



## **Climate change impacts on tourism in Slovenia and corresponding adaptation strategies**

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Climate change is taking place and adaptation to changing environment is needed. Although public opinion perceives increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events as the main threat, also observed temperature trends, more frequent green winters and mostly negative precipitation trends are representing a very strong motivation to react to environmental change. Up to a few years ago emphasis was mostly on mitigation, only recently the need to adapt and to reduce vulnerability has been recognized among stakeholders and politicians. In this regards tourism industry is not an exception.

There are several potential impacts that should be carefully studied and appropriate response measures to be developed taking into account the interactions with other economic sectors. Among the most widely recognized threats are: increased frequency of heat waves and flash floods, land-slides and severe thunderstorms, increasing frequency of green winters, reduced period suitable for ski making, changes in ecosystems and changes compromising the fragile habitat of some rare or unique species.

More indirect, but not less important, impacts could be expected due to changes in precipitation regime, and consequently lower ground-water level and worse quality, that would impact drinking water availability. Also warmer upper water layers and decreased river discharge could result in poorer water quality, but can also enable certain sport and recreation activities. Insects could spread towards larger areas, and foreign species could find our environment suitable for propagation, affecting level of safety. Droughts could result in lower crop quality and affect local vegetation, therefore mak-

ing the landscape less appealing. Response strategies to all these threats have to be developed and integrated into national adaptation strategies. Careful harmonisation of measures among different economic sectors is mandatory in order to avoid negative impacts of effective adaptation measures of one of the sectors on the other sectors. Potential response strategies and measures tailored to the specific features of the tourism industry will be presented in this paper.