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We negate the resolution that the United States should lift its embargo on Cuba.

Contention One: Environmental harms of lifting the embargo

According to the U.S Embassy in Cuba¹, US tourists are still prohibited in the status quo. The Director of Environment with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment Cuba² says that by lifting the embargo, Cuba “could double tourism in one year.”

This is harmful for 2 reasons:

First, a decrease in biodiversity.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund³ says that the marine life, plants, and ecosystems of Cuba are uniquely diverse. This biodiversity is integral to human survival. A report by the World Resources Institute⁴ finds that these plants have compounds that can treat cancer, HIV, and malaria.

Michelle Bouvéé,⁵ International Director at the Foreign Policy Institute, says that a tourist boom would harm Cuba’s natural paradises, as it would encourage the government to ease restrictions on access to these areas.

Second, coral reef damage

The NYT⁶ explains that Cuba’s coral reefs are some of the most well-preserved in the world; the World Wildlife Fund says that the largest threat to Cuban coral reefs is “massive growth in tourism when the U.S. embargo lifts.” The Queensland Museum⁷ says that first, coral reefs protect the coasts from storms, second, they shelter organisms, and third, they provide nutrients for food chains.

Contention Two: Ending the embargo destroys sustainable agriculture in Cuba.

Miguel Altieri⁸ from UC Berkeley states that Cuba's current farming system “encourages local production by small-scale farmers, using sustainable strategies and combining Western knowledge with traditional expertise.” He furthers that the best of these farms have the highest rate of food per square meter in the world, even though they use “no synthetic chemicals.” When the embargo ends, this great farming method would wither. Ming Chun Tang⁹ from the Center for Economic and Policy research explains that better relations with Cuba would first

¹ <https://cu.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/traveling-to-cuba/>

² http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&

³ http://www.cepf.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/caribbean/Caribbean_EP_Summary.pdf

⁴ http://pdf.wri.org/reefs_at_risk_revisited.pdf

⁵ <http://notenoughgood.com/2013/03/tourism-in-cuba>

⁶ http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&

⁷ <http://www.qm.qld.gov.au/microsites/biodiscovery/05human-impact/importance-of-coral-reefs.html>

⁸ <http://theconversation.com/cubas-sustainable-agriculture-at-risk-in-u-s-thaw-56773>

⁹ <http://nacla.org/news/2016/05/02/could-us-trade-threaten-sustainable-agriculture-cuba>

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“entice more farmers to increase their use of imported [chemicals].” Second, farmers would “specialize in monocultures in order to maximize revenue.” Third, there would be “increased competition from U.S. imports.” He states that the result would be “putting the entire Cuban agroecology movement at risk.”

This creates three impacts.

First, an increase in hunger.

Debora Iozzi¹⁰, a “Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs” explains that industrial agriculture has not worked, shown by the 795 million people who don’t have enough food, and that “Cuba’s urban agriculture has become a model for the rest of developing world.” Ending the embargo is destroying a step towards worldwide food security.

Second, resilience to climate change

Farms with peasant agroecology recover more quickly from natural disasters. Quantifiably, peasant farms in Cuba after Hurricane Ike recovered completely after 4 months. In contrast, the larger-scale farms had only reached 80% after 6 months, according to Peter Rosset, PhD, Associate at the Center for the Study of the Americas.¹¹ In a world where the climate is changing, agriculture that is resilient is particularly important.

Third, increased pesticide use.

Since Cuba stopped trading with the Soviet Union, there pesticide usage has dropped 88% according to Oxfam America¹², a nonprofit justice organization. The impacts of this are detrimental, “ranging from short-term impacts such as headaches and nausea to chronic impacts like cancer, reproductive harm, and endocrine disruption,” according to the Toxics Action Organization.¹³

Contention three: Sex Tourism.

Sex tourism occurs when foreigners travel abroad to engage in illicit sexual activity, which often happens with minors and without consent. A study by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police¹⁴ showed that Cuba is currently a top country on the list of nations targeted by travelling sex offenders. Author Victor Malarek furthers, “a growing number of tourists, almost always older men, are winging to Cuba for sex...some with children.” RCMP furthers that victims are often adolescents, though prepubescent children are targeted as well. However, with the embargo,

¹⁰ <http://www.coha.org/cuba-a-model-of-sustainable-agriculture-towards-global-food-security/>

¹¹ <http://www.acaoterra.org/IMG/pdf/Cuba-ANAP-JPS.pdf>

¹² https://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/oa4/OA-CubaGoingAgainstGrain_FoodCrisis.pdf

¹³ <http://www.toxicsaction.org/problems-and-solutions/pesticides>

¹⁴ Pdf saved to Abby’s computer

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US travel and interaction with Cuba is limited. Journalist Daniel Greenfield¹⁵ states that the embargo is a major factor in the relative lack of US sex tourists in Cuba. A loosening of travel restrictions because of no embargo would allow an increase of these acts.

Dr. Adrian Raine¹⁶, a neurocriminologist with University of Pennsylvania, says that children who experience sexual abuse are, one, more likely to live a life without relative success, and two, they are more likely to become abusers themselves, thus perpetuating the cycle of abuse.

An increase in sex tourism and abuse in Cuba is an increase in violence on multiple levels and a decrease in quality of life for Cuban children.

<http://www.acaoterra.org/IMG/pdf/Cuba-ANAP-JPS.pdf>

The Campesino-to-Campesino Agroecology movement of SNAP in Cuba

http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/future_tense/2012/04/agro_ecology_lessons_from_cuba_on_agriculture_food_and_climate_change_.html

<http://nacla.org/news/2016/05/02/could-us-trade-threaten-sustainable-agriculture-cuba>

<https://viacampesina.org/downloads/pdf/en/Agroecological-revolution-ENGLISH.pdf>

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2016-03-15/us-has-lot-learn-cuba-about-sustainable-agriculture>

<http://www.coha.org/cuba-a-model-of-sustainable-agriculture-towards-global-food-security/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/22/dining/cuba-us-organic-farming.html> --uniqueness

<https://thinkprogress.org/coral-reefs-protect-shorelines-by-reducing-wave-energy-by-97-percent-study-finds-79ce9ad852ea#.mx0quiigy>

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<http://www.frontpagemag.com/point/181717/us-embargo-cuba-prevents-child-sex-tourism-daniel-greenfield>

¹⁶ Abby's book

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The Toronto Star: contributing factor to pedophilic sex tourism in Cuba is lack of travel restrictions by Canadian governments.¹⁷

Cordelia Dean of Harvard¹⁸ furthers, "Cuba has avoided much environmental degradation in recent decades, but now hotel developments are seen extending into the water in Cayo Coco."

Second, pollution and destruction.

Sultan Baysan, PhD,¹⁹ shows that erosion, pollution, and blatant destruction of environments are correlated with tourism.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/lifting-us-sanctions-cuba-has-economic-perks-isnt-boon-trade-analysts-say-1761780>

¹⁷

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/03/16/canadians_are_major_customers_in_cubas_child_sex_market.html

¹⁸ <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

¹⁹ <http://satm.bilkent.edu.tr/~jamel/Selected%20Topics%20in%20Tourism/Environmental%20Impacts.pdf>