

**MANAGING RISK
CLIMATE CHANGE**

CLIMATECHECK

Developing a Climate
Change Strategy
for Tourism
Destinations



AUGUST 2018

CLIMATE CHANGE - AN ISSUE FOR EVERY DESTINATION!

The World Economic Forum has identified climate change as one of the major global risks facing the future of our planet. The past decade has served to build an awareness of the significant impacts that climate change has on the travel and tourism industry. Future mitigation and adaption strategies need to be developed at a destination wide level to address extreme weather events, the depletion of natural resources and the transition towards a decarbonised economy.

The ClimateCheck Toolkit provides a timely, practical resource to help destinations both gain an understanding of their readiness to address climate change and the action that can be undertaken to help their industry to respond to climate risks and opportunities.

Use the toolkit ([access here](#)) to identify areas for potential improvement in your current management practices and to discover hands on solutions, strategies and plans for action.

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Access Online
Toolkit Here

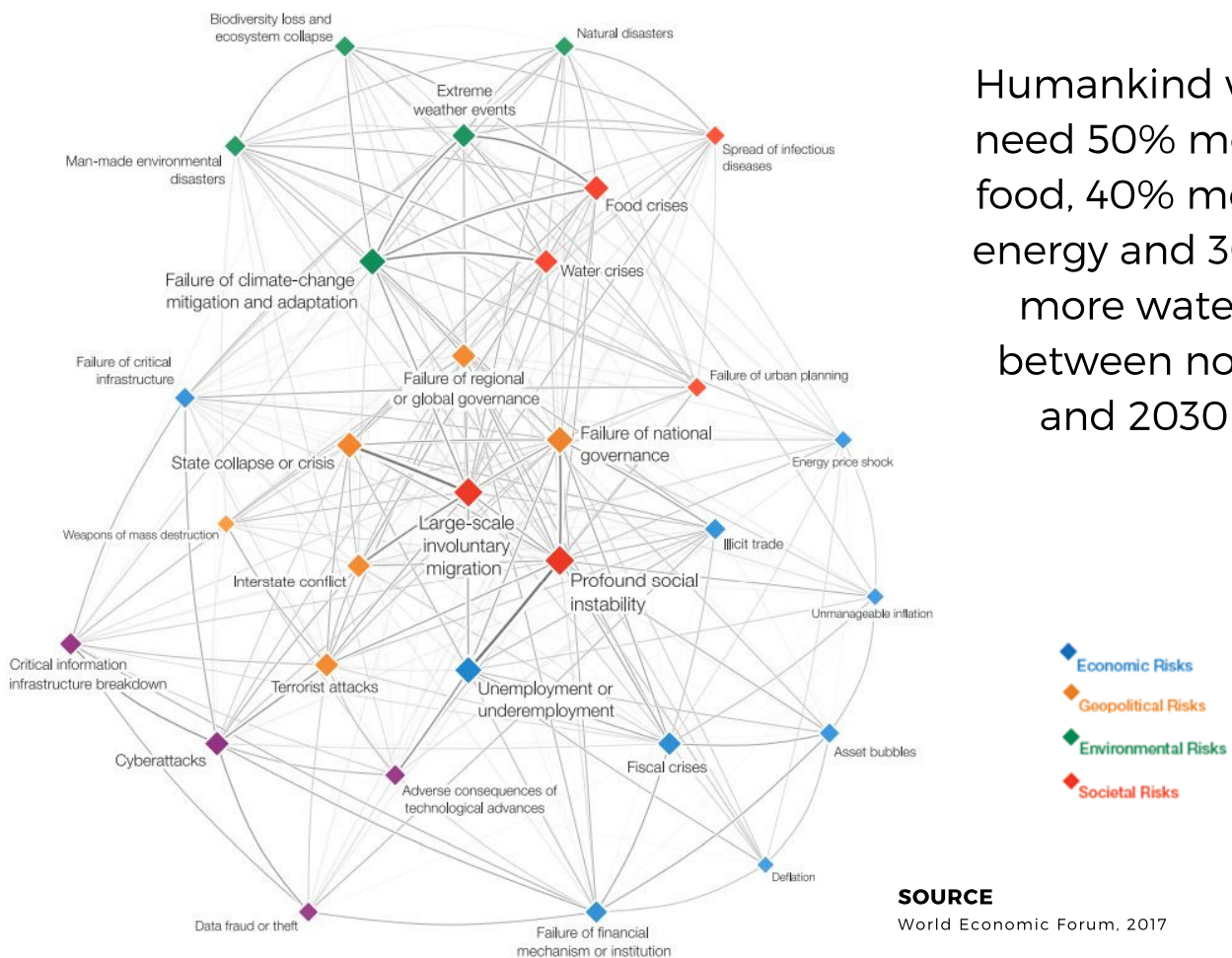


THE BIG PICTURE

TOURISM IS NOT A SILO

Tourist destinations are embedded in the bigger systems of communities, environments, resource cycles, sociological changes and economies.

Humankind will need 50% more food, 40% more energy and 30% more water between now and 2030



SOURCE
World Economic Forum, 2017

THE NEED

WHY YOU NEED A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR YOUR DESTINATION



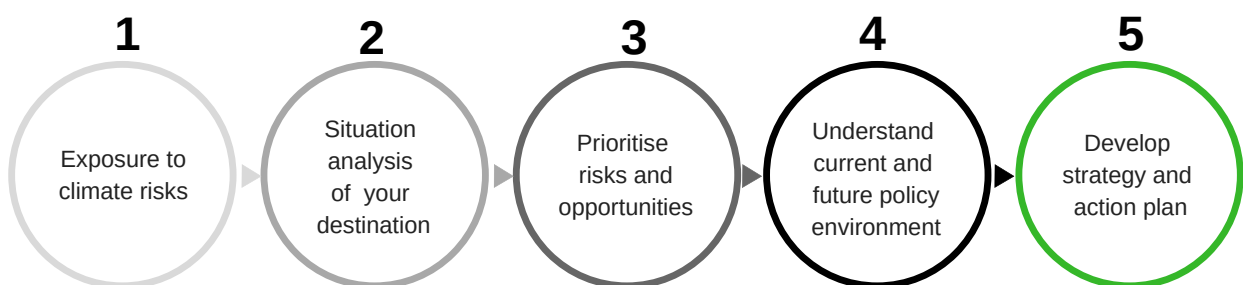
The tourism industry is vulnerable and often unprepared to manage climate risks. Against a background of record growth in global tourism, and already-observed and future climatic changes, it is clear the later the sector responds, the costlier it becomes and the more challenging it is to capitalise on economic, environmental and social benefits associated with new ways of doing business.

The development of a climate change strategy provides an opportunity for your destination to collaborate and take stock of current activities and resource use, identify the main climate risks and possible impacts, and describe a clear vision to ensure the future of the industry in a changing climate and low-carbon economic landscape.

Are you prepared?

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



Developing a climate change strategy for your destination requires multiple steps. To understand the highest priority risks and the destinations' preparedness it is important to consult with a wide range of stakeholders involved in tourism. Extensive consultation also ensures that your destination owns the strategy and sees the benefits of responding proactively to climate change.



Climate change is everyone's business.

1: EXPOSURE TO CLIMATE RISK

Not all tourism sub-sectors and destinations will be affected equally by climate change, and each destination is different. There are different types of risk:

- > Physical risks and impacts;
- > Legal and reputational risks; and
- > Market risks, including from increasing carbon costs.

Opportunities arise from improved resource efficiency, enhanced resilience, increased competitive advantage and new business potential.



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1. Do you measure and collect data on climate change?
2. Has a risk assessment been conducted in the last 3 years?
3. Do you have a crisis and risk management plan in place?
4. Do you have a destination water plan in place?
5. Do you have an energy conservation plan in place?

Yes No

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Obtain data on current and future climate changes



WATER 126KL PER PERSON

The EarthCheck Certified destination of Huatulco has 5 water treatment plants, which take up all waste water produced by the tourist zone and urban areas. Treated water is used to irrigate green spaces as well as golf courses and hotels. Huatulco also maintains and monitors quality and supply of water to the community and encourages hotels to employ sustainable practices.

2: SITUATION ANALYSIS

UNDERSTANDING THE STRUCTURE OF TOURISM AT THE DESTINATION IS KEY TO UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY

How can climate action support destination management and its brand?



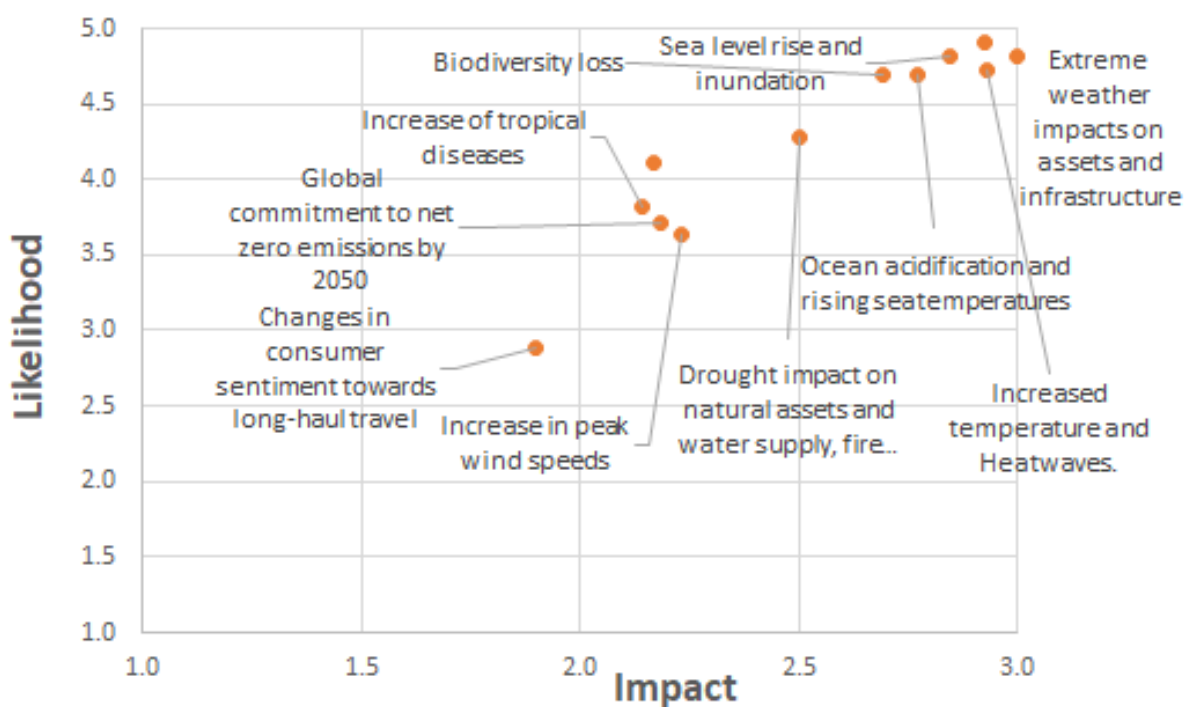
ClimateCheck

1. What is the economic contribution of tourism to your region?
 2. Who are the key players and what is the 'make up' of the tourism industry (e.g. small or large businesses)?
 3. What are the iconic experiences?
 4. What are the main natural resources on which the industry depends?
 5. What is the carbon intensity of the current tourism industry?
 6. What is the level of climate change awareness?
 8. What are the key markets and how 'future proof' are they?
 9. What policies are in place that enable climate change responses?
 10. What is the level of innovation in the industry?
-

3: STAKEHOLDER PRIORITISATION

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FIRST!

Use the measures of 'Importance of Impact' and 'Likelihood of Impact' to workshop key risks and opportunities specific to your destination. Different groups of stakeholders may have different views.



ClimateCheck

Yes No

1. Have you compiled a list of all key stakeholders in your Destination?
2. Have stakeholders been consulted on climate change?
3. Have you prioritised key climate risks for your Destination?

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4: ENABLING POLICIES

The tourism industry sits within the broader environment of policy-making and investment. Usually, there are already a number of strategies and initiatives that support climate responses in your region, and tourism will benefit indirectly from most of them.

Examples are:

- > Decarbonising transport
- > Renewable energy strategies
- > Resilience focused programs
- > Environmental certification and procurement

Your destination will also have to develop tourism-specific policies and support programs, including for carbon measurement, green investment, insurance cover, product development, environmental protection and other areas relevant to the destination.



What tools are available to tourism businesses?



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Yes No

1. In your destination, do you understand what climate change plans/strategies already exist?

☐☐

2. Do you have specific policies in place for managing tourism?

☐☐

5: PREPARING THE STRATEGY

The strategy provides a roadmap for addressing the risks and opportunities arising from climate change. The vision is underpinned by clearly articulated goals. The strategy understands what the most important issues are and what barriers need to be overcome to future-proof your destination.

The strategy needs to be underpinned by an Action Plan. This plan outlines specific actions and initiatives. It allocates responsibilities and provides time frames for implementation. The plan is operationalised in a collaborative way by all destination stakeholders.



ClimateCheck

Yes

No

1. Has a Climate Change Risk assessment plan prepared?
2. Is a Climate Change Management and Adaption plan in place?

☐
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☐

TAKING ACTION

After completion of ClimateCheck, take time to reflect on your findings with your key stakeholders. Review your answers to the questions, paying attention to the questions you could not answer.

If you have not been able to answer the questions and require assistance, EarthCheck has a wide range of services and products available to you. Outlined below are the types of assistance that can be provided.

1. Climate Change Risk Assessment
2. Situation Analysis & Prioritisation of Risks and Opportunities
3. Review Policies & Develop a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

In addition, we provide the following services:

1. Destination Planning including Risk & Crisis Management Plan
2. Community and Stakeholder Consultation
3. Benchmarking Energy Management & Carbon Reporting in the Destination
4. Business Planning & Marketing Support

To find out more contact EarthCheck at info@earthcheck.org or call on +61 7 3238 1900

Partners



This guide has been prepared by Prof Susanne Becken from the Griffith Institute for Tourism, Griffith University Australia. It summarises the key steps that were followed to develop the Climate Change Response Plan for the Queensland tourism industry.

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