

Tourism



Tourism sector is exposed to numerous direct and indirect impacts from climate change. Sea-level rise and more acidic oceans threaten coastal tourism infrastructure and natural attractions. Climate change will also lead to changes in biodiversity, affecting Eco-tourism.

Importance of Tourism Sector

- Tourism is one of the world's largest industry, accounting for some 9% of global GDP. It provides livelihoods to more than 255 million people worldwide
- In Mauritius, the tourism industry accounted for 12% of the total GDP in 2014, and is expected to rise
- However tourism also contributes to global carbon dioxide emissions ranging from 3.9% to 6% of human emissions



Impacts

- Decrease in tourist arrivals due to changing weather conditions and patterns, degradation of pristine natural attractions and damage to infrastructure
- Disruption of land, sea and air transport to facilities
- 2°C of global warming by 2050-2100 and ocean acidification will cause reef structures to degrade
- Rising temperatures will affect biodiversity

Adaptation Options

- Ensure coastal protection
- Implement non-structural (e.g. shore and beach management) and structural interventions (e.g. hard shoreline protection structures like groynes and detached breakwaters)
- Promote eco-tourism
- Promote public awareness and sensitization:
 - Corals should not be removed from the lagoon and the beaches
 - Do not litter on the beaches and in the lagoon
 - Do not destroy habitats of the marine fauna

