3 - CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The concepts and definitions used are based on the recommendation of the World Tourism Organisation, some of which have been adapted to suit local conditions.

3.1 Unit of inquiry

The unit of inquiry is the tourist. The latter is defined as a non-resident staying in the country for more than 24 hours but less than a year.

A tourist may be travelling alone or in a group.

3.2 Party

The travelling unit is the “party”, which usually consists of one or more members for whom individual expenditures are not available separately. Thus, for certain sections of the questionnaire, the information obtained may refer to more than one tourist.

The size of the “party” is the total number of persons present in the “party”. This has been taken into consideration when calculating average expenditure per tourist.

3.3 Country of residence

Tourist arrivals in Mauritius are compiled on the basis of the permanent address of the tourist, which may not be the same as his nationality.
3.4 Package or inclusive tour

A package tour is defined as one in which airfare, accommodation and other items such as meals, sightseeing, car hire are included in the tour price paid before departure from the home country. The package may include other countries besides Mauritius.

3.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is noted in the currency mentioned by the respondent, and is later converted into Mauritian rupees using the exchange rates prevailing at the time of the survey.

Expenditure figures relate to expenses incurred by the tourists during their stay in the country and include items like accommodation, meals and beverages, local transportation, sightseeing, entertainment, shopping etc. However, expenses on international fares paid to carriers are excluded.

During the analysis, the concepts expenditures “per capita” and “per capita per diem” have been used. The first one refers to total expenditure incurred per tourist for the whole stay and the second one relates to average expenditure per tourist per night.

The method of calculating tourism expenditure by means of Airport Exit Surveys is widely used internationally, but problems arise for tourists travelling on package tour. The cost of package has to be broken down in order to obtain the proportion which accrues to hotels, tour operators etc. in Mauritius. Based on available data, it is assumed that 34% of the cost of package goes to the local hoteliers. In addition, further imputation is required in case the package includes other destinations besides Mauritius.