

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON TOURISM AND CHALLENGES

The Brazilian Scenario

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Several tourism destinations around the world are already trying the effects of climate change, which poses challenges to the current paradigm of development and operationalization of tourism. Based on this premise, this paper presents the main impacts that climate change can generate in world tourism and especially in Brazil, with scenarios for the most important destinations for tourism in the country, which has in the coastal region the main attraction for national tourists and foreigners. Cities with high tourism demand such as Balneário Camboriú, and the cities of Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Santos are likely to suffer flooding due to sea level rise and more intense and frequent storms, with possible landslides, flash floods, besides periods of extreme drought, causing water scarcity. The storm surges should progressively reach the structures built on cost, causing socioeconomic impacts and destabilization in the tourism system. Coastal and marine environments are among the most popular areas for tourism and outdoor recreation, making tourism one of the most sensitive areas to climatic variability. That imposes enormous challenge to Brazil, which concentrates two-thirds of the tourist flow in the coastal region. The lack of studies is another issue that challenges the country, since it poses a bar to the development of adaptation measures to cope with extreme climate impacts in the present and future.

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