



Climate Change and Tourism in Morocco

Prof. Dr. Hadach Mohamed, Ed-Dali Rachid

Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco

Abstract

Tourism which attracts more than 11 million tourists annually, is considered as one of the most significant and strategic sectors in Morocco (ONMT, 2016). Nevertheless, climate change might to a large extent influence the sector. Tourists interested in winter sports choose certain mountainous areas in the Middle and High Atlas whereas others prefer coastal cities to practice their activities and due to global warming and low precipitations, the tourist might favor a destination in Europe or in North America.

Different Moroccan regions suffered in the past decades from the aftermaths of global warming and climate change and affected tourism negatively as the tourist seeks safety and entertainment. The qualitative as well as the quantitative methods approaches were relied on in this study to suit the nature of the topic to explore the effects of climate change on tourism in several Moroccan regions. The findings in this study indicated that climate change affected the tourism industry in Morocco positively as well as negatively.

Keywords : Sustainable tourism, Essaouira, destination, socio-cultural environment