relative, specify 6. Friend 77. Other, specify	1.6 M/F	1.7 Age	1.8 Nationality 1. Costa Rican 2. US 3. Canadian 4. German 5. Italian 6. Portuguese 7. French 8. Dutch 9. Israeli 10. Spanish 88. Other, specify	1.9 What is the highest level of education you've completed? 1. None 2. Preschool 3. Elementary school 4. Secondary school 5. College 6. University 7. Graduate school 88. other, specify
HHREL	SEX	AGE	NATION	EDUCOMP
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

1.10 What is your current economic situation? 1. retired > go to 1.12 2.unemployed > go to 1.12 3. employed > go to 1.13 4. own business > go to 1.14 5. Student 88. other, specify	1.11 What is your current main occupation or business / what was your main occupation or business before becoming retired or unemployed? 1-26. Employed: see list 27. Own business: specify 28. Unemployed 29. Student 88. Other, specify 1.11a. In which country is / was your main occupation based? 1. CR 2. country of origin 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	1.12 What is your religion? 1. Catholic 2. Christian Protestant 3. Jewish 4. No religion 88. Other, specify 99. n/a	1.13 How much time did you spend in Costa Rica in last 12 months? 1. 1-15 days 2. 16-30 days 3. 1-2 months 4. 3-5 months 5. 6-12 months 1.13a. Do you usually spend this amount of time in CR? 1. Yes 2. No, usually more 3. No, usually less 4. First time 88. Other 99. n/a
ECSIT	OCCUP	OCCUP CO	RELIG
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Section 2. Property & move to Costa Rica

In this section we would like to know something about this house where you're staying and your property.

1. About the property where you stay now:
 2. Do you own any other properties in Costa Rica?
- Do you own any other property anywhere else in the world outside your home country?

2.1 In which year did you BUY this property, START RENTING this property ?	2.2 Where is it located? 1. current place 2. Other place in Guanacaste, specify 3. Other place in Costa Rica, specify 4. Country of origin 5. Panama 6. Nicaragua 7. Other, specify	2.3 What is/was the main purpose for this property? 1. Main home >skip 2.5b 2. Vacation home 3. Investment 88. Other, specify 99. N/a 2.3a. (<i>for current properties</i>) Do you plan to make this your main home later on? 1. Yes 2. No 77. Don't know 99. n/a	2.4 <i>for CURRENT properties IN Costa Rica</i> From whom did you buy this property? 1. Real estate company 2. Rental company 3. Directly individual owner 4. Directly with developer 5. Individually from family/friends 88. Other 99. n/a 2.4a. Where is the company/ individual/developer from? 1. Costa Rica 2. US/Canada 88. Other, specify 77. Don't know 99. n/a	2.5 <i>For current properties</i> Did you rent out the property the last time when you were away (or now)? 1. yes, privately 2. yes, through project developer's rental system 3. yes, through other rental company > go to 2.4a 4. no 99. n/a 2.5a. <i>For current Costa Rica properties:</i> Where is the rental company from? 1. CR 2. US/Canada 88. Other 77. Don't know 99. n/a	2.6 <i>For CURRENT properties IN Costa Rica</i> From whom did you rent this property? 1. Travel agency 2. Timeshare agency 3. Vacation rental / real estate agency 4. Directly with owner 5. Individually from family/friends 88. Other 99. n/a 2.6a. Where is the agency/owner from? 1. Costa Rica 2. US/Canada 88. Other 77. Don't know 99. n/a (WHORENTCO)
YEARPRO	LOCPRO	PURP RO	PURPMAIN	WHOPRO	WHOPROC O
	xxxxxxxxx				

Questions on this property where you are now (no 1)

2.7. Does your house have a pool?	POOL
1. yes, private	2. yes, shared
2.9. How many rooms does your house have? (incl. living room, bathroom, kitchen)	ROOMS
2.10-2.12a: Only for those who own this property	
2.10. What was the approximate price of your property when you bought it? US\$	PRICPROP
CRC	
2.11. Did you custom-design your home, or did you buy it ready-made?	DESIGN
1. Custom design	2. Ready-made
88. Other:	
2.12. Did you furnish your home by yourself, or have it furnished by others?	FURNISH
1. Myself go to 2.10a	2. Others
88. Other:	
2.13. Where did you buy the majority of the things for furnishing?	BUYFURN
1. in Guanacaste	2. in other part of Costa Rica
3. outside Costa Rica	

Questions on your travels to Costa Rica (for non-Costa Ricans)

Costa Ricans> move to section 4

2.14. When did you start your current trip? (month, year)	
2.14a. How long will your total stay be?	1. 1-7 days
4. 1-2 months	5. 3-5 months
6. 6-12 months	7. >12 months, specify
2.15. What is the main purpose of your trip?	1. Vacation, holiday, recreation
3. Health	4. Work / business
5. Buying property / informing about emigration	88. Other, specify:
2.16. Have you been in Costa Rica before?	1. Yes
	2. No
	99. n/a

2.17. How many times have you been in Costa Rica?							
2.17a. When was the first time? Year:							
2.17b. How long did you stay on average during these trips?		1. 1-7 days		2. 8-15 days		3. 16-30 days	
4. 1-2 months	5. 3-5 months	6. 6-12 months		7. >12 months,, specify			

2.18. How did you first become interested in coming to Costa Rica?					
1. Family or friends who have been on holiday to CR recommended		FICR1	5. I read an article or commercial in newspaper or magazine		FICR5
2. Family or friends live in CR recommended		FICR2	6. I saw a TV commercial about CR		FICR6
3. Information websites		FICR3	7. Through the company where I work		FICR7
4. Travel agency suggested CR		FICR4	8. Other, specify:		FICR8

2.19. Which of the following were reasons for you to choose Costa Rica?					
1. Nature (natural amenities & diversity)		REA1	8. Tranquility, not mass tourism		REA8
2. Beach		REA2	9. Possibilities to return to home country frequently / when necessary		REA9
3. Relaxed lifestyle		REA3	10. Availability of luxury housing		REA10
4. Climate, weather		REA4	11. Availability, price, quality of health facilities		REA11
5. Property prices		REA5	12. Availability of other amenities (shops, supermarket, internet, entertainment)		REA12
6. Peaceful / democratic image CR		REA6	13. Other, specify:		REA13
7. Family/friends living there		REA7			

2.19a. Of the above reasons, could you rank your three most important reasons for choosing Costa Rica?				REASRANK	
REASRANK 1:		REASRANK 2:		REASRANK 3:	
2.20. Can you explain in your own words why you decided to buy property and/or live in another country than your own?					REASMOV

2.21. Can you explain why you chose THIS PARTICULAR TOWN OR REGION for living or buying property? (<i>possible follow-up question:</i> Have you considered any other parts of Costa Rica, and why chose this instead?)						REASREG
---	--	--	--	--	--	---------

2.22. <i>If don't own a property in CR</i> Are you planning to buy property in Costa Rica in the near future?							PLANPROP
1. yes		2. No		77. Don't know		88. Other, specify	

Section 3. Involvement in country of origin: visits & contacts

For respondents who 1) Are NOT from Costa Rica 2) Spend more than 1 month in CR per year (last year and/or generally)

Costa Ricans & short stay visitors: go to section 4

3.1. Do you have any family or friends from your place of origin who currently reside full-time or part-time in Costa Rica, BUT WHO ARE NOT NOW PART OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?								FAMCR
1. Yes	2.No	99. n/a						

3.1a. What relationship do you have to them? > (s)he is my.....							3.1b. Did they come to live in Costa Rica before you came, or after?	
FAMCRREL							FAMCRTIME	
1. Child	2. Grandchild	3. Parent (in law)	4. Brother/ sister	5. Other family	6. Friend	88. Other	1. Before me in CR	2. After me in CR

3.2. How many family members or friends have visited you here in Costa Rica in the past 2 years?								FAMVISIT

3.3. Which of the following ways do you use to maintain contact with your family and friends abroad when you are here?								CONTCOO
CONTCOO1	CONTCOO3	CONTCOO5	CONTCOO7					
1. Telephone	3. Email	5. I write a weblog / personal website						
CONTCOO2	CONTCOO4	CONTCOO6						

2. Internet call or direct messaging (e.g. Skype, MSN)	4. Online social networks (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	6. Post	7. Other:

3.4. Do you have an internet connection in this house/apartment?								1. yes	2. no	88. other	INTCON

3.5. How many phone calls or chat-calls to your family and friends abroad have you made last week?								NUMCALL

3.5a. Do you usually make this amount of calls/chat sessions per week?								NUMCALLUS
1. Yes	2. No, usually more	3. No, usually less	88. Other	99. n/a				

Section 4. Involvement in local place: contacts and activities

5.1. How well do you speak Spanish on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being very bad and 5 being very good)?								SPANISH
1. Very bad	2. Bad	3. Regular	4. Good	5. Very good				

5.2. In which of the following local organizations (i.e. in THIS town/region where you are now) have you ever been involved or contributed? How?

	INVORG	INVORGNAME
	5.2 Involvement 1. No 2. Yes	5.2a. How?
1. Local town association for infrastructure, recycling, cleaning etc. (e.g. ADIO, ProMejoras)		
2. Local water association		
3. Local protest organization, e.g. for water or environment		
4. Environmental organization		
5. Home Owners Association		
6. Local cooperative		
7. Animal rescue association		

8. Local development organization (e.g. Cepia, Lion's Club)		
9. Local school		
10. Cultural club, e.g. reading group, art club		
11. Sports club/group		
12. Church / religious organization		
13. Other: _____ _____		

Section 5. Daily living and spending characteristics

In this section we will ask you about your activities and spending behaviour during your CURRENT STAY in Costa Rica.

6.1. – 6.16

We would like to know something about the shops you go to and services you use in this place. You only have to indicate how often you use them, not your spending.
(see Q2.14a for *)

I. OVER THE PAST MONTH, how often did you go to the following stores here in Costa Rica? You can indicate the number of times per day, per week, or per month.

* If person has been there less than one month, please indicate it over the PAST WEEK.

* If person has been there less than one week, please indicate how often you EXPECT to go in the NEXT WEEK.

II. OVER THE PAST MONTH, how often did you have meals out? Please count each meal: breakfast, daytime and evening meals. You can indicate the number of meals out per day, per week, or per month.

How often did you have drinks out? This can be both afternoon coffee or nightly drinks. You can indicate the number of drinks out per day, per week, or per month.

* If person has been there less than one month, please indicate it over the PAST WEEK.

* If person has been there less than one week, please indicate how often you EXPECT to go in the NEXT WEEK.

III. OVER THE PAST MONTH, how often did you go to the following stores / services? You can indicate the number of times per day, per week, or per month.

* If person has been there less than one month, please indicate it over the PAST WEEK.

* If person has been there less than one week, please indicate how often you EXPECT to go in the NEXT WEEK.

IV. When you stay at this property, how often do you generally hire or receive the following services? You can indicate the times per week, per month, or per year.

SHOP	1. 2-3x a day	2. Daily	3. 2-3 days a week	4. 4-6 days a week	5. Weekly	6. Bi- weekly	7. Monthly	8. Quarterly	9. Annually	10. Never	77. Don't know	99 n/a
I. Groceries, daily shopping												
5.1 Supermarket SHOPSUPER												
5.1a. Which supermarket do you usually go to? SHOPSUPERWH												
5.2. Grocery market, street sale SHOPMARKET												
5.3. Smaller shops for groceries (greengrocers, butcher, bakery) SHOPGROC												
5.4. Pharmacy SHOPPHARM												
II. Meals and drinks out												
5.5. Meals SHOPMEAL												
5.6. Drinks SHOPDRINK												
III. Personal services / stores												
5.7. Hairdresser, beauty treatments, massage SHOPBEAUTY												
5.8. Clothing stores SHOPCLOTH												
5.9 Gift / souvenir stores SHOPGIFT												
5.10. Electronic stores SHOPELECT												
5.11. Household items stores & Ferreterias SHOPHHST												
IV. House services												
5.12. Gardening & pool cleaning SHOPGARD												
5.13. Cleaning SHOPCLEAN												
5.14. Laundry SHOPLAUND												
5.16. Household repairs & painting SHOPHREP												

Where did you hire these services?	1. Included with rent/developer	2. Other local company	3. Local individual	88. Other, specify	99. N/a
5.12a. Gardening + pool SHOPGARDWH					
5.13a. Cleaning SHOPCLEANWH					
5.14a. Laundry SHOPLAUNDWH					
5.16a. Household repairs & painting SHOPHREPWH					

6.17-6.23. How do you transport yourself in and around the area with the following means during your current stay here?

		1. Often	2. Sometimes	3. Never	88. other	99. n/a
TRANSCAR	6.17. Car					
TRANSSCO	6.18. Scooter					
TRANSBIC	6.19. Bicycle					
TRANSWAL	6.20. Walking					
TRANSTAX	6.21. Taxi					
TRANSBUS	6.22. Public bus					
TRANSOTH	6.23. Other, specify:					

A. About your means of transport: Do you own or rent it?

1. Own > go to B	2. Rent	88. Other	99. n/a	B. Where did you buy it?	1. Costa Rica	2. Country of origin	88. Other	99. n/a
6.17a. Car	TRANSCAROW			6.17b.	TRANSCARBU			
6.18a. Scooter	TRANSSCOOW			6.18b	TRANSSCOBU			
6.19a. Bicycle	TRANSBICOW			6.19b	TRANSBICBU			
6.23a. Other, specify:	TRANSOTHOW			6.23b	TRANSOTHBU			

HEALTH	6.24. In the past 12 months, have you been to any of the following health facilities for advice or treatment here in Costa Rica?				
HEALTH1	HEALTH2	HEALTH3	HEALTH4	HEALTH5	
1. Local Ebais	2. Local private doctor	3. Public hospital	4. Private clinic	5. Public dentist	
HEALTH6	HEALTH7				
6. Private dental clinic	7. Other:				

SOCSEC	6.25. Do you pay any social security which covers health costs in Costa Rica, and if so, which one?				
1. No	2. Yes, Costa Rican CCSS (Caja)	3. Yes, other Costa Rican	4. Yes, in country of origin		
5. Yes, both in CR and in country of origin		88. Other, specify:			99. n/a

6.25-6.37. How often have you done or are you planning to do the following recreational and sports activities on average during your current stay in Costa Rica?

REC	1. Several times a week	2. Weekly	3. Monthly	4. 6-10 times a year	5. 1-5 times a year	6. Never	99. n/a
RECFISH	6.25. Sportfishing, boat trips						
RECOWNB	6.25a. Do you own a boat? 1. Yes 2. No 99. n/a						
RECWATTOUR	6.26. Water sports on a tour (e.g. snorkeling, diving, rafting, canoeing)						
RECWATIND	6.27. Water sports individually						
RECBEACH	6.28. Go to the beach to swim or relax						
RECNATTOUR	6.29. Nature walks with guide						
RECNATIND	6.30. Nature walks without guide						
RECCAN	6.31. Canopy (zip-line), hanging bridges						
RECHORSE	6.32. Horse riding						
RECGOLF	6.33. Golf						
RECTHERM	6.34. Thermal waters visit						
RECVOLC	6.35. Visit to volcanoes						
RECRURAL	6.36. Visiting a rural community						
RECPNP	6.38. Which national parks and protected areas have you visited in the last 12 months?						

6.39-.6.47. Could you estimate the amount you spent in these seven different categories DURING THE PAST MONTH OR DURING THE PAST WEEK in this area? If you are uncomfortable or don't know the amounts for different categories, you can also estimate the total amount you spend altogether. Please choose whichever you feel is the best and most accurate for you. Currency can be in US\$ or CRC. If you have been here less than one week, please estimate the amount you expect to be spending, per week or per month.

6.48. (if you RENT your property) Could you please mention the amount that you spend on accommodation or house rental costs here during this visit? You can either estimate it per week or per month.

6.49. Could you estimate the amount you spent on international flight tickets during the past 12 months?

		US\$ week	US\$ month	CRC week	CRC month	US\$ year	CRC year	99. n/a
SPENDGRO	6.39. Grocery shopping					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDEAT	6.40. Eating / drinking out, entertainment					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDTRIP	6.41. Trips & tours					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDHOU	6.42. House maintenance, incl. cleaning, gardening etc.					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDBILL	6.43. Electricity, water, phone, internet <i>if apart from rental cost</i>					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDTRA	6.44. Transportation locally					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDMED	6.45. Medical expenses, wellbeing & beauty, social security in CR					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDOTH	6.46. Other, specify					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDTOT	6.47. Total					xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	
SPENDACC	6.48. Accomodation / rental costs							
SPENDFLI	6.49. Flight tickets international	xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx			

Thank you very much for your participation. We really appreciate your help.

Occupation types:

1. Management occupations
2. Business and financial operations occupations
3. Computer and mathematical occupations
4. Architecture and engineering occupations
5. Life, physical, and social science occupations
6. Community and social services occupations
7. Legal occupations
8. Education, training, and library occupations
9. Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations
10. Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations
11. Health technologists and technicians
12. Healthcare support occupations
13. Fire fighting and prevention, and other protective service workers including supervisors
14. Law enforcement workers including supervisors
15. Food preparation and serving related occupations
16. Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations
17. Personal care and service occupations
18. Sales and related occupations
19. Office and administrative support occupations
20. Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations
21. Construction and extraction occupations
22. Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations
23. Production occupations
24. Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers, and other transportation workers except motor vehicle operators
25. Motor vehicle operators
26. Material moving workers
88. Other

10.2.3 Interview Schedule [Temporarily] Foreign Residents

Interview Code:

Address indication:

Date

1. Introductory

- 1.1 What's your age:
- 1.2 Sex of respondent:
- 1.3 Nationality:
- 1.4 Education level:
- 1.5 When did you arrive here in Guanacaste for the first time?
- 1.7 For which purpose are you here: business, retirement, vacation, other?
- 1.8 Do you own this property or rent it?
- 1.10 How many months a year are you here on average?
- 1.11 With who do you live here?
- 1.12 Why did you choose for Costa Rica/Guanacaste would you still make this choice?
- 1.13 Do you consider living here/going back/selling your house? Why?

2. Preferences in local Culture, Economy and Environment

2.1 How would you prefer to see this place (in the future)? Which picture or view do you prefer for this place? Why do you prefer this / why don't you like this?

Culture

Market

vs



City (San Jose) vs



Brands



Pic ... over pic ... because:

Pic ... over pic ...:

Environment

Empty beach vs Lower residential tourism buildings vs

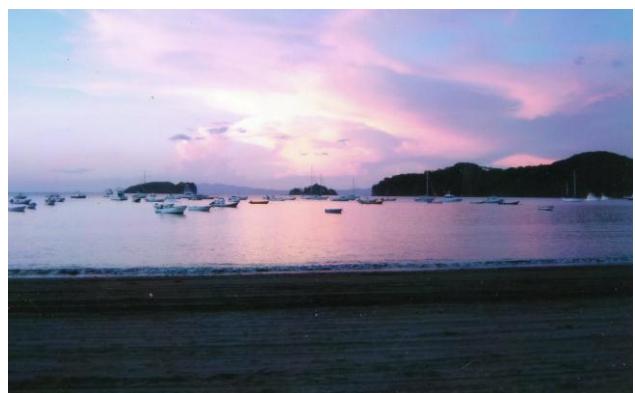


Tamarindo current (mix high rise / low) vs High rise buildings (Spanish coast)



Pic ... over pic ...:
Pic ... over pic ...:
Pic ... over pic ...:
Pic ... over pic ...:

Empty vs Boats vs



Marina



Pic ... over pic ...:

Pic ... over pic ...:

Economy

Guides

vs

Airport



Pic ... over pic ...:

Pic ... over pic ...:

2.2 Which picture(s) represent(s) best the changes in nature/environment, culture and economy you have seen in the past years? Explain?

Environment:

Culture:

Economy:

2.3 If this place became like this (i.e. the pictures they don't like), what would you do?
Would you leave or stay, or protest/write letters to government?

Do you prefer a quiet lonely village or a more urban area? Do you prefer the beach to be busy or quiet? Have you been to private beaches in CR? Or to a private beach club? Would you do so / prefer so if it were possible, and why (not)? What do you think of the coastal land policy & prohibition of private beaches?

3. Situation sketches in Nature, Culture and Economy

Beautiful Nature

vs

nature-environmental Destruction;



Socio-economic **Growth** / job opportunities vs



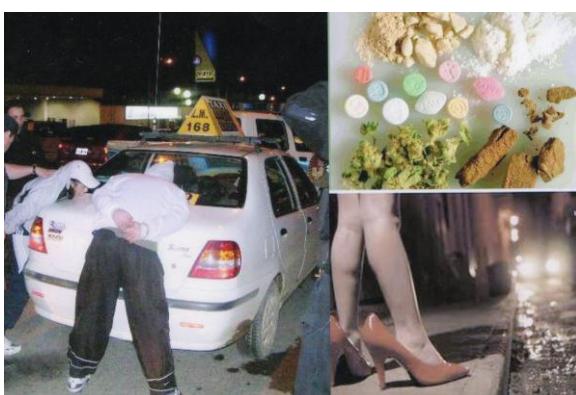
Social **Wellbeing**

Unemployment/stagnation,



vs

Social **Problems**



Here we show you three positive and three negative situations that can appear in this place: a healthy and unhealthy environment and nature; a positive and negative economic and employment situation; and a positive and negative social wellbeing situation. If you could design the future of this place and pick one positive situation and two negative, which ones would you choose? If you could pick two positive ones and one negative, which ones would you choose?

Do you think there is an inevitable trade-off between nature-environment, social wellbeing and economic growth? Is a win-win-win situation possible? (How) should a balance be reached?

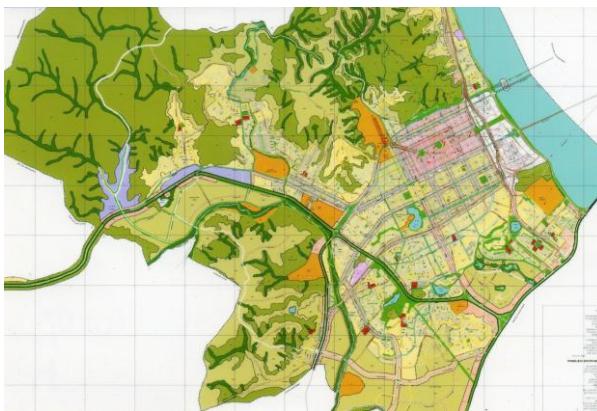
Which combination best reflects the current situation here?

4. Social relations

4.1 Segregation / integration of residential tourists

Zoning plan

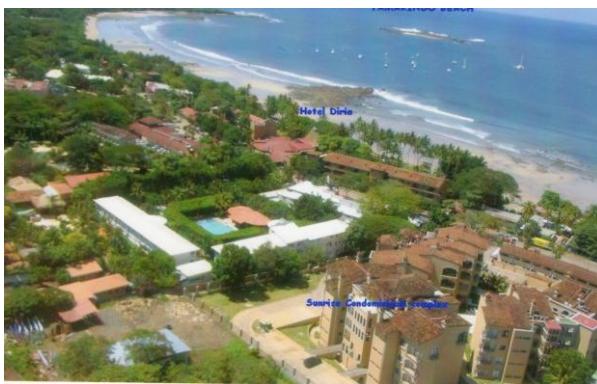
Segregated (gated)



Mixed

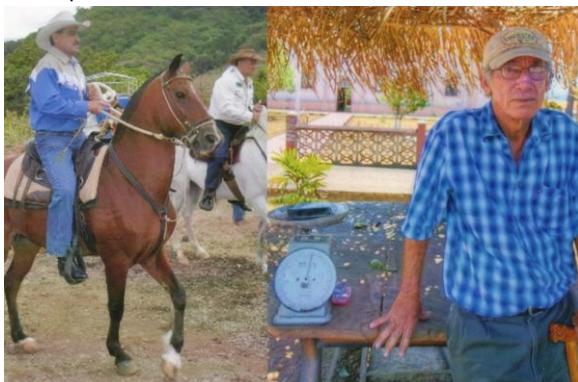


Unregulated



Which situation do you prefer? Why?

Local person



San Jose migrant



Nicaraguan



real estate Developer



small Hotel-business owner



RT western resident-tourist



G national government-president



LG local government



A airlines



LO local organizations



E environmentalists



P local protest groups.



4.2 Could you classify these pictures into two groups: Those who have gained from residential tourism, and those who have lost from residential tourism? Did I forget any groups or people? Why do you think these groups have gained or lost most from residential tourism?

Winners:
Losers:

4.3 Could you pick all the groups or people who somehow have power over this town, or who decide on what happens in this town? Did I forget any person or group? Then: Could you rank the 3 who hold most power according to you? How have these people consolidated their power?

Power:

Powerless:

- 1) 2) 3)

What has changed in the relations between these groups over the past years, and why?
Do you regard it as something positive or negative? Why?
Who have gained and lost most from residential tourism: younger or older people, men or women? Why?

5. Involvement & knowledge of conflicts

Do you know about any tourism-related conflicts here in this area in the last few years?

Where were they about?

- 1)
2)

Which groups joined the protests?

- 1)
2)
Who was held responsible?

- 1)
2)

How do you think about these protests? Do you think they are or can be effective?
What is the most effective way to change things here? In which ways do you keep yourself informed about these conflicts? Where are you interested in? Are you involved in local politics? Why(not)?

6. Economic crisis

Can you describe in which ways the economic crisis influenced your stay here in Guanacaste? Which differences did you experience because of the economic crisis?

Spendings
Visits/year

Postpone buying real estate/problems because less people buy new houses? Irritations about unfinished buildings/projects?

Changed future plans/retirement?

7. Transnationalism

How many times per year do you return to your home country?
For which reasons?

How do you maintain contact with friends and family abroad?

How many visitors from home the past 2 years?

Which typical Costa Rican things/habits do you take with you to your home country?

Which things from home do you miss most when you are here in Costa Rica?

Which things from your home country do you really need here and do you buy/order when you are here?

Are you involved in hometown and Costa Rican clubs/churches/organisations?

8. End

Do you have any questions?

Or other suggestions/things I should know now?

Thank you for your cooperation!

10.3 Appendix 3

List of types of occupations or businesses household members one and two currently run or formerly ran.

Occupation type	Frequency	Percentage
Management occupations	10	15%
Business and financial operations occupations	8	12%
Computer and mathematical occupations	3	5%
Architecture and engineering occupations	4	6%
Community and social services occupations	2	3%
Legal occupations	1	2%
Education, training, and library occupations	7	11%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	4	6%
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations	1	2%
Health technologists and technicians	2	3%
Healthcare support occupations	6	9%
Law enforcement workers including supervisors	1	2%
Personal care and service occupations	3	5%
Sales and related occupations	6	9%
Office and administrative support occupations	2	3%
Construction and extraction occupations	1	2%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4	6%
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers, and other transportation workers except motor vehicle operators	1	2%
Total	66	100%

Business type	Frequency
Car business	1
Ceramic artist, wine sale	1
Clothes repair & making	1
Commercial real estate. internet, make/sell products	1
Construction work	1
Credit management	1
Currency trader	1
Dating community	1
Day care provider	1
Design	1
Entertainment firm	1
Esthetician	1
Fashion	1
Finance	1
Financial investment research	1
Former: massage therapist. Now: real estate investment, rehabilitating houses and renting or selling them	1
Franchise business	1
Golf touring company	1
Hairdresser	2

Horse farm & real estate developer	2
Hotel	1
House rental	3
Import export food beverages	1
Insurance agent	1
Interior design	1
Internet	1
Manufacturing, food & beverages	1
Marketing	1
Martial arts	2
Oil and gas industry	1
Online businesses	1
Outrenting houses	1
Property management and real estate company	1
Property management company, artist	1
Real estate	3
Real estate broker	1
Real estate development	1
Restaurant	4
Several	2
Software consultant	1
Sportfish	1
Stock market	1
Style life coaching	1
Surf repair	1
Swimwear design and shop	1
Tech	1
Water purification	1
Total	58

10.4 Appendix 4

Shopping behavior of the respondents

		Tourists		Foreign residents		Residential tourists	
Supermarket	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%	1	3%		0%
	2-3 times a week		0%	3	9%	1	4%
	4-6 times a week		0%	2	6%		0%
	Weekly	3	15%	8	24%	3	12%
	Bi-weekly		0%	5	15%	2	8%
	Monthly	1	5%	6	18%	8	31%
	Quarterly		0%	6	18%	4	15%
	Annually		0%	1	3%		0%
	Never	16	80%	2	6%	8	31%
Grocery market	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%	1	4%
	2-3 times a week	2	10%	2	6%	4	15%
	4-6 times a week	1	5%	2	6%		0%
	Weekly	6	30%	10	29%	6	23%
	Bi-weekly		0%		0%	5	19%
	Monthly		0%	2	6%	2	8%
	Quarterly		0%	2	6%	2	8%
	Annually		0%	1	3%		0%
	Never	11	55%	15	44%	6	23%
Smaller grocery shops	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%		0%
	2-3 times a week	2	10%	8	24%	7	27%
	4-6 times a week	1	5%		0%		0%
	Weekly	6	30%	7	21%	6	23%
	Bi-weekly		0%	1	3%	3	12%
	Monthly		0%	6	18%	4	15%
	Quarterly		0%	1	3%		0%
	Annually		0%		0%		0%
	Never	11	55%	11	32%	6	23%
Pharmacy	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%		0%
	2-3 times a week	1	5%	1	3%		0%
	4-6 times a week		0%		0%		0%

	Weekly	5	25%	4	12%	2	8%
	Bi-weekly	2	10%	5	15%	4	15%
	Monthly		0%	7	21%	8	31%
	Quarterly	1	5%	6	18%	5	19%
	Annually		0%	5	15%		0%
	Never	11	55%	6	18%	7	27%
Meals out	2-3 times daily	7	35%	1	3%	1	4%
	Daily	7	35%	3	9%	4	15%
	2-3 times a week	3	15%	12	35%	12	46%
	4-6 times a week	3	15%	1	3%	1	4%
	Weekly		0%	10	29%	6	23%
	Bi-weekly		0%	1	3%	2	8%
	Monthly		0%	4	12%		0%
	Quarterly		0%	1	3%		0%
	Annually		0%		0%		0%
	Never		0%	1	3%		0%
Drinks out	2-3 times daily	1	5%		0%		0%
	Daily	6	30%	2	6%	2	8%
	2-3 times a week	4	20%	5	15%	7	27%
	4-6 times a week	3	15%		0%	2	8%
	Weekly		0%	9	26%	1	4%
	Bi-weekly		0%	2	6%	2	8%
	Monthly		0%	3	9%	1	4%
	Quarterly		0%		0%		0%
	Annually		0%		0%		0%
	Never	6	30%	13	38%	11	42%
Beauty treatments	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%		0%
	2-3 times a week		0%	1	3%		0%
	4-6 times a week	1	5%		0%		0%
	Weekly	2	10%	5	15%	3	12%
	Bi-weekly	2	10%	3	9%	3	12%
	Monthly		0%	11	32%	5	19%
	Quarterly		0%	5	15%	3	12%
	Annually		0%	3	9%	1	4%
	Never	15	75%	6	18%	11	42%
Clothing stores	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%		0%
	2-3 times a week	1	5%		0%		0%
	4-6 times a week		0%		0%		0%
	Weekly	3	15%	1	3%	4	15%
	Bi-weekly		0%		0%	2	8%

	Monthly		0%	4	12%	4	15%
	Quarterly		0%	8	24%	5	19%
	Annually		0%	3	9%		0%
	Never	16	80%	18	53%	11	42%
Gift/souvenir stores	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%		0%
	2-3 times a week	4	20%		0%		0%
	4-6 times a week	4	20%		0%		0%
	Weekly	7	35%	1	3%	4	15%
	Bi-weekly	1	5%		0%		0%
	Monthly	1	5%	1	3%	7	27%
	Quarterly	1	5%	6	18%	11	42%
	Annually		0%	5	15%		0%
	Never	2	10%	21	62%	4	15%
Electronic stores	2-3 times daily		0%		0%		0%
	Daily		0%		0%		0%
	2-3 times a week		0%		0%		0%
	4-6 times a week		0%		0%		0%
	Weekly	1	5%	2	6%		0%
	Bi-weekly		0%		0%		0%
	Monthly		0%	4	12%		0%
	Quarterly	1	5%	4	12%	5	19%
	Annually		0%	5	15%	3	12%
	Never	18	90%	19	56%	18	69%