

Maladaptation

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Climate change remains one for the greatest challenge facing humanity in the 21st century and beyond. Whereas the impact of climate change cuts across all sectors of the economy climate sensitive industries like tourism are the most affected sectors. In order to limit vulnerability and to enhance resilience adaptation and mitigation strategies have been proposed. Whereas both interventions are necessary, adaptation is urgent. It is noted that tourism destination managers are already coming up with interventions in order to maintain the attractiveness of their destinations. However it has emerged the not all adaptation strategies are good on because an adaptation at one level can lead to maladaptation at another level. Using examples this entry intends to provide a clear definition of the term maladaptation.

Maladaptation is a term that has found its way in climate change literature. It emanates from practical lessons reported in literature in the last decade. Maladaptation is defined as '*action taken ostensibly to avoid or reduce vulnerability to climate change that impacts adversely on, or increases the vulnerability of other systems, sectors or social groups*' (Barnett and O'Neill, 2010, p.211). It is an intentional result of adaptation strategies.