

# Call for Papers: Regenerative development and Tourism (2026)

## Zeitschrift für Tourismuswissenschaft - Journal of Tourism Science

**Guest editors** of the issue are Prof. Dr. Manuel Sand (University of Applied Management, Treuchtlingen), Prof. Dr. Sven Groß (Harz University of Applied Sciences) and Nadine Schmidt Rojas M.A. (The Tourism CoLab). The special issue is designed as a special issue and addresses a wide range of topics. Both theoretical-conceptual contributions and those with a methodological focus as well as empirical case studies (quantitative or qualitative) are welcome, i.e. the contributions can originate from the field of basic research on the one hand and application-oriented research on the other.

**Topic:** Regenerative development and tourism - rethinking towards a paradigm shift

The Special Issue is dedicated to regenerative tourism, which goes beyond sustainability and actively contributes to the healing and improvement of nature, local communities and well-being. Positive case studies, such as Wild Adventure Melbourne or NORREG, show that this approach can be put into practice. Political and strategic developments such as the "Regenerative Tourism Act" in Hawai'i or the "Local2030Island Network" also demonstrate its increasing relevance.

The issue calls for scientific contributions that examine the gradual implementation of this new paradigm in tourism in a critical, reflective and innovative way. The focus is on the connection between nature and people, environmental education and well-being as the basis for comprehensive, sustainable action. Tourism should act as a motor for transformation, identity building and global goals. "Regenerative Tourism is based on a fresh understanding that the visitor economy in general and the destination, in particular, is not an industrial production line but a living, networked system embedded in a natural system called Nature and subject to Nature's operating rules and principles." (Pollock 2019, 7).

The focus is on long-term resilience, genuine participation of local stakeholders and a holistic approach that strengthens people and nature in equal measure. While sustainable tourism aims to secure the status quo, regenerative tourism strives for positive, transformative development (Cave and Dredge 2020; Bellato and Pollok 2023). Regenerative tourism can therefore also be seen as a new evolution of sustainability, which includes approaches and ideas that some providers have already been implementing for some time.

"Regenerative tourism is a transformational approach that aims to fulfill the potential of tourism places to flourish and create net positive effects through increasing the regenerative capacity of human societies and ecosystems. Derived from the ecological worldview, it weaves Indigenous and Western science perspectives and knowledges. Tourism systems are regarded as inseparable from nature and obligated to respect Earth's principles and laws." (Bellato, Frantzeskaki and Nygaard 2022, 9).

While regenerative tourism is already attracting a great deal of attention internationally, it has hardly arrived in Germany. We therefore invite contributions that critically examine the topic and promote the dissemination and implementation of this paradigmatic approach, which is new for the tourism industry operating in a profit-oriented system (Schmidt Rojas, Sand and Gross 2024). This Special Issue will deal with sustainable travel based on the current scientific literature, highlight the approaches of regenerative tourism, initiate the discussion in Germany and propose ideas on how a change towards regenerative travel can be realized step by step.

Specific topics include:

- Regenerative tourism projects in Germany
- Philosophical considerations on regenerative tourism
- Regenerative economy and de-growth in tourism
- Regenerative tourists and demand for regenerative offers
- Citizen science as a method of regenerative tourism
- Community well-being and social regeneration
- Regenerative, nature-based tourism and social change
- Community-led community efforts for regenerative tourism
- Sustainability, responsibility and regenerative tourism
- Challenges and limitations of regenerative tourism
- Small and micro tourism entrepreneurs and regenerative tourism
- Tourism transformation and social entrepreneurship
- Tourism and regenerative leadership
- Transformative travel and transformative tourism
- Tourism and regenerative cultures
- Transformative human resource development in tourism
- Cross-sectoral and collaborative models of regenerative tourism
- Educational programs and pedagogical issues for regenerative tourism
- Community participation processes for regenerative tourism
- Future scenarios of regenerative tourism
- Regenerative tourism in developing countries
- Alternative economic models (e.g. “doughnut economics”, “cradle to cradle”) and regenerative tourism
- Regenerative tourism and life cycles of destinations
- Regenerative Tourism and Democracy and Human Rights

We kindly ask you to send an expression of interest in the form of a short summary (max. 300 words) of your planned submission to Manuel Sand (manuel.sand@fham.de) by **15.10.2025** in order to be able to estimate the number of contributions. The elaborated contributions must be submitted by **January 31, 2026** and should not exceed a maximum of 20 pages (approx. 10,000 words including tables, figures, abstract, notes and bibliography). Decisions on the acceptance of contributions will be made by the journal editors on the basis of reviews (double blind review process), which will be obtained in the course of **March 2026**. The accepted articles are to be revised in April 2026 in accordance with the instructions given in the reviews. In addition to full articles, impulses and discussion contributions (maximum 1,000 words), project reports (maximum 5,000 words) as well as book reviews (maximum 1,000 words) and conference reports (maximum 1,000 words) can also be submitted. Further information for authors can also be found at [https://www.degruyterbrill.com/publication/journal\\_key/TW/downloadAsset/TW\\_authorguide\\_englisch.pdf](https://www.degruyterbrill.com/publication/journal_key/TW/downloadAsset/TW_authorguide_englisch.pdf).

## Literature

- Bellato, L., and Pollock, A. 2023. “Regenerative tourism: A state-of-the-art review.” *Tourism Geographies* 1-10.
- Bellato, L., Frantzeskaki, N., and Nygaard, C. 2022. “Regenerative tourism: a conceptual framework leveraging theory and practice.” *Tourism Geographies* 25 (4): 1026-1046.
- Cave, J., and Dredge, D. 2020. “Regenerative tourism needs diverse economic practices.” *Tourism Geographies*, 22 (3): 503-513.
- Pollock, A. 2019. “Flourishing beyond sustainability.” In *ETC Workshop in Krakow*, 1-10. Brussels: ETC Corporate.
- Schmidt Rojas, N., Sand, M.S., & Gross, S. 2025, “Regenerative adventure tourism. Going beyond sustainability – a horizon 2050 paper.” *Tourism Review* 80 (1): 270-285. <https://doi.org/10.1108/TR-12-2023-0874>