

Special Issue

Development Challenges in Coastal and Marine Tourism

Message from the Guest Editors

Coastal and marine areas have been increasingly used for leisure activities driven not only by the growth of tourism but also by the increase in population inhabiting coastal areas. The main reason for choosing to visit coastal areas, especially beaches, is the coastal scenic beauty, recreational activities, coastal heritage, and nature. However, coastal and marine areas are not only places for recreation; they constitute socio-ecological systems with three main functions: (i) natural, (ii) recreational, and (iii) protective. As a result, these natural systems are currently subjected to significant human pressure. Among human activities, leisure and tourism are the ones responsible for accelerating the use, occupation, and degradation coastal zones and significant impacts to coastal and marine flora and fauna. On the other hand, coastal and marine tourism has been an important source of foreign revenue in many countries that offer “sun, sea and sand” (3S) tourism, and a major source of national incomes in several small island developing states (SIDS).

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