

## HOW GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AFFECT TOURISM

### 6.1. Natural Disasters

Catastrophes like floods, earthquakes, wildfires, volcanoes, avalanches, drought and diseases can have a serious effect on inbound and domestic tourism and thus on local tourism industries. The outbreak of foot and mouth disease epidemic in England earlier by 2001, for instance, severely affected Great Britain's inbound tourism market. A BHA/Barclays Hospitality Business Trends Survey found that 75% of hotels in England, 81% in Scotland and 85% in Wales continued to be affected by the foot and mouth outbreak, and over 60% forecast a decline in business in the June-September 2001 periods

## 6.2. Climate Change

Tourism not only contributes to climate change, but is affected by it as well. Climate change is likely to increase the severity and frequency of storms and severe weather events, which can have disastrous effects on tourism in the affected regions. Some of the other impacts that the world risks as a result of globe warming are drought, diseases and heat waves. These negative impacts can keep tourists away from the holiday destinations. Global warming may cause: Less snowfall at ski resorts, meaning a shorter skiing seasons in the Alpine region.

In already hot areas like Asia and the Mediterranean, tourists will stay away because of intense heat, and out of fear of diseases and water shortage harm to vulnerable ecosystems such as rainforests and coral reefs because of rising temperatures and less rainfall. A major risk to coral reefs is bleaching, which occurs when coral is stressed by temperature increases, high or low levels of salinity, lower water quality, and an increase in suspended sediments.

These conditions cause the zooxanthellae (the single-celled algae which forms the colors within the coral) to leave the coral. Without the algae, the coral looks white, or “bleached” and rapidly dies (Hall, 2001).

## 7. EFFECTS OF OTHER INDUSTRIES ON TOURISM

• Impacts from other industries often have a dramatic effect on the environment and can seriously affect tourism. • Oil spills, like the oil tanker disasters can cause severe short-term damage to tourist attractions. In that case, local marine and land species and the tourism potential of the area can be badly affected. Agricultural runoff or industrial discharges can cause water pollution and may cause algae blooms. In spite of improved control of sewage from tourism developments, the Mediterranean seafloor is increasingly carpeted with these quick-growing invaders, many rising 30 inches or more above anchoring runners. They appear equally adept at colonizing rock, mud, and sand in a virtually continuous swath that can extend from the beach out to a depth of about 150 feet, smothering coral reefs, fish and other sea flora and fauna in the process. • Destructive practices such as blast fishing, fishing with poisonous chemicals like cyanide, directly destroy corals. They can also destroy a major attraction for tourists (UNEP, 1992).

**8. HOW TOURISM CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** The tourism industry can contribute to conservation through:

**8.1. Financial Contributions** Direct financial contributions Tourism can contribute directly to the conservation of sensitive areas and habitat. Revenue from park-entrance fees and similar sources can be allocated specifically to pay for the protection and management of environmentally sensitive areas. Special fees for park operations or conservation activities can be collected from tourists or tour operators. Contributions to government revenues Some governments collect money in more far-reaching and indirect ways that are not linked to specific parks or conservation areas. User fees, income taxes, taxes on sales or rental of recreation equipment, and license fees for activities such as hunting and fishing can provide governments with the funds needed to manage natural resources. Such funds can be used for overall conservation programs and activities, such as park ranger salaries and park maintenance (WTO, 1997;WTO, 1998).

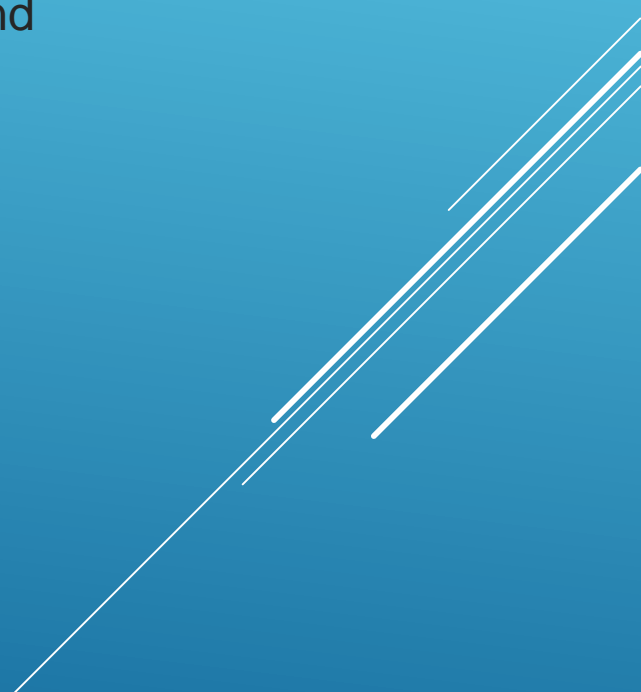
**8.2. Improved Environmental Management and Planning** Sound environmental management of tourism facilities and especially hotels can increase benefits to natural areas. But this requires careful planning for controlled development, based on analysis of the environmental resources of the area. Planning helps to make choices between conflicting uses, or to find ways to make them compatible. By planning early for tourism development, damaging and expensive mistakes can be prevented, avoiding the gradual deterioration of environmental assets significant to tourism.

Cleaner production techniques can be important tools for planning and operating tourism facilities in a way that minimizes their environmental impacts. For example, green building (using energy-efficient and non-polluting construction materials, sewage systems and energy sources) is an increasingly important way for the tourism industry to decrease its impact on the environment. And because waste treatment and disposal are often major, long-term environmental problems in the tourism industry, pollution prevention and waste minimization techniques are especially important for the tourism industry (UNEP, 1995, 1997, 1998; WTO, 1995).

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 9. Physical Integrity: To look after all landscapes, whether urban or rural, and ensure that they are not degraded physically or visually as a result of tourism.

Goal 8. Cultural Richness: To respect the cultural heritage, traditions, authenticity and uniqueness of host communities.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TOURISM

[https://sdgs.un.org/topics/sustainable\\_tourism#:~: text=In%20the%202030%20Agenda%20for,b.](https://sdgs.un.org/topics/sustainable_tourism#:~:text=In%20the%202030%20Agenda%20for,b)

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