

# Glasgow Declaration Climate Action in Tourism

## North Devon UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve – Climate Action Plan 2022/3

ID	Recommended Action	Pathway	Pathway with Subcategory	Actions Completed	Planned Actions
1	Ensure policy alignment integrating climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, and pollution concerns in tourism policies, strategies, and initiatives	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance		Make suggestions for policy alignment through the Climate Thematic Working Group with North Devon UNESCO Biosphere and North Devon Futures.

3	Promote domestic and intraregional tourism to reduce emissions, in particular from transport	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	<p>We launched our sustainable tourism web app <a href="https://northdevonexplorer.com/">https://northdevonexplorer.com/</a> in July 2022. The app is designed to help the visitor enjoy the best of our UNESCO biosphere by highlighting alternative opportunities that can be enjoyed, particularly on foot or bike, and reduce the hassle of being caught in traffic or crowds.</p> <p>One of the outputs from our cross channel, Interreg Funded, BioCultural Heritage Tourism Project was the creation of a Regional Planning Tool, for businesses and planning authorities across our biosphere to use to identify best locations to develop a tourism enterprise with minimum negative impact.</p> <p>We have collaborated with Torrridge District Council to help drive forward their Nature Tourism Agenda, helping businesses to grow by supporting them in showcasing the region's abundance of natural assets and adventure activities. This has included events featuring guest speakers from The South West Coast Path Association.</p> <p>North Devon District Council joined this collaboration in April 2023</p>	<p>Continue to promote the web app. Continue our work with North Devon and Torrridge District Councils. Events planned for Autumn/Winter 23/24 include webinars on 'How to Attract Visitors on Foot, Bike and Horseback'.</p> <p>Promote use of our Regional Planning Tool</p>
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4	Collaborate with the tourism value chain to implement innovative business models to improve circularity	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management/ New Business Models	<p>Our BioCultural Heritage Tourism project, focussed on the goal to increase the value of tourism whilst safeguarding and enhancing the Bio Cultural Heritage values of our area, by creating memorable experiences for visitors to take part in, away from the tourism hotspots. We have our own Eco-Accreditation Scheme 'Biosphere Business Partner' which allows all businesses to sign up to the scheme providing they make commitments under the three categories of Conservation, Local Development and Awareness Raising. This scheme was born from our BCHT project and continues to attract tourism businesses. One of our partnership organisations, Plastic Free North Devon, has set up The Sustainable Business Resource, to work with tourism businesses to help minimise waste, minimise single use plastic, shorten supply chains, optimise recycling etc.</p>	<p>Our Nature Tourism Officer continues to work with businesses to help them create authentic biosphere experiences. Continue to signpost tourism businesses towards The Sustainable Business Resource. Application made to the Climate Action Fund to support eight communities in grassroots facilitated action for businesses and individuals. Continue to promote 'Biosphere Business Partner' Eco-Accreditation Scheme</p>
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5	Provide accurate and nonmisleading information, including for advertising and marketing purposes, on climate impact of tourism, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon offset activities to allow consumers to make informed decisions	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management		Use data and CHECK from DEVON CARBON PLAN
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6	<p>Provide tourism stakeholders with access to tools and resources required to upskill and address knowledge gaps. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Develop and/or provide education and trainings on sustainable tourism, including exploring cooperation with academic institutions</li> <li>b) Ensure access to available tools and technologies</li> <li>c) Facilitate access to financing sources and investments</li> <li>d) Allocate budget resources required for sustainability actions</li> </ul>	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	Our BCHT project included numerous workshops and webinars including a 'Tourism Academy' which included speakers from Exeter University.	We continue to offer workshops and webinars with sustainable tourism at its core.
7	Use video conferencing for meetings and conferences	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	Where possible, we use video conferencing for meetings and conferences, particularly when attendees are not based locally.	Continue to use video conferencing for meetings and conferences that have a wide geographical spread of attendees

8	Follow participatory processes when developing climate action plans with local communities and visitors to leverage their feedback and knowledge	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models		Application made to the Climate Action Fund to support eight communities in grassroots facilitated action for businesses and individuals.
10	Ensure the needs of vulnerable and/or marginalised groups are accounted for in the development and implementation of climate action plans	Collaborate	Collaborate - Governance		<p>Application made to the Climate Action Fund to support eight communities in grassroots facilitated action for businesses and individuals.</p> <p>Our Climate Thematic Working Group will be working with Young Foundation to ensure marginalised groups are accounted for.</p>
11	Collaborate and foster interdisciplinary, multi-level partnerships to address knowledge gaps on climate change impacts and strategies for adaptation and mitigation	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	Our biosphere is managed by a strong partnership of stakeholders including local authorities, charity and voluntary sector, academic and business support, statutory bodies and landowners, managers and marine organisations.	Ensure the Partnership continues to have a broad cross section of organisations represented.

12	Increase awareness and communication among tourists and visitors on environmental impacts of the sector to help individuals choose sustainable, low-impact travel options and tourism activities	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	<p>Our web app, North Devon Explorer gives information on how visitors can 'Tread Lightly' and also includes a downloadable 'Marine Code of Conduct'.</p> <p>Plastic Free North Devon (PFND) are a local charity who sit on our Partnership. They have run a 'Visitor Campaign' for several years, which aims to encourage businesses and visitors to join us in taking action to protect the area we all love, through positive behavioural change. Businesses signed up to our Nature Tourism Mailing List are aware of this scheme through our Nature Tourism Business Toolkit, hosted by Torridge District Council.</p>	Continue to promote the North Devon Explorer app to businesses and visitors. Continue to promote PFND's Visitor Campaign to businesses
13	Collaborate with farmers who apply sustainable agriculture practices to integrate practices into contractual arrangements	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models		Promote regenerative farming and sustainable land management practices throughout the Biosphere
15	Undertake studies to assess impacts of climate change on tourism. For example, carrying capacity, availability of resources locally, and identifying tourism facilities in areas that are	Collaborate	Collaborate - Knowledge Management	We have been supporting a local student in their studies for a PhD titled 'The Perceived Effects of, and Resilience to, Climate Change of Tourism Stakeholders in the North Devon Biosphere Reserve'.	Continue to support the PhD student, using our database of tourism providers to send out research surveys and implement findings.

	vulnerable to climate change				
16	Promote diversified tourist attractions and products as alternatives to identified vulnerable destinations	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	BCHT -Explorer app and occasional promotion of authentic experiences within our biosphere	Continue to monitor vulnerable sites
17	Advocate for and introduce risk reduction and risk transfer mechanisms for climate-induced disasters affecting tourism. For example: a) Strengthen early warning systems and capacity building in most vulnerable tourism destinations b) Ensure coastal rehabilitation and protection measures in critical areas c) Expand development of coastal tourism zonal planning covering all vulnerable coastal areas in cooperation with affected stakeholders	Collaborate	Collaborate - New Business Models	Regional planning tool	

23	Invest in and support sustainable transport infrastructure to encourage greener travel choices (e.g. high-speed rail links, public EV charging points, cycle lanes, pedestrianised city centres etc.)	Finance	Finance	Support sustainable travel options	Continue to support sustainable travel options
26	Measure the overall greenhouse gas emissions footprint of tourism value chains (scopes 1-3) and publicly report emissions reduction progress against established targets	Measure	Measure		Establish and report trends as part of periodic review
27	Encourage, enable, and support all businesses and destinations to measure and disclose emissions according to best practice guidelines, such as those available on the One Planet Network website	Measure	Measure		Include as a commitment option within our Eco-Accreditation Scheme 'Biosphere Business Partner'

29	Collect (and share) data on indicators of state of nature, social disruption and economic situation in tourism destinations (e.g. pollution accumulation, overtourism, species extinction risk) to inform impact assessments of current practices and planned climate action	Measure	Measure		Establish and report trends as part of periodic review
32	Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency in its use	Reduce	Reduce - Energy		Advisory services through 361 Energy, who are part of the Biosphere Partnership
33	Increase the use of renewable energy	Reduce	Reduce - Energy		Review sustainable energy action plan
35	Reduce waste generation through implementation of circular processes (reduction, recycling, re-use etc.) and improve waste management practices to aim for zero waste sent to landfill	Reduce	Reduce - Materials	Plastic Free North Devon are part of the Biosphere Partnership and run regular repair cafes.	Continue to support and promote the work of Plastic Free North Devon

37	Arrange for flexible and staggered working arrangements for staff	Reduce	Reduce - Transport	Biosphere team work flexibly	Biosphere team continue to work flexibly
38	Adopt and implement sustainable procurement practices for food, especially for products with high climate impact and potential impacts to key ecosystems	Reduce	Reduce - Food	We have been planning and preparing for the launch of our BSPOC Campaign (Biosphere Sustainable Palm Oil Community) to encourage businesses to make the switch away from palm oil based products and to also encourage their suppliers to do the same.	Launch the BSPOC Campaign  Compile a directory of local suppliers who comply
40	Tackle plastic pollution through a circular approach to the management of plastic packaging and items, with a focus on elimination, transition to reuse models, and sustainable procurement guidelines	Reduce	Reduce - Materials	Our partner, Plastic Free North Devon, organise regular beach cleans and repair cafes. They have also opened 7 Toy Libraries at beaches around our coastline, offering visitors the opportunity to borrow buckets, spades, bodyboards and other beach toys, instead of buying.  Westward Ho!, a coastal village within our biosphere boasts the proud title of being the first village in the UK to ban single use, polystyrene bodyboards.	Continue support and promotion.

44	Shift usage and investment towards less energy-intensive fuel types, especially in the aviation and cruise sectors (e.g. invest in sustainable aviation fuel supply chains, identify and increase usage of biofuels that perform equally well in terms of their climate, ecosystem, energy security, and social impacts throughout their life cycle)	Reduce	Reduce - Energy	We funded and supported the feasibility study for the Clean Marine Innovation Centre at Middle Dock in Appledore.	Continue to support the application and development of propulsion systems.  Exploration of sustainable fuel production.
46	Reduce water consumption and improve efficiency in its use	Reduce	Reduce		We will support South West Water with its campaigns for wise water use.

48	Invest in the implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions which sustainably manage, protect and restore ecosystems (e. g. ecosystem restoration and reforestation, oceans/reef conservation)	Regenerate	Regenerate	We have completed our Woods for Water project and are currently running our Devon Resilience Innovation Programme and Devon Woods Project. We are also working on the Future Mares project which identifies resilient solutions for marine eco-system restoration	Marine Conservation Zone Restoration and enhancement
50	Use ecosystem-based adaptation methods to protect tourism destinations from climate hazards (e.g. heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires)	Regenerate	Regenerate	Our Smart Biosphere pilot uses constant monitoring to create a digital twin, coupled with nature based solutions, to reduce flooding in Combe Martin, a local coastal tourism destination.	Wider roll out of the Smart Biosphere system
51	Eliminate activities in the tourism value chain contributing to destruction of natural habitats (e.g. deforestation)	Regenerate	Regenerate	Preparing to launch our Biosphere Sustainable Palm Oil Community Campaign	Launch the BSPOC Campaign
52	Regenerate ecological integrity of tourism supply chains by ensuring sustainable sourcing and procurement practices (e.g. avoiding sourcing from areas of high	Regenerate	Regenerate	Preparing to launch our Biosphere Sustainable Palm Oil Community Campaign	Launch the BSPOC Campaign

species extinction risk or water- and energy- intensive regions)				
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