

Lesson 12: Tourism and the Environment

Reading: Chapter 13

In 2001 around 425 million visitors visited U.S. parks. Most of them were American, but 24% of overseas visitors also visited parks.

- In Costa Rica, 75% of all overseas visitors travel to at least one park.
- Protecting the coral reef in Hawaii brings \$360 million in Revenue (worth = \$10 b)
- The World Travel & Tourism Council formed the Bus. Enterprise Sustainable Travel
- In Uganda visitors pay \$250 to view gorillas. Ecotourism raises funds in Galapagos.
- Most tourists (71% of American) state caring about the environment and will pay fees

How does Tourism Harm the Environment?

- Tourists and suppliers use env. resources (foreigners in Grenada consume $\times 7$ water)
 - Tourists & suppliers pollute – hotels in Caribbean discharge 80-90% of sewage
 - Tourists engage in recreational activities that directly harm the environment (*e.g.?*).
- Tourists fee fish in Hanauma, introduce foreign species. **How does it harm environment?**
- 90% of energy consumed is getting to and from destination. **Sources & residuals?**

Tourism (suppliers and tourists) use various inputs (creating potential shortages such as water in the Maldives) and generate *residuals* (solid, liquid and gaseous, **such as?**).

- Transportation uses the most energy and discharges the most emission – 260m tons. Lodging uses the most water and discharges the most sewage and solid waste.
- We can reduce harm by consuming fewer products, switching to low emission products or use cleaner technology (*examples*).

Why do people pollute?

- Polluting is the least costly solution for many problems (*like what?*)
- Business may be more concerned with profit (e.g. oppose attempts by W. Bush to limit snowmakers in Yellowstone).
- Tourist resources may have *open access*.

Regulating Pollution:

- Pollution should continue as long as the marginal benefit exceeds marginal costs
 - Clear property rights can prevent excessive pollution as long as they're enforceable
 - Eco-tax can help regulate the number of tourists and the amount of harmful activities
 - Self-regulation by industries councils and stewardship program can affect behavior
- Examples: Blue flag campaign, Int. Council of Cruise Lines, Marine Stewardship Prog.
- There over 100 voluntary tourists certification, certifying over 700 products
 - Even without enforcement (NW Cruise Ship Assoc.) bad press is a disincentive

Command-and-Control place absolute restriction of use, such as blocking most of the Great Barriers Reef, prohibiting smoking in Hanauma Bay or no cars in Zermatt.

- Government are increasingly using market-based env. policies such as eco-tax, tradable permits and subsidies.
- Improved park management can reduce stress by tourism and raise carrying capacity
- Admission fee (such as \$15 for national parks in CR) can ration scarce resources.

Ecotourism: Tourism for the purpose of viewing nature and animals.

- Delegates from 130 nations met in Quebec to celebrate Int. Year of Ecotourism (02).
- Nature-based tourism has grown at an annual rate of 10% in the 1990s.
- In Peru, each free-flying macaw is estimated to generate up to \$4,700 in revenue.
- In Costa Rica tourism finances close to 75% of maintenance of national parks.
- Over 80% of national parks globally were created for tourism.

Environmental Problems:

- The number of tourists to the Adriatic coast has decreased in recent years because of water pollution that is partially caused by therapeutic baths nearby
- Consumption of water by tourists in the Caribbean is three times higher than by locals
- Ski resorts in the Alps necessitated removing hundreds km² creating runoffs.
- Workers in the Galapagos make ×4 the wages of workers in Ecuador → migration
- Hill stations at Khumbu National Park in Nepal's Everest Region have been turned into slums to accommodate the growing number of pack packers in the park
- Recent oil spill near the Galapagos Islands has been blamed for the drop in the number of iguanas from 25,000 to 10,000 on one of the islands
- Officials in Yellowstone park had to remove grizzly bears that were reportedly "harassing" hotel guests
- Lighting bonfires can disorient turtle hatching who use the moonlight to find their way to the ocean
- The number of visitors to national parks in the US increased from 80 million in 1964 to nearly 425 million in 2001
- The number of divers is expected to grow from 4 million to 14 m during this decade

Environmental Solutions:

- New Zealand produces 21% of its energy from renewable sources (particularly geothermal and hydroelectric energy).
- A 2001 survey by Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) → 70 percent of U.S. respondents were willing to pay more for accommodations in a hotel with a "responsible environmental attitude, 55% prefer to make such accommodations.
- When tourists were asked to make voluntary donations to "support" the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve in Honolulu in 1996, many did contribute.
- In Praia do Forte, Brazil children have been teaching tourists in various beach resorts about sea turtles and how to help in their conservation.
- Majorca has an eco-tax on all tourism
- At Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve in Honolulu, passenger cars are turned away at the highway entrance into the preserve when the 300-parking spaces are filled