

Paradise losing: Asia’s beaches

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>This week the Philippines will close down Boracay, its star holiday island, for six months. For years sewage has been indiscriminately dumped into the sea. Now the president calls it a "cesspool".</p> <p>Maya Bay in Thailand, the backpacker getaway depicted in the film "The Beach", is a rubble-strewn, tourist-ravaged mess with 4, 000 visitors a day. It will shut in June for four months to recover. Last year Indonesian officials declared a "garbage emergency" across a 6km stretch of Bali.</p> <p>Such man-made troubles have serious local consequences: 36, 000 jobs are at risk on Boracay, which accounts for a fifth of the country’s tourism revenues.</p> <p>Officials might experiment with capping the number of visitors or boosting fees for the most delicate tourist hotspots. Or they could divert holidaymakers to lesser-known getaways. For now, they have more immediate concerns: yesterday clean-up divers at Boracay began their work. It’s a small start.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	