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Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Tourism Sector:

Frameworks, Tools and Practices

United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP MANUALS ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU TOURISME
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مُنظمة السَّيَاحَة العَالَمِيَة



World
Meteorological
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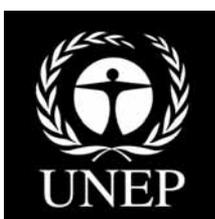
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Bleached Brain Coral
Credit: Dr Murray C Simpson

Foreword

The tourism industry has a key role to play in confronting the challenges of climate change. The spectacular growth of tourism provides both a challenge and an opportunity. The tourist community itself has responded to this challenge over the past few years and visibly stepped up its response to climate change. There is now a clear understanding that the industry can be part of the solution to climate change, by reducing its green house gas emissions as well as by helping the communities where tourism represents a major economic source to prepare for and adapt to the changing climate.

Building on the results of the 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism (October 2007) and the “Davos Declaration” this publication responds to an urgent request expressed by many governments, businesses and NGOs: “to provide practical guidance and capacity building for climate change adaptation and mitigation practices in the tourism sector”.

This publication, combined with a comprehensive series of international and regional seminars, is designed to provide a pragmatic platform to strengthen the capacity of professionals to understand and respond effectively to the global challenges of climate change in tourism destinations. It is a critical part of the wider UN response to climate change.

We hope that this publication will support efforts to mainstream climate change considerations into tourism planning and management. We further believe that the tourism sector, through its major contribution to global development, can influence other sectors by sending important signals to governments, industries and the public that climate mitigation and adaptation measures are not only vital for our future, but also make economic sense today.



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Wind Turbines
Credit: UNEP



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