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POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATIC CHANGES ON THE TOURISTIC ACTIVITY SECTOR IN LIBYA: A REVIEW AND FUTURE RESEARCH

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For tourism, climate change is not a remote event, but a phenomenon that already affects the sector and certain destinations in particular, mountain regions and coastal destinations among others. At the same time, the tourism sector is contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, especially through the transport of tourists. Climate is an essential resource for tourism, and especially for the beach, nature and winter sport tourism segments. Changing climate and weather patterns at tourist destinations and tourist generating countries can significantly affect the tourist's comfort and their travel decisions. Changing demand patterns and tourist flows will have impacts on tourism businesses and on host communities, as well as knock off effects on related sectors, such as agriculture, handicrafts or construction. Tourism is found to be a contributing factor to climate changes because the movement of people and their activities while on vacation increase the level of carbon emissions. There is a need for local and international cooperation so that the businesses and individuals in the sector will be able to adapt to these changes. The tourism industry has to adopt measures so that natural resources are protected. These measures should also contribute to the protection of the global environment. The vast lands of Libya have been settled by many civilisations across its history, including the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and Arabs amongst others. They have left some amazing ruins of their ancient cities, most notably the Roman ruins at Leptis Magna, one of the most impressive such sites in the world. Away from the lush Mediterranean coast lie the harsh but dramatic landscapes of the Libyan Desert, with the picturesque Acacus Mountains and Ubari Sand Sea as well as ancient desert towns and fascinating rock art paintings. Libya is well off the main tourist trails of North Africa and receives only a fraction of the visitors of its neighbours which, combined with its many attractions, makes it an ideal travel destination. These factors make Libya a centre of tourism in Middle East.

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