



Glasgow Declaration

Climate Action in Tourism



Recommended Actions, Examples by Pathway

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Acknowledgments

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based on a decision of the German Bundestag

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Introduction to the Recommended Actions

The **Glasgow Declaration** signatories support the global commitment to achieve a 50% emissions reduction in tourism operations by 2030 and to reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050. To achieve these overarching goals, signatories are expected to publish a climate action plan, or to update an existing plan by integrating climate action elements or aligning its targets with those in the Glasgow Declaration.

This document outlines a series of initial recommended example actions to help signatories understand what to include in their plan. The recommended actions are intended to provide a starting point for signatories to design an ambitious and effective climate action plan that is tailored to the unique circumstances of their organisation. While the actions can help indicate the overall scope of possible activities, they are not exhaustive.

The actions are categorised according to the five pathways of the Glasgow Declaration: **Measure, Decarbonise, Regenerate, Collaborate, and Finance**. For each action, it is also indicated

- for which stakeholder(s) the action may be most applicable and implementable with a ●
- for which stakeholder(s) it would be applicable for specific project implementation activities and/or investments with a ○

Many of the actions have been marked as relevant for multiple stakeholder groups, highlighting the need for widespread collaboration to advance a rapid and just transition towards a sustainable tourism sector.

Further resources and tools that signatories can use to draft their plans are available on the Glasgow Declaration website [here](#) hosted by the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme.

ID	Recommended Action	Pathway	Pathway with Subcategory	Governmental and Institutional Agencies	International Organisations	Financial Institutions and Donors	Civil Society Organisations	Private Sector	Academic Institutions
1	Ensure policy alignment integrating climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, and pollution concerns in tourism policies, strategies, and initiatives	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance	●	●	●	●	●	●
2	Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations into business strategies	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance		○	○		●	
3	Promote domestic and intra-regional tourism to reduce emissions, in particular from transport	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	○	○	●	●	
4	Collaborate with the tourism value chain to implement innovative business models to improve circularity	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management/ New Business Models	○	○	○	○	●	○

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5	Provide accurate and non-misleading information, including for advertising and marketing purposes, on climate impact of tourism, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon offset activities to allow consumers to make informed decisions ¹	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	●	●	●	●	●	●
6	Provide tourism stakeholders with access to tools and resources required to upskill and address knowledge gaps. For example: a) Develop and/or provide education and trainings on sustainable tourism, including exploring cooperation with academic institutions b) Ensure access to available tools and technologies c) Facilitate access to financing sources and investments d) Allocate budget resources required for sustainability actions	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	●	●	●	●	●	●

¹ United Nations Environment Programme (2020). Consumer Information Tools and Climate Change: Facilitating low-carbon choices in Tourism, Buildings and Food Systems - Guidance for Policy Makers and Business Leaders. <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/33384>.

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7	Use video conferencing for meetings and conferences	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	●	●	●	●	●
8	Follow participatory processes when developing climate action plans with local communities and visitors to leverage their feedback and knowledge	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	○	○	○	●	○
9	Encourage cooperative and participatory management models (destination or climate action models) with local communities and visitors	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance	●	○	○	○	●	○
10	Ensure the needs of vulnerable and/or marginalised groups are accounted for in the development and implementation of climate action plans	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance	●	○	○	○	●	○

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11	Collaborate and foster interdisciplinary, multi-level partnerships to address knowledge gaps on climate change impacts and strategies for adaptation and mitigation	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	●	●	●	●	●	●
12	Increase awareness and communication among tourists and visitors on environmental impacts of the sector to help individuals choose sustainable, low-impact travel options and tourism activities	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	●	●	●	●	●
13	Collaborate with farmers who apply sustainable agriculture practices to integrate practices into contractual arrangements	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	○	○	○	○	●	○
14	Promote and support integration and alignment of national tourism strategies with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance	●	●	●	●	●	●

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15	Undertake studies to assess impacts of climate change on tourism. For example, carrying capacity, availability of resources locally, and identifying tourism facilities in areas that are vulnerable to climate change	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	●	●	●	○	○	●
16	Promote diversified tourist attractions and products as alternatives to identified vulnerable destinations	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	●	●	●	●	●
17	Advocate for and introduce risk reduction and risk transfer mechanisms for climate-induced disasters affecting tourism. For example: a) Strengthen early warning systems and capacity building in most vulnerable tourism destinations b) Ensure coastal rehabilitation and protection measures in critical areas	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	●	●	●	●	●

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c) Expand development of coastal tourism zonal planning covering all vulnerable coastal areas in cooperation with affected stakeholders									
18	Assess and identify business climate risks and map out the avoided losses, economic benefits, and social and environmental benefits of adaptation measures taken in areas prone to high climate change impacts (within own operations and along the value chain)	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	○	○	○	○	●	○
19	Implement adaptation measures to ensure business continuity in cooperation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. related to physical climate risks)	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	●	●	●	●	●	●

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20	Identify key suppliers to measure scope 3 emissions generated by the tourism value chain	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21	Adopt an internal carbon price for operations and strategic planning decisions	Finance	Finance/ Business Model					<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
22	Set-up financial mechanisms to encourage implementation of circular business models, adoption of energy efficient technologies, electric vehicles, and improved waste management infrastructure and technology	Finance	Finance/ Business Model	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
23	Invest in and support sustainable transport infrastructure to encourage greener travel choices (e.g. high-speed rail links, public EV charging points, cycle lanes, pedestrianised city centres etc.)	Finance	Finance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			

ID	Recommended Action	Pathway	Pathway with Subcategory	Governmental and Institutional Agencies	International Organisations	Financial Institutions and Donors	Civil Society Organisations	Private Sector	Academic Institutions
24	Adopt and implement sustainable and circular procurement for tourism goods and services (e.g. cooling systems in buildings, plastics, electronics)	Finance	Finance/ Business Model	●	○	○	○	●	○
25	Develop climate inclusive insurance schemes for risk management in tourism	Finance	Finance/ Business Model	●	●	●	●	●	●
26	Measure the overall greenhouse gas emissions footprint of tourism value chains (scopes 1-3) ² and publicly report emissions reduction progress against established targets	Measure	Measure	●	○	○	○	●	

² Please see a list of general emission conversions at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a03.pdf> (annex III, page 25)

CO² is the reference; it has a global warming potential (GWP) of 1.

A variety of global and national tools and guidelines exist to help convert some or all GHG emissions into a CO²-equivalent (CO²e), e.g. IEA, UNEP, WRI, Australia, UK, US, Mexico. It is recommended to first verify whether a national GHG emissions accounting and reporting system exists.

Please see also for measurement of key tourism value chain impacts the UNEP GHG and Resource Efficiency Tool (to be published by end of 2021).

UNEP is providing specific national conversion rates currently for its project pilot countries in the Philippines and Dominican Republic. The information will be published by end of 2021.

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27	Encourage, enable, and support all businesses and destinations to measure and disclose emissions according to best practice guidelines, such as those available on the One Planet Network website	Measure	Measure	●	●	●	●	●	●
28	Identify the value chain emission impact (scope 3) to account for and act on emissions reduction and avoidance activities upstream (suppliers) and downstream (customer/visitors) throughout the value chain	Measure	Measure	●	○	○	○	●	○
29	Collect (and share) data on indicators of state of nature, social disruption and economic situation in tourism destinations (e.g. pollution accumulation, overtourism, species extinction risk) to inform impact assessments of current practices and planned climate action	Measure	Measure	●	●	●	●	●	●

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30	Adopt and implement widespread food waste monitoring and reduction measures in kitchens	Measure	Measure	●			●	●	
31	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other atmospheric pollutants from tourism value chain operations	Reduce	Reduce - General	●	○	○	○	●	
32	Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency in its use	Reduce	Reduce - Energy	●				●	
33	Increase the use of renewable energy	Reduce	Reduce - Energy	●	○	○	○	●	
34	Share and/or develop mobility services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Reduce	Reduce - Transport	●	○	○	○	●	

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35	Reduce waste generation through implementation of circular processes (reduction, recycling, re-use etc.) and improve waste management practices to aim for zero waste sent to landfill	Reduce	Reduce - Materials	●	○	○	○	●	○
36	Reduce food waste and losses through collaboration between the tourism and food value chains	Reduce	Reduce - Food	○	○	○	○	●	●
37	Arrange for flexible and staggered working arrangements for staff	Reduce	Reduce - Transport	●	●	●	●	●	●
38	Adopt and implement sustainable procurement practices for food, especially for products with high climate impact and potential impacts to key ecosystems	Reduce	Reduce - Food	●				●	

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39	Improve energy efficiency in buildings via measures such as improved insulation for new and existing buildings, heat pumps, energy-efficient appliances, and bioclimatic and material-efficient building design	Reduce	Reduce - Energy	●	○	○	○	●	
40	Tackle plastic pollution through a circular approach to the management of plastic packaging and items, with a focus on elimination, transition to reuse models, and sustainable procurement guidelines	Reduce	Reduce - Materials	●	○	○	○	●	
41	Transition towards an electric fleet (electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles)	Reduce	Reduce - Transport					●	
42	Set lower heating temperatures in buildings and default cooling temperatures for air conditioning units to reduce excessive thermal demand	Reduce	Reduce - Energy	●				●	

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43	Introduce congestion pricing and targeted interventions differentiated by vehicle type, such as charges aimed at highly polluting vehicles, or preferential parking for clean cars	Reduce	Reduce - Transport	●					
44	Shift usage and investment towards less energy-intensive fuel types, especially in the aviation and cruise sectors (e.g. invest in sustainable aviation fuel supply chains, identify and increase usage of biofuels that perform equally well in terms of their climate, ecosystem, energy security, and social impacts throughout their life cycle)	Reduce	Reduce - Energy	●	●	●	●	●	●
45	Engage with the tourism value chain to identify solutions to address emissions from air travel, such as eliminating subsidies for kerosene, or landing charges tiered to support cleaner aviation	Reduce	Reduce - General	●	●	●	●	●	●

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46	Reduce water consumption and improve efficiency in its use	Reduce	Reduce	●				●	
47	Adopt standards, tender specifications for energy-efficient technologies and appliances with recommended minimum performance standards	Reduce	Reduce	●	○	○	○	●	○
48	Invest in the implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions which sustainably manage, protect and restore ecosystems (e. g. ecosystem restoration and reforestation, oceans/reef conservation) ³	Regenerate	Regenerate	●	○	○	○	●	

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49	Mainstream nature-based solutions and finance within climate-related tourism policy and governance processes (e.g. Nationally Determined Contributions, low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, business plans)	Regenerate	Regenerate	●	○	○	○	●	○
50	Use ecosystem-based adaptation methods to protect tourism destinations from climate hazards (e.g. heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires)	Regenerate	Regenerate	●	●	●	●	●	●
51	Eliminate activities in the tourism value chain contributing to destruction of natural habitats (e.g. deforestation)	Regenerate	Regenerate	●				●	

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52	Regenerate ecological integrity of tourism supply chains by ensuring sustainable sourcing and procurement practices (e.g. avoiding sourcing from areas of high species extinction risk or water- and energy- intensive regions)	Regenerate	Regenerate	●				●	
53	Promote climate resilience and protection of ecosystems in the tourism sector by using 'green' building design for all new constructions and refurbishments	Regenerate	Regenerate	●	●	●	●	●	●

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