

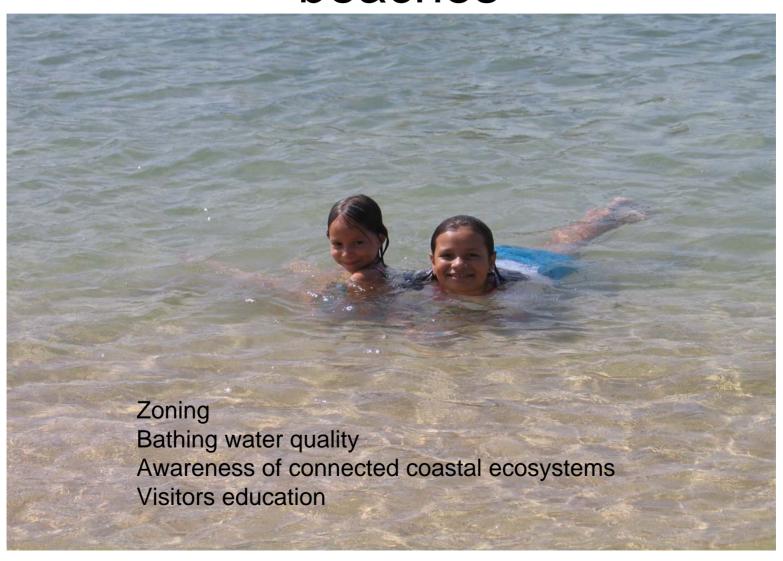
# Traditional uses of recreational beaches in Puerto Rico

- Family event
- All year long
- From sunrise to sunset
- Beaches as tourism attraction
- Seasonal





# Sustainable tourism use of beaches



What is the Blue Flag Program

- Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- Voluntary international certification for beaches and recreational marinas to recognize good environmental management practices.
- 3,100 beaches and marinas in 36 countries





### Blue Flag in the Caribbean

- Caribbean 2001
  - Puerto Rico
  - Dominican Republic
  - Bahamas
    - marinas
  - Jamaica
- Puerto Rico
  - Blue Flag season
    - November to July





#### Blue Flag Beaches in Puerto Rico









### Blue Flag Criteria



Information and Environmental Education



**Environmental management** 



#### Water quality monitoring



**Safety and Services** 

#### Blue Flag Program Coordination



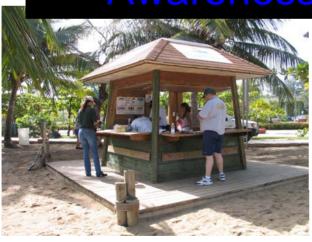


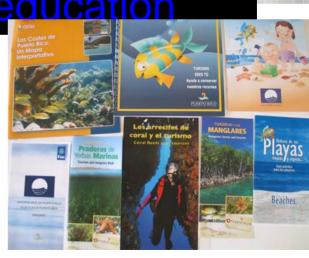
# Contribution of Blue Flag to sustainable tourism





Awareness and education





### Blue Flag and Coral Reef Protection

- Identification of coral reefs in the vicinity of the beach
- Establish baseline monitoring if coral reef lies within 500 meters of the beach.
- Conduct Reefcheck every year to assess coral reef health





### Blue Flag Challenges





- Visitors attitudes and behavior
- Lack of knowledge about natural processes in beach supervisors



#### More Information about Blue Flag



- OPAS <u>opaspr@yahoo.com</u>
- Puerto Rico Tourism Company www.gotopuertorico.com
- Blue Flag International <u>www.blueflag.org</u>