

FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - BLUE FLAG NAVIGATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEACHES AND MARINAS

The Path to Net Zero: a focus on the Tourism Sector
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THE BLUE FLAG: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Blue Flag Criteria categories:

 Environmental education and information

 Water quality

 Environmental management

 Safety, Services, Accessibility

 Responsible operations around wildlife

 Social responsibility

> 5000

Beaches, Marinas
& Tourism Boats

> 50

Countries



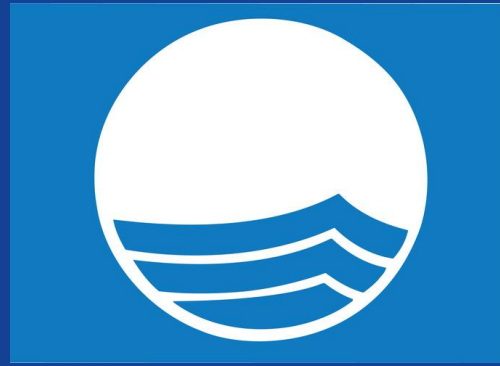
Beaches



Marinas



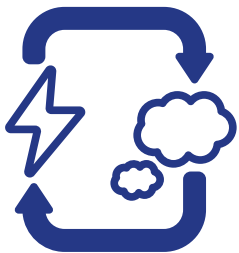
Tourism Boats



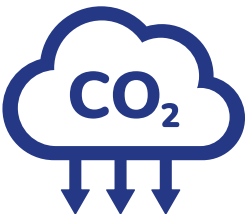
[UNFCCC, Key aspects of the Paris Agreement](#)



Long-term temperature goal (Art. 2) – limiting global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees.



Global peaking and 'climate neutrality' (Art. 4) – Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) as soon as possible (...) a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs in the second half of the century.



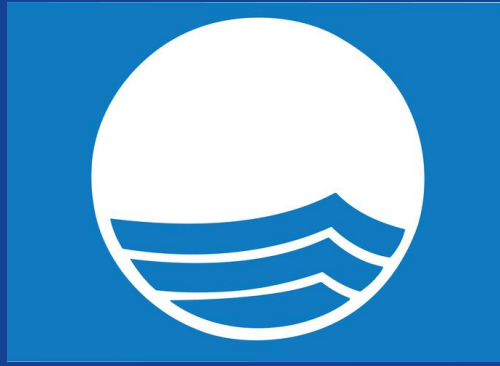
Mitigation (Art. 4) – (...) binding commitments by all Parties to prepare, communicate and maintain a nationally determined contribution (NDC) and to pursue domestic measures to achieve them (...)



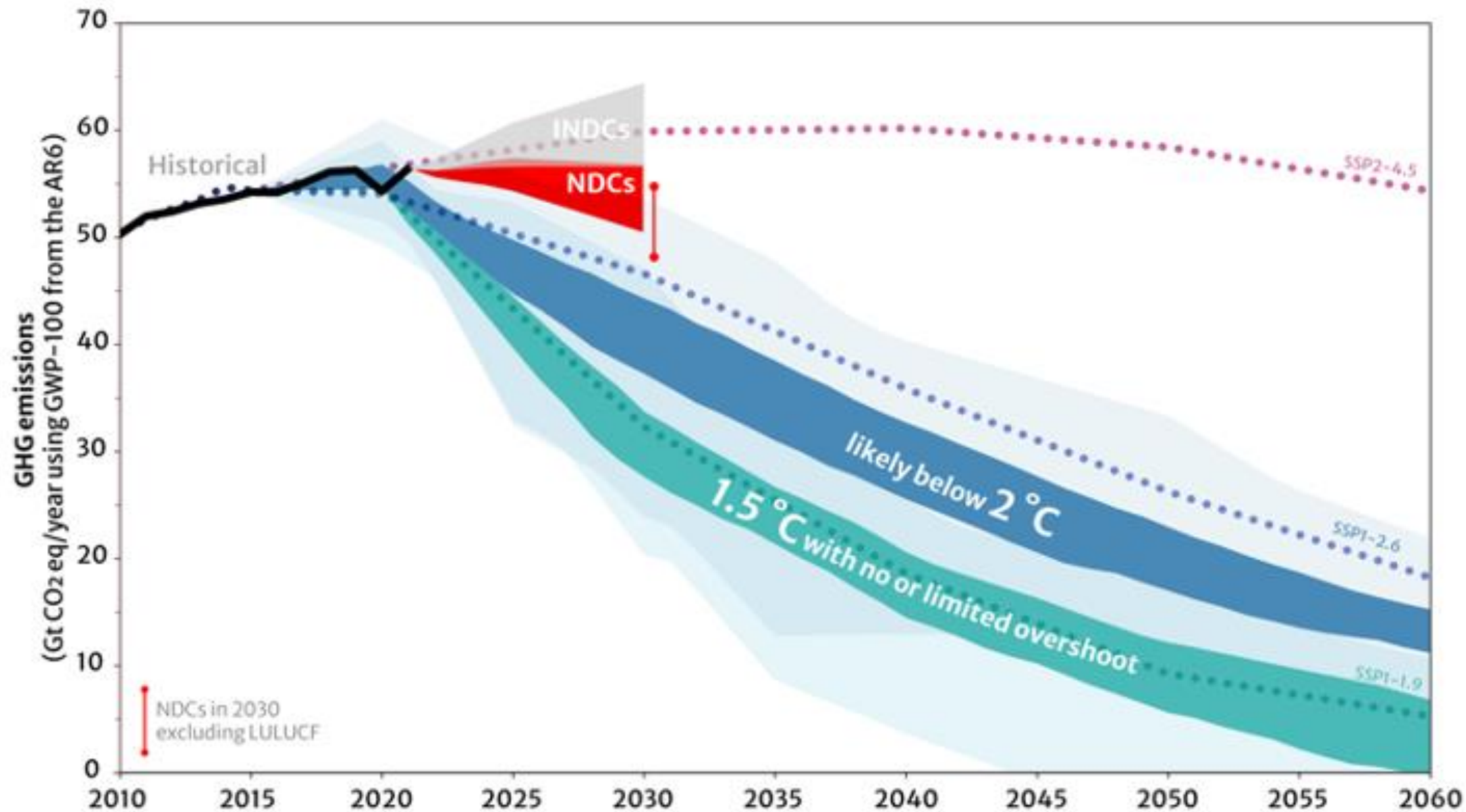
Sinks and reservoirs (Art.5) – The Paris Agreement also encourages Parties to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of GHGs (...) including forests and seameadows.



Climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information (Art 12) is also to be enhanced under the Agreement.

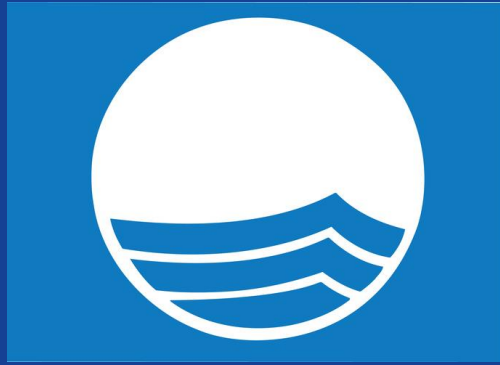


THE PATH TO NET ZERO NATIONAL OBJECTIVES



Taking into account implementation of NDCs up until 2030, (...) the best estimate of peak temperature in the twenty-first century (projected mostly for 2100 when temperature continues to rise) is in the range of 2.1–2.8 °C depending on the underlying assumptions.

Credit: UN Climate Change
[NDC synthesis report, 2023](#)



THE PATH TO NET ZERO DEFINITIONS



Carbon neutrality: condition in which, during a specified period of time, the carbon footprint has been reduced as a result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or GHG removal enhancements and, if greater than zero, is then counterbalanced by offsetting (ISO 14068-1:2023)



Carbon footprint: sum of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and GHG removals of the subject expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (ISO 14068-1:2023)

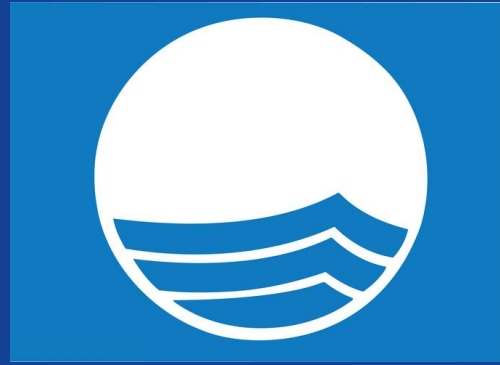


GHG removal: withdrawal of a GHG from the atmosphere by a GHG sink (ISO 14068-1:2023)



Offsetting: counterbalancing of the carbon footprint, by retiring a carbon credit(s) (ISO 14068-1:2023)

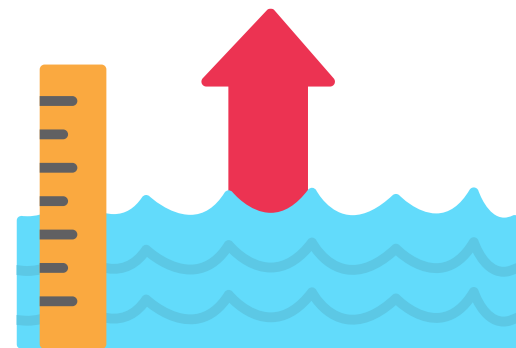
Carbon neutrality and net zero GHG emissions are related concepts. At a global scale, these terms are defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as being equivalent.



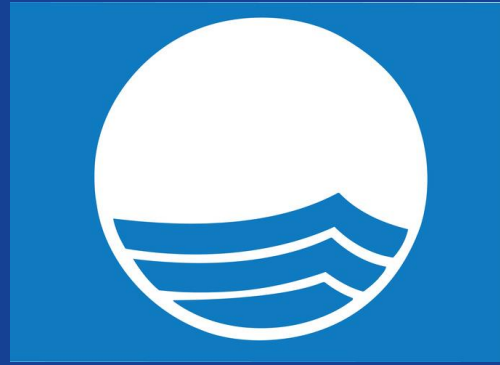
THE PATH TO NET ZERO NET ZERO AND COASTAL TOURISM?



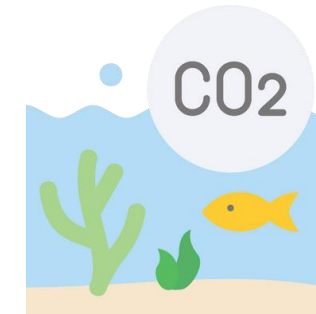
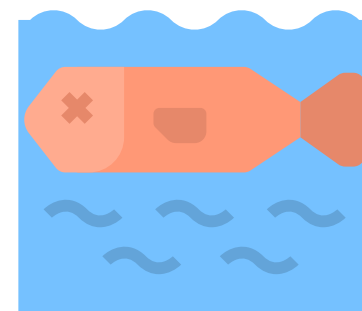
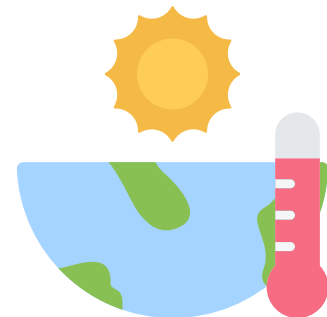
“Sea levels are estimated to rise 0.45–0.82m higher than present by the end of the century if emissions continue to rise at the current rate.”



“Degraded beaches reduce the desirability of destinations, and beach erosion can reduce the aesthetic, cultural and recreational value of ecosystem services and destinations”

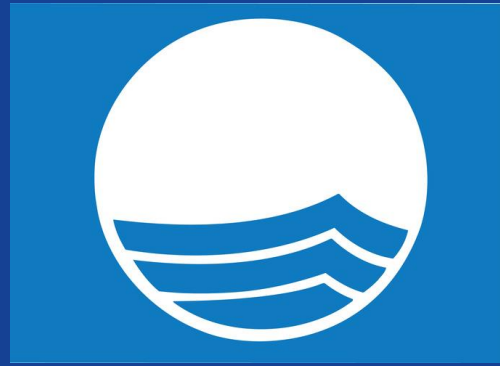


“Distributions of fish and other marine fauna are changing as the oceans warm, impacting recreational fishing and marine animal watching.”

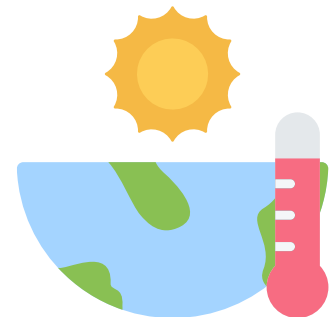


“2°C of global warming and ocean acidification would see reef structures degrade. Mass coral bleaching and mortality becomes an annual risk, with mass mortality events beginning to occur every 1–2 years by 2100.”



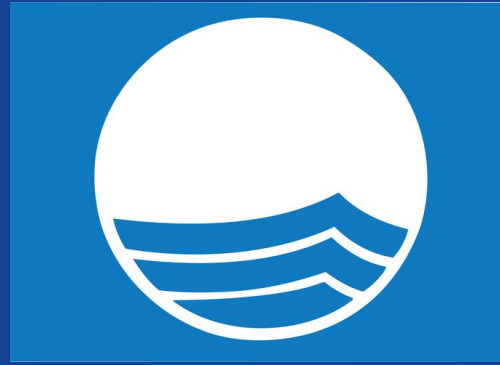


Changes in global temperature and increases in extreme weather events will affect the duration of bathing seasons all over the world, having an effect on when and how tourists can enjoy coastal destinations



Multiple solutions for adaptation:

- Moving in response to changing conditions
- Adapting in situ, using technology, nature-based solutions, and seasonality
- Anticipating challenges



FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GAIA 20:30 STRATEGY



Protect Global
Biodiversity



Empower Climate
Action



Reduce Environmental
Pollution

1

Increase climate change knowledge to
drive impactful action

2

Support actions for climate resiliency

3

Accelerate the transition to climate
neutrality



GLASGOW DECLARATION

DECARBONISATION OF THE TOURISM SECTOR



Glasgow Declaration

Climate Action in Tourism

“We declare our shared commitment to unite all stakeholders in transforming tourism to deliver effective climate action. We support the global commitment to halve emissions by 2030 and reach Net Zero (...) before 2050. We will consistently align our actions with the latest scientific recommendations, so as to ensure our approach remains consistent with a rise of no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100.”



**FEE IS A PROUD SIGNATORY OF THE
GLASGOW DECLARATION ON CLIMATE ACTION IN TOURISM**



CLIMACT CAMPAIGN

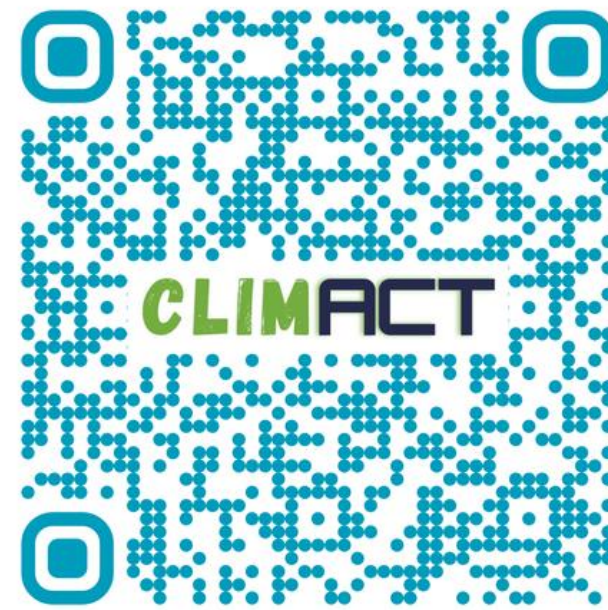
DISCUSSING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

CLIMACT



CLIM-ASK

Online quiz to raise awareness about climate action and tourism



CLI-MEET

Thematic webinars about climate action in the tourism sector

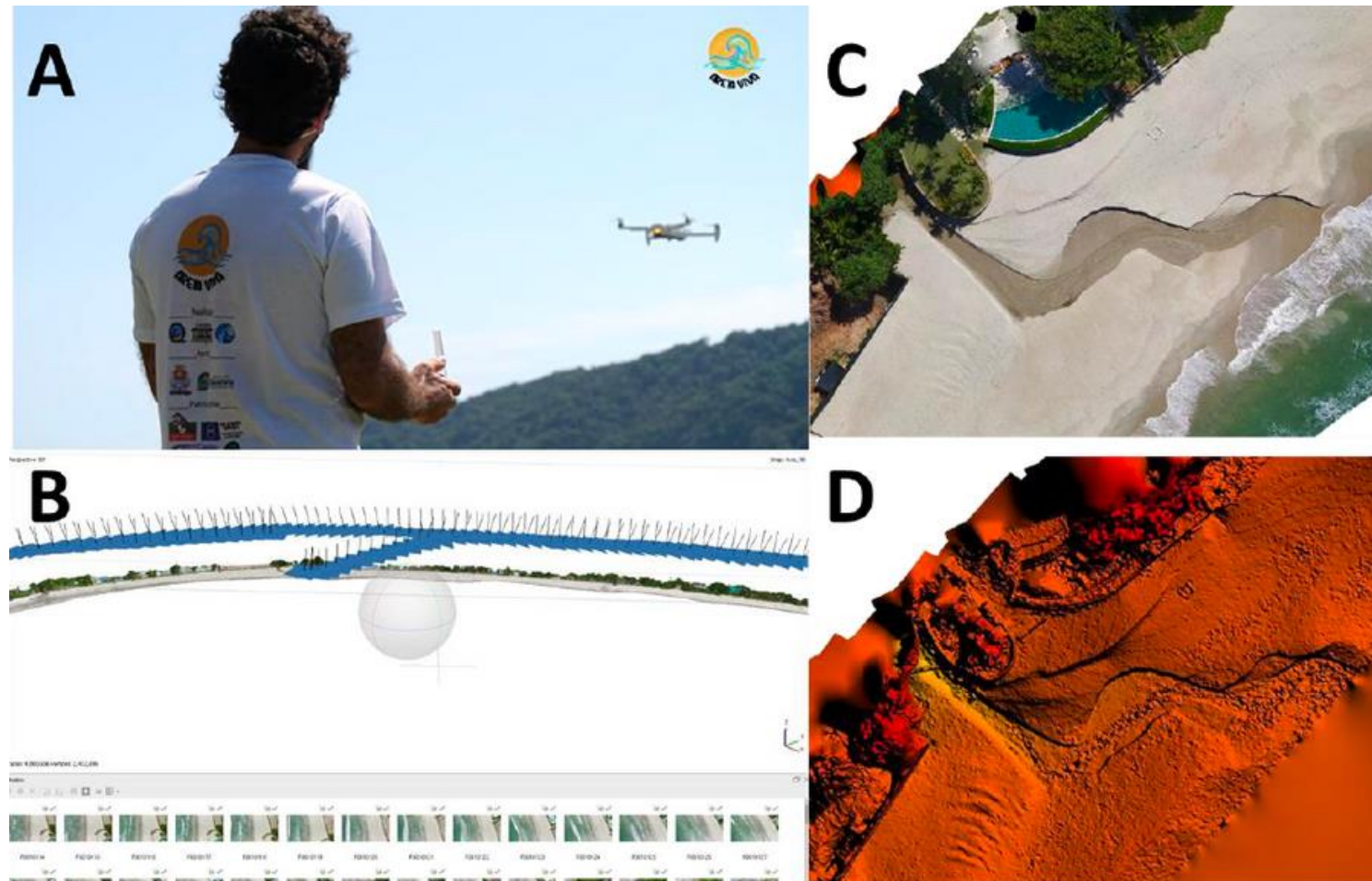


CLI-MAKE

Best practice sharing to inspire site managers with positive solutions



THE PATH TO NET ZERO MONITORING

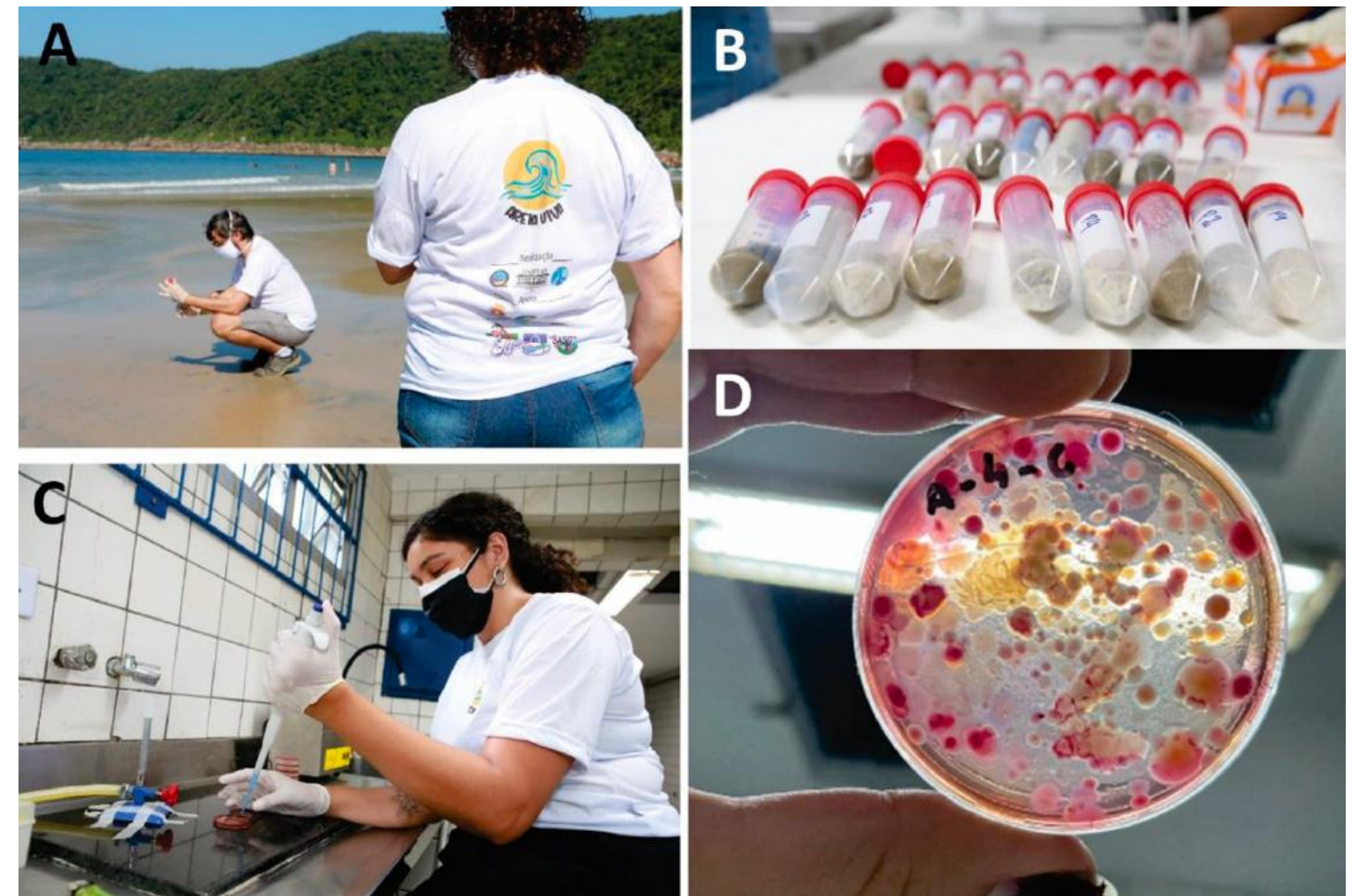


- Partnership between Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), Guarujá City Hall, Municipal School of Primeiro de Maio/SEDUC, and a group of condominiums located in the Serra do Guararú APA.



LIVING SAND PROJECT, GUARUJÁ, BRAZIL

- Evaluation of the sanitary quality of sand and water on the beaches of Guarujá
- Monitoring possible scenarios of coastal erosion by analyzing aerial images in the temporal record





THE PATH TO NET ZERO REDUCING



- Focus on green procurement and purchasing (scope 3)
- Amenities, beach furniture and life-guard posts are made from wood and ropes or locally found elements (e.g. stones)
- Preference for materials with lower CO2 emissions in their production, staying consistent with the natural environment.

- The beach managers were able to create a unique synergy between the beach and the eco-campsite that can easily work in harmony with the surrounding environment.





- During 2019 1 mln seeds were collected from existing meadows around the British Isles, then taken to laboratories where they are sorted and prepared by Swansea University
- The seeds were put in hessian bags to secure them when planted on the seabed in Dale Bay, Pembrokeshire

- Seagrass is a marine plant that captures carbon from the atmosphere
- It offers sanctuary to marine wildlife and provides a nursery for 20% of fish species used by world fisheries. It protects coasts from

erosion



PROJECT SEAGRASS, DALE, WALES





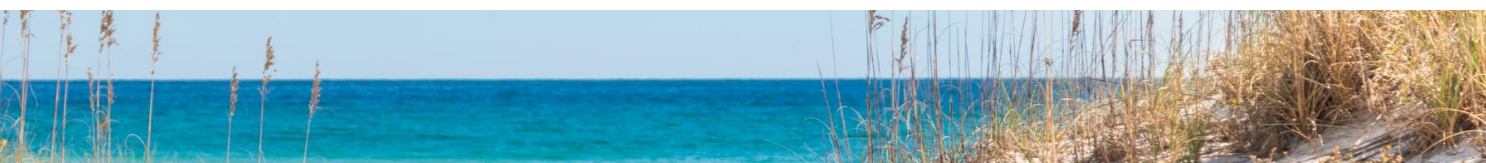
THE PATH TO NET ZERO TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

- 1** Urgent need for collective action to mitigate the impacts of climate change on coastal tourism and achieve net-zero emissions.



- 2** Sustainable tourism has a critical role in preserving coastal ecosystems and supporting communities in the challenges posed by climate change

- 3** Stakeholder engagement and collaboration between governments, NGOs, businesses, and local communities is essential in driving sustainability initiatives



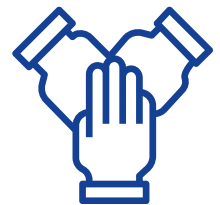
- 4** Good practices from around the world, demonstrate tangible, reproducible ways to reduce carbon footprint and protect biodiversity



THE PATH TO NET ZERO WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Stay up-to-date and learn about good practices that can be implemented in your area



Learn about other stakeholders around you, what they are doing, and explore possibilities for cooperation to face the challenges posed by climate change



Consider joining the Glasgow Declaration movement and make your contribution to the decarbonisation of the tourism sector



Join FEE and the Blue Flag / Green Key network in the activities of the ClimACT campaign!



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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