

Climate change is putting the tourism industry to the test

Camping and accommodations in nature



Quebec offers a wide variety of activities and attractions throughout the province. Some of them are particularly vulnerable to climate change and may be affected in different ways depending on their specific characteristics.

Challenges in ensuring the resilience and longevity of the tourism offering

Depending on the situation, the impacts of climate change may pose a threat, but in some cases they can also present new opportunities.

Taking these threats into account, along with the associated environmental, economic, and social issues, is part of the challenge of ensuring the resilience and long-term viability of the tourism industry. The needs include:

01

[Consult](#)

Ensuring the long-term viability of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities that are exposed to weather events while minimizing the impact on the natural environment

02

[Consult](#)

Maintaining the quality of tourism offerings over the long term despite more variable weather conditions and rising adaptation costs

03

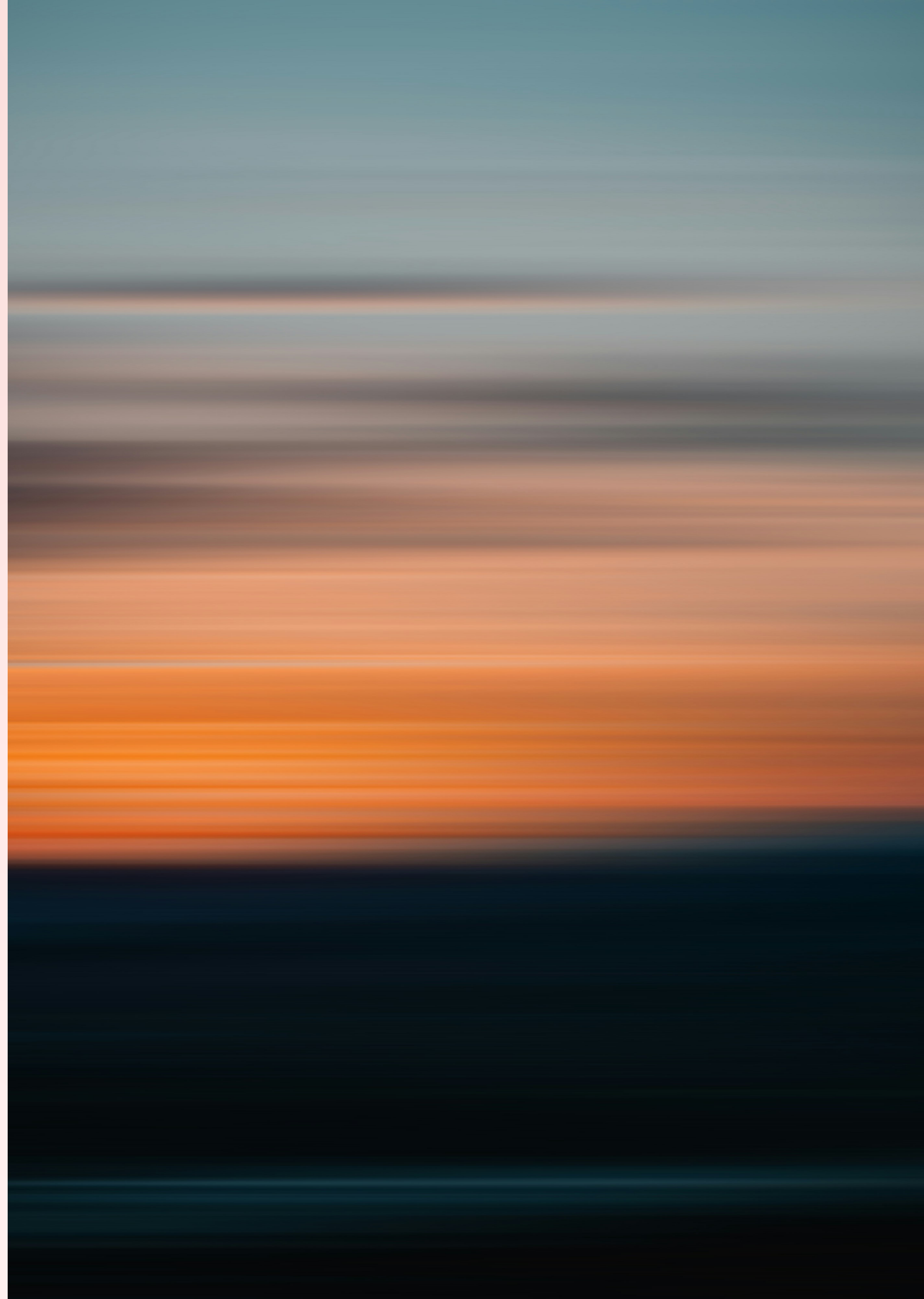
[Consult](#)

Preserving the health, safety, and well-being of visitors and employees despite the increase in extreme weather events

Understanding the impacts in order to optimize climate change adaptation

To assess the threats and opportunities facing a tourism destination, it's essential to consider the scope and scale of the impacts of climate change on the industry. These vary depending on several factors, including the specific characteristics of each region and seasonal variations.

Learn about the impacts of climate change by region and by season in a special report on tourism industry on the website of Ouranos. [Access the report](#)



Main

challenges

The information provided here is based on current knowledge and discussions with tourism associations. It is provided as an example and does not reflect all possible scenarios. A thorough understanding of climate phenomena and their effects on tourism supply and activities remains essential for assessing their impacts in a fair and representative manner.

01 Longevity of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities

Challenges

Camping and accommodations in nature

What factors might be causing this?

Extreme weather events

Extreme weather events

Coastal erosion and submergence

River flooding

Stormwater flooding

Forest fires

Extreme weather events

Precipitation

What kind of threat does this pose?

Cancellation, interruption, or disruption of activities related to the affected infrastructure.

Cancellation, interruption, or disruption of activities due to damage to access roads.

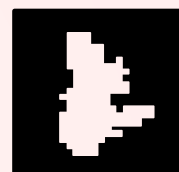
Increased maintenance and repair costs due to the premature aging of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities.

Examples for the industry

Cancellation of stays due to a cabin damaged by a tree that fell during high winds.

A significant detour to reach the site due to flooding on the main road.
Cancellation of stays due to road closures caused by forest fires.

More frequent maintenance at a campground due to damage caused by heavy rain.
Repeated repairs to buildings damaged by high winds.

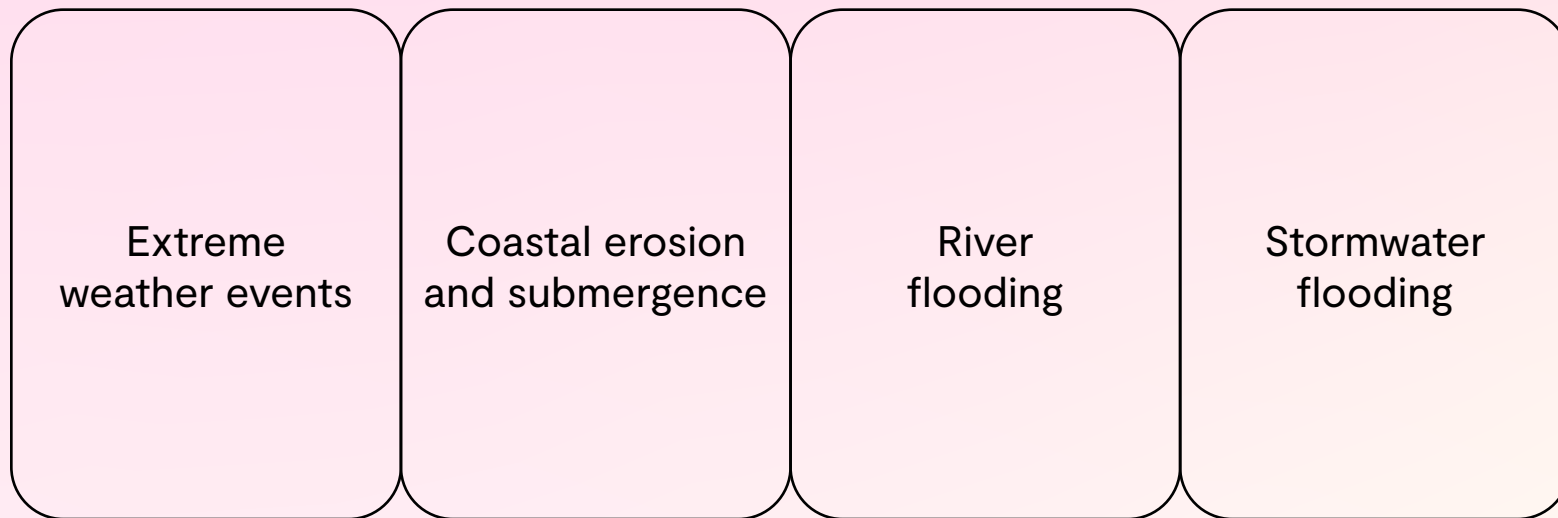
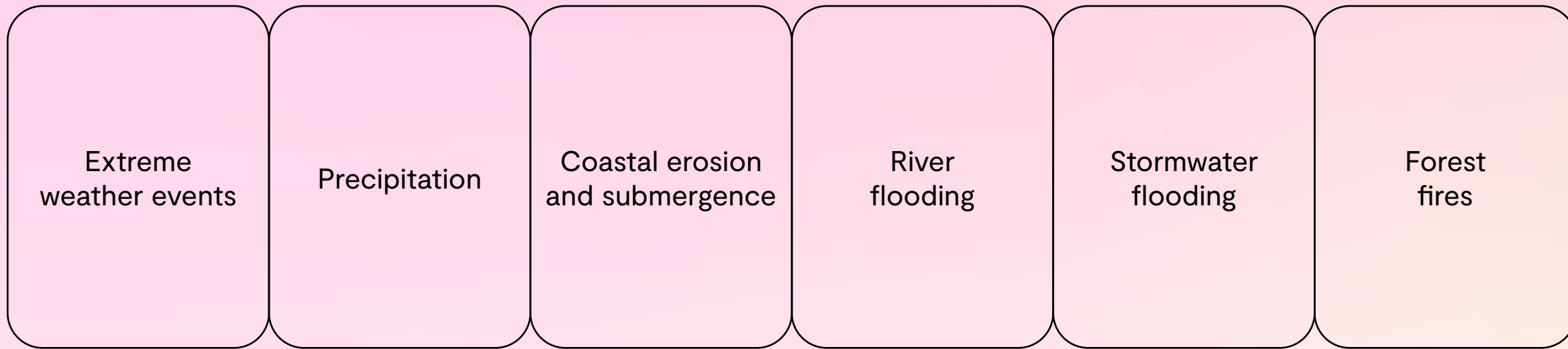
 Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.

01 Longevity of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities

Challenges

Camping and accommodations in nature

What factors might be causing this?



What kind of threat does this pose?

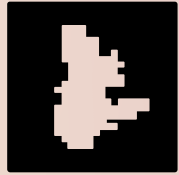
Total or partial loss of infrastructure, equipment and facilities.

Forced relocation due to damage to infrastructure, equipment and facilities in areas prone to extreme weather events.

Examples for the industry

Damage to campgrounds, cabins, restroom facilities, or reception buildings caused by repeated flooding or forest fires.

Relocation of a waterfront reception building to higher ground due to repeated flooding.
Relocation of a section of a campground affected by coastal erosion.



Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.

02 Viability of the tourism offering

Challenges

Camping and accommodations in nature

What factors might be causing this?

Extreme weather events
Coastal erosion and submergence

Extreme weather events
Coastal erosion and submergence
Landslides
River flooding
Stormwater flooding
Forest fires

Forest fires

What kind of threat does this pose?

Decreased appeal and/or loss of attractions and activities due to changes in ecosystem dynamics.

Higher insurance premiums, reduced insurance coverage, or even loss of coverage in areas vulnerable to extreme weather events.

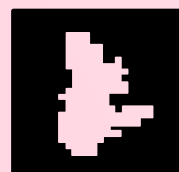
Interruption or disruption of the supply chain.

Examples for the industry

Changes in and a decline in the landscape quality of certain iconic natural sites affected by coastal erosion.

Higher insurance premiums or the addition of a high deductible following repeated claims (flood, storm, forest fire).

Delays in the delivery of propane, food, or cleaning supplies due to road closures caused by forest fires.

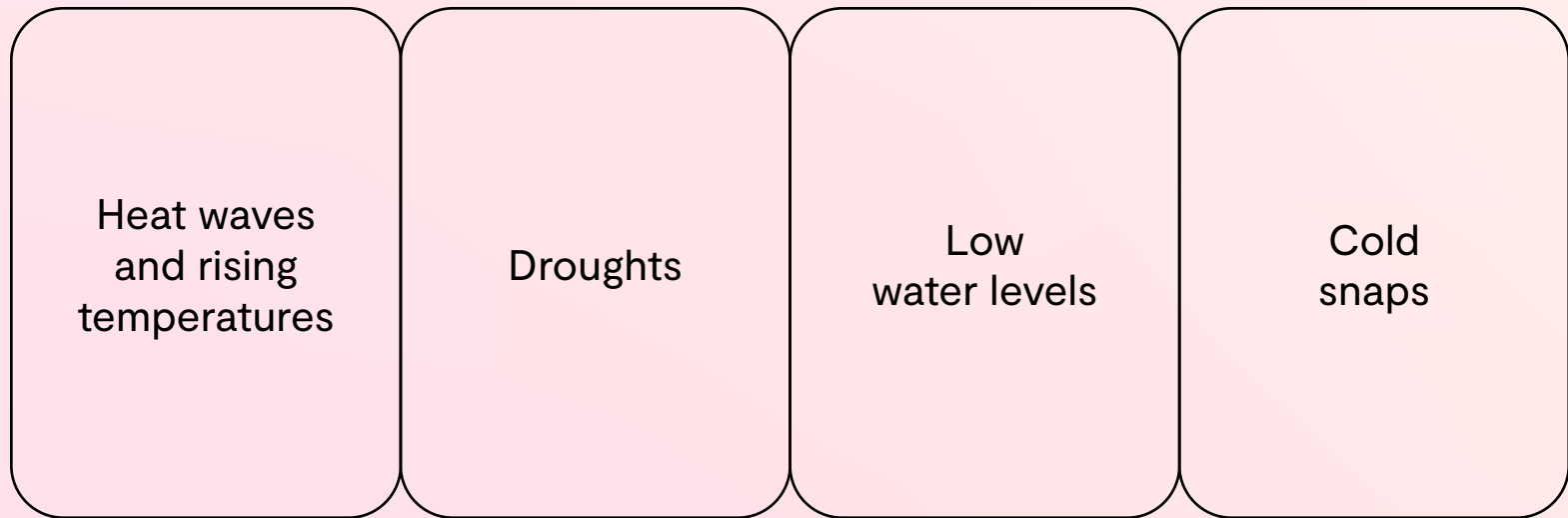
 Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.

02 Viability of the tourism offering

Challenges

Camping and accommodations in nature

What factors might be causing this?

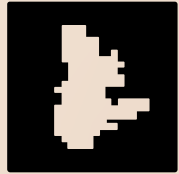


What kind of threat does this pose?

Increased pressure on the natural environment.

Examples for the industry

High water demand during heat waves jeopardizing the quantity and quality of drinking water sources during droughts and periods with low water levels.
High energy demand during heat waves and cold snaps.



Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.

03 Health and safety

Challenges

Camping and accommodations in nature

What factors might be causing this?

Heat waves and rising temperatures

Winter thaws

Heat waves and rising temperatures

Cold snaps

What kind of threat does this pose?

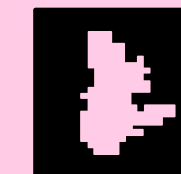
Increased risk of pests, invasive alien species, and pathogens.

Increased risks to the health, safety, and comfort of visitors and workers.

Examples for the industry

Damage to the insulation of cottages or to wiring caused by rodent infestations during milder winters.

Discomfort in poorly insulated buildings during heat waves or cold snaps.



Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.



Turning threats into opportunities

Some climate-related threats can also serve as powerful drivers of innovation for the tourism industry. Already, several organizations are taking concrete steps to adapt and are seizing these opportunities to enhance their offerings, strengthen their resilience, and set themselves apart.

The case of the Lac-Saint-Jean and Chaudière-Appalaches regions

Threat

Extreme weather conditions threaten the long-term quality of tourism offerings in terms of camping and accommodations in nature

Opportunity

Increase the resilience of tourism businesses by modernizing their offerings and extending the operating season

Camping Québec provided financial assistance to two campgrounds — Shekutamit Expérience (Robertson Beach campground) and Boisé du Domaine — to support the construction of ready-to-camp, resilient, accessible facilities designed to withstand climate change. This initiative, funded under a program supporting sustainable destinations and collaborative action, aims to strengthen the resilience of tourism businesses, extend the season, diversify the tourism offering, and promote more resilient infrastructure. The project also includes the development of resources, training, and support for all members, particularly regarding the design of resilient units and the calculation of carbon footprints. [Learn more](#)

The power of a network to accelerate the transition to action

As the effects of climate change intensify, collective action is more essential than ever.

It is based on scientific knowledge informed by learnings, the sharing of experiences, and collaboration through an iterative and ongoing process. Our understanding of the climate is evolving, risks are shifting, and vulnerabilities are changing. In this context, every tourism stakeholder has a role to play in developing activities and attractions that are better suited to the current and future climate conditions.

Key leaders in the development and structuring of the camping and accommodations in nature tourism offering

Camping Québec

Association des parcs régionaux du Québec

Fédération des pourvoiries du Québec

SÉPAQ

Réseau Zec

Aventure écotourisme Québec

Regional tourism associations