

**SACE Board of South Australia**

Sources sheet to accompany the 2017 Tourism paper

**Last-chance tourism: an opportunity or a threat?**

SOURCE 1 — A definition of last-chance tourism

**The emergence of last-chance tourism**

Vanishing destinations such as the Great Barrier Reef and polar regions provide tour operators with an opportunity to market their products with the unique selling point 'to see it before it is gone'. Bleaching corals, melting ice caps, and endangered wildlife are indicators that put these destinations on 'must-see' lists.

This type of tourism is defined as 'last-chance tourism'. Tourists increasingly seek to experience endangered sites, landscapes, and species before they vanish, which may have important consequences for the destinations.

As argued by Lemelin, Dawson and colleagues (2010), 'Promoting the vulnerability of certain threatened destinations can be a double-edged sword.' They argue that last-chance tourism can help to raise awareness of climate change and to promote conservation efforts. On the other hand, by attracting more tourists who are seeking these experiences, last-chance tourism can also accelerate negative human impacts on nature.

*Source:* Adapted from Suzanne, 'The emergence of "last-chance tourism": an opportunity or a threat?' Tourism Master, 24 September 2010, [tourism-master.com](http://tourism-master.com)

SOURCE 2 — An opinion from a responsible tourism website

**Wildlife conservation**

Responsible wildlife tourism has an important role to play by encouraging people to relish rather than ravage the natural environment. By making animals more valuable when they are still alive, it is possible to encourage both poachers and governments to refrain from hunting them, and to find alternative ways to profit from them. The use of tourism to change views at a local level can be powerful. By viewing animals as a valuable commodity and a key component in the tourism industry, rather than as a pest, inconvenience, or foodstuff, it is more likely that conservation initiatives will be successful, ensuring that future generations can visit, watch, and enjoy these wonderful creatures.

*Source:* Adapted from J. Francis, Responsible Travel (online travel company), 'Wildlife conservation: can wildlife tourism help conserve our endangered species?', [responsibletourism.com](http://responsibletourism.com)

SOURCE 3 — A cartoon criticising tourism's profit from endangered species



*Source:* R. Buckley, 'Endangered animals caught in the tourist trap', *New Scientist*, 10 October 2012, [newscientist.com](http://newscientist.com)

et when answering Questions 5 to 7.

SOURCE 4 — Photograph and extract from an article about mountain gorillas in Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa



Source: Adapted from WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), 'Mountain gorilla population grows', 13 November 2012, [wwf.panda.org](http://wwf.panda.org); and photograph by Martin Harvey, WWF

SOURCE 5 — Extract from an interview with an Australian tourist (2017)

In 1993 I went as part of a tour group to Rwanda, Africa, specifically to get close to the endangered gorillas. I thought this might be the last opportunity I had before they disappeared. Back then it cost us \$50 a day, and there were about 300 gorillas, according to a number of official reports. I heard that it now costs \$1200 a day for this sort of tour, and that there are about 880 gorillas. It's a multimillion dollar industry, but it is a conservation success story. I think it's fair to say that tourism can be seen as a driver of conservation, as a way of saving species at risk of extinction.

Source: SACE Board of South Australia, interview with an Australian tourist, 2017, used by permission

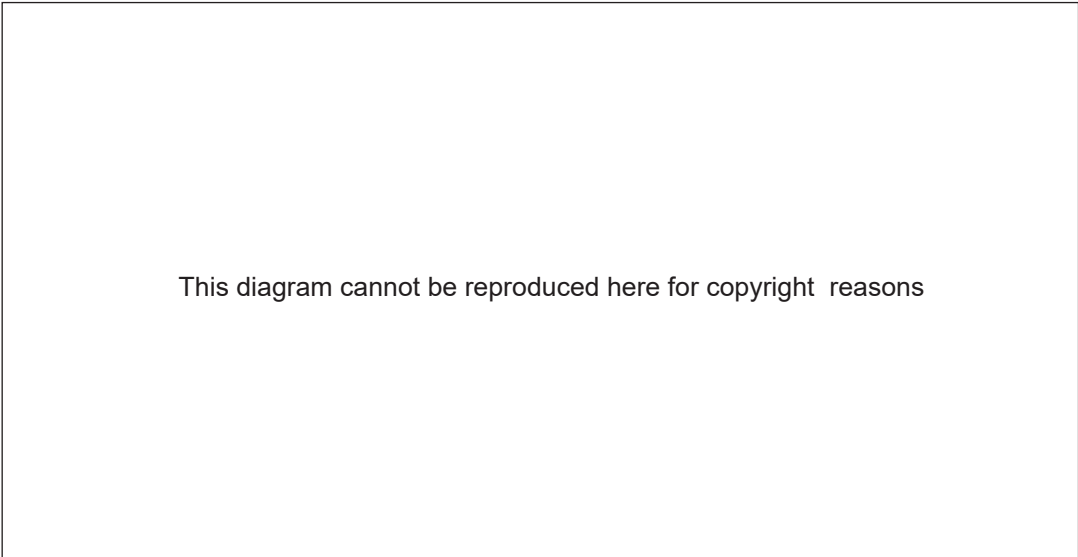
SOURCE 6 — Argument from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Sustainable tourism in protected areas critical for their survival**

'Unlike other industries and human-driven activities, tourism in protected areas can be a strong positive force — increasing a sense of responsible management and revenues that are vital for the long-term protection of these important conservation areas,' says Dr Yu-Fai Leung, the chief editor of a recent IUCN report. 'By contrast, reduced visitor numbers to protected areas can signal a lack of political interest or public support.'

Source: Adapted from IUCN, 'Sustainable tourism in protected areas can be critical for their survival, says new IUCN report', 14 November 2014, [iucn.org](http://iucn.org)

SOURCE 7 — The Butler Sequence, a model of tourism development, applied to last-chance tourism



Source: Adapted from Barcelona Field Studies Centre, 'Applying the Butler Model to tourism in Sitges and Calafell', 2012, [geographyfieldwork.com](http://geographyfieldwork.com)