

Study Guide- TrinMUN 2018



TRINMUN

United Nations Development Programme

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Committee Introduction Letter

We are currently living in an increasingly globalised world, and this translates itself into many areas of life. As rural communities and traditions dwindle, travel and tourism are rapidly expanding. Though these trends reflect a global increase in GDP spending power and can be seen as overall positive factors of economic growth, they equally generate a number of sustainability issues which the UNDP seeks to tackle.

Tourism

Tourism, once a luxury reserved for the rich, is becoming more and more accessible to the global population. The United Nations World Tourism Organisation estimates total global tourist arrivals to reach 1.8 billion by 2030.¹ Whilst tourism benefits society in many ways by creating employment, it also creates problems such as pollution, land degradation, water waste and deforestation. This is why the importance of ecotourism must be emphasized, in a way which promotes local economies.²

Urban agriculture

The world's population is becoming increasingly urbanised, with 54% of the global population currently living in urban areas. This figure is projected to increase to over 66% by 2050.³ This urban growth, like the growth of tourism, shows an increase in wealth as populations seek to find employment in cities. However the rapid expansion of urban population presents a number of development issues such as lack of food security and pollution. Urban agriculture is an effective solution to counter some of the negative effects caused by urbanisation, as it is efficient and produces little waste. However it can also pose problems in urban areas such as pollution and contamination, and the UNDP must help find a balance between issues to reach an overall sustainable solution.

¹ <https://africathistime.wordpress.com/2015/07/19/world-tourism-organization-2014-stats-small-growth-in-africa/>

² <https://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/envi/one.html>

³ <https://www.pacha-cartographie.com/evolution-population-urbaine/>

Topic A- The role of tourism in promoting the development of LEDCs: Using sustainable tourism to eliminate poverty.

Introduction

The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) set the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be reached by 2030. One helpful tool to do so is to incorporate and support the tourism industry in least developed countries (further mentioned as LEDCs). The UNDP sets tourisms as one separate sector which might help to successfully reach the SDGs. The goals tourism is able to focus on is goal 1, to eliminate poverty, goal 8, decent work and economic growth and goal 9, industry, innovation and infrastructure. In our discussion the main focus will be held upon reaching goal number 1 with the help of tourism.

LEDCs can offer beautiful and breathtaking landscapes, natural spectacles and animal variety incomparable to other parts of the world. Uganda, for example, has countryside from 650m above sea level up to 5000m above sea levels⁴. This unique structure attracts tourists from all over the world to the African West. But not only nature attracts tourists to LEDCs, Armenia with its capital Yerevan offers a modern tourist attracting city. Furthermore, Armenia offers fresh food and drinks, and historical buildings⁵. Unfortunately, the infrastructure is not developed enough there. The difference between urban cities and countryside is tremendous.

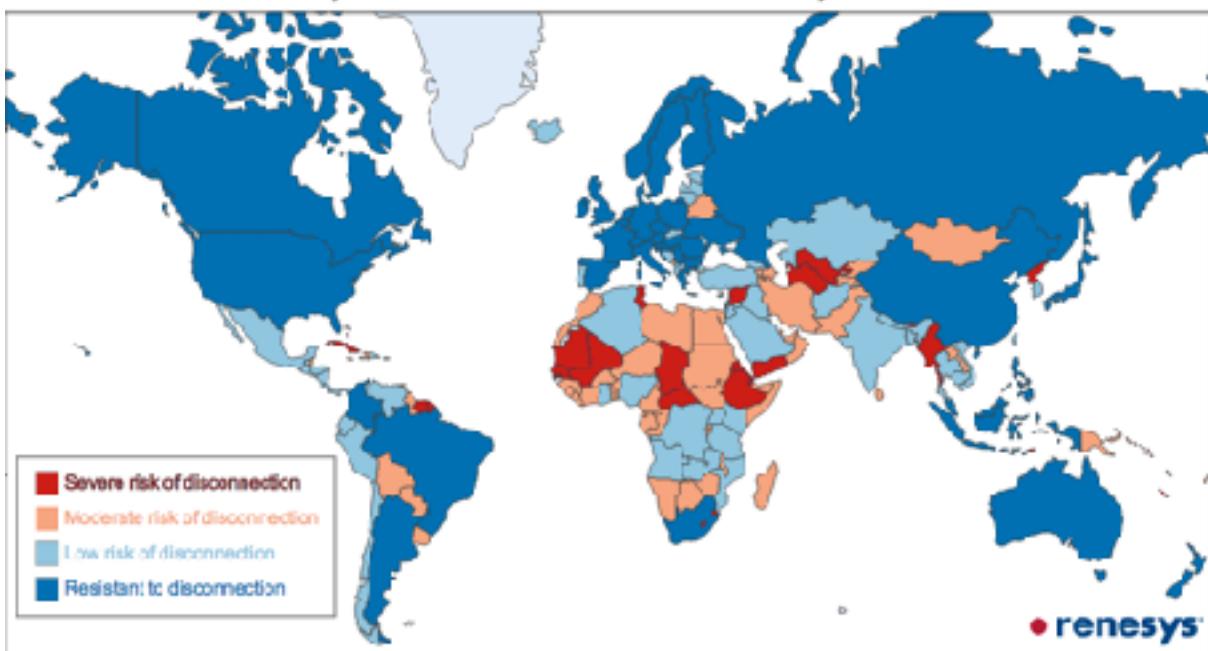
The tourism sector can offer great chances for the local population suffering under poverty. Tourism as sector builds employment opportunities for men and women, but especially for young people⁶. They deeply need the chance to make a living by work and get out of the circle of poverty. The government needs to support the tourism industry. A field need to be established where policies offer a way for the tourism industry to train their workers. Workers should be skilled and educated. Human resource is of great importance for the tourism sector in order to fulfil the need of tourists.

⁴ <http://www.ug.undp.org/content/uganda/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/10/13/uganda-hosts-first-conservation-and-tourism-investment-forum-.html>

⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/articles/why-armenia-might-be-europes-best-kept-secret/>

⁶ http://content-ext.undp.org/aplaws_publications/3273561/Tourism_Poverty_Reduction_LDCs_web.pdf

National Internet Diversity at the International Frontier - February 2014



Tourism depends on 4 main infrastructural connections: roads, railway, maritime and air. Depending of the location of the country, one might be more important than the other. The transport sector should be highly invested into, because the manageable the journey is for the tourist, the more attractive the country is for tourists. The investment could be made through public-private partnership (PPP)⁷. PPP can secure the country's transport plans and strategies and would relieve the budget of ones country. Next to PPPs, liberalisation of air access is a necessary part for good tourist infrastructure. The open sky regimes would allow international airlines to operate on the airport and in the sky. This might be not helping national airlines but in the long run, the tourism sector would grow.

Next to infrastructure the power and water systems need to be improved in many countries, so the tourism sector can work properly. Water is a rare good in some of the countries and the fear of taking water away from the population which is greatly in need of it, is comprehensible⁸. In order to be able to distribute the water fairly, the ranking of importance should be clear. Water cannot be taken away from the people in need in order to nourish the tourism industry. By doing so, the danger is great that people might turn against the tourism industry. Mutual beneficial would be to create water supply for the tourism industry which is

⁷ http://content-ext.undp.org/aplaws_publications/3273561/Tourism_Poverty_Reduction_LDCs_web.pdf

⁸ ibid

distributing water to places in need as well. The focus should be in increasing and expanding water supply for everyone, firstly inhabitants and then tourists⁹. Power should be treated similar as water. In general, inhabitants of one country should not suffer because of tourism. Another sector which should be expand is the IT sector. Internet connections concerns tourists. While being in a country probably far away from home, they want to be connected with their loved ones¹⁰. Picture 1 shows that mostly areas in Africa and Asia are still in risk of disconnections.

Work which can be done by the government should include investment into the tourism sector and more important working together with neighbouring countries. Tourism is not a phenomenon for a country. It can spread across countries. Benefits can be drawn from tourism sector in the regions a country is located in so investment and expansion can be discussed together on an interregional or international scale.

History of the Topic

Human beings already traveled around in ancient Rome¹¹. Later the possibilities were not given to be able to move around freely on the surface of this earth. Starting in the eighteenth century, people ached for culture and health and so they started exploring the world. But only starting with the 1960s, mass tourism could be afforded¹². In 1969 the first Boeing 747 was the first aircraft to fly for commercial use¹³. With the rise of the aircraft, destinations all around the world were reachable in a blink of an eye. In the years between 1972 and 1994 the

⁹ http://content-ext.undp.org/aplaws_publications/3273561/Tourism_Poverty_Reduction_LDCs_web.pdf

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ <https://english-magazine.org/english-reading/english-for-travel/483-a-brief-history-of-tourism-travel-english>

¹² ibid

¹³ <https://www.avjobs.com/history/>



numbers of passengers quadrupled from 88 to 344 million¹⁴. The number almost quadrupled. Tourists are taken 60% of the entire air travel¹⁵.

With the rise of all the new travel possibilities, the impact of tourism grew heavier on the environment. Areas which suffer the most are the ones which had low capacities to prevent and fight environmental challenges even before the tourism impacted them¹⁶. Because of the increasing air travel, air pollution increased substantially making air pollution and noise the greatest issues. Also increasing traffic in tourist region impacted air pollution¹⁷. Even nautical tourism can cost a damage to the environment. Coral reefs suffer under cruise anchors and sewage produced by the tourism industry.

Tourism is of great importance in most LEDCs. It grew especially in the past 50 years¹⁸. With great concern it should be mentioned that most developing countries used to have modest tourism sector in the 1960s and '70s, which were damaged by political instability and internal

¹⁴ <http://drustage.unep.org/resourceefficiency/tourisms-three-main-impact-areas>

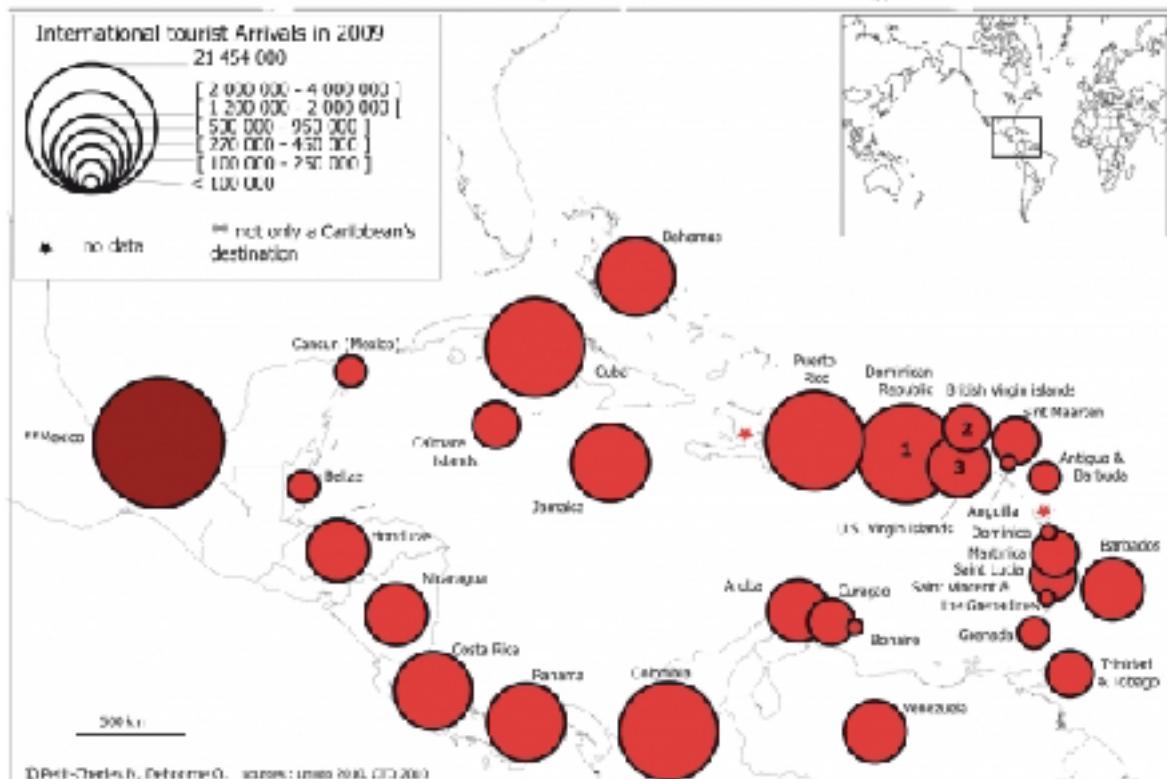
¹⁵ ibid

¹⁶ <http://drustage.unep.org/resourceefficiency/tourisms-three-main-impact-areas>

¹⁷ ibid

¹⁸ http://content-ext.undp.org/aplaws_publications/3273561/Tourism_Poverty_Reduction_LDCs_web.pdf

conflicts¹⁹. The growth of tourism then stopped. Countries where this happened are Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda, just to mention a few²⁰. In the past two decades a growth can be seen again. The tourism increased about 11% in LEDCs²¹. The growth can be considered a reason for the UN to promote tourism which is stable and promotes development in these countries.



The first agency to deal with tourism worldwide is the 1946 established International Union of Official Tourist Propaganda Organizations (IUOTPO)¹⁹. In 1970 it was renamed to the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and in 1976 it became an executive agency of the UNDP (Quelle: <http://www2.unwto.org/content/history-0>). Making 1976 the marking year for tourism to be dealt with on the international stage. In 2003 the WTO became a specialized body of the UN which was approved by the GA by resolution A/RES/58/232 keeping the old name but giving it a new abbreviation UNWTO (Quelle: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/>

¹⁹ ibid

²⁰ ibid

²¹ http://content-ext.undp.org/aplaws_publications/3273561/Tourism_Poverty_Reduction_LDCs_web.pdf

[view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/58/232](#)). Since its existence the WTO held yearly conferences where they adopt declarations and bills on various topics. Besides sustainable tourism the UNWTO also deals with human rights in tourism such as preventing sex tourism (Quelle: <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/unwtodeclarations.1995.21.19.1>) and with the economical impact of tourism (Quelle: http://statistics.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/nice_ing.pdf). In 2002 they approved the “Sustainable Tourism - Eliminating Poverty” plan (ST-EP) which includes several projects in different countries to alleviate poverty (Quelle: <http://step.unwto.org>). Since the introduction of the SDGs in 2015 the UNWTO works on promoting tourism as an instrument to achieve these goals. Currently the UNWTO has 158 members and 500 partners from the private and educational sector. Prominent countries that are not part of the UNWTO include the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. (Quelle: <http://www2.unwto.org/content/who-we-are-0>). The actions of the UNWTO will be further discussed later in this Study Guide.

Current Situation

Many countries depend on tourism in order to have a flourishing economy. Tourism has been met with positive but also negative impacts on countries. The countries mentioned below will work as examples how tourism can impact a countries policy, economy and reputation.

Maldives

On the one hand, up to 2012 the Maldives conquered some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It fought back towards poverty and hunger, and increased the education and health sector²². On the other hand some MDGs still need to be achieved. The gender equality and environmental sustainability have not been promoted enough²³.

²² <http://www.mv.undp.org/content/maldives/en/home/countryinfo.html>

²³ <http://www.mv.undp.org/content/dam/maldives/docs/publicationsgeneral/MDG%20Mv%202010.pdf>

Tourism can be a tool to tackle some of the issues and improve water access. However tourism can be also a further threat to the biodiversity of the Maldives as well as a reason for further overexploitation.

Tourism need to develop eco friendly ways so that the environment is not in danger and the economy can benefit of the people wanting to visit the isles.

Armenia

An example how countries could work together is the case in Armenia. The project Bridge funded by the Russian Federation enables a network²⁴. The project enables a network where private companies can come together and communicate with each other but also with the Armenian government. The most discussed topic is the development of rural tourism. UNDP partners with such projects and supports them deeply.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh with its great nature is attractive for tourists but wildlife protection is an important issue. The Bengal Tiger for example is an endangered species which requires special protection. A UNWTO initiated a program which trains workers and authorities to provide that protection and have more awareness as a tourist guide. However they lack the training to enforce specific policies.

Mexico

Tourism plays a significant role in the economic sector. It is the fifth biggest sector and covers almost 15% of the GDP²⁵. The UNDP will try out projects in Mexico to create sustainability in the tourism sector. In 2015 Mexico and UNDP announced a partnership program to foster sustainable growth by helping to reduce poverty and support other social projects. Besides the partnerships works on new models for sustainable tourism to ensure the biodiversity, access to

²⁴ <http://www.am.undp.org/content/armenia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/05/30/integrated-rural-tourism-development-project-announced-the-launch-of-the-bridge-network.html>

²⁵ <http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/06/05/undp-and-mexico-to-boost-tourism-for-sustainable-development.html>

clean water and energy in tourist areas and more²⁶.

Past UN Actions Taken

UNWTO

The United Nations established an own agency to promote responsible tourism: the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The UNWTO interferes with 4 different work areas. They try to promote sustainable tourism by policy, evidence, practise and finance²⁷. The area of policy focuses strongly on the implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the tourism sector. Policies should integrate SCP, social equality and transparency in the long run. Evidence focuses on the sharing of data and the exchange of information. The collaboration between private and public organisations should be strengthened through such exchange. This area is willing to strengthen technical knowledge as well. The progress should be observed and gathered, so analysis can be made afterwards. The third area of practise is the evidence based machinery behind sustainable tourisms. It focuses on establishing and allowing the collection of practise, which should be tested in the field. The analysis can then benefit for further actions taken. The issue the data focuses on is SCP. Both sides are measured: the country which should implement more SCP possibilities but also the tourists which should be neiged towards accepting and using sustainable tourism and SCP. The last area is finance which should make it more accessible to invest into sustainable tourism. It should establish a policy frame work which enable and promotes investment. Furthermore, the area should call for attention on donating towards sustainable tourism. Donors can be companies, private and public sectors, political actors and developers.

²⁶ <http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/06/05/undp-and-mexico-to-boost-tourism-for-sustainable-development.html>

²⁷ <http://sdт.unwto.org/workareas-10yfp-stp>

Uganda

The UNDP funded a project in Uganda, which tied local and international tour operators together. The purpose was to develop Inclusive Markets in Tourism²⁸. It also helped to encourage hotels to use local food producers and created a platform for private-public investments. Such investments are followed and analysed by the UNDP in order to gather knowledge and expertise for future projects. Furthermore, Uganda benefits of projects which protect the wildlife. Space for Giants is such a organisation²⁹ which sited with governmental organisations but also with PPPs in order to protect the wild live. The focus is to work together interregional in order to be sure to protect nature the most. UNDP supports these kind of organisations.

Montenegro

The tourism sector is Montenegros strongest economic sector The UNDP funded a project starting in 2014 and ending in 2019 in Montenegro which aims to lower the carbon footprint of the tourism industry³⁰. Tourism increased in the past decade and is still growing. The projected portion of tourism relatively to the entire GDP will be 34.4% by 2023³¹. However this also has negative effects for example the proportion of waste by the tourism industry will increase to a total of 20% by 2020. In order to lower the carbon emission, the projects aims to create a legal framework which should be established by the government of Montenegro which includes strategies to make accommodation more environmental friendly. It encourages the house owner to implement those strategies. It also regulates the carbon emission of hotels by setting a certification necessity. Not only accommodations should be low in carbon emission also the transportation of tourists is mentioned in the paper. To achieve lower carbon emission in the transportation sector countries have to work together which makes the work in

²⁸ <http://www.ug.undp.org/content/uganda/en/home/operations/projects/SustainableInclusiveEconomicDevelopmentProgramme/development-of-inclusive-markets-in-tourism.html>

²⁹ <http://www.ug.undp.org/content/uganda/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/10/13/uganda-hosts-first-conservation-and-tourism-investment-forum-.html>

³⁰ http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_file.cfm?doc_id=52027

³¹ ibid

Montenegro with the involvement of the UNDP an example for international cooperation on this matter³². The project also includes pilot investment into specific projects to see how the effects are on the overall carbon footprint. The project is accompanied by the UNDP and the results will be captured and analysed to further future projects on this matter.

Turkey

To promote sustainable tourism the government of Turkey in collaboration with the UNDP in Turkey and Andaolu Efes created the „Future of Tourism-Sustainable Tourism Support Fund“³³. This fund was created to support local actors across Turkey. The focus is set on promoting gender equality, especially women should be encouraged to make an income for themselves. They are trained and educated in improvement of their own sales and are taught how to create an online platform. A great example of what the fund is capable of is the old house in Mardin which has been restored. Functioning as a guesthouse, the Ipekyolu Guesthouse stands for sustainable tourism³⁴. It offered a great chance to use the developed skills and improve tourism in Mardin.

Questions a Resolution Should Answer

- How can the UNDP support the UNWTO to promote tourism as a measure to achieve the SDGs?
- Should the UNDP in general deepen cooperation with the UNWTO and in which areas?
- How can the UNDP help countries to develop the necessary sectors (water, power, internet, transportation) to create sustainable tourism in LEDCs?
- How can existing programs in specific countries be expanded to further alleviate poverty?
- Should existing programs like in Montenegro be expanded to include other countries?
- How can the UNDP foster interregional cooperation between countries on this issue?

³² ibid

³³ <http://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/sustainable-tourism-offers-new-opportunities-for-women-and-for-l.html>

³⁴ <http://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/sustainable-tourism-offers-new-opportunities-for-women-and-for-l.html>

- Is it necessary to create a general framework for all LEDC countries on this issue or is it more useful for the UNDP to help LEDCs individually?
- Which countries should be included in interregional and international programs or frameworks? Which specific criteria need to be fulfilled?
- What kind of policies should future programs or frameworks, general or individually, include?
- How can a sustainable tourism sector protecting the environment and necessary growth to eliminate poverty be combined?
- How can the UNDP foster public and private investments or PPPs in the tourism industry?

Topic B- Methods for the development of sustainable transport and the encouragement of agriculture in urban areas.

Introduction to the Topic

An estimated 54% of the world's total population is currently living in urban areas, and this figure is projected to increase to over 66% by 2050.³⁵ By 2020, cities in Asia, South America and Africa will account for over 75% of the world's total urban population.³⁶ This rapid increase of urbanisation presents a number of development and sustainability issues, one of the most crucial of which being food security.

In order to adapt society to larger urban areas and therefore shrinking rural populations, it is necessary to modify the current agricultural infrastructures. An emerging method of doing this is urban agriculture, which not only could help ensure food security but also confer other benefits on society, such as the creation of employment and the protection of the environment.

³⁵ <https://www.pacha-cartographie.com/evolution-population-urbaine/>

³⁶ <http://www.ruaf.org/urban-agriculture-what-and-why>

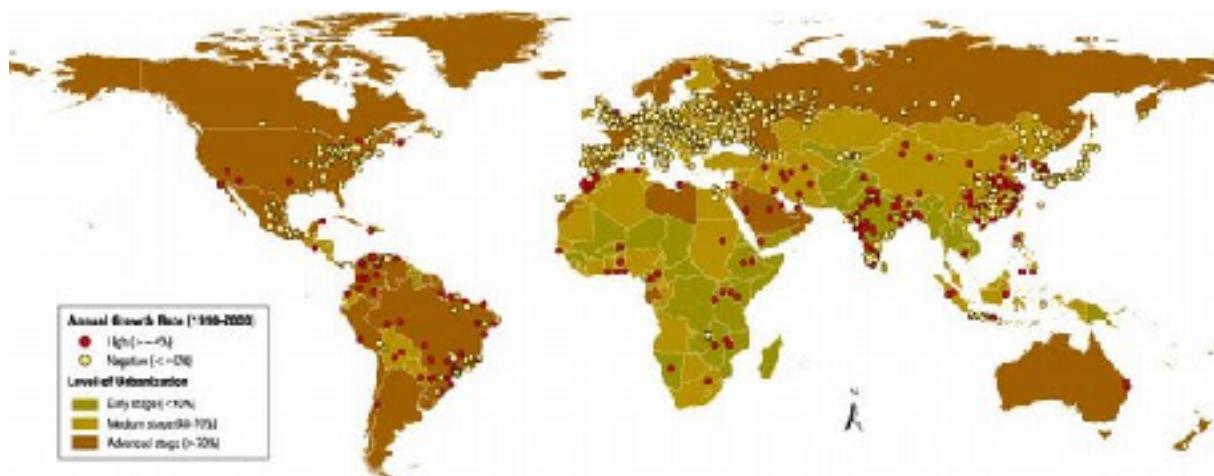


Figure 1 This map shows that the lighter-coloured (less urbanised) continents of Africa, Asia and South America are showing the fastest rates of urban growth (red circles)³⁷

Definition

Urban agriculture is a collective term used to design all agricultural practices taking place in or in close proximity (peri urban agriculture) to urban centres. This includes the vast majority of farming activities; horticulture, trees, livestock fodder, as well as livestock and fisheries to a lesser extent.³⁸

Some of the most common techniques of urban agriculture are rooftop gardens, green walls, vertical farms, aquaponics, animal husbandry³⁹, community gardening and micro-farming. Many other methods exist and are used to varying degrees depending on location.⁴⁰

Urban and peri urban agriculture are potentially beneficial methods of agriculture which confer many environmental and societal benefits such as the creation of employment in urban areas, as well as the reduction in carbon footprint of the foods produced.

However, urban agriculture is not a perfect system and requires more research and investment in order to become a viable and sustainable method of agriculture. It is becoming increasingly popular in developing countries, especially in lower income areas where trade is often

³⁷<http://www.nordregio.se/en/Metameny/About-Nordregio/Journal-of-Nordregio/Journal-of-Nordregio-2010/Journal-of-Nordregio-no-1-2010/Global-urban-growth-and-decline/>

³⁸ <http://www.fao.org/urban-agriculture/en/>

³⁹ <https://simplicable.com/new/urban-agriculture>

⁴⁰ <https://www.slideshare.net/femkehoekstra/slideshow-of-urban-agriculture-types>

unregulated and sometimes illegal. It is therefore necessary for governments to adapt their policies and frameworks in order to facilitate urban agriculture.

History of the Topic

Historical overview

Urban agriculture has been practised worldwide for centuries, long before the establishment of large urban areas like those today. However with the increase of industrialisation in larger cities this practice became less widespread as urban populations came to rely more heavily on rural areas for food production.

Urban agriculture was used to a great extent during the two world wars as rationing made it difficult to purchase food and other organic products. City dwellers were therefore encouraged to grow their own food, mostly in back garden plots or community gardens.⁴¹



Figure 2 Urban Agriculture was practised in New York during World War II.⁴²

Recently urban agriculture has seen a revival, most particularly in rapidly urbanising continents such as Asia, Africa and South America. This is particularly in poor areas, which are set to proliferate in cities. It is estimated that by 2020, 85% of the poor in Latin America, and 40-45% of the poor in Africa and Asia will be living in urban areas.⁴³

⁴¹ https://livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/crops_02.html

⁴² <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/8a/44/ff/8a44fff58ec0791cc75525f62369b081.jpg>

⁴³ <http://www.ruaf.org/urban-agriculture-what-and-why>

Advantages

Urban agriculture has the potential to be very beneficial for society, and presents many advantages, especially for the poor in urban areas. One of its main advantages is the provision of food security in poorer urban areas; low income individuals in cities are more likely to suffer from a lack of food than their rural counterparts. In fact, the rates of food insecurity in urban areas are rising as food becomes more expensive to export from rural areas. The production of food in urban areas could therefore remedy this situation. Aside from improving food security, urban agriculture also has the potential to provide better quality foods for urban dwellers, as perishable goods from horticulture lose nutritional value during transportation.⁴⁴

Urban agriculture is also economically efficient. In LDC countries people from lower income backgrounds spend 50-70% of income on food. Urban agriculture would therefore create extra cash flow for the poor in urban areas. It also stimulates employment in disadvantaged areas, particularly through the creation of micro-enterprises which stem from the production, handling and processing of foods grown in the city.⁴⁵

Urban agriculture also has a number of environmental benefits. As the foodstuffs are grown/produced in the city, there is little need for transport, refrigeration and packaging, which reduces Co2 emissions as well as (plastic) waste.⁴⁶ It also promotes the recycling of urban waste and water, which can help alleviate some of the difficulties associated with waste disposal in large cities, and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. The utilisation of abandoned/derelict grounds for agriculture also prevents them from being used as waste grounds and creates green zones in urban areas.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ <http://www.ruaf.org/urban-agriculture-what-and-why>

⁴⁵ <http://www.fao.org/urban-agriculture/en/>

⁴⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5764Urban%20Agriculture.pdf>

⁴⁷ <http://www.ruaf.org/urban-agriculture-what-and-why>

Issues

However urban agriculture does present some issues which must be addressed in order to render it a viable mode of agriculture. Farming in urban areas can create many forms of pollution for city dwellers (chemicals from pesticides, animal waste ...) and these may contaminate the soil and water in surrounding areas thus creating sanitary problems. Additionally many urban farmers reuse raw organic waste/water which, untreated, may cause serious environmental and health problems.⁴⁸

Current Situation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

Urban Agriculture is used to promote a number of Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations. Under SDG 1, it helps reduce poverty by stimulating employment and businesses in disadvantaged areas. UA also contributes to tackling SDG 2; combatting hunger by ensuring food security in urban areas. SDG's 11 and 12 are also helped by UA, as it is a form of sustainable agriculture. Urban agriculture can also contribute indirectly to a number of other SDG's; 13 (climate action), 3 (good health and well-being) and 15 (life on land).⁴⁹

To further the completion of these development goals, the United Nations has collaborated with a number of international agencies and NGO's such as RUAF, the Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture & Forestry. This is a global partnership consisting of specialized research centres and institutions focused on sustainable agriculture in urban areas. Its main focus is on SDG's 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 2 (ending hunger).⁵⁰

RUAF

RUAF helps encourage urban agriculture in countries worldwide, in five core areas; it facilitates the development of resilient food systems by providing resources, training and technical assistance in food policies and programmes. It also helps support local economies

⁴⁸ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5764Urban%20Agriculture.pdf>

⁴⁹ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

⁵⁰ <http://www.ruaf.org/about-ruaf>

by funding local organisations and by conducting analysis of market demands. The RUAF also collaborates with municipalities in order to develop UA projects to facilitate social inclusion of the poor. RUAF also helps encourage waste ad water recycling in UA and assists governments in adapting their cities to the procedures of urban agriculture.⁵¹

FAO

These areas of competency are similar to the goals pursued by the FOA, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The Programme for Urban and Peri-urban Horticulture sets out five goals which will help the development of urban agriculture, primarily in developing countries. Firstly, the FOA aims to ensure the official recognition of urban agriculture practises in agricultural policies and urban planning. This is particularly in areas such as Africa and South America, where these projects often happen under the headlines. Another important goal us registering urban agriculturers in order to obtain permits or leases. The quality and sustainability are ensured by Farmer Field Schools which seek to improve the education of urban farming practices. Lastly, the FOA tries to facilitate the trade of urban agriculture produce in new markets and provides professional tools, training and resources to small scale growers.⁵²

Past UN Actions Taken

The Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations (FAO) has already launched many successful programmes in developing countries in order to facilitate the development of urban agriculture, particularly in South America and Africa.

South America

The FAO recently provided training in organic cultivation for the establishment of micro-gardens for lower-income families in La Paz (Bolivia), resulting in higher vegetable intake and income for poorer families.

⁵¹ <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greenercities/en/approach/index.html>

⁵² <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greenercities/en/approach/index.html>



Figure 3: The award-winning FAO project in La Paz implemented a number of innovative urban agriculture practices, such as this surface mulch and drip irrigation, in order to preserve water.⁵³

A similar project was carried out in the Venezuelan cities of Caracas, Aragua and Carabobo where funding was provided for the establishment of micro-gardens, resulting in a production surplus which was redistributed to poorer families.

Different varieties of urban farming were introduced by the FAO in the disadvantaged areas of Bogota, Medellin and Cartagena in Colombia, through the provision of training and technical assistance.

Africa

The cities of Windhoek and Rundu in Namibia recently benefitted from community demonstration plots and training in urban agriculture, as well as study tours to Senegal, provided by horticulture specialists.

A number of micro-garden initiatives were set up in Kigali, Rwanda, which were enhanced by the introduction of rainwater harvesting systems. This was facilitated by advice given to the city administration on the further integration of urban agriculture in its urban areas.

Initiatives focused on the promotion of female employment and equality were implemented in Senegal (Dakar, Pikine), which provided training on the establishment of micro-gardens in community garden centres, as well as in Burundi (Bujumbura), where the FAO started a project aimed at reducing the number of pesticides utilized in horticulture.⁵⁴

⁵³ http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greenercities/en/ggclac/el_alto.html

⁵⁴ <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greenercities/en/projects/index.html>

Bloc Positions

Urban agriculture has expanded globally as a sustainable method of agriculture however today it is most prominent in the South American, African and Asian continents, which are expected to experience a large urban growth in the future decades.

Urban agriculture is practised to a lesser extent in Europe and north America, as the two continents are already highly urbanised and have not incorporated urban agriculture into their urban frameworks. However the United States and European countries such as Belgium, Italy and Spain actively assist developing countries to integrate urban agriculture into their cities by providing expertise and assistance.



Figure 4: Beekeeping in a micro farm in London⁵⁵

Among the most prominent organisations to this purpose are the Belgian Development Cooperation, the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) (France) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (Canada). International organisations include the Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and the Worldwide Horticulture Initiative (GlobalHort).⁵⁶

⁵⁵ <http://growninthecity.com/2016/05/10/can-urban-farms-feed-enough-of-us/>

⁵⁶ <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greenercities/en/projects/index.html>

Questions a Resolution Should Answer

- What is the future of urban agriculture?
- Should urban agriculture be more accentuated in Europe and North America?
- How can urban agriculture be encouraged in urban areas

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