Climate Change and Tourism

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Introduction
This poster summarises a report commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-UK) and a paper prepared for the International Conference on Tourism and Hospitality at the 21st Century (11-14th January, 2000, University of Surrey). These publications review the impacts of climate change for a wide range of international holiday destinations visited by UK tourists.

The impacts of climate change on tourism are likely to manifest themselves in a number of different ways according to local conditions. The most severe impacts will result from the effects of sea-level rise on small island states and low lying coastal resorts. The Maldives and Florida, which are an increasingly popular tourist destinations, are seen as being particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise.

Climate change is expected to increase the risk of illness in several parts of the world and consequently discourage tourism. More frequent periods of extreme heat will cause discomfort in many resorts of the Eastern Mediterranean, where the number of days above 40°C is estimated to increase and Malaria has the potential to re-emerge in the Iberian Peninsula.

Case Studies
For the original report for WWF-UK, we reviewed existing literature and undertook new analyses the future potential impacts for ten tourism destinations:
- Maldives
- European Alps
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Southern Spain
- Scotland
- European Lakes
- East and South Africa
- Australia
- Florida and S.E. USA Coastline
- Brazil

The resorts and regions were chosen for a range of reasons, they are popular with British tourists (e.g. Southern Spain), they are expected to be vulnerable (e.g. the Maldives), they encompass many different sectors of the tourism industry (e.g Australia). These destinations also cover a wide stakeholder community and are geographically distributed.

Stakeholders and Partners
The stakeholder community of the tourism industry is fragmented, with different sectors experiencing varying degrees of exposure to climate change and therefore, requiring wide-ranging adaptive and mitigative responses. The broad communities of stakeholders within the tourism industry can be identified as:

a) The individual tourists
b) The service providers - travel agents, tour operators, insurance companies, hotel companies
c) The transport sector - airlines, airport authorities, rail companies, ferry companies, car rentals
d) The destination resorts - regional governments, tourism boards, local planning authorities, hoteliers, resort developers.
e) Trade Associations - e.g. ABTA, World Tourism Trade Council

For the purposes of this paper we will present three case studies the Maldives, Australia and the Mediterranean.

The Maldives
- Environment and Climate:
  - Many of the islands are less than 1 metre above sea level.
  - Globally, sea levels are estimated to rise at a rate of 4-10cm per decade.
  - The Maldives have the potential to disappear completely due to rising sea levels.

- Tourism:
  - The tourism industry is critical to the economy of the Maldives.
  - Climate change is likely to have significant impacts on the tourism industry.

Australia
- Environment and Climate:
  - Southern Australia is one of the most affected regions in the world.
  - Summer temperatures are expected to increase by 1-3°C by 2020, 3-4°C by 2050 and 4-5°C by 2080.
  - Coastal erosion, salinity intrusion and loss of agriculture are expected impacts.

- Tourism:
  - Australia is a popular tourist destination.
  - The tourism industry is expected to be significantly affected by climate change.

Southern Iberia and the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Environment and Climate:
  - Climate change is affecting many areas of Southern Iberia and the Eastern Mediterranean.
  - Increased temperatures and sea-level rise are expected.

- Tourism:
  - Many tourist activities are affected by climate change.
  - The tourism industry is expected to be significantly affected by climate change.

Further Reading and References
Cannell MGR, Palutikof JP and Sparks TH (eds.). 1999. Indicators of Climate Change and Its Impacts on Tourism Publ. CRU UEA Reports and Papers

Climate Change and Its Impacts on Tourism. Int. J. Tourism and Hospitality Res. (submitted).

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