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INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

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Sustainable management is an established concept within the fields of environmental hospitality and tourism management. However, there is no unanimous agreement on how the functional aspects of sustainable management can solve societal, economic and ecological challenges. To this end, this special issue intended to advance the conventional understanding of sustainability by providing insight into how cost-effective Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) can contribute to the management of the societal and ecological problems common across the tourism and hospitality sector. NBSs provide holistic and innovative approaches for co-designing and implementing actionable equitable solutions that tackle complex problems of the tourism and hospitality industry. NBSs can incorporate social engagement, technology and governance in a manner that results in sustainable development and drives long-term socio-economic growth. It is suggested that challenges ought to be selected from tangible tourism and hospitality cases, and that contributors should conduct interdisciplinary studies and work collaboratively in order to sufficiently develop innovative and implementable NBS.

This special issue attracted wide interests, with over 50 abstract submissions primarily. Following a double-blinded review and careful process, the special issue contains 9 papers and offers unique views on NBS across settings including: coastal municipalities, urban planning, building sector, agriculture, food, winter camping, destinations, cultural products, human–equine experiences and community participation. These studies provide insights to NBSs cases from several different countries: Spain, Iran, the USA, Russia, Vanuatu, the UK and Bangladesh. Next, a brief summary of the papers in the special issue will be presented.

THE PAPERS IN THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

Sauer, Roca and Villares' found that while beach users recognize the benefits of NBS for environmental conservation and storm protection, they demonstrate few concerns about possible effects of climate change on recreational activity and have limited understanding about the protective capacity of NBS. Padma, Ramakrishna and Rasoolimanesh used hybrid literature review in the scientific fields of tourism and hospitality as well as agriculture, building sector, and urban planning. Legendre and Baker explore the effects of regulator trust, perceived risk, and benefits on purchase activism and intent with relation to a new NBS to the food and sustainability crisis: edible insect foods. Jirásek and Hanuš found the possibilities that snowshoeing and winter camping provide. Loehr, Becken, Nalau, and Mackey developed Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) framework to evaluate the risks of climate change, on well-being and climate risk reduction. Baldarelli and Cardillo focused on aspects of heritage accessibility with respect to the community of a territory, making it more sensitive to disadvantaged people with special needs. Next, Akhshik, Rezapouraghdam, and Ramkissoon argued that NBS may fabricate unintended problems when the complexity of the supra systems are overlooked. Danby and Grajfoner explored human–animal relations within the realm of touristic encounters. Finally, Ali, Quaddus, Rabbanee and Shanka examined the moderating role of political instability and government policy in ensuring community participation and attaining quality of life, respectively.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

This special issue attracted many high-quality submissions on NBS from scholars within tourism and hospitality, as well as related disciplines. This special issue is a primary reference to understand the NBS concept in the tourism and hospitality industry. It enriches the intellectual agenda of sustainability research by proposing novel NBSs to tackle societal, economic and ecological challenges faced by the tourism and hospitality industry. There were also several innovative methodological techniques used to deliver insightful outcomes in this special issue, including: survey, hybrid literature review, autoethnographic case study, interviews, participant observations, and diaries. The special issue guest editors hope that papers in this special issue act as a starting venue

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to encourage tourism and hospitality researchers to move this field of research forward by addressing current issues and trends in NBS.