

Planning and Management of Sustainable Tourism Spaces

Assignment Guidelines:

This task evaluates the principles and strategic tools required to plan, develop, and manage tourism spaces in a sustainable and responsible manner. Students are expected to critically analyse the environmental, social, and economic impacts of tourism, apply spatial planning models (such as carrying capacity and zoning strategies), and design public policy frameworks that preserve natural and cultural heritage while supporting destination viability.

Submission Format:

- Type: Sustainable Project Plan (Final Project Report)
- Font: Times New Roman, Size 12, Double Spaced
- Word Count: 4000 – 5000 words
- Submission Deadline: To be announced by the respective professors

Assessment Criteria:

- Understanding and application of sustainable planning principles and spatial models – 20%
- Critical analysis of environmental, socio-cultural, and economic destination impacts – 25%
- Use of empirical data, public policy frameworks, and industry case studies – 20%
- Strategic viability, stakeholder engagement mechanisms, and management recommendations – 25%
- Structure, professional writing, spatial/mapping presentation, and APA referencing – 10%

Mandatory Sections:

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Destination Baseline & Impact Assessment
- Theoretical & Spatial Planning Framework
- Stakeholder & Policy Analysis
- Strategic Sustainable Planning Proposal
- Action Plan, Monitoring & KPIs
- Conclusion & Recommendations
- References
- Appendices

Assignment Task – Choose ONE of the following written assignments:

Option 1: Destination Carrying Capacity, Visitor Management, and Zoning Strategies

Analyse how spatial zoning and visitor management models can mitigate overtourism and protect sensitive ecological or heritage sites. Your paper should:

- Identify and assess the environmental and socio-cultural degradation of unmanaged tourism in a selected fragile destination (e.g., coastal zone, national park, historic urban centre).
- Compare traditional reactive management approaches with proactive spatial planning models (e.g., Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment (TCCA) and Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC)).
- Discuss global examples of destinations that have effectively introduced visitor quotas, variable pricing or spatial zoning approaches, and those that have faced extreme overtourism issues.
- Prepare a holistic spatial planning and visitor management plan for the chosen destination.

Option 2: Participatory Governance and Community-Based Sustainable Tourism Planning

Investigate the role of stakeholder collaboration and public policy frameworks in ensuring local communities benefit equitably from tourism development. Your paper should:

- Study tensions and power relations among private developers, public authorities, and host communities in destination planning.
- Assess the costs and benefits of top- down centralized tourism planning and bottom-up community-based approaches.
- Examine case studies of DMOs or regional bodies which have effectively incorporated rural communities into systems of decision-making and benefit-sharing.
- Propose a participatory governance model and tourism engagement strategy for a nascent or regenerating tourism space

Option 3: Climate Resilience, Heritage Conservation, and Eco-Destination Regeneration

Evaluate how destination management strategies can integrate climate adaptation, environmental impact assessments (EIA), and heritage conservation to regenerate vulnerable tourism spaces. Your paper should:

- Evaluate key climate threats (e.g., sea-level rise, biodiversity loss, extreme weather) or heritage risks affecting a particular tourism destination. Compare development strategies (i.e., conventional vs regenerative tourism) and circular economy frameworks in space management.
- Explore case studies of tourism spaces (e.g., UNESCO sites, island destinations) that effectively transformed their infrastructure in response to changing environments.
- Recommend a practical, long-term climate resilience and conservation action plan for a destination to achieve sustainable growth.