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Estimating the Carrying Capacity of Cyprus Beaches (*)

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Abstract

Tourism, contributing about 20% to Cyprus' GDP, underscores the need for sustainable development. Priorities include preserving environmental resources, conserving biodiversity, and protecting communities. Unplanned growth post-1974 in Famagusta harmed the region's character and competitiveness, with recent coastal development posing similar risks. Cyprus seeks to expand beyond “sun and sea” tourism to become a year-round destination but faces challenges like overcrowded beaches, pollution, and resource strain. This paper proposes estimating beach carrying capacities to limit users and preserve environmental quality, applying established methodologies to support sustainable tourism for Cyprus’ most popular beaches.

Keywords: Sustainable Tourism, Carrying Capacity, Beach Management, User’s Perception, Economic Value.