

Environmental impact of major international events and festivals

Background information

Every year the world witnesses severe cases of migration but it's not only due to work and life threatening issues, as you might think, but also as huge aspects of International events.

These enormous occurrences are bound to multiple unappealing factors which have a clear and visible impact on our surroundings. Millions of people and dollars are each year put on the move as a result of these occasions. The key factors that influence the environment are air pollution, waste, deforestation, forced relocation of locals and construction of new stadiums and halls.

Air travel has one of the worst carbon footprint per person and it is unconditionally bound to international occasions that attracts travelers from around the world. If the gathering is having the majority of attendees from different countries the amount of emissions is substantially greater than local attractions.

When traveling it is common to use disposable utensils. This severe problem causes enormous pressure on the local garbage disposal system. As a result not only more waste is created but also a higher percentage ends up in landfills.

Many sport and music events are in need of colossal halls and stadiums. These buildings are in many cases constructed for only one occasion and then leave for disintegration. As a side effect many individuals are forcibly relocated from their homes and forests and other biotopes are wiped from the surface of earth, to clear out the construction zone.

Un involvement

Many resolutions and agreements took into consideration the enormous impact that festivals and global events have on the climate.

The main documents that sets the crucial rules for these types of events are:

1. **The Paris Agreement:** Primarily focused on mitigating climate change, this landmark agreement aims to limit global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Adopted by the UN General Assembly, the SDGs encompass a wide range of sustainable development targets, including goals related to climate action (Goal 13), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), and more. These goals indirectly influence the way events are organized and conducted.
3. **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** This framework provides the basis for international cooperation on climate change, guiding countries toward reducing their carbon footprint and addressing climate-related challenges.

For this specific topic or one that is somewhat similar haven't been adopted any resolutions.

Questions to consider

Has your country organized any significant international event in the past year?

Does any major festival or event take place in your country annually?

Does the organizing of international events make up a significant part of your country's economy?

Are seasonal jobs a significant part of the employment market in your country?

Did your country implement any laws regarding the obligation of greener alternatives for products used at festivals?

Has your country taken any steps towards conserving the environment?

Does your country provide any alternatives to standard means of transport that are more eco-friendly?

Useful links

<https://www.theseus.fi/handle/10024/148752>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09669582.2016.1189922>

https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/international-climate-impacts_.html

<https://www.unep.org/unep-climate-cop28>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2022/how-people-access-and-think-about-climate-change-news>

<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2022/country-and-market-data>

<https://www.vox.com/recode/22466585/events-concerts-sports-festivals-conferences-expos-pandemic-return>