Tourism on the Move in a Changing Climate

Rising temperatures, higher sea levels and degraded habitats will have serious impacts on almost every sub-sector of the tourism industry. But options exist to help the industry adapt to climate change.

**Mountain and Snow Tourism**
- **Risks**: Rising temperatures will mean that fewer resorts will be able to rely upon sufficient snowfall.
- **Adaptation**: Snow-making machines can help operators respond to less reliable snowfall, although they add to operational costs.

**Forest and Lake Tourism**
- **Risks**: Severe droughts and pest infestations have led to widespread forest die-back in North America.
- **Adaptation**: Water sport resorts can adapt by marketing themselves as year-round destinations, with longer ‘green seasons’ helping to offset shorter skiing seasons.

**Biodiversity and Agricultural Tourism**
- **Risks**: In sub-Saharan Africa, up to 40% of species in national parks are likely to become endangered by 2080, and many iconic species may become extinct.
- **Adaptation**: The suitability of many existing wine regions for wine-growing is expected to decline, affecting wine tourism.

**Cities and Urban Centre Tourism**
- **Impacts**: An estimated 160 million people currently live in cities with perennial water shortages, a figure which could rise to 1 billion by 2050.
- **Adaptation**: New aircraft typically offer 20–30% improvement in efficiency. Shifting from business to turboprops offers 30% cuts in direct greenhouse gas emissions.

**Beach and Coastal Tourism**
- **Risks**: Rising sea levels and more extreme weather events threaten beaches and coastal infrastructure enjoyed by hundreds of millions of tourists each year. While adaptation can protect coastal infrastructure, beach erosion can reduce the prices that operators can charge for accommodation.
- **Adaptation**: Degrading beaches reduce the desirability of destinations, and beach erosion can reduce the prices that operators can charge for accommodation.

**Ocean and Sea Life Tourism**
- **Impacts**: Distributions of fish and other marine fauna are changing as the oceans warm, impacting recreational fishing and marine animal watching.
- **Risks**: 2°C of global warming by 2050–2010 and ocean acidification would see reef structures degrade with serious consequences for tourism. Mass coral bleaching and mortality becomes an annual risk under climate change scenarios, with mass mortality events beginning to occur every 1–2 years by 2120.
- **Adaptation**: The decline in sea ice is expected to lead to an already rapid increase in Arctic tourism.

**Key Findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)**
- For more information please visit csl.com.au/ipcc