

Litter impacts on scenery and tourism on the Colombian north Caribbean coast

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Abstract

This paper provides the location, scenery and litter evaluation of 35 Colombian Caribbean beaches (9 remote, 9 village, 14 urban and 3 resort). Four litter grades were found. A: excellent (5); B: good (8); C: fair (19) and D: poor (3). A Decision Value parameter (D), for scenery gave: Class I - extremely attractive/natural, $D > 0.85$, 6 sites; Class II - attractive/natural sites, $D = 0.85 - 0.65$, 2 sites; Class III - mainly natural sites, few outstanding features, $D = 0.65 - 0.4$, 1 site; Class IV - mainly unattractive sites, $D = 0.4$ to zero, 6 sites; Class V - very unattractive sites, $D = < 0$, 20 sites. Litter amounts placed most beaches into a poor scenic category and many scenic beaches could jump a grade by means of clean-ups. A graphic methodology highlighted beaches with contradictory results for litter/scenic grades. Tourists abhor littered beaches and clean-ups would improve scenery scores.

Keywords

Beach management, Colombia, Litter, Scenery, Tourism