

Special Session (SS14) on:
*Sustainable Practices and Climate Change Impacts:
Challenges and Pathways for the Tourism Sector*

Organizers:

Laurentina Vareiro (Chair)

UNIAG, Lab2PT and Polytechnic University of Cávado and Ave (IPCA), Barcelos, Portugal,
lvareiro@ipca.pt

Paula Remoaldo

Lab2PT - Landscape, Heritage and Territory Laboratory, Institute of Social Sciences,
University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, premoaldo@geografia.uminho.pt

Hélder Lopes

Lab2PT - Landscape, Heritage and Territory Laboratory, Institute of Social Sciences,
University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, helderlopes@geografia.uminho.pt

The aim and scope:

This special session aims to examine sustainable practices in the tourism sector alongside the impacts of climate change on tourist destinations. Tourism plays a central role in regional and local development but also generates significant environmental, social, and economic pressures. At the same time, climate change is reshaping tourism patterns and destination viability through rising temperatures, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and changing seasonal conditions.

The session seeks to bring together research that explores how sustainable practices in tourism can reduce environmental impacts, support local communities, and enhance the long-term competitiveness of tourist destinations, while also addressing the challenges of climate change. Particular attention will be given to adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted by tourism businesses, destinations, and public authorities, as well as their effectiveness across different territorial contexts.

The session welcomes both theoretical and empirical contributions that provide innovative insights, methodologies, and case studies. The main research areas of this Special Session are the following topics:

1. Sustainable Practices in the Tourism Sector;
2. Environmental, Social, and Economic Dimensions of Tourism Sustainability;
3. Climate Change Impacts on Tourist Destinations;
4. Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies in Tourism;
5. Climate Change and Destination Competitiveness;
6. Sustainable Tourism in Climate-Vulnerable Territories;
7. Governance and Policy Frameworks for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Tourism;

SUBMIT ABSTRACT