

# Tourism: do we want the new hotel?

Source: Clough and Holden, 2002, pp. 122—6

## Purpose

- To help students consider the advantages and disadvantages of tourism (G, CE)
- To explore the conflicting interests involved in development and change (G, CE)
- To add to students' knowledge of the geography of Kenya (G)
- To encourage students to consider their own role as a consumer of tourism (CE)
- To introduce issues of sustainability and planning for the future (Sci, CE)

## Preparation

You will need:

- the information sheet (Handout 24) about a new hotel to be built in Mombasa, an island connected by road and rail to the mainland of Kenya
- writing frames for each group (below)
- a map of Mombasa, showing its proximity to the mainland and tourist areas (Tsavo national park, Shimba Hills reserve, the coast)
- tourist brochures promoting Kenya

## Procedure

Whole class initial discussion: What is tourism? Who has been a tourist? Where did they go? What parts of Britain attract tourists? What parts of the world attract tourists? What parts of the world attract tourists? Why? What are the benefits and disadvantages of tourism to a country?

Now introduce Kenya as a country which relies heavily on tourism for its income, illustrating this with tourist brochures. Then introduce the island of Mombasa, Kenya, where a new hotel is to be built. Have a brief discussion focusing on:

- What will tourists want to do if they come to this hotel?
- Who might benefit from the new hotel?
- Who might lose out?

Give out the background information sheet and divide the class into eight groups, giving each group a writing frame. Explain that they must not only consider their own case but also the concerns of one or two of the other groups. After completing the writing frames each group reads out its case and the case for one other group. Then hold a discussion:

- Which groups had strong arguments? Why?
- In what ways were the interests of others considered?
- Who has the most power to influence the development of the site?
- Whose interests should Kenya consider when planning for the future?
- What other countries have similar dilemmas?
- What responsibility do we have as tourists?

### **Possibilities**

This could be extended into a debate instead of students reading out their written work. Each group could have 3 minutes to present its case, based on the arguments in their writing frames.

### **Writing frames**

Each group should have a writing frame with information specific to their group and then the common format, beginning *we would like to argue that* (see group 1, Handout 25, for an example).

- Group 2** You represent the local people in the building trade. You want the hotel to be built. Why? What good will come from the building of the hotel?
- Group 3** You represent the Islamic community. You do not want the hotel to be built. Why? Think of how it will affect your lives generally. Try to think also of what good might come from the hotel being built.
- Group 4** You represent the Kenyan National Tourist Office. You want the hotel to be built. Why? Think of what the hotel would mean to this part of Kenya as a whole.
- Group 5** You represent the conservationists concerned to preserve the ecology of the coral reef. You do not want the hotel to be built. Why?
- Group 6** You represent the local transport police. The hotel will be built near a major road, causing short-term disruption to traffic. You do not want the hotel to be built. Why?
- Group 7** You represent the owners of the market stalls that use the land where the planned hotel is to be built. You do not want the hotel to be built. Why? Think of how it will affect your life generally.
- Group 8** You represent the local unemployed poor people. You are finding it hard to survive. Each day is a case of looking for your next meal. You want the hotel to be built. Why?

## **Handout 24**

### **The proposal for building the Swahili Hotel: information sheet**

- The hotel is to be built on land that is used regularly by market stall-holders in Mombasa.
- The site is close to the beach, which is very popular with tourists.
- It is a busy area with shops and craftspeople to be seen everywhere you go.
- There is an Islamic mosque (place of worship for Muslims) situated very close to the site.
- The hotel would be built very close to a major road, causing traffic diversions and disruption.
- The Shimba Hills Animal Reserve and the Tsavo National Park are only a short distance away and very popular with tourists.
- There is a coral reef running the length of the Kenyan coast. Conservationists are worried about further damage to this natural resource from pleasure boats, divers and other tourist activities.
- One in six people in the area are unemployed and there is a high crime rate.

### **Additional Information**

*Tourism is the world's fastest growing industry. In 1950 25 million people travelled abroad, in 1999 it was 670 million. The World Tourism Organisation estimates that by 2020 some 1.6 billion people will travel each year. The growth area is long haul travel, especially to developing countries.*

*Water shortage will be an increased problem: WWF has calculated that a tourist in Spain uses 880 litres of water a day, compared with 250 litres by a local.*

*By 2025, the number of people living in areas where renewable water is scarce will increase from 130 million to more than 1 billion.*

**(The Guardian, 12 May 2001)**

## **Handout 25**

### **Group 1**

You represent the Swahili Hotel Corporation. You are responsible for putting forward the proposal for building the hotel. You want the hotel to be built. Why? What are the advantages of building a hotel in this location, not just for you but for the local community?

**We would like to argue that:**

**We understand that it will be difficult for:**

**Therefore we feel that it would be in the best interest of these groups to:**

## Case study: do we want the new hotel?

### Owners of market stalls

*We would like to argue that* if you are going to build your hotel then all our sheds that store our meat and fish and vegetables and the rest of our things would be knocked down and to build them will cost more money. So why can't the hotel move? Or people that are employed are going to be unemployed.

*We understand that it will be difficult for* the Muslims because the place where they pray would be more noisy. And it will make lots of road works so the transport police won't like it.

*Therefore we feel that it would be the best interest of these groups* not to have a hotel there.

### Kenyan National Tourist Office

*We would like to argue that* it would be a good idea because it would attract tourists and lots of money. It will get the homeless off the streets and let them have a job. It is a good idea because it is near the sea and near the animal parks and it is near the airport so the tourists won't have to travel far to the hotel.

*We understand it will be difficult for* the market stall owners because they would have to move, but they would have more customers so it wouldn't matter too much.

*Therefore we feel it would be in the best interest of these groups* to build the hotel because we would make more jobs and more money from the tourists and the safari parks would make more money.

Upottery Primary School, Year 4/5

Adapted from an idea by Michael Whiting

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