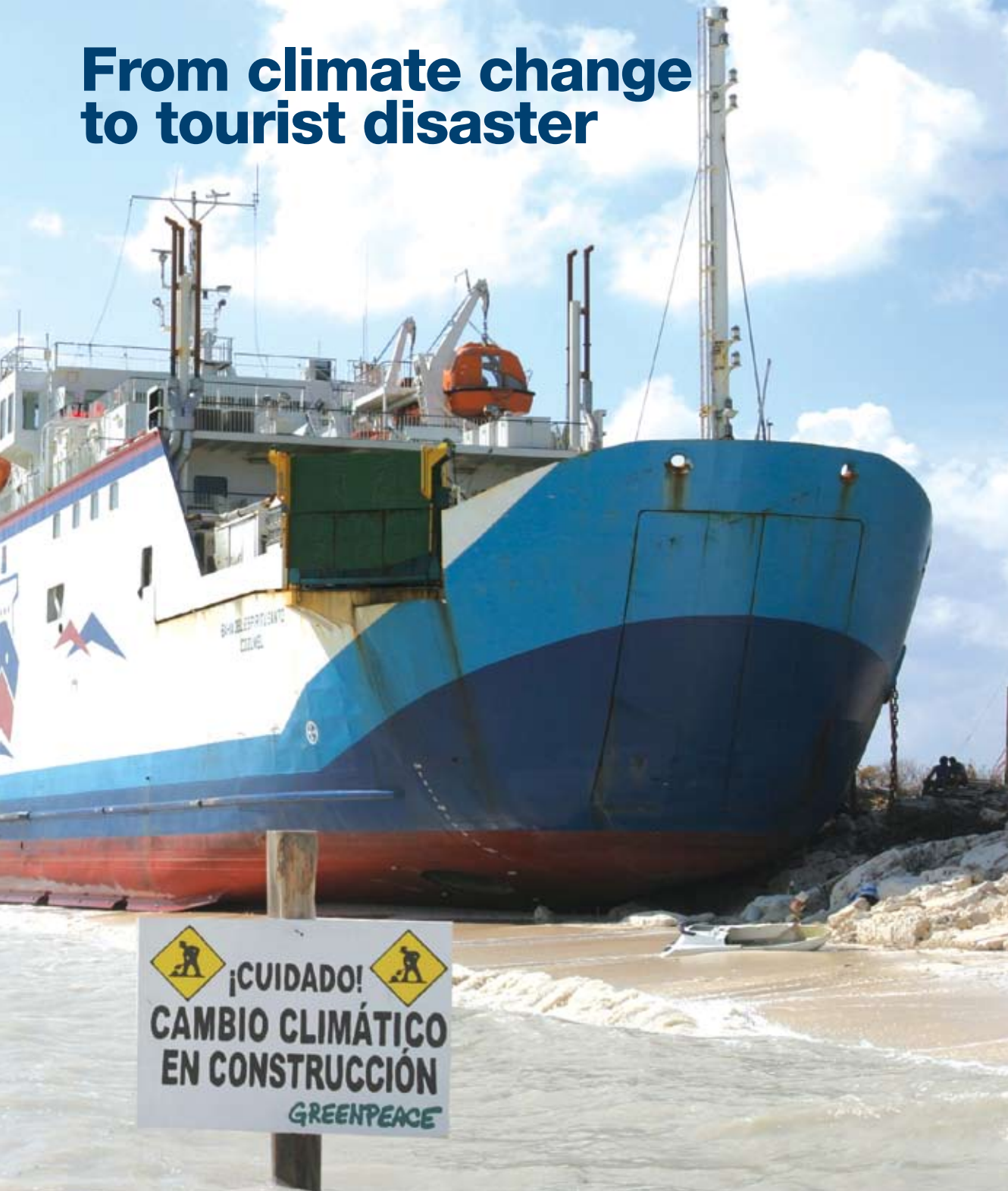


# From climate change to tourist disaster



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# Threatened Tourism

Tourism is a pillar of the economy that, for many countries and including Mexico, is in risk. Although this activity is closely linked to the environment and, specially, to the increasing and worsening of the meteorological phenomena linked to environmental change, there are no public policies that deal with them in a jointly manner.

Even though the federal government insists in pretending to be concerned and dealing with the climate change, this is limited to the periodic broadcasting of shallow and aimless shows. And, regarding tourism, what we only have is an obsolete Federal Tourism Law that have allowed a disorganized and predatory growth of the tourism industry that does not link this economic activity with the serious environmental problem we are facing nowadays. This omission makes the perfect formula to send the 8 percent of the Gross Internal Product (which is the portion of the tourist activity in Mexico) towards an announced deterioration.

For this reason the objective of this document is to present arguments showing why is so pressing to create a new General Tourist Law which includes the adaptation and mitigation measures in the long term, so as to lessen the impacts of the climate change in this important sector.







Carretera de Puerto de Sánchez Magallanes, Tab. © El Universal / Roberto Barboza

## Irrefutable evidence

Meeting of the polar icecaps, torrential rains, hurricanes, floods, droughts, fires... The evidences of climate change are undeniable and have reached proportions never seen before. As it is understandable, this also affects the tourist destinations and modifies the decisions taken by the travelers.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (PICC) warns that if we accelerate or maintain the present emissions of greenhouse gases (EGG), by the end of the XXI century the world average of the surface temperatures will increase from 1.8 to 4.0 Celsius degrees. The experts point out that even though the concentrations of EGG stabilize in their present level, the earth will keep warming as result of the previous emission and the thermal inertia of the oceans; so the reactions due to the warming will last centuries<sup>1</sup>.

Tourism is one of the sectors that contribute the increase of the EGG. The World Tourism Organization (WTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) agree that the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the international tourism were the responsible of almost 5 percent of the total

global emissions, that is, 1,307 million tons during 2005. The transportation sector is the responsible for the 75 percent of all the emissions of the tourist sector: air trips represent around 40 percent of the emissions of the sector; highway trips, 32 percent; and other transportation means, 3 percent. Accommodation causes around 21 percent of the total emissions in the tourist sector<sup>2</sup>.

Table I. Emissions from the internacional tourism during 2005. <sup>2</sup>

	CO <sub>2</sub> (MT)
Air transportation	517
Other transportation means	468
Accommodation	274
Activities	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.307</b>
Worldwide total	26.400
Quota (%)	4.95

The EGG production trend is increasing. In 2007, 831 million people took an international flight and 1,249 million flew within their country. This means an increase of 11 percent in the international traffic and 8 percent of the domestic one, in comparison to 2006<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson (eds.), Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge (United Kindom) and Nueva York, NY (Unidad Estates): Cambridge University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Tourism and Climate Change: facing the challenges in common, 2007. Tourism World Organization.

<sup>3</sup> International Air Transport Association. [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)



Villa Hermosa, Tab. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Graf



Puerto Peñasco, Son. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Graf



Isla Apo, Filipinas © Greenpeace / Gavin Newman

Regarding accommodation: big hotels produce more emissions than pensions, apartments with a kitchen or than the camping fields. This is due to their bigger energy consumption so to keep their facilities functioning. The emissions of the tourist activities are directly related to the quantity of energy of fossil fuels that these activities consume. For example, aquatic ski produces more emissions than hiking, and the thematic parks produced more emissions than rafting<sup>4</sup>. Likewise, it had been estimated that the emissions from tourism will grow at a rate of 150 per cent between 2005 and 2035, if no measures in order to reduce them are taken.

Due to the close relation existing between tourism and environment, it is clear that this is an economic sector which is closely linked to climatic factors<sup>5</sup>. The regional manifestations of climate change will definitely have a repercussion on the tourist destinations, which will oblige them to get adapted. The climate change is already leaving its mark in the destinations all over the world, and has an influence on the decisions taken in the tourist sector<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Tourism and Climate Change: Facing common challenges, 2007. World Tourist Organization

<sup>5</sup> Wilbanks, T.J., Romero Lankao, P., Bao, M., Berkhout, F., Cairncross, S., Ceron, J-P., Kapshe, M., Muir-Wood, R. and Zapata-Marti, R. (2007). Industry, settlement and society. En: M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden y C.E. Hanson (eds.), Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. pp. 357-390.

<sup>6</sup> Climate Change and Tourism. 2007. The World Tourism Organization (WTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

## Don't have snow, don't have beach

From the different kinds of tourism, two have already been affected by climate change: the beach and the winter sports. The beaches had suffered from erosion due to strong storms, as well as algae proliferation and jellyfishes infestation due to rise in the sea temperature. The ski stations have had to face the lack of snow and a shorter season. Besides, the hurricanes, floods and droughts –many times along with violent fires- were more frequent during the last years.

The beach destinations will be affected by the rise of the sea level. During the last 100 years, in all the altitudes the sea level increment had been of +/-15 centimeters; nevertheless, the Environmental Protection Agency of United States had predicted that it can rise up to 4.5 meters<sup>7</sup>.

According to the PICC “the communities and inhabitants of the coastline will be more affected due to the tension produced by the impacts of climate change in interaction with the development and pollution. Population growth, added to the increasing value of the coastal zones infrastructures, escalater their vulnerability to climate change and climate variability, and it is expected that the losses be greater if the intensity of the tropical storms multiply. The nowadays adaptation behaves in an uneven way and the preparation for a mayor exposure is low.”<sup>8</sup>

In the regions where the intensity or frequency of extreme meteorological phenomena is rising, there will be an increase in the economic and social cost of natural disasters, especially in the directly affected areas.

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<sup>7</sup> Ortiz-Pérez M.A. and A.P. Méndez-Linares. 2007. “Repercussions of the rise in the sea level of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico”; Mexico: a vision towards XXI century. Climate Change in México. Geography Institute. UNAM.

<sup>8</sup> IPCC, 2007: Summary of Political Responsibilities: Climate Change 2007: Impacts and Vulnerability. Contribution of the Work Group II to the Fourth Evaluation Report of IPCC, M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson, Eds., Cambridge University Press.



Indonesia © Marine Photobank / Wolcott Henry

The coral bleaching is another problem in the beach destinations. In the areas where there are coral reefs, biodiversity is an attraction for the tourists who carry out underwater activities. A modest increase in temperature, along with the ocean acidification and pollution, intensify the damage on corals<sup>9</sup>, mollusks, and other organisms with calcium carbonate skeletons. Ocean acidification decreases the calcium available in the sea. With an increase of 0.1 units in the pH of the ocean, the impacts are already visible, and it is expected an step up of the acidification of about 0.2 units in the next 30 years.

Water is other concern, as well as the desertification which is affecting several areas in the world. In semidesert areas there is a ferocious competition for obtaining this resource. Here, there is a struggle between the water necessities of the local communities and the ones of the tourist development, because the water consumption of the visitors is greater than the one from the residents<sup>10</sup>.



Acapulco, Gro. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Graf

<sup>9</sup> Tourism development and climate change: understanding, anticipating, adapting, participating in the common effort. 2007. World Tourism Organization.

<sup>10</sup> IPCC, 2007: Summary of Political Responsibilities: Climate Change 2007: Impacts and Vulnerability. Contribution of the Work Group II to the Fourth Evaluation Report of IPCC, M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson, Eds., Cambridge University Press.

During the last years few years, the droughts have acquired more relevance due to the damages it causes, which frequently exceed the ones produced by other hidrometeorological phenomena. This situation could worsen with the atmospheric warming related to global change –which has as an aftereffect the increase of the frequency of droughts in some areas in the world. This is one of the major problems faced by human race, especially the countries located in the subtropical regions, where the high levels of solar radiation and evaporation mix with few rain and favor the recurrence of long drought periods in the more extensive areas<sup>11</sup>.

For mid century, it is estimated there will be a decrease between 10 and 30 percent in some of the dry regions in medium latitudes, as well as in dry tropical zones, some of which are already located in areas with hydrological stress.

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<sup>11</sup> Hernández-Cerda M.E., L.A. Torres-Tapia and G. Valdez-Madero. 2007. “Meterological Droughth”; Mexico: a vision towards the XX century. Climate change in Mexico. Geographic Institute. UNAM.





## The situation of Mexico

Mexico is already suffering the consequences of hurricanes of greater intensity, droughts, floods and coastline erosion. At a national level, the tourism of sun and beach is the one which has a greater demand. After Mexico City, the destinations which receive more tourists are: Cancun, Los Cabos, Puerto Vallarta, Acapulco, Merida, Mazatlan, Cozumel, Ixtapa and Tijuana<sup>12</sup>.

The relation between the effects of climate change and world tourism is not shown in the public policies. Mexico is not an exception and there are no signs of the federal government preparing adaptation and mitigation measures against climate change in the tourist industry.

Tourism is an important economic activity: it is the third source of economic revenue and stands for almost 8 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Besides, in the objective 12 of the National Development Plan it is highlighted that it is pursued to: “Make of Mexico a leader country on the tourist activity, though diversification of its markets, products and destinations; as well as through the promotion of competitiveness in the companies within the sector, in such a way that they provide a service of international quality.”

Acapulco, Gro. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Cifra

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<sup>12</sup> Datatur. Secretaría de Turismo.

This plan is intended to turn Mexico into a “leader country on the tourist activity” and increasing in a 35 percent the number of international quality for 2012. The vision 2030 sets as one of its goals “that 46 million international visit us each year so this generates an annual income of 39 billion dollars”. This implies to almost double the number of foreigner tourists that nowadays arrive to our country, which is 21.4 million.

Nevertheless, as the National Development Plan as the 2030 Vision, consider climate change and tourism as two separate phenomena. Nevertheless, the goals set by the federal government will not be reached if pressing mitigation measures are not applied. What is more, if the climate change is not taken into account, it is easy to visualize a doomed tourist industry.



# Hurricanes

During the last 35 years, the hurricanes category 1 have slightly drop, hurricanes category 2 and 3 have remained constant, and category 4 and 5 have doubled<sup>13</sup>. 2005 was the year with more hurricanes registered<sup>14</sup>, even the alphabetic letters ran out and Greek letters were used. This facts have a deep effect on the tourist destinations in the Yucatan and Baja California Peninsulas because of the increase in floods and erosion.

The Finance Ministry informed that Emily, Stan y Wilma, the three greatest hurricanes of 2005, left losses in the country for more than 25 billion pesos, and generated 24 thousand 464 claims for damages to the insurance companies, facts that put in a difficult situation such industry<sup>15</sup>.

Wilma hurricane caused and exodus of about 30 thousand tourists<sup>16</sup> and flight overbooking. During that period, Cancun airport operated 240 daily flights, i.e. 150 more flights than the 90 that usually take off from that airport<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Hernández-Cerda M.E., L.A. Torres-Tapia and G. Valdez-Madero. 2007. "Meterological Droughth"; Mexico: a vision towards the XX century. Climate change in Mexico. Geographic Institute. UNAM.

<sup>14</sup> Gay C. and F. Estrada. 2007. Climate Change in Mexico. Center of Atmospheric Sciences, UNAM.

<sup>15</sup> "Hurricane policies are renew". October 7, 2007. Reforma Newspaper.

<sup>16</sup> "The way out: tourist look for an exit". October 26, 2005. Reforma Newspaper.

<sup>17</sup> "Tourists flood Cancun airport". October 26, 2005. Reforma Newspaper.



Cancún, Q. Roo © Greenpeace / Adán Gutiérrez



## Coastal Erosion

The coastal zones, which represent around 10 thousand square kilometers, are in danger or an increase in the sea level of up to two meters. If these happens, water could gain about 40 to 50 kilometers to south of Veracruz, Tabasco and the Deltaic Lagoon in the Bravo River in Tamaulipas<sup>18</sup>.

The Institute of Geography of UNAM identified five areas vulnerable to the rise or decrease of the sea level in Mexico's Gulf: the Deltaic prairie of the Bravo River in Tamaulipas, the Alvarado Lagoon in Veracruz, the Deltaic complex Grijalva-Mezcalapa-Usumacinta (which includes all the coast of Tabasco and part of Campeche), the Petenes located between the coast of Campeche and Yucatan, and the Bays of Sian Ka'an-Chetumal in Quintana Roo (Figure 1). Due to the magnitude of the extension, consequences and changes in the natural systems, the coast of Tabasco stands out as the most vulnerable area, where the marine influence could be felt from 40 to 50 kilometers inland.

From the 190 kilometers of Tabasco coast, 100 kilometers undergo coastal erosion and the sea have "taken" stripes of up to 200 meters of beach. One of the most affected communities is la Villa or Puerto de Sánchez Magallanes, because, when their resorts were swept away, the population was left without tourist activity: its work source. In

the Cardenas municipality, located next to Barra de Santana, houses, schools, shops, restaurants, and streets running along the beach had been damaged, and many of them were rundown<sup>19</sup>.



Figure 1. The five areas which are susceptible or vulnerable to the increase or decrease of the sea level. <sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Hernández-Cerda M.E., L.A. Torres-Tapia and G. Valdez-Madero. 2007. "Meterological Drought"; Mexico: a vision towards the XX century. Climate change in Mexico. Institute of Geography. UNAM.

<sup>19</sup> "Sea swallows Tabasco's coast". May 20, 2008. El Universal Newspaper.





With Wilma, the hurricane that had impacted the Mexican coasts with more strength<sup>20</sup>, and with Dean, 12 kilometers of beach from Punta Nizuc to Punta Cancun, in Quintana Roo, were deeply eroded. The insurance companies calculated that the cost of the damages due to Wilma (according to Rodolfo Elizondo, ministry of Tourism) were of 5.4 billion pesos<sup>21</sup>. As a result, the 200 million pesos provided by the federal government for the reconstruction of the area were not enough. Besides, during rebuilding, a great portion of the Caribbean reefs zone was damaged, due to suspended deposits, which was sanctioned by the Federal Environmental Protection Office (Profepa).

The representatives of the Committee for the Recovery of Cancun Beaches stated that from La Ollita 2.8 million cubic meters of sand were extracted, which caused erosion never seen before in the north beach<sup>22</sup>.

The erosion does not stop and the beaches are disappearing. Hotel managers, in their desperation, have broken the environmental laws. For example the works of filling, breaking up, and restoration started by the Gran Caribe Real Hotel, located in the hotel area of Cancun, without the environmental impact permission granted by the Environmental and Natural Resources Ministry (Semarnat) have already been stopped by the Profepa<sup>23</sup>.

What happens in Cancun is an example of the lack of planning and bad public policy design regarding the interpretation of the marine influence area, which has caused the building of hotels in coastal ecosystems and in the dune zones. In Mexico, the Earth Maritime Federal Zone comprises 20 meters from the line of the highest tide, when the current legislation in Spain state that it should comprise 100 meters<sup>24</sup> and, along with the Indian legislation, the influence sea zone should be of 500 meters<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Hurricanes that have landed in Mexico. 2007. ENCC.

<sup>21</sup> "The government will contribute with 200 million pesos to rescue Cancun's beaches". December 14, 2005. La Jornada Newspaper.

<sup>22</sup> "Dredge in Cancún affects Isla Mujeres". November 29, 2006. Reforma Newspaper.

<sup>23</sup> Profepa Press Release. May 14, 2008.

<sup>24</sup> Section 23.1. LAW 22/1988; 28th of July, De Costas. Spain.

<sup>25</sup> The Coastal Regulation Zone Notifications. Gazette of India.



## Coastal ecosystems

Ironically, by destroying the coastal ecosystems, the tourist industry has increased its own vulnerability to hurricanes. Such ecosystems play a key role in the protection against hurricanes. Mangrove swamps are a natural barrier that contains the erosion due to winds or tides, as well as contributes to the maintenance of the coastal line and the support of sand on the beaches; besides, they filter the water, allow the refill of aquifers and act as carbon drain by catching GHG. They are also important for the fishing industry such as the one of the shrimp<sup>26</sup>. Just for environmental services such as the production of fish of market interest, the mangrove swamps in Mexico provide environmental services around 37 thousand dollars per acre per year<sup>27</sup>. Without doubt, the loss of this kind of ecosystems increases the vulnerability of tourist destinations such as Cancun.

Santispac, B. C. S. © cortesía Octavio Aburto

Santispac, B. C. S. © cortesía Octavio Aburto

Santispac, B. C. S. © cortesía Octavio Aburto

<sup>26</sup> Mangroves in Mexico. 2008. National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity

<sup>27</sup> Aburto-Oropeza O., E. Ezcurra, G. Danemann, V. Valdez, J. Murray and E. Sala. Mangroves in the Gulf of California increase fishery yields. PNAS. Jul 29, 2008. Vol 105 no 30. 10456-10459.

Mexico have lost 65 percent of its mangrove swamps<sup>28</sup>, so there are only left 655 thousand 667 acres<sup>29</sup>. The National Ecology Institute (INE) estimates that this ecosystem is losing an average rate of 2.5 percent per year<sup>30</sup>, which means a little bit more than 4.43 acres per day: the equivalent to six football fields.

The pressure on the mangroves is mainly originated from the tourist developers. The INE points out that if the annual losses rates remain constant, for 2025 there will be a diminishing of around 40 to 50 per cent of the mangrove surface estimated for year 2000.

<sup>28</sup> WRI. Pilot analysis of global ecosystems: costal ecosystems. WRI. U.S.A. 2001. In: Informe de la situación del medio ambiente 2002. [www.semarnat.gob.mx](http://www.semarnat.gob.mx)

<sup>29</sup> Mangroves in Mexico. 2008. National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Conabio).

<sup>30</sup> Preliminary evaluation of loss rates in the mangrove surface in Mexico. National Ecology Institute. September, 2005.

Puerto Morelos, C. Roo © Greenpeace / Alejandro Olivera

San José del Cabo, B.C.S. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Giraf

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## Droughts

While coastal erosion will significantly affect southwest of the country, the droughts will be mainly felt in the north and northeast (California Gulf); although the Geography Institute of UNAM points out that “in the nowadays conditions, there are no areas in the country that remain unaffected by the meteorological drought”. It is estimated that for 2030 the potential impact of climate change in the water will affect, with a “critical situation”, to Baja California, South Baja California and Sonora, as well as with a “big pressure” in Sinaloa, Nayarit and Jalisco<sup>32</sup>. If the necessary measures are not taken, this will have consequences for the tourist destinations that are quickly growing: Los Cabos, La Paz, Loreto, Los Angeles Bay, Peñasco Port, Guaymas, Mazatlan, Nayarit Riviera, and Banderas Bay.

In the region of California Gulf, there are, at least, 15 overexploited aquifers: La Paz, Los Planes, Santo Domingo, Mulegé and Rosarito, in South Baja California; the Mexicali valley, in Baja California; the Sand Table in San Luis Colorado River, Sonoyta, Caborca, Arivaipa, Hermosillo Coast, Sahuaral, San Jose de Guaymas, Cocoraque and Fuerte-Mayo in Sonora<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>31</sup> Overexploited aquifers. System of Geographic Information of the Water. National Water Commission.

<sup>32</sup> Guillermo-Aguilar A. 2007. “Human settlement and climate change in Mexico, a future scenario of regional vulnerability”. Mexico: a vision towards XXI century. Institute of Geography. UNAM.





The more vulnerable states are those where there will be a reduction in the water consumption per inhabitant. These areas are located in 13 states (figure 2) that, in order of importance are: Quintana Roo, Chihuahua, Baja California Sur, Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chiapas, México, Tabasco, Nuevo Leon, Queretaro, Campeche, Jalisco and Tlaxcala.<sup>32</sup>

Nevertheless, water demand is still increasing due to the building of hotels and golf courses. In 2007, 43 golf courses were open in the coastal states of California Gulf: nine in Baja California, 13 in South Baja California, seven in Sonora, seven in Sinaloa, seven en Nayarit. Of these golf courses, only seven are not located in the coast and associated to sun and beach destinations. It has been estimated that 27 new golf courses are going to be built and planned, which will add a total of 70 golf courses in the area in the next five years. This represents a huge demand of water: in average, each golf course uses 10 thousand liters of water per day.



Figure 2. Absolute differences in water consumption per inhabitant during 1990-2025 (liters/day). There are two mayor value groups: negative and positive. Negative values in the absolute differences of water consumption during 1991-2025 mean that, due to the fast population growth, in the future there will be water scarcity, which force a reduction of the daily water consumption per inhabitant, that is the daily water consumption per inhabitant in 1990 needs to be greater than the one in 2025. The positive values show all the contrary, according to the nowadays tendencies, in the aforementioned states will be possible to increase the quantity of water for consumption per inhabitant, therefore, water consumption in 1990 will be less than in 2025.

<sup>32</sup> Guillermo-Aguilar A. 2007. "Human settlement and climate change in Mexico, a future scenario of regional vulnerability". Mexico: a vision towards XXI century. Institute of Geography. UNAM.

## GHG Emissions due to air transportation

Mexico produces 1.5 per cent of the global Green House Gases emissions<sup>33</sup>. With the introduction of low-cost airlines, the air travel expenses can compete with land trips. This situation increased the number of flights and passengers (table I) and, as consequence, will impact the generation of GHG. Fortunately, during 2008 several airlines removed several air routes and stopped operations due to the increase in the price of turbosine.

Table I. Air transportation in the airports of Mexico<sup>34</sup>.

Concept	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total of arrivals	498,153	503,901	546,902	630,928
Total of passengers	32,765, 145	34,309,672	37,169,084	42,681,790
Increase in the # of flights (%)	-	1.15	8.53	15.36

<sup>33</sup> Hernández-Cerda M.E., L.A. Torres-Tapia and G. Valdez-Madero. 2007. "Sequía Meteorológica"; México: una visión hacia el siglo XXI. El cambio climático en México. Instituto de Geografía. UNAM.

<sup>34</sup> Airports and ancillary services. Datatur. Ministry of Tourism.



México, D.F. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Graf



México, D.F. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Graf



San José del Cabo, B.C.S. © Greenpeace / Gustavo Graf



## Davos Declaration

The Second International Conference about Climate Change and Tourism “urge all the tourist sector to act in order to face the climate change, which is one of the mayor challenges lie ahead of sustainable development and of the development objectives of the Millennium during XXI century”.

The Davos Declaration, put forward by that conference, states that “the tourist sector must swiftly respond to climate change... in a way that this sector could grow in a sustainable manner”, and highlight the necessity of implementing a long term strategy so this sector reduces its emissions of greenhouse gases. Likewise, urges to adopt policies to encourage sustainable tourism and travel means which take into account the reaction to climate change; besides, it should ask for specific initiatives from the governments, the companies, the consumers, the research and communication nets, as to boost awareness, education and collaboration in order to have as a priority the solution of climate change.

The Conference was called by the WHO, PNUMA and OMM, in collaboration with the World Financial Forum and the Switzerland

government. And the declaration arising from it will require of actions from the tourist industry to:

- mitigate its GHG emissions which derive from transportation and accommodation;
- adapt the tourist companies and destinations to the climate changes;
- use new and existing technologies to improve the efficiency in the use of energy; ad
- rise financial resources to help poor regions and countries.

The WHO secretary urged tourist agents to take adaptation and mitigation measures, to use new technologies and to obtain financing so the poorest countries can face the climate change challenge.

Nevertheless, Mexico has not been part nor shown any intentions of signing the Davos Declaration: “After carrying out a sound search in the Coordination files, there are no files of any document that allows the verification of the signature of the Davos Declaration by the Mexican government; besides, the Ministry of Tourism did not take part in the Second International Conference about Climate Change and Tourism carried out in Davos, Suiza, from October 1 to 3, 2007”<sup>35</sup>.

<sup>35</sup> Requests of information to the IFAI. Consecutive numbers: 0002100045707 y 0000500162107

## We need to act

The evidences about climate change and the disorganized growth of tourism in Mexico are undeniable. Every single day the factors that affect the coastal and marine ecosystems are more. Every year, tourists face a modified environment and this has an influence on their decision regarding which destination would they visit. Every year keeping clear and in good conditions the beaches is becoming more and more expensive, and keeps the tourists away. Es urgente regular y actuar en esta problemática.

On the other hand, it is urgent to develop a legal frame that is able to avoid the destruction of the ecosystems which are fundamental for Mexico, especially the coastal and the last untouched spots, and it is necessary to assure the compliance of the existent laws regarding those subjects.

Resides, it is important to draft a Tourism General Law that links social development, environmental protection, respect for the vocation of the tourist zones and protection of the collective resources. The profits obtained by predating tourism are short term, only benefit a few people and will leave unpayable and unquantifiable collective damages. We have to change the logic that prevails nowadays in the tourist resorts.

It is high time to implement laws and measures that warrantee the protection of one of our most important and valuable resources: our coasts.

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**DESTRUCCION  
A TODA COSTA**  
GREENPEACE

DESTRUCCION  
A TODA  
COSTA

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