

Being an LEDC Kenya is reliant on money making methods such as tourism. Tourism is effective because it brings needed foreign exchange and the chance for spectators to watch creatures only ever previously seen on the TV. However with all this money making taking place its inevitable for big MEDC's to take advantage and do things like building big hotels where native people used to dwell and so on. Also there is the case on the tourists travelling across the globe contributing to global warming. So do the positives outweigh the negatives? Is there one sole answer for the title in which stated at the top of the page?

The occupation that provides the most money in Kenya is farming. The second highest is tourism. As was pointed out before tourism brings a lot of money into Kenya, which is good since they desperately need it. This provides interdependence; Kenya needs the money from MEDC's and MEDC's want Kenya's array of exotic animals & hot weather. Without this interdependence Kenya would be in deep poverty because it wouldn't have the money coming in from tourism and farming alone would barely sustain life as we give most people in LEDC's unfair payments for their produce. This would lead to MEDC's losing money as Kenya wouldn't be able to afford the things we would have sold them with tourism around e.g. machinery and fuel. Also since we have built hotels there to profit from Kenya's successful tourism industry, we would be out of pocket if tourists stopped visiting there and when the hotels close down the locals would have no facilities for cleaning etc and would live in low sanitation.

Most people in Kenya are employed because of tourism and not just from direct tourism jobs e.g. safari bus driver, but they can also be indirectly employed e.g. mechanic (to fix and maintain the bus). This means that loads of jobs can be created because of tourism and the pay isn't that bad once you think about it. Although a safari bus driver doesn't earn much from his/her employers, they earn almost three times their salary in tips. Tipping is practically insisted upon the tourists so whatever they buy or pay for they might be paying twice its value in tips. But this extra money means that Kenya can afford to purchase goods from other countries. This circulation of money is brilliant as it means that it doesn't all stay with us MEDC's.

Because the tourists want to see exotic animals Kenya needs to protect them otherwise no money will be made. Gamepark's protect all animals, especially those vulnerable to being poached like elephants and rhinos. This provides a stable environment for the animals that is a carbon copy of their natural habitat - except with less chance of being ill-treated by human action for example elephants being killed for their ivory. Gameparks can only be maintained via tourists money and without it the animals & civilians would be at risk, crops would be trampled and eaten.

Hotels like The Severin Sea Lodge near Mombasa "promotes *responsible tourism*". Guests from around the world - including Kenyan itself, vacate there. This is a change from most other tourist hotels as the local people can hardly afford the facilities present in the hotel/lodge. This means that the locals can collect fresh water and leave their waste with the lodge so they can live in sanitary conditions. This lodge is a very eco - friendly place as it seeks to preserve Kenya's natural beauty e.g. it has a biological water purification system so they don't endanger the wildlife by pouring contaminated water into the ocean. This is good because the plant used can purify up to 150,000 litres of water and that can supply 1,500 people a year. Because it's a plant after usage it can decompose and return nutrients into the soil without leaving behind any reminiscence of impurities. This is very effective as the plant is highly abundant and local, so it doesn't need to travel that far and so it doesn't contribute to global warming by releasing toxic greenhouse gases.

As the safari driver gets tips he is expected to get as close to the animals as possible, otherwise it would be an exceedingly boring journey. But the only way to get close enough to the animals is to get off the pre-made tracks and to roam the free land, chasing the animals for tourist entertainment. Firstly this erodes the soil

which then means the food for the animals can't grow. This will often lead to the entire gamepark containing bad soil and no vegetation so the animals leave rather than face starvation. Secondly if the drivers continue getting too close to the animals, it will become increasingly difficult for the animals to hunt because there is a big van driving beside it and hard for the animals to mate in front of an audience.

Over protecting the animals is another problem. Over protecting the animals is out of their normal environment as most animals usually perish at a young age which is why animals produce as much offspring as possible and this leads to too many animals. With this excessive amount of animals inhabiting such a small space - compared to their usual habitat, it is inevitable for overgrazing to occur. Along with the soil being eroded by tyre tracks, overgrazing will mean it will be hard for plants to grow. And if there is a shortage of food the animals simply leave the area; eating and crushing farmers crops, as well as leaving the safari business with nothing left to show tourists.

Tribes like the Maasai have been forced off their own land to make way for national parks.

In gameparks you need game lodges for people to hang around in. However, game lodges seriously ruin the overall landscape and big hotels have a similar impression on their surroundings. One solution would be to make everything blend into the surroundings and form buildings similar to those native. This as well as building them no higher than tree level would help preserve the natural beauty of Kenya. As well as looking big and ugly hotels and lodges produce a lot of rubbish which is most commonly burned and/ or dumped. Animals eat the debris and suffer horrible deaths like the elephant which ate some used batteries and died of poisoning.

Although before tourism was the only profession in Kenya that paid a sufficient amount of money, Fair Trade™ now means farmers can get decent prices for their produce. This means that the wages from farming will be enough to sustain

Tourism is seasonal. Only when the country is hot enough and time off work arises can people vacate to Kenya. This period of time is very small (2 - 4 months of tourist time) so money is tight when nobody visits. What makes it worse is the fact that there are 2 wet seasons that wipe out lots of crops and buildings which cannot be properly repaired until money from the tourist industry comes to hand. And getting to the destination is another problem. The most common mode of inter-continental transport is by aeroplane, and they produce a lot of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Because more people holiday abroad than they used to, more and more greenhouse gases are being produced. Furthermore, as Kenya earns more money it can import more materials and machinery which also contribute to global warming as these goods have to be transported miles on end by fuel guzzling ships.

Instead of receiving a proper education children are usually sent to work in the tourism industry as it creates a lot of jobs. However without education the children will have nothing and be totally reliant on tourism, which means they are stuck with that job for the rest of their life. And because of recent events they have no jobs and no means of supporting their families. In fact because of the warfare presently in Kenya it is currently deemed hazardous and nobody in the right mind will visit there at this present moment in time.

## CONCLUSION

Tourism in Kenya should take place, but not excessively. The tourists should stay in villages similar to the

Kenyans with basic human needs - shelter, water food and so on, so they get a better feel of Kenya. Patrol officers should ensure that no bus drivers erode the soil by going off track. The Maasai should be given more trust and responsibility as they are keepers of the land anyway so they should help run the gamepark. Instead of having game lodges, we should have Maasai style houses that blend into the surrounding and the materials don't need to travel that far - no pollution. We should help Kenya and many other places in Africa to enhance their agriculture with things like Fair Trade™, so they get good prices and the extra money will help during the time us tourists aren't there.