



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INTERNSHIP AT CEBSE

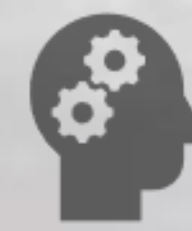
Setting

- **PLACE** Santa Barbara de Samaná, ca. 108.000 habitants
- **ORGANISATION** CEBSE, dominican Non-governmental Organisation since 1991
- **SPACE OF TIME** 20.11.2018 – 17.03.2019
- **LANGUAGE** Dominican Spanish
- **MY FIELD OF INTEREST**
Community-based Tourism, Sustainable Community Development, Coastal Areas, Latinamerica
- **WHY AN INTERNSHIP AT AN NGO?**
To see if an NGO could be a future workplace, I wanted to experience how an NGO works, what strategies they apply and what challenges they have to face.



My Tasks

- ✓ CEBSE supports three different ecotourism-projects founded by local groups. I was asked to see how and what the local groups could improve in their ecotourism-projects.
- ✓ Work at the whale museum (give information to visiting tourists, support the staff at guided tours, translations).
- ✓ To participate at the whale-watching monitoring from 15th january - 15th march.
- ✓ To find an adequate research focus for my master thesis because my emphasis was on the internship experience not at doing fieldwork.



Methods

Semi-structured Interviews * Informal Conversations
Fieldnotes * Field Diary * Meetings

The Ecotourism-Projects



The fisher cooperative ESPIRITU SANTO from Los Cacaos built a platform on a close small island supported by CEBSE and the GIZ. They want to offer tours on the island and to attract more tourists.

Foto:
<https://www.facebook.com/CEBSE/photos/a.1611057858946809/2050117888374135/?type=3&theater>



The shrimp-fisher cooperative SAN LORENZO from Sanchez (30km from Samaná) wants to expand its activities on offering Kayak Tours to the near Los Haitises National Park for tourists. It's trying to get an official permission for their excursions.

Foto:
<https://www.facebook.com/Kayakhaitises/photos/a.254236268245984/254236274912650/?type=3&theater>



A local group from LAS GARITAS (11km from Samaná) built a path through a small mangrove forest supported by CEBSE and the US-organisation Seacology. They want to commercialize the path and attract tourists.

Foto:
<https://www.facebook.com/CEBSE/photos/a.1611057858946809/2183330191719570/?type=3&theater>

Findings

Due to a lack of introduction, organisation, and supervision my tasks were to broad and unspecific to be fulfilled in four months. The language barrier at the beginning and the distance to the projects were further obstacles. The aspiration of all three projects is to attract (international) tourists. The main

- problems are a lack of
- touristic expertise,
 - organisation within the groups,
 - and dependence on national and international organisations.

My master thesis will focus on a description of these exemplary problems embedded in the anthropology of tourism and organisation.

About CEBSE

(engl.: Centre for the Conservation and Eco-Development of Samaná Bay and its Surroundings) is a non-governmental organisation for conservation. They work for the protection and conservation of humpback whales, mangroves, coral reefs and connect that to community participation and sustainable development. Founded in

1991 they work in Santo Domingo and in Santa Barbara de Samaná where they have their main office. They receive donations and depend on applications for projects from international organisations like GIZ, USAID etc.