Tourism can bring about many positive and negative effects within the country or across the world. That being said, I believe that the positive effects certainly outweigh the negative effects.

One of the negative effects of tourism is the adverse impact it has on the quality of life of the locals. According to Simm (2016), there is an overcrowding of public spaces and an increase in crime rates. Moreover, in accordance with The Economist (2015), Simm (2016) also states that the residents are often forced to give up their land for the development of tourist attractions and accommodation. Furthermore, both Simm (2016) and United Nations Environmental Programme (2016) highlight that there is a loss of originality of locale culture and heritage, especially when cultural sites and objects are turned into standardised consumer goods for the tourists. Cultural conflict may also arise from tourism. This is due to the tourists’ failure in understanding of and conforming to local customs and values, which often results in their culturally unacceptable behaviour and dressing, especially in highly conservative society, such as in Muslim countries (United Nations Environmental Programme, 2016). Another adverse impact of tourism is of environmental concern. Air travel leaves behind enormous carbon footprints, which is undoubtedly environmental unfriendly (The Economist, 2015). Other harmful environmental effects include overuse of water and wasting of electricity (Simm, 2016; The Economist, 2015). Alarmingly, each tourist around the world uses approximately 6,000 litres of water per day (The Economist, 2015).

However, there are also many positive effects of tourism. One undeniable outcome of tourism is that it generates a great deal of economic benefits (Karabell, 2011; The Economist, 2015). This aligns with Simm (2016) who states that tourism creates many job opportunities within or outside of the tourist industries. With a heightened income, consumer expenditure increases and businesses flourish. Government tax revenue then increases and more budget can be spent on community projects such as education, housing and healthcare. In addition, tourism also brings in investment and long term beneficial projects, such as ‘renewable-energy generation’, will then have a higher chance of being invested in (The Economist, 2015). Although tourism may bring about cultural conflict as mentioned, it is indisputable that it provides an opportunity for cultural exchange and improved cultural understanding and tolerance (Simm, 2016; The Economist, 2015). The Economist (2015) also proposed that solutions for the locals to safeguard their land and at the same time develop tourist attractions exist, such as the opening of Sandele, an eco-resort, in Gambia in 2008.

Therefore, as long as the negative effects of tourism are managed, there are certainly more positive effects arising from tourism.

(398 words, excluding in-text citations)