



The question of preventing the environmental damage caused by tourism

Introduction

Hi, my name is Sophia and I will be your head chair for the EnviroSci committee. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and I hope to have a great debate over the weekend. In the meantime, here is a briefing paper on the issue of preventing the environmental damage caused by tourism, which will help you to begin your research to construct the clauses. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Challenges of preventing the environmental damage of tourism

There are 1 billion tourist arrivals in the world every year. That's 30 every single second. By 2020 the number will increase by 60 percent. Tourism often puts pressure on natural resources through over-consumption, often in places where resources are already scarce. The tourism industry is worth \$818 billion in 2020. Therefore, if you forced the tourist industry to be more environmentally friendly it may have an extremely damaging impact on countries' economies, especially on lower income countries or countries where tourism is the main industry. However, eco-tourism is a rapidly growing industry, with potential benefits for both the environment and the economies of the tourist destinations. It also protects the environment for people to see it in the future, perhaps making more money in the long-term.

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Tourism

An average golf course in a tropical country, for example, uses as much water as 60,000 rural villagers. It also uses 1500 kilos of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides per year. Tourism contributes to more than 5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, with transportation accounting for 90 percent of this. This has a massive impact on the environment.

It brings in money and provides jobs, especially in developing countries. It provides a means and an incentive for investment in infrastructure such as roads, rail networks, and local medical and education facilities. It can provide economic incentives for a place to preserve the environment and promotes international connections which can bring more business and cultural collaborations in the long term. It also promotes cross-cultural awareness for both locals and tourist and builds bridges of understanding between cultures. Finally, tourism gives the locality a chance to show itself off and raise its profile in the world.



Action already taken to prevent the environmental damage caused by tourism

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 is to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

As of April 2019, 185 countries had ratified the Paris Agreement to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions. Under the Agreement, all parties are required to submit new nationally determined contributions, containing revised and much more ambitious targets, by 2020.

As of 20 May 2019, 28 countries had accessed Green Climate Fund grant financing for the formulation of national adaptation plans and other adaptation planning processes, with a value of \$75 million. Of these, 67 per cent were for least developed countries, small island developing States and African States.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is constantly preparing comprehensive Assessment Reports about knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response options.

Questions to think about:

What can be done to encourage member nations and private companies to use more eco-friendly methods of tourism?

How do we enable countries to convert to eco-tourism without seriously impacting their economies?

How can we spread awareness about the seriousness of this issue and how eco-tourism may be beneficial in the long-term?

Further Reading

Challenges of tourism:

https://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/impact_of_transport_on_environment/negative_environmental_impacts_of_tourism

Advantages and disadvantages of tourism:



[https://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/impact of transport on environment/negative environmental impacts of tourism](https://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/impact-of-transport-on-environment/negative-environmental-impacts-of-tourism)

<http://www.market-width.com/blogs/Importance-Tourism-Industry-Economic-Value.htm>

Action already taken to prevent the environmental damage of tourism:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13>