

Resilient and Adaptive Destinations Track

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Tourism's fragility as an industry was laid bare throughout the years of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its speed of recovery since equally evident, albeit subject to variation on a global scale. The pandemic aside, increasing climate sensitivity and ecological awareness, demographic change, income disparity and social inequality, demands for enhanced levels of technological adoption as well as a never-ending array of geopolitical crises necessitate the need for a more resilient and adaptive approach to the development, management, and stewardship of destinations.

Grounded in complexity theory and systems thinking, the concept of destination resilience is broadly conceptualized as a tourism system's capacity to absorb shocks, reorganize internal structures, and sustain its developmental trajectory. Beyond absorption, destinations must simultaneously develop adaptive capacity, this being the proactive ability to restructure governance frameworks, institutional arrangements, and strategic orientations in anticipation of future disruptions, rather than as a reactive response to them.

Sustained resilience demands ongoing flexibility and adaptability at the destination level, whereby an exclusive emphasis on economic diversification is no longer sufficient. Rather, destinations are advised to embrace the full complexity of their ecosystem, acknowledging and internalizing the systemic vulnerabilities inherent within it. Effective planning consequently requires the intentional embedding of adaptive capacity across the destination's broader capital base, spanning natural, social, and economic dimensions — as an integral component of long-term resilience building, and destination stewardship.

We invite conceptual, empirical, and methodological papers and encourage cross-disciplinary approaches. Research may span any of the ten themes highlighted or any other related issue of contemporary relevance. These ten themes collectively signal an emerging research agenda that moves beyond documenting resilience outcomes toward interrogating the political, ecological, technological, and ethical conditions under which destinations can genuinely adapt and transform. Developmental papers, comparative studies, and practitioner-scholar collaborations are also welcome.

Expanded Themes and Sub-Themes

Transformative vs. Engineering Resilience Pathways

Measuring transformation outcomes longitudinally;
identifying enabling conditions for evolutionary resilience;
developing typologies of transformation across destinations.

Justice and Equity Dimensions of Adaptive Capacity

Community and adaptive destination governance;
distributive justice in recovery resource allocation;
participatory resilience planning;
critiques of resilience frameworks.

Governance & Cross-Destination Resilience Knowledge Transfer

Interorganizational trust formation;
conflict resolution in multi-stakeholder resilience platforms;
role of DMOs as adaptive intermediaries;
Resilience knowledge across destinations;
role of UN Tourism and regional tourism bodies in brokering learning;
resilience knowledge exchange;
comparative resilience strategies across destination contexts.

Climate-Induced Destination Transformation

Destination vulnerability;
managing irreversible climate impacts — coral bleaching, glacial retreat, coastal erosion;
managing retreat strategies;
climate adaptation strategies.

Community Social Capital and Endogenous Resilience

Social capital and adaptive outcomes;
erosion of social capital through overtourism;
community cohesion under crisis conditions;
role of local knowledge systems.

Digital Resilience and Smart Destination Ecosystems

AI-driven demand forecasting;
IoT-enabled visitor management;
blockchain-based supply chain transparency and adaptive capacity;
digital equity across destinations;
cybersecurity vulnerabilities and systemic risks;
governance of destination data commons.

Regenerative Tourism as a Resilience Framework

From sustainable to regenerative tourism;
measuring regenerative outcomes;
political economy of transitioning from extractive to regenerative models.

Geopolitical Shocks and Destination Vulnerability

Conflict, sanctions, diplomatic crises,
forced migration and destination disruptions;
tourism recovery under geopolitical uncertainty;
diaspora tourism as a resilience strategy;
reputational rehabilitation of destinations;
destination image resilience in contested political contexts.

Pandemics and Health Security as Structural Resilience Dimensions

Health system integration into destination risk management;
biosecurity protocols as competitive differentiation;
psychological resilience of destination workforces.