**Tourism Bad Disadvantage Answers**

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**Glossary**

**Consumerism** – a social and economic order that encourages the purchase of goods and services in ever-greater amounts

**Embargo** – the partial or complete prohibition of commerce and trade with a particular country

**Non-Unique - Cuban Tourism Rates Already High**

**[ ]**

**[ ] Cuba’s tourism rates are already growing rapidly.**

**Piccone, senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, 2012**

(Ted, “Cuba is Changing, Slowly but Surely,” *Brookings*, Jan 19, Online: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2012/01/19-cuba-piccone>)

One area where Cuba seems to be moving in a positive direction is tourism. **From 1990 to 2010, the estimated number of tourists has risen from 360,000 to 2.66 million.** In addition**, thanks to President Obama’s decision to allow Cuban-American families to visit** the island and send remittances as much as they want, **Cubans have received over 400,000 visits** and roughly $2 billion **from relatives in the United States.** These are proving to be important sources of currency and commerce that are helping families cope with reduced subsidies and breathe life in the burgeoning private sector. A walk through crowded Old Havana, where construction crews are busy restoring one of the Americas’ great colonial treasures, offers compelling evidence that **Cuba can be a strong magnet for Europeans, Canadians, Chinese and—some day—hundreds of thousands of American visitors.** And Pope Benedict’s visit in late March will shine an international spotlight on a Cuba slowly opening its doors to the world, yes, but more importantly, to an increasingly vocal and confident Catholic Church intent on securing a more prominent and relevant place in Cuban society.

**No Impact - Cuba Already Exploits its Environment – Tourism and Other Industries**

**[ ]**

**[ ] Cuba already exploits its environment as a tourist attraction – the centralized government has squandered its natural resources.**

**Conell, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009**

(Christina, “The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be Environmental Partners,” June 12, Online: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/>)

**For Cubans and foreigners alike, the beaches of Cuba constitute the principle tourist attraction in the country, but even these have not escaped wasteful government exploitation. The famous beaches east of Havana have been the victims of sand removal** for use by the Cuban government in the construction industry. **In addition to coastal destruction, like many of its Caribbean neighbors, Cuba faces deforestation, over-cultivation of land and compaction of soils due to the use of heavy farm machinery and strip mining. These practices have resulted in high salinity in soils and heavy land erosion.** Furthermore, **poor water quality in freshwater streams has affected the wildlife habitat, which is in turn influenced by runoff from agricultural practices, erosion due to deforestation, and sedimentation of freshwater streams.** Cuba must act in a responsible manner to stop environmental degradation and preserve its tourist industry as an early step to salvage its inert economy. The environmental degradation that began during the colonial era has transcended time as a result of **Castro’s political and economic paradigm**. Only in the last 40 years, with the development of the Commission for the Protection of the Environment and the Conservation of Natural Resources (COMARNA), has Cuba begun to address growing environmental concerns. COMARNA **consolidated all of the agencies with environmental responsibilities, as a step towards giving them the power to influence all environmental issues.** Although COMARNA was all-inclusive, **it lacked independent authority, so its activities achieved few tangible results. The sad fact was that the centralized agency only succeeded in aiding the state in squandering resources.**

**No Impact - Cuba Already Exploits its Environment**

**[ ]**

**[ ] Castro already uses his authority to over-ride environmental considerations.**

**Conell, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009**

(Christina, “The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be Environmental Partners,” June 12, Online: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/>)

In many parts of the country communism has inadequately acted as a seal to preserve elements of Cuba’s past as the centralized government prohibited private development by not giving special permission. **A number of tourist resorts already dot the island, but Cuba has been largely exempt from mass tourist exploitation due to frozen relations with the U.S. Although the island remains underdeveloped, Fidel Castro has used his unchecked power to back policies, which have been heedless to environmental considerations, thus damaging some of the island’s pristine ecosystem that once defined the island**. Roughly the size of Pennsylvania, Cuba is the largest Caribbean island, and **if preservation and conservation measures are planned and carried out in a cognizant manner, it could become a paradigm for sustainable development at the global level. The Obama administration’s recent easing of travel restrictions** on Cuban Americans visiting relatives on the island **could be of immense importance** not only to Cuban families, but also **to the preservation of Cuba’s unique and increasingly threatened coastal and marine environments. Such a concession on Washington’s part would mark a small, but still significant stride in U.S.-Cuba relations**, yet the travel restrictions still remain inherently discriminatory. The preposterous regulations that allow only a certain category of Americans into Cuba signify only a meager shift in U.S. policy towards Cuba.

**Impact Turn - Engagement Promotes Environmental Protections**

**[ ]**

**[ ] Economic engagement with Cuba is essential to protect their environment, and would set a model for sustainable development in other countries.**

**Conell, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009**

(Christina, “The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be Environmental Partners,” June 12, Online: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/>)

The 50-year-old U.S. embargo against the island has resoundingly failed to achieve its purpose. Obama’s modifications fall short of what it will take to reestablish a constructive U.S.-Cuba relationship. **Cuba’s tropical forests, soils, and maritime areas have suffered degradation as a result of harmful policies stemming from a Soviet-style economic system. Cuba’s economy could be reinvigorated through expanded tourism, development initiatives and** an expansion of commodity **exports**, including sugarcane for ethanol. **U.S. policy toward Cuba should encourage environmental factors**, thereby strengthening U.S. credibility throughout the hemisphere.**An environmental partnership** between the U.S. and Cuba **is not only possible, but could result in development models that could serve as an example for environmental strategies throughout the Americas. The U.S. has the economic resources necessary to aid Cuba in developing effective policy, while the island provides the space where sustainable systems can be implemented initially instead of being applied after the fact. Cuba’s extreme lack of development provides an unspoiled arena for the execution of exemplary sustainable environmental protection practices.**

**Impact Turn - Tourism Good for Cuba’s Economy**

**[ ]**

**[ ] Tourism is essential to Cuba’s economy.**

**Havana Journal, 2006**

( “The State of Cuban Tourism with Statistics,” *Havana Journal,* April 15, Online: <http://havanajournal.com/travel/entry/the-state-of-cuban-tourism-with-statistics/>)

**In the middle of a growing shortage of supplies, tourism became Cuba’s salvation thanks to its rapid development.** When talking about the benefits of tourism, **we are obliged to acknowledge its dynamic contributions in hard currency, its role as a major source for employment and as the driving force behind the activities of another group of industries.** Considered as the oil of 21st century, tourism has become the salvation for many countries’ economies, including **Cuba** which **has incorporated it in its strategy for the national recovery since last decade with successful results.** This audacious step has been rewarded by a steady increase of profits in the 90s. Today, **tourism has become the mainstay of Cuban economy.**

**Impact Turn - Tourism Good for Cuba’s Economy**

**[ ]**

**[ ] Lifting the embargo to allow for tourism is essential to prevent a Cuban economic collapse.**

**Havana Journal, 2006**

( “The State of Cuban Tourism with Statistics,” *Havana Journal,* April 15, Online: <http://havanajournal.com/travel/entry/the-state-of-cuban-tourism-with-statistics/>)

**Due to the economic war of US against the island along the past 45 years, Cuba’s losses are estimated at over $82,000m. US** interventionist and extraterritorial **policy has greatly affected socially and economically the island, a banned territory for any US citizen.** “It’s true that so far Washington has ignored the United Nations’ call for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba, but we will not despair,” said Cuban Foreign Minister, Felipe Perez Roque who has talked on the progress Cuba would experience if the US stopped its aggressive policy. “For example**, if Cuba received five million US tourists per year, that would represent extra income of more than $7,000m,” pointed out Perez Roque. Without the scourge of the US blockade, tourism in Cuba could take nearly $576m during the first year.** In addition, the island could take another extra $70m per year from a half million tourists traveling by cruisers. Each seven days some 80 cruisers navigate around the Cuban archipelago. **Tourism is vital for the revival of the island’s economy, that’s why US successive administrations since 1959 have implemented a number of measures and laws aimed to reduce Cuba’s national income. That’s why the US government has banned its citizens to visit the island** even when this new regulation violates the US constitutional law on free movement.