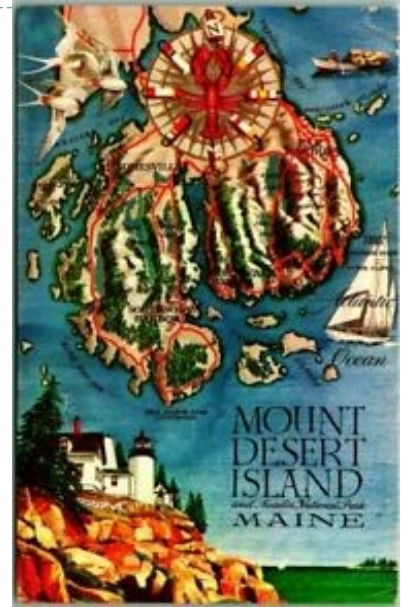


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Summary Report for Climate Change & Tourism Planning Workshops

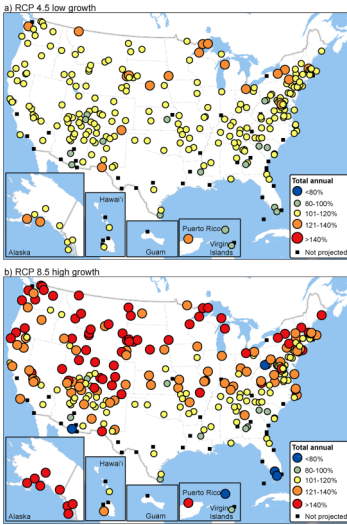
PURPOSE

The purpose of these workshops was to strengthen relationships across tourism stakeholders, develop collective strategies, and build capacity to address the uncertainty of climate change as it relates to impacts to tourism and recreation. This work engaged with and addressed community goals, concerns, and potential action strategies in order to brainstorm steps and support successful, community driven climate change planning.

KEY FINDINGS

- Changing visitation patterns and modeling a more sustainable tourism destination were identified as the most important climate change impacts/opportunities to address.
- Action strategies included:
 - (1) focusing on communication and education of visitors, residents, and tourism professionals,
 - (2) further developing sustainable transportation,
 - (3) continuing to collect and share visitor data,
 - (4) maximizing tourism suppliers' abilities to adjust to shoulder season visitation.

CONTEXT



Source: Fisichelli et al., 2015

- ◆ Climatic changes and resulting impacts that may affect coastal destinations include sea level rise, extreme weather events, flooding, saltwater intrusion, erosion, and ocean acidification.
- ◆ Tourism destinations will face changes in ecological conditions and visitation patterns as a result of climate change.
- ◆ Participatory planning workshops can increase tourism destination capacity to adapt to climate change and expected changes in visitation.
- ◆ Workshops can increase the likelihood that decisions are locally appropriate, accepted more readily by local actors, and include a more diverse set of values, needs, and perspectives.

Over the course of two virtual workshops, tourism stakeholders on MDI (a) identified and prioritized local climate change impacts to tourism on MDI and (b) discussed potential action strategies and voted on the most important strategies to address immediately.

WHAT DID WE DO?

- ◆ The research team collaborated closely with a small group of tourism planning partners to develop and refine our workshop framework (Figure 1).
- ◆ Tourism stakeholders included: business owners, National Park Service staff, and non-profit employees whose work aligns with climate change and tourism planning.
- ◆ A total of twelve participants attended at least one workshop.

Figure 1. During day 1, participants focused on climate change impacts (positive and negative) to tourism on MDI. For day 2, participants brainstormed action strategies to address changes in visitation and developed ideas for becoming a more sustainable tourism destination.

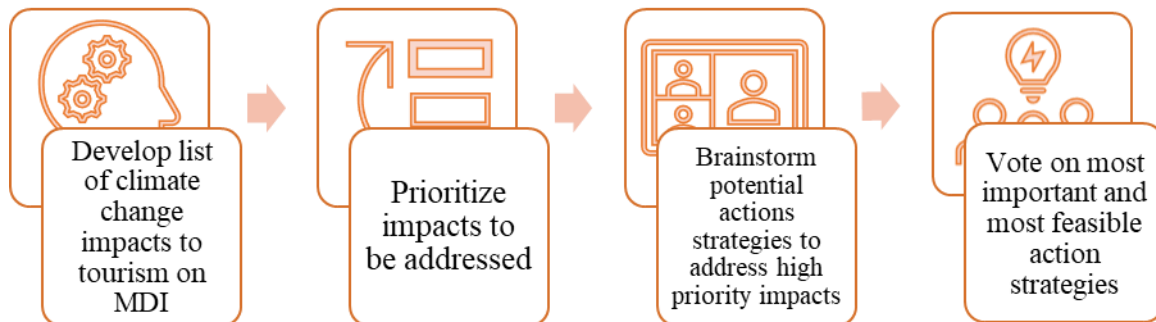


Table 1. Ranking of climate change items by significance of their ability to impact tourism on MDI (top five rankings).

RANKING (1 = most important or easiest to address)	MOST SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO TOURISM ON MDI	EASIEST CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS FOR TOURISM SYSTEM TO ADDRESS
1	Increasing visitation	Opportunity to model sustainability (mitigation actions)
2	Opportunity to model sustainability (mitigation actions)	Challenges with island access from flooding/ extreme weather events
3	Shifts in seasonality of visitation	Increasing visitation
4	Increasing pressure on housing availability and land usage	Different patterns of winter outdoor recreation
5	Higher fire risk in summer	Increasing pressure on housing availability and land usage

WORKSHOP RESULTS: DAY 1

- ◆ Participants co-developed a list of climate change impacts related to MDI’s tourism system. This comprehensive list was first discussed within two small breakout sessions and the final list of impacts were decided upon as a larger group.
- ◆ We condensed these climate change impacts into two overarching categories: changes in visitation patterns and modeling MDI as a sustainable tourism destination (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Overview of the overarching categories encompassing the climate change impacts ranked and prioritized on day 1.



Changing Visitation Patterns

- Increasing visitation
- Changes in timing of visitation
- Changing winter recreation patterns



Modeling a sustainable tourism destination

- Mitigation of climate change impacts
- Visitor education

- ◆ Impacts fell into six broad categories: (1) increasing heat and temperatures, (2) changes to precipitation and water resources, (3) changes to flora and fauna, (4) unpredictability of impacts, (5) changes in visitation, and (6) human impacts from climate change and increased visitation.
- ◆ Using two dot votes, participants ranked the impacts they listed according to highest concern to the tourism system and most readily able to address (Table 1).

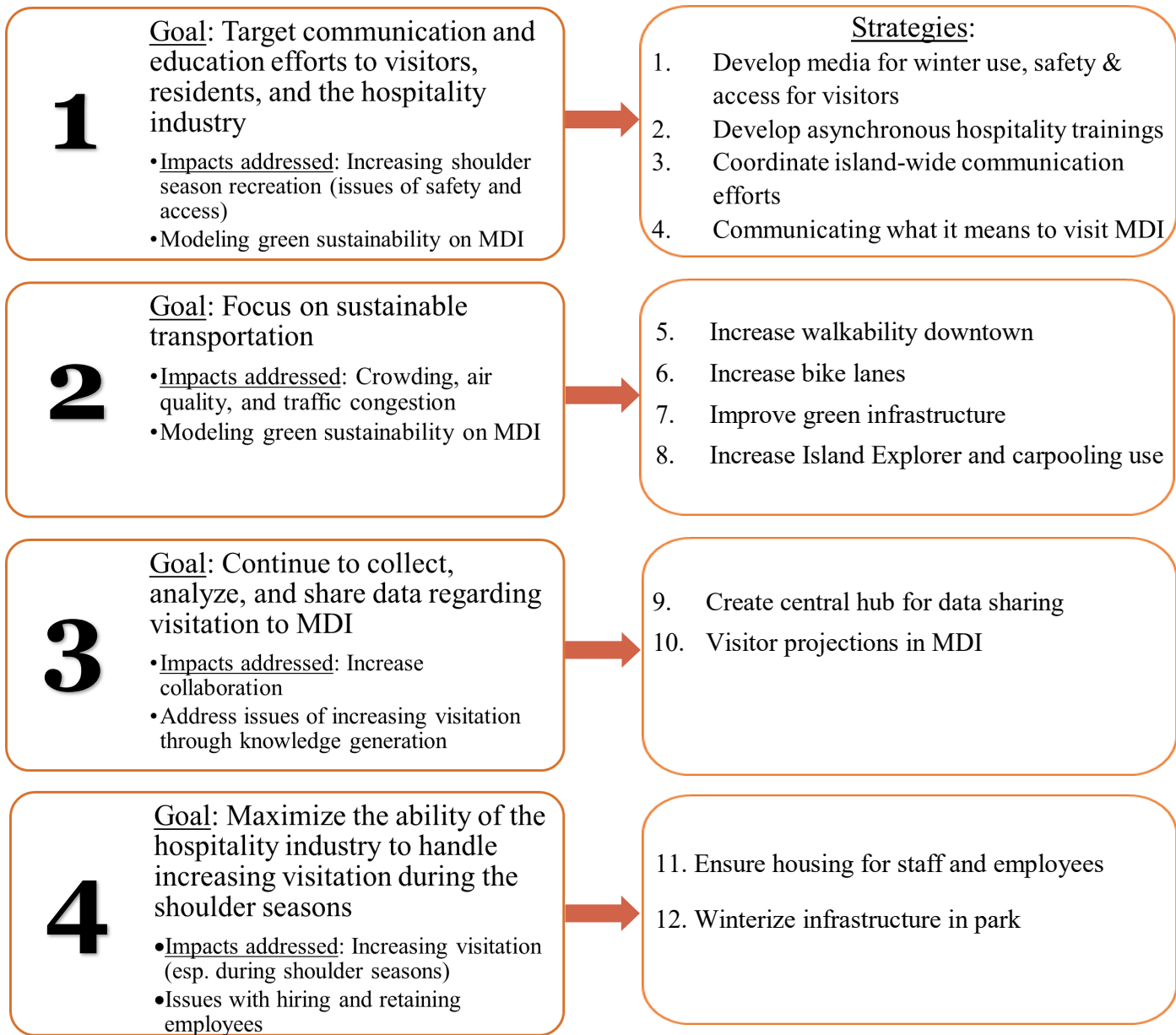


Figure 3. List of goals brainstormed by participants to address climate change impacts and accompanying action strategies.



IDENTIFIED EXISTING TOURISM RESOURCES

A Climate to Thrive:
partnerships, intern,
community education
resources, EV charging
station network

League of Towns:
Communication, resources

Friends of Acadia: Media
team

ANP: Education programs

Acadia TV Channel

Maine Office of Tourism

Existing data already
collected

STRENGTHS, BARRIERS, & RESOURCES

- ◆ Existing resources include a variety of employees and members within several groups working in the area such as A Climate to Thrive, Friends of Acadia, College of the Atlantic, Acadia National Park, League of Towns, and Maine Office of Tourism.
- ◆ Barriers include a lack of a dedicated and long-term leadership position to ensure a consistent messaging and collaboration, and the funding and the time necessary to complete these actions.
- ◆ Despite these barriers, a variety of organizations exist within MDI that have the ability to connect to groups, facilitate partnerships, and secure funding.

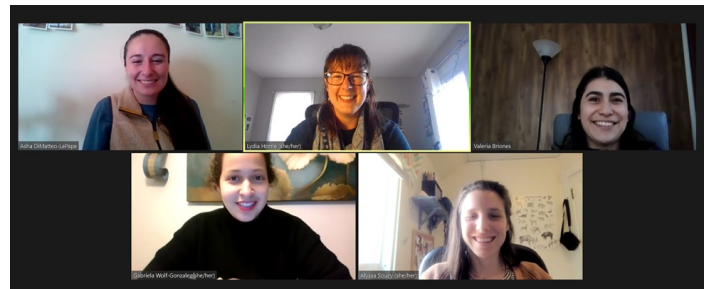
IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ There have been many useful climate change initiatives on MDI. The goal of these workshops was to incorporate considerations of system-wide tourism impacts and actions strategies.
- ◆ By inviting tourism stakeholders that represent different supplier groups, we believe that this participatory approach increased networks of collaboration and ownership of the planning process, facilitated the co-production of knowledge between stakeholder groups, and resulted in diverse, locally relevant management solutions.

Thank you to all who attended!

These workshops were developed by a team of student researchers in collaboration with community partners on MDI, including: Alf Anderson, Michael Boland, Valeria Briones, Stephanie Clement, Asha DiMatteo-LePape, Lydia Horne, Rich MacDonald, Alyssa Soucy, and Gabriela Wolf-Gonzalez.

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