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On Decarbonising Tourism: The Need to Switch to Renewable Energy

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ABSTRACT In the tourism industry, the task of operators is to ensure that clients get maximum satisfaction away from home. One of the means to achieve this is to make sure that power is constantly available to drive various operations. In order to provide services, in most cases, operators rely on and consume energy from fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gas which causes global warming and climate change. This paper examines the situation in South Africa, which being one of the popular tourist destinations in the world, reveals the industry's carbon footprint; and advocates for a transition to renewable energy sources. Existing literature on experiences of other countries is used to present an argument in support of the transition to renewable energies. The article enjoins South Africa to emulate what other countries have done and adapt the lessons learnt in order to foster a responsible shift to renewable and sustainable tourism. The article offers a wide range of recommendations and accentuates that there is an urgent need to implement immediate transition and switch to renewable energies because time is of essence in order to curb the surge of global warming and climate change.