



University of Maribor

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Tourism and Environmental Protection



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Purpose: to state relations between indicators of tourism which impact on the environment and categories of green crimes

Methodology: inductive and descriptive method

Findings: identify and form a model to describes ways in which tourism directly or indirecly impact on environment and what kind of damage bring about

Originality/Value: a model will represent an important starting point for our understending of relations between tourism and the environment and how we can develop a Sustainable Tourism



Relationship between tourism and the environment



The impact of tourism on the environment

The impact of natural environment on tourism (quality)



Competitive advantages of Slovenia in relation to the environment

- Landscape diversity
- Biological diversity
- Cleanliness of the environment and water
- Geographical location



Negative impacts of tourism on the environment

- Negative impacts on waters
- Negative impacts on air
- Noise caused by spatial concentrations of tourists (tourist roads, amusement parks, airplanes, motor boats, other tourist facilities)
- Visual pollution and landscape degradation caused by inappropriate tourism architectural structures and overbuilt landscapes for tourist purposes
- Environmental catastrophes (soil erosion, landslides, abandonment of traditional activities)
- Pollution of the landscape with litter
- Endangering the domestic/ autochthon flora and fauna



The positive effects of tourism on the environment

- Promotion of protecting the natural environment
- Source of funds for protection of natural environment
- Improving the quality of the natural environment and is also a means for increasing the attractiveness of the landscape
- Developing and enhancing ecological awareness, environmental ethics and environmental responsibility
- Improving environmental management and planning



Ecological damage of tourism according to the OECD classification

- Degradation of the landscape by building new modern tourist infrastructures/superstructures

- Degradation of historic and natural sites due to high concentrations of tourists



Social Construction of Green Crimes

- Social relations
- Power relations in society (power of the capital)
- Definitions of environmental protection (impact of influential groups on legislators)
- Media (influential groups were able to influence the social construction of environment protection through the use of public relations and the mass media)
- Political process (state, regional and local level)



Legal and formal sources

- Environmental legislation

Case: Posočje

Mariborsko Pohorje

- State and municipal spatial plans

Case: Slovenian coast (marinas and nautical tourism)

Golf course in Sečovelje

- Operational plans for environmental protection programs (national parks, natural parks, reserves, ect.)

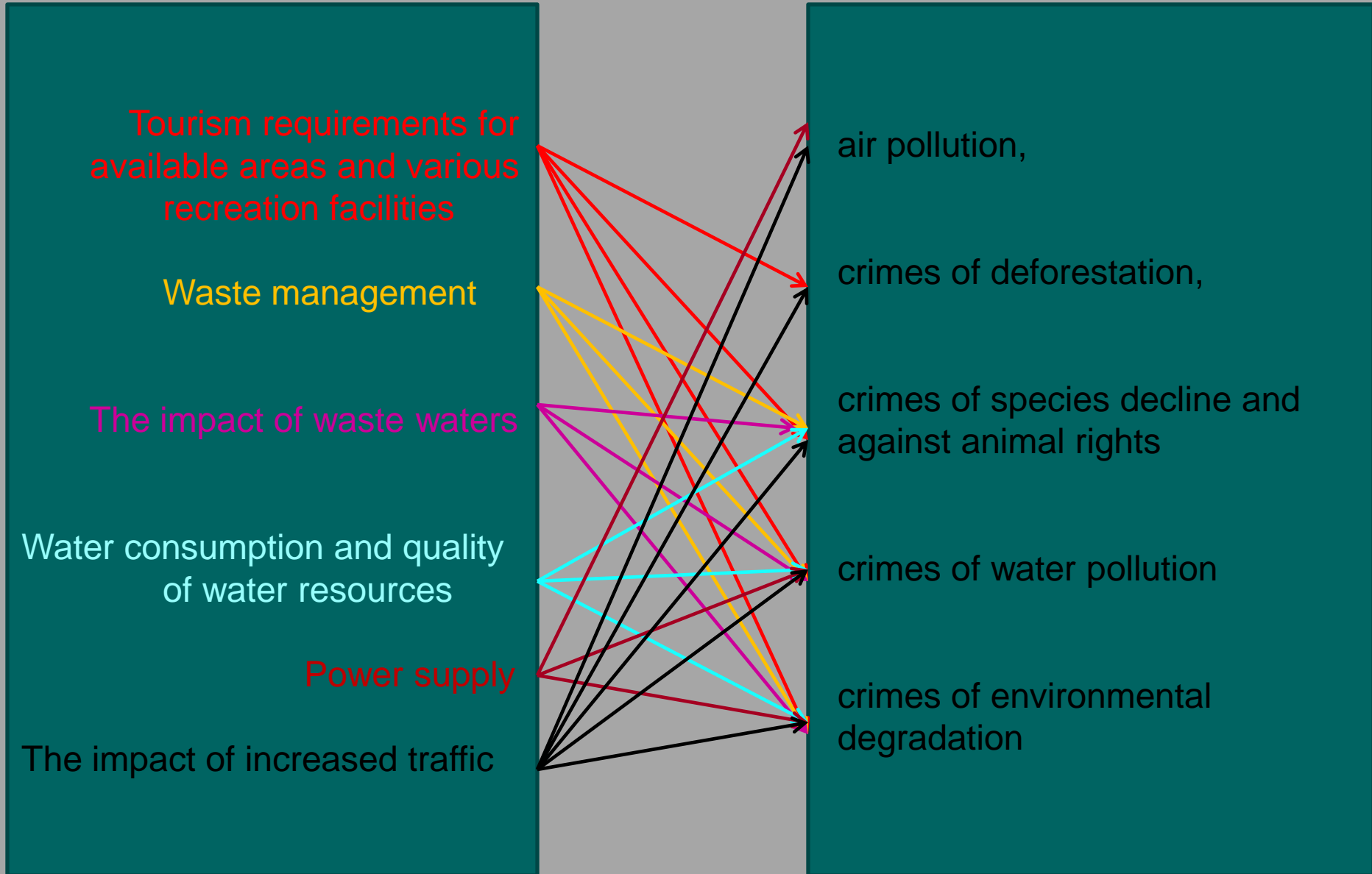
Case: ski slope / center (Vogel)

Lake Bohinj



Indicators of tourism impact on the environment

Categories of green crimes



The impacts of tourist activities which often lead to suspicion of criminal offenses and misdemeanors

- Tourist activities in natural parks and reserves should be aligned with the ways of nature conservation and develop appropriate policies or guidance
- When editing spatial issues the coordination of tourist-commercial complexes which govern the interests of the tourism / economy, environment and local communities is required.

Examples:

- Slovenian coast (marinas and nautical tourism)
- Renovation of Piran's inner harbour
- Posočje
- Mariborsko Pohorje
- Postojna cave (Postojnska jama)
- ski slopes / centers (Vogel)



Environmental influences on tourism

- For development of tourism the environmental protection and participation of large systems (Port of Koper (Luka Koper), Aerodrom Ljubljana, the Slovenian Railways, Motorway Company (DARS), car transport and bus companies, Elektro-Slovenija (EELS)) need to be coordinated.
- In coastal and land waters only nature conservation and purification of sewage are not sufficient. This is the reason why waters are occasionally threatened by algae propagation and decay.
- Transport of liquid fuels, chemicals and other hazardous substances by ships, trains and trucks (possible strandings, collisions, fires, explosions, spills).



Conclusions and suggestions

- The Tourist Board must be assisted in obtaining the highest possible categories of quality and environmental standards (ISO 14001) to ensure the smooth management of tourist destinations.
- It is necessary to promote the ethical principles and rules of business, environmental and cultural nature and persist on high levels of knowledge, organization and operation of tourist operators.
- Projects for ski slopes, playgrounds, tourist roads, recreational facilities and other interventions in nature need to comply with the long-term protection of forests, waterways and biodiversity, proper treatment of waste and sewage and safety of people and traffic movement.
- The process of managing the protected areas should be quicker, also the appropriate security arrangements should be studied and arranged and at the same time it is important to identify which factors will maintain order and security.
- It is necessary to carry out the survey, which would assess the direct and indirect impacts of tourism on the environment.



Questions!

