

Water for Everyone ★ Unit 5 Resource A

Water and Conflict

Should the Bali International Park be allowed to go ahead?

A Local Farmer

“Generations of our forefathers have worked on this land, but every year we are being forced to sell more of it so that rich foreigners can sun themselves. This is all wrong.

There are already too many tourist resorts taking up water we need for farming. Farming in the dry season has always been a problem here anyway. But now it's really desperate for us.

We fear we won't be able to grow our crops at all even if we have the land to grow them on.”

B Local Politician

“This is an opportunity to provide our nation with world class conference facilities.

The income from this project will provide money for hospitals and education as well as jobs in construction and services.

We must forge a new Bali to meet the demands of the modern world. Its wealth will not be based on agriculture as it was in the past. Instead it will be a modern mixed economy, with all the benefits that will bring for not just Bali but our whole country.”

C Ecologist

“In other parts of the Bali we are trying to protect rare plants and wildlife, as forests are cut down by tourism developers. Here it's very different, but these limestone plateau and cliffs are just as important, and so is the coastline.

It's a fragile environment that's being threatened by rising water demand, pollution worries and construction projects.

We should look after this land, not build on it. If the development goes ahead, I honestly believe the balance of the environment will be ruined permanently.”

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D Visiting Tourist

"I'm not sure why we visitors are being treated like we're causing some sort of problem. We're not here to do any harm!

I'd like to relax on the beaches, do some surfing, explore the local culture, buy a few souvenirs, that's all. Tourists like me need nice places to stay. It's progress!

We've heard about water shortages but I personally haven't come on holiday not to wash or drink. Frankly if it's such an issue then I'll take my custom elsewhere."

E Bali International Park Representative

"We understand the concerns of the local community. They feel the old ways are changing and they will be without work if they can't fish and farm in their traditional way.

But once the resort is built they will benefit from new roads and other improvements. The tourists will buy things from their shops and from the local market, and let's not forget the job opportunities in the hotels and conference facilities.

Change is painful, but so is poverty."

F Village Spokesperson

"Our culture is very precious to us. We have always lived in harmony with nature and with each other.

Now our village is full of workers coming in from other parts of Indonesia. Foreigners own the hotels and restaurants. They have pushed up the price of land to levels we could never afford.

Also we know these new hotels have brought water shortages and pollution. I don't know where all the promised money from tourists will go but I doubt it will improve our lives...."