

The Namib Sand Sea

Over one million people visit the Namib Sand Sea every year. The beautiful natural dunes in Namibia are a treasure for this world. This world heritage site is one of the most well-kept in the world. It is a magical place that has awed not only me but also millions of other visitors. A place that should truly be experienced. One of my favorite memories which made my visit the most special trip I have ever made with my family, was sliding down the dunes. Nevertheless, tragically the Namib Sand and Sea is dealing with several climate change issues.



There are four main issues that the Namibian dunes have been challenged with. The first one is increased temperatures. The temperatures in Namibia have only been rising. This is shown since in every decade the temperature has gone up 0.2 degrees Celsius. There are multiple species of plants and creatures yet, because of the increased temperatures, these animals have been struggling to survive. Most of them are dying due to either dehydration or overheating. The increased temperatures have also caused a decrease in tourists. Since many tourists do not like extreme heat, they are not that willing to go for a 10 km hike in the burning heat and sun. This has caused a decrease in profit, making it harder to preserve the natural site. A solution for this problem would be expanding renewable energy; this means we could add solar panels and windmills which would create energy, this would reduce fossil fuels which would help the climate in Namibia.



Another issue is the change in the rainfall pattern. The Namib Sand Sea is one of the driest places in the world and its water supply is already relying on infrequent rainfall. Due to climate change the rainfall patterns have become even more infrequent which makes it even harder for the creatures and plants already in danger. It decreases the survival rate for animals and makes it hard for most plants to survive, thus, taking away the beauty of the natural world heritage site. A solution to this problem could be rainwater harvesting (RWH). This would increase the amount of water which could also be stored and used during the drier seasons.

Furthermore, a shift in the wind pattern is another issue. Due to climate change, the wind has changed its direction multiple times. This can cause the dunes to shape into another form and may even cause their destruction as one of the dunes is famous for its century-old trees surrounded by dunes. The change in wind causes the harsh sand to land on the old trees causing the world heritage site to lose its beauty and some of its purpose. A solution to this could be tree planting. The trees would act as wind breakers which would decrease the wind in the dunes. This would help save the original shape. It would also reduce the chances of sandstorms and avalanches.



The last issue is biodiversity threats, this means unique species which rely on water, may struggle to survive since fog has become less predictable. This also threatens migratory birds and other species that need specific environmental conditions. For this, we could expand the protected areas for the animals. This would protect the animals and help keep the ecosystem intact for the animals and plants. This would also give the animals more space to reproduce and decrease their chances of dying due to stress. Another way is to promote the area to receive donations from international countries.



In conclusion, there are many reasons why the Namib Sand Sea struggles however, if we use the solutions mentioned in the essay it would help save this incredibly beautiful world heritage spot.