This work presents the impacts the tourism activity brings to landscapes, whose concept has been thoroughly debated in Geography, and environment, which has gained world wide relevance lately. This activity, which has altered the concepts of leisure and indulgence and has become one of the running forces of global economy, has also modified physical and social environments. By narrowing the array of existing tourism activities, the work analyses the so-called second residence tourism. Heavily present in the northeast coast of Brazil, this kind of activity has gained the attention of researchers for its settling, modifying and degrading nature. Such analysis has been extracted from the Master thesis of the author and is based on the conclusions drawn from the aforementioned research project which studied the physical and environmental alterations triggered by second residence tourism in the southern coast of Paraiba, Brazil, especially in Jacuma, Carapibus and Tabatinga. This analysis is supported by literature and field research, as well as aerial photographies and satellite images of the described locations.

KEY WORDS: landscape, environment, second residence tourism, southern coast of Paraiba.