

STUDENT'S HANDOUT



Background Information

It is a fact; tourism has transformed itself into a product representing one of the biggest industries in the world. Unfortunately, the conventional tourist does not often realize that the footprints he leaves are not only that of his feet!

Instructions

Read the following text on the drawbacks of tourism on the Tanzanian environment and on different alternatives put forward. Answer the questions to evaluate your level of understanding.

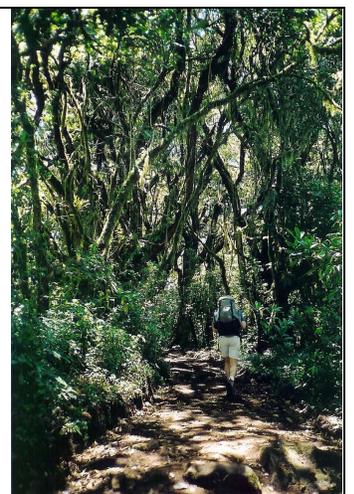
Discover Without Harm!

Tanzania is a prized tourist destination for safari and exotic animal fans. The several large national parks and natural reserves offer tourists the possibility to admire gazelles, elephants, lions, leopards, zebras, rhinoceroses and other wild beasts. Admittedly, tourism can bring interesting incomes to developing countries, but it is also likely to put in danger the conservation and the safeguarding of nature if it is practiced in an irresponsible way. The construction of infrastructures and luxury hotels, the use of motorized vehicles, the noise made by tourists as well as the pollution generated by the increased traffic are various harmful factors to the conservation of fauna.

Tourist development on a large scale can also harm the local communities. Some villages lack access to resources, land or water because of the development of tourist installations. People are sometimes relocated without any compensation to make room for tourist infrastructures. Stockbreeders lose the right of access to pastures for their cattle, fishermen's right of access to the coast is revoked or farmers must give up their best land for the same reasons. Moreover, an imbalance worsening the inequalities can take place in the local economy between the employees of the tourist sector and the other inhabitants. All things considered, it matters that the tourist development is judiciously managed by the States to avoid these problems.

Did you know that?

Tanzania possesses large forests spreading across several millions of hectares. Today, these highly biologically diverse forests are endangered by numerous processes involving deforestation. The rate at which Tanzanian trees have been cut over the last years is alarming. Between 1980 and 1993, 25% of the country's forests have disappeared. The Tanzanian government has prioritized the development of agricultural and mining productions in order to pay back its debts by exporting these productions. As a result, almost half of the forest was destroyed to facilitate the expansion of large farms that produce crops which are intended for exportation.



Alternatives are set up...

International Cooperation Projects

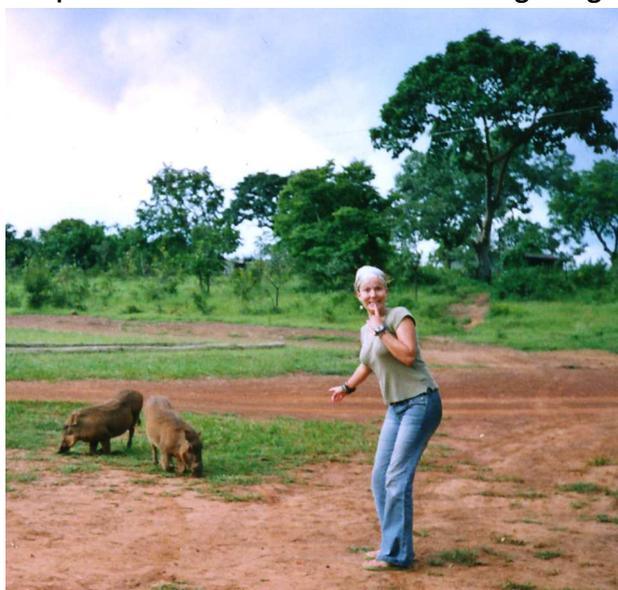
The Canadian World Wild Fund (WWF-Canada) is one of the most successful Canadian wildlife preservation organizations. It is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The organization is also present in many Eastern African countries, such as Tanzania, where its representatives work with communities and local governments to protect natural habitats and endangered species. Thus, the organization is closely involved in several education projects and in the promotion of more responsible behaviors towards natural habitats. WWF works with local communities in order to involve them directly in the management of natural resources. This intervention targets a valuable development for the communities while respecting the renewal capacities of the habitat's natural resources.

Preservation of Natural Habitats

When a natural area is rich in diversity and in biological specificity of the fauna and flora, the Tanzanian government may transform it into a national park or into a reserve. Several environmental organizations work in that field, focusing on expanding the protected territories. Such process aims to protect species endangered by human activities such as agriculture, mining, fishing, hunting, tree-cutting, urbanization, etc. These initiatives for the preservation of the environment are gaining a considerable importance in Tanzania as animals –many of which are endangered- migrate towards the protected areas during the dry season when water is rare.

Responsible Tourism

Tourism can provide important contributions to the economy of African countries. However, this activity must be judiciously managed in order to avoid the engendered environmental disadvantages such as pollution and exploitation of the local population. In contrast with conventional tourism that aims only to satisfy the traveler, responsible tourism or ecotourism possesses pedagogical values while generating income. The latter is in great majority reinvested in the improvement of the population's living conditions or in the protection of the targeted natural habitats. Putting tourism at the service of local communities and the environment is a good way to re-empower Southern communities while preventing the appropriation of natural resources by the big tourist promoters of rich countries.



Indicator	Tanzania	Canada
Official name :	United Republic of Tanzania	Canada
Capitale :	Dodoma	Ottawa
Surface (in thousands of km ²) :	945	9 985
Population (in millions) :	37,7 (2004)	32,0 (2004)
Gross National Product (GDP) (per capita) :	290 \$US (2003)	23 930 \$US (2003)
Life expectancy at birth :	43 ans (2003)	79 ans (2003)
Pourcentage of population using improved drinkable water sources (2002): (% 2000-2004) :		
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	77	99
Pourcentage of population using improved drinkable water sources (2002) :		
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	73	100

Student name : _____ Class : _____ Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Evaluation: Discover Without Harm!

1. In which region of the world is Tanzania located ? What is the hint in the text that gives you the answer ?

2. The text describes three alternatives set up to protect fauna and flora in Tanzania. Fill in the blank cells in the following table by writing in the missing alternatives and characteristics.

Alternatives	Characteristics #1	Characteristics #2	Characteristics #3
	prevents the appropriation of resources by the big tour promoters of rich countries.		
World Wild Fund (WWF)		Engaged in education projects and in the promotion of more responsible behaviors towards natural habitats.	
			Protects species endangered by the effects of human activity.

3. Why is the preservation of natural habitats in Tanzania gaining considerable importance?

4. According to the text, what is the situation of Tanzanian forests and why?

5. Name four consequences linked to irresponsible tourist developments.

6. Using your creative thinking, develop three behaviors that a responsible tourist should have and promote

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PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
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Canadian
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