

Climate change adaptation in the tourism sector

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This presentation provides a general introduction to the concept of climate change adaptation in the tourism sector. First, it provides details on the concepts of mitigation and adaptation, the latter is defined by the IPCC as "adjustments in natural or human systems in response to current and future climate stimuli and their effects. Next, the work focuses on the tourism sector and the impacts that climate change can generate. With regard to snow tourism and especially the practice of skiing, the Catalan case indicates how the ski areas of certain mountainous areas of the Pyrenees, especially those at low altitudes and / or oriented to the South, can become the first negative manifestations of climate change in this area. The production of so-called "artificial snow" is the most common adaptive measure, but under certain scenarios of increasing temperature it may be insufficient, so it is recommended to develop other activities that involve the transformation of ski resorts into mountain resorts, in order to deseasonalize the activity. In relation to sun and beach tourism, the expected increase in temperatures doesn't seem to represent a significant impact on Catalan destinations. However, other impacts of climate change such as the increase in coastal storms (with destruction of beaches) or the increase in drought episodes can be very negative for these destinations, so it is also necessary to promote adaptive measures such as coastal protection or desalination to ensure the continuity of destinations.

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