

# **MORJIM AT RISK?**

## Community at a crossroads

### Goa, India



## **Discussion**

### **ICG**

Thursday 20 January 2011

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), Oxford Brookes University  
International Centre Goa (ICG)  
SEEDS India

January 2011

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Unless better managed, Morjim's growing tourism trade risks swamping this quiet Goan village, and plunging those already vulnerable into further uncertainty. This is one of the findings of a new report produced by an international team of students and researchers from India and the UK. 'Morjim is at a crossroads: it can preserve its natural riches with a vibrant and caring tourism industry, or it can suffer the same fate of beach resorts in the Mediterranean whose culture is destroyed.' This is the conclusion of one member of the team, an expert in sustainable tourism.

This draft report, a collaboration between Masters degree students from the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at Oxford Brookes University, UK, the NGO SEEDS India and the International Centre Goa (ICG) has identified key threats and opportunities for this small beach community. The team undertook a livelihoods assessment using a participatory rapid approach. This elicited threats and opportunities as identified by the inhabitants of Morjim themselves. The report concludes with the eight recommendations, organised under the headings of 'Environment and Planning' and 'Awareness, Advocacy and Empowerment.' They relate to the protection of cultural and environmental resources, the promotion of sustainable and community-centred tourism, and community empowerment to influence developments in their village and environs.

The study's findings and recommendations were presented to the community of Morjim at the local fish market on Thursday 20 January 2011 and comments welcomed and assimilated. Findings were also presented and discussed at a special meeting convened at the ICG on the same day.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Enforce ethical and sustainable development
2. Promote sustainable and community-centred tourism
3. Raise awareness of sustainable tourism development
4. Empower workers within the local tourist industry
5. Encourage the local community to influence future development in Morjim
6. Enhance awareness on Climate Change and viable adaptation measures
7. Build a 'culture of safety' at community level in disaster risk reduction (DRR)
8. Protect local cultural and environmental resources.

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