

How Tourist Activities Deteriorate The Environment

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The tourism industry includes diverse activities as transport , accommodation , recreation and catering , serves more than 613 million people each year , some traveling internationally and many more domestically It is not surprising that tourism's effects on the environment , underestimated in the past, are now receiving attention Its potential impacts are numerous and varied , and are linked to natural resource consumption ,pollution and building.

This paper will focus on how tourist activities deteriorate the environment , such as, tourist generate pollution discharge of untreated sewage into water resources, and air pollution components due to the increased number in vehicles for transportation ,as well solid wastes . Additionally, physical development of tourist facilities and infrastructures has its significant impacts on the environment Another important factor that the paper will focus on how , tourists can disturb the ways of life and social structures of local communities while increasing the cost for local governments of building and maintaining the facilities, such as sewage treatment plants and roads, necessary to cater for large numbers of visitors

Putting tourism on a sustainable path is a major challenge requiring partnership and cooperation within the tourism industry, and between the industry governments and tourists themselves. One of the most recent promising criteria to put the tourist industry on the sustainable track is the adoption of the Local Agenda 21 (LA21). This paper will demonstrate the concept of the LA21,primary on the Chapter that deals with travel & tourism industry documents, priority areas for action that defined objectives and suggested steps to be taken to achieve sustainable development , and the importance of the partnerships between government , industry and non-organizations, analyses the strategic economic importance of Travel & Tourism.

Roles of each sector involved in the sustainable development method from the concept of (LA21)will be demonstrated supported with a case study . For example , individual companies can take the lead in showing how self-regulation can work by taking voluntary action to reduce pollution ,initiating and abiding by codes of practice , and by

educating . The role of governments is equally important , such as government can provide the strategic planning base for tourism, and can ensure that valuable and fragile habitats are identified , that baseline studies and monitoring are carried out, and that overall infrastructure needs and implications are assessed . More important government is the only organization that can establish emissions standards and sitting and design requirements ,and ensure that they are enforced . Wherever possible environmental impact assessments should be carried out, with studies on carrying capacity and limits of acceptable change used to define number of tourists a site can accommodate .

Finally , the paper will discuss processes to develop long-term comprehensive and sustainable local action plans that take into account all sectors of the community and create a common consensus and vision for the future . Role of the national governments need to be committed to the process . Demonstrating the use of tools to foster the implementation and management of responsible and environmentally-friendly tourism , such as eco-audits , labels ,and awards .Finally the role of the Petra Region Authority in promoting the use of these tools in as many visitor destinations as possible and disseminate the practical benefits as widely as possible.

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