



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

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Working session E

Tourism



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Impacts and vulnerability

- **Coastal areas (esp. Mediterranean):** freshwater scarcity, coastal wetlands and lagoons (ecosystem changes), erosion, increasing fire risks
- **Mountain regions:** lack of snow, reduced snow cover and reliability (esp. in lower altitudes), avalanche risk, flooding, lack of water for snow making
- **Urban areas:** flooding, water scarcity
- **Freshwater bodies:** lake water quality and quantity, ecosystem changes

Adaptation options

- **Water use: Implement water saving strategies and techniques, water recycling (esp. for irrigation), tourist awareness and education, staff training and Environmental Management Systems**
- **Diversify to spread tourism in time and space (seasonality, congestion, water demand): promote low and shoulder seasons, develop products and activities for these periods (e.g. spa, fitness-wellness, cultural and natural offer, etc.) and marketing strategies to promote them**
- **Infrastructure: water reservoirs, de-salinization (but: sustainability questionable due to high energy use and effluents)**
- **Flood defence**
- **Early warning and emergency response systems in tourism destinations**
- **Improve use of climate information application in tourism (for tourists, tourism service providers, authorities)**



Policies, instruments

- **Establish water use priorities between sectors**
- **Increase water use efficiency through water pricing (to reflect real costs, user-pays-principle according to use types in different sectors, quotas?)- Water Framework Directive**
- **Public-private-partnership**
- **Incorporate water issues in tourism carrying capacity assessments**
- **Promote voluntary schemes in tourism facilities (eco-labels, auditing, corporate environmental policies, Environmental Management Systems-EMS) as further tools for adaptation**
- **Incorporate water adaptation issues in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) of tourist infrastructures**



Integrated policy approaches

- **Integrate tourism sector stakeholders in river-basin management structures (committees)**
- **Implement climate-change adaptation measures suggested in the Action Plan developed by the EC Tourism Sustainability Group**
- **Integrate climate change factors into national and local tourism policies**
- **EU Water Policy**
 - **Water Framework Directive**
 - **Flood Risk Management Directive**
 - **EU Maritime Strategy**
- **Habitats Directive/Natura 2000: tourism application**



Research needs

- **Climate change impacts on demand patterns**
- **Meaning of SRES scenarios for European tourism, policy responses**
- **Improving climate information in the tourism sector: short-term seasonal forecasts (cooperation between tourism sector and Met Services)**
- **Develop risk assessment methods (cost-benefit analysis, specific for segments, markets, investment guidelines, insurance; climate change projections for the mid-term 10-20 years, in line with tourism infrastructure investments)**