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Economic impacts: changes in tourism patterns + loss of agricultural land/produce

As we are all aware, climate change is a global issue which one day or the other will affect each and every one of us. It is a long term change in the distribution of weather patterns over periods ranging from decades to millions of years. It may be limited to one region or may occur across the whole world. Many agree that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet.

Change in tourism patterns

In less than 25 years climate change will have a radical effect on the global travel industry. Changes in the global climate have already seen many European countries encounter difficulties such as the invasion of jelly fish on the coastal areas and also wildfires. This will definitely cause a shift in tourism trends to/from countries. For example, Malta attracts a large percentage of foreign tourists in Europe, and derives the highest portion of its gross domestic product from the tourism industry. Increase in temperatures, flash floods and storms as well as reduced access to quality of fresh water will have a huge impact on tourism for Malta as a favourable holiday destination amongst Europeans.

Increased temperatures will make some European beach destinations too hot for

many travellers. As well as rising temperatures and climbing sea levels there will be an increase in extreme weather events, including drought, torrential rainfall, floods and storms. Not to mention places like Australia and South Africa who have recently experienced major flooding events during their summer season resulting in an increase in deaths caused from infections and contamination.



Loss of agricultural land and produce

While warm weather can often be good for some crops, hotter than average temperatures for the entire season is often not beneficial for plants. This would affect at least half the world's population that either live in the region or rely on food coming from that region.

In some cases, improved agricultural techniques may help, such as rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation. Yet there are many other crucial issues that affect agriculture, such as poverty, political and economic causes of world hunger and global trade policies.



Communities dependent on agriculture in a fragile environment will face an immediate risk of increased crop failure and loss of livestock.



Increased exposure to new pests and diseases that flourish only at specific temperatures and humidity.



Hunger and malnutrition will increase.

Climate change will worsen the living conditions of farmers, fishermen and forest-dependent people who are already vulnerable and food insecure. Hunger and malnutrition will increase. Rural communities dependent on agriculture in a fragile environment will face an immediate risk of increased crop failure and loss of livestock. Mostly at risk are people living along coasts, in floodplains, mountains, dry lands, and the arctic. In general, poor people will be at risk of food depletion due to loss of assets and lack of adequate insurance coverage.

Climate change is having an impact on oceans, seas, lakes and rivers and on the animals and plants that inhabit these waters. Climate change will affect around 200 million people and their families worldwide who depend on fishing and aquaculture. Some fish resources will become less abundant while important species may move to other areas where they are less available to the fishermen. This will make it harder for many fishing communities to continue to make a living from fish or to provide fish for feeding their families. Coastal communities may also be displaced by rising sea levels and will be forced to find alternative places to live and other ways to earn a living.

Humans, plants, livestock and fish will be exposed to new pests and diseases that flourish only at specific temperatures and humidity.

All this will pose fresh risks for food security, food safety and human health.



Coastal communities may also be displaced by rising sea levels.



LET'S MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE THE FIRST STEP.

Related links

<http://www.mepa.org.mt/climate-change>

<http://www.infonet-ae.eu/sw/articles/adult-education-and-climate-change-in-malta-0654>

http://blog.sustainabletravel.com/press-releases/climate_change_to_drive_radica.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_impacts_of_climate_change

<http://www.un.org/climatechange/pdfs/bali/fao-bali07-6.pdf>