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TAKE CARE OF
YOUR PLANET!

YOU CAN MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE

PHU QUOC ISLAND

“A paradise island on earth!”, was the first thing I said when I arrived. Crystal clear water surrounded by white sand beaches. Tourist hords and mega resorts are non

existant making this a perfect place for the independent tourist. Locals’s income is based on fishing and litle based on tourism. However, things are changing here. Maybe local guesthouses are out and resorts are

in. Bigger roads are forged into the pristine forest and with more tourist to come: more traffic, more waste, and less environmental focus will land on the island. What will be the future of Phu Quoc? Nobody knows.

INVESTORS



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Most investors from Russia and China are involved in developing the coastal areas. It involves a large amount of dollars to bribe corrupt governments. Then these companies pave littelary the way to their big resorts. Nothing can stand in the way. Locals lose their property and have to move. Affecting the less wealthy the most.

In this news letter you can read how islands are affected by tourism. By making the right decisions these paradises do not necessarily need to disappear. Also you find some tips about how to minimise you impact on an island.

When tourist find there way to islands development will pop up. It is a matter how things are built. The tourist can make a choice, but in corrupt countries big money counts which goes in even bigger pockets. Investors are transforming islands into living cash machines. They attract a horrible type of tourist who crowds the beaches and towns in search for souvenirs, casinos, and golf courses.

Problems

Not only tourists cause more pollution (water, soil, waste, etc.), it also ruins the lifes of local people. Sometimes losing their properties or facing forced relocation. As more resorts are built, forest is cleared and with it dozens of endangered species dissappear.

What you can do

Save water when taking showers. Avoid packed food and use refillable jars for water instead of buying small bottles. Filtering is another solution. *Refuse* plastic bags when offered in shops. Instead use the linnen bags.

The more you *reduce* your waste the bigger the chance is that it won't stay on the island forever.

A good idea is to *choose* your accomodation carefully. A small guesthouse rather than a resort. An ecological friendly place is preferred. The best thing still is to encourage owners of guesthouses to save water and energy and to promote *recycling*. Putting leaflets all around the place is a good step. Plastic and paper burn easily. Batteries are better of by taking them to mainland. Cans and bottles ususally get a new life. Organic waste does well as compost for the flowers and plants in the garden around the guesthouse.

Rules of not *feeding* animals or consuming endangered species are well known. As is the rule not to bring in plants or animals on an island, since it can disturb the ecosystem. If you decide to go diving or snorkling you can choose reliable business which actively promote their *green policy* to customers. In the next news letter more about this topic.

The future?

It's hoping for solar panels to be introduced on a large scale. Hopefully rain water will be used more for flushing toilets and watering gardens. Resources with big potential, but hardly used. Do your bit and safe the paradise for future generations.



Help locals with green alternatives