



University of Brighton

TRAVEL & TOURISM IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: Robust Findings, Key Uncertainties¹ 9th-10th July 2009



7th International Symposium on Tourism and Sustainability Conference Announcement and Call for Papers



Conference Convenors:

Peter Burns, Marina Novelli (University of Brighton) and Lyn Bibbings (Oxford Brookes University)

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Travel & Tourism in the Age of Climate Change: Robust Findings, Key Uncertainties¹

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The quantitative data supporting the idea of climate change is beyond doubt. Natural scientists, climatologists and meteorologists have produced a series of reports detailing the science and the ways in which global temperature and weather patterns are changing as a response to greenhouse gas emissions generated by human activity. Social scientists are needed to translate these grim warnings into understandable statements that we as citizens can act upon in terms of mitigation and alleviation.

At a time of increasing mobility, ease of travel and the emergence of new destinations, tourism is both a victim of, and contributor to climate change. However, this symbiotic relationship remains shrouded in fuzzy data, myths and mystery. Given that the industry servicing 'people on the move' is central to most economies and cultures, the option to 'give up' tourism is simply not tenable. Responsive actions must be identified to enable travel and tourism to deliver the peak experiences that tourists seek, but with a lower carbon footprint.

The conference aims to bring together practitioners, academics and other stakeholders to explore the reciprocal relationship between travel, tourism, and climate change. The question is: Can our industry take a leadership role in tackling climate change?

Industry perspectives, full papers, presentations, work in progress, and posters are invited under the following themes:

- Innovative approaches in adaptation and mitigation processes and protocols
- Reducing 'Hotspot' Vulnerability (i.e. destinations affected by and /or dependent on tourism)
- Emerging generating and receiving countries
- The controversial nature of Media and Marketing
- Supply Chain contributors (i.e. tour operators, airlines and other means of transport, accommodation, attractions, tourism corporations and local producers)
- Educational providers (i.e. capacity building and knowledge management)
- The role of Destination Management Organizations (DMOs)
- The role of NGOs

We are particularly interested in strategic approaches to bridging the gaps between climate change and poverty alleviation (i.e. is it possible to capture the inevitable changes in the shape of tourism over the coming decades to the benefit of the developing/ majority world?)

We are working on:

- Major international speakers
- Videoconferencing facilities
- Workshops aimed at solution-seeking
- International partners
- Reducing/ minimising the event's carbon footprint by off-setting

TIMELINES

1st April 2009: Abstracts (\pm 250 words)

1st June 2009: Completed conference papers, posters, working papers and presentations

Presenters will be invited to have their papers published in an edited volume.

For inquiries and further information, please email:
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¹ 'Robust findings, key uncertainties' is the title of topic 6 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Change: Synthesis Report 2007.