



Special Session Proposal

Coastal tourism development. Opportunity or threat?

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Abstract

Coastal areas are transitional areas between the land and sea characterized by a very high biodiversity. They include some of the richest and most fragile ecosystems on earth, like mangroves and coral reefs. At the same time, coastal areas are those which are most visited by tourists and in many coastal areas tourism presents the most important economic activity. Coastal destinations are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and need to prepare comprehensive strategies related to climate mitigation and adaptation that involve all tourism stakeholders and the entire value chain, based on quantitative and qualitative policies, actions and indicators.

The triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution, as well as external disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic and growing geopolitical conflicts are increasing threats for the tourism industry globally.

The current session's aim is to collect ideas and proposals analyzing the effects of tourism in coastal areas and developing methodologies, proposals, and projects for sustainable tourism development in coastal areas.

More generally, the topics of the present session are the following:

- Mass tourism in coastal areas.
- Over tourism and carrying capacity in coastal zones.
- New policies in coastal zones tourism development.
- Spatial forms of coastal tourism development.
- Shifting from mass to sustainable tourism development in coastal areas.
- Participatory planning and coastal tourism development.