

Academic Weekly Digest

School of Hospitality & Tourism Management



Have declarations on tourism and climate change brought us any closer to meaningful climate action?

By declaring a climate emergency and pledging strong support of the Paris Climate Agreement, the tourism sector is answerable for a commensurate action agenda. A review of the 2021 *Glasgow Declaration on tourism climate action* found it *wanting*, with few themes and recommended actions not introduced in previous declarations over a decade ago.

From Djerba to Glasgow: have declarations on tourism and climate change brought us any closer to meaningful climate action?

Prof Daniel Scott

The 2020s are considered by the scientific community and United Nations (UN) to be the decisive decade in humanity's quest to avoid dangerous global climate change. In 2021, the tourism sector responded to this critical moment with the *Glasgow Declaration: A Commitment to a Decade of Tourism Climate Action*. As the third such declaration in 20 years, we must ask whether this new declaration brings the sector closer to an action agenda commensurate with the climate crisis. A critical comparison made by Profs Daniel Scott and Stefan Gössling of the Declarations found two notable advances: 1) specific emission reduction targets and timelines, and 2) requirement of signatories to submit an organization level climate action plan and report on progress. This well-intentioned commitment to bottom-up action and transparency is applauded! However, if you attended the Davos (2007) or Djerba (2003) conferences as we did, you may have experienced a sense of déjà vu as there are few themes and recommended actions that were not introduced over a decade ago.



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As the world
now convenes
at the 27th UN
Climate
Conference in
Sharm El
Sheikh, Egypt it
is critical that
we review the
climate action
plans
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Developing specific mechanisms for collective action to alter the growth trajectory of sector emissions and advance the integration of climate change into tourism policy and planning must be the focus of signatories going forward. A new era of climate resilient global tourism development requires that everything we do as a sector going forward must pass the climate compatibility test.

Further Reading:

Scott, D. & Gössling, S. (2022). From Djerba to Glasgow: Have Declarations on Tourism and Climate Change Brought Us Any Closer to Meaningful Climate Action? *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*

Link: bit.ly/3NxuGGb