

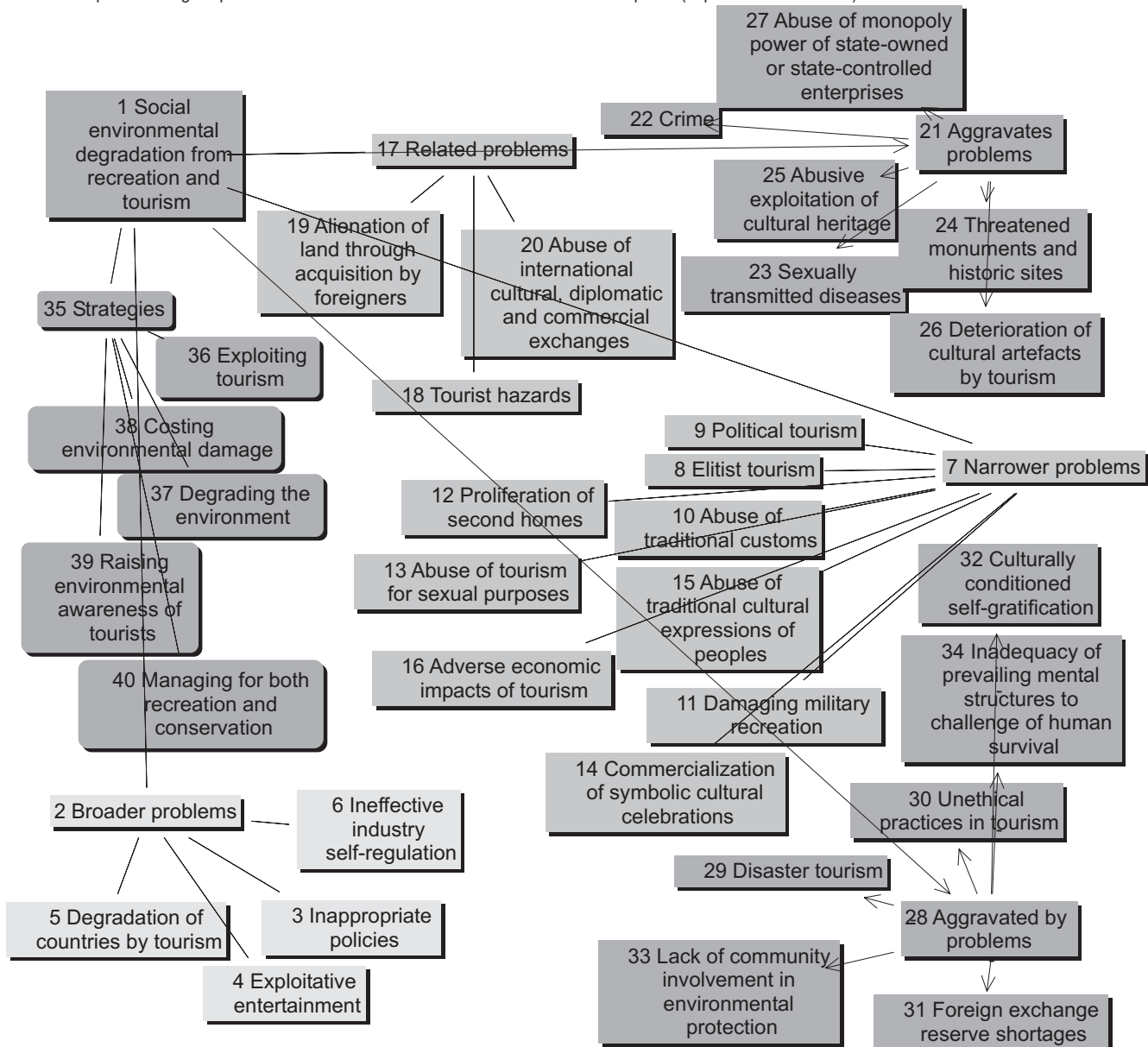
Figure 10.2.2.5.
Social environmental degradation from recreation and tourism

Database: World Problems and Issues

Link type: narrower, broader, related, aggravates, aggravated by, strategies

Network nodes: 40

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&DR=D0826> used in *Decision Explorer* (<http://www.banxia.com/>)



Excessive tourism, or the increase in the number of tourists towards a saturation level, is evidenced by: (1) diversion of land to the accommodation of tourist facilities, thus preventing its use for houses, schools and open space; (2) threat to the local employment structure by the growth of seasonal and low-paid employment needed to service the tourist industry; and (3) pressure on the general urban infrastructure, particularly transportation, through the steadily increasing (although seasonal) tourist flow. These factors alienate local residents, particularly when the tourist facilities consist of casinos and strip-shows which attract crime and prostitution. Deterioration of tourist areas is usually progressive, involving misuse of resources and spoilage of the very assets that brought the tourists in the first place. Overdevelopment drives tourists away to the next popular and unspoiled location. Social problems often accompany the growth of tourism, including: social friction arising from the importation of foreign workers; confrontation such that the better-off traveller gives orders to the less-well-off native; resentment of residents having to share services with tourists; disappearance or commercialization of local cultures and customs leading to a monotonous world non-culture of identical styles, behaviour patterns, entertainment, food, and language. Economic problems include: hindrance to the growth of a country's economy through the commitment of a large portion of the labour force to a service activity with poor productivity prospects; inflationary consequences of excessive tourist activity, in particular enormous increases in the price of basic foodstuffs and other commodities required by both the tourists and the local population; unfavourable impact on the balance of payments due to the initial investment, imports for maintenance and outward movement of profits; heavy infrastructure costs; loss of control over the economy due to the absence of fiscal regulators where taxes are low or non-existent in order to encourage foreign investment; and overdependence of an economy on one product vulnerable to changes of fashion.