

**Handout**

Observe the following pictures of tourist destinations and after reading the handout on the effects of tourism on the environment decide how tourism has impacted the environment in the pictures presented.

**Impact of tourism on the environment Hand out**

**Resources**

Tourism development can put pressure on natural resources when it increases consumption in areas where resources are already scarce.

Water, and especially fresh water, is one of the most critical natural resources. The tourism industry generally overuses water resources for hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and personal use of water by tourists. This can result in water shortages and degradation of water supplies.

**Pollution**

**POLLUTION** Tourism can cause the same forms of pollution as any other industry: air emissions, noise, solid waste and littering, releases of sewage, oil and chemicals, even architectural/visual pollution.

3.1. Air Pollution and Noise  
Transport by air, road, and rail is continuously increasing in response to the rising number of tourists and their greater mobility. Transport emissions and emissions from energy production and use are linked to acid rain, global warming and photochemical pollution. Air pollution from tourist transportation has impacts on global level, especially from carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions related to transportation energy use. And it can contribute to severe local air pollution.

Some of these impacts are quite specific to tourist activities. For example, especially in very hot or cold countries, tour buses often leave their motors running for hours while the tourists go out for an excursion because they want to return to a comfortably air-conditioned bus. Noise pollution from airplanes, cars, and buses, as well as recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles and jet skis, is a

problem of modern life. In addition to causing annoyance, stress, and even hearing loss for humans, it causes distress to wildlife, especially in sensitive areas ([www.unepie.org/tourism](http://www.unepie.org/tourism)).

**Solid Waste and Littering** In areas with high concentrations of tourist activities and appealing natural attractions, waste disposal is a serious problem and improper disposal can be a major despoiler of the natural environment, rivers, scenic areas, and roadsides. For example, cruise ships in the Caribbean are estimated to produce more than 70,000 tons of waste each year. Solid waste and littering can degrade the physical appearance of the water and shoreline and cause the death of marine animals. In mountain areas, trekking tourists generate a great deal of waste. Tourists on expedition leave behind their garbage, oxygen cylinders and even camping equipment. Such practices degrade the environment with all the detritus typical of the developed world, in remote areas that have few garbage collection or disposal facilities

#### PHYSICAL IMPACTS

Attractive landscape sites, such as sandy beaches, lakes, riversides, and mountaintops and slopes, are often transitional zones, characterized by species-rich ecosystems. Typical physical impacts include the degradation of such ecosystems. An ecosystem is a geographic area including all the living organisms (people, plants, animals, and microorganisms), their physical surroundings (such as soil, water, and air), and the natural cycles that sustain them. The ecosystems most threatened with degradation are ecologically fragile areas such as alpine regions, rain forests, wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass beds. Threats to and pressures on these ecosystems are often severe because such places are very attractive to both tourists and developers. Physical impacts are caused not only by tourism-related land clearing and construction, but by continuing tourist activities and long-term changes in local economies and ecologies.

Activity:

After reading the information above. Observe the pictures and explain how tourism has affected each environment



1. Explain how tourism has impacted the environment in the picture above.

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2. Explain the impact of tourism in this picture.

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3. Explain the impact of tourism in this picture.

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