

Climate change  
is putting the tourism  
industry to the test

Wildlife-based activities  
(hunting and fishing)

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**

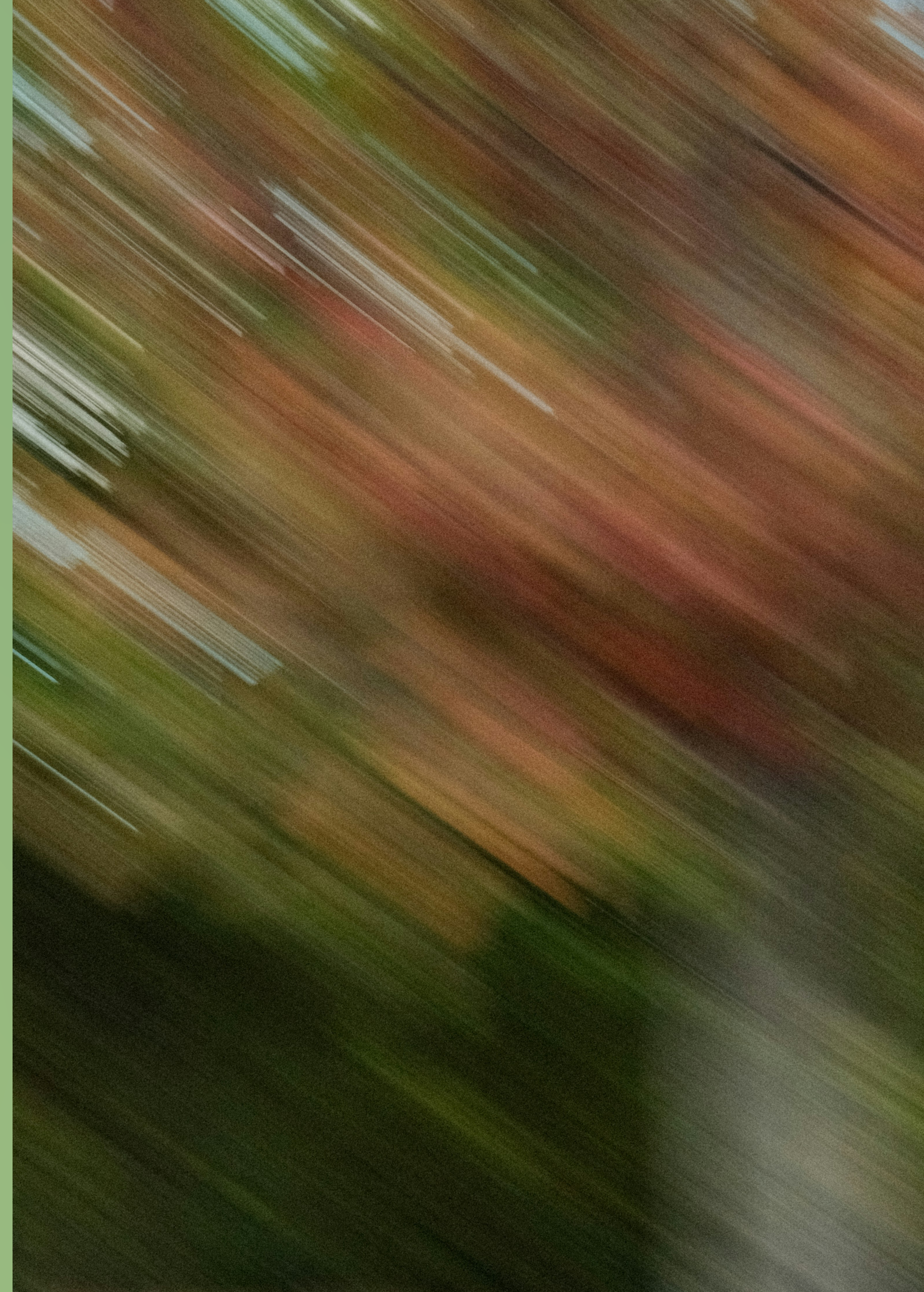
[Consult](#)

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

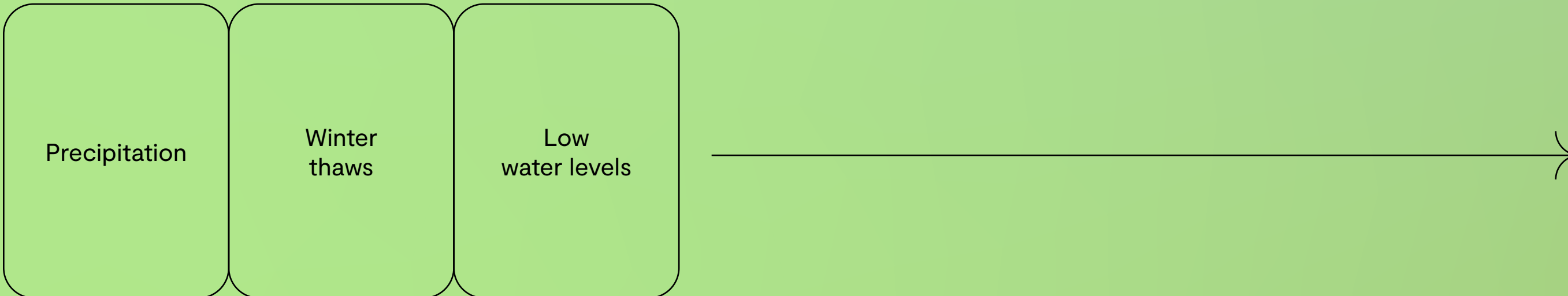
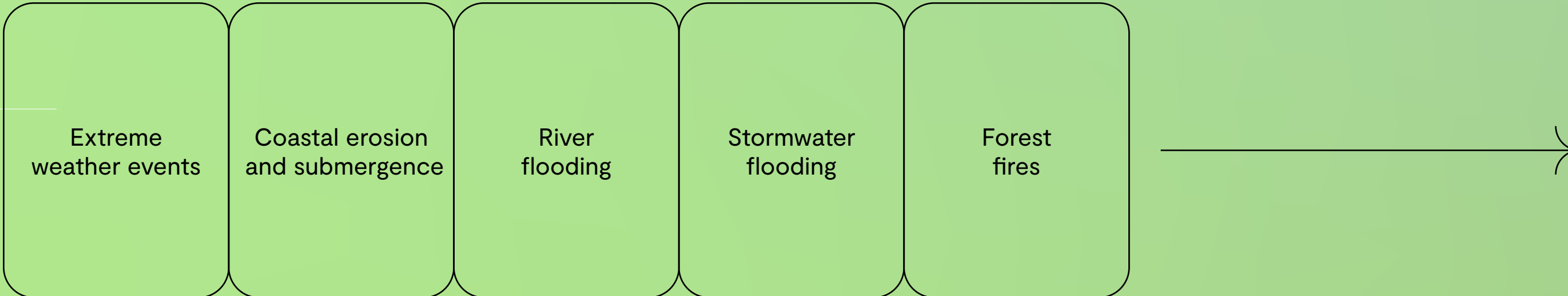
The information provided here is based on current knowledge and discussions with tourism associations. It is provided as an example and does not reflect all possible scenarios. A thorough understanding of climate phenomena and their effects on tourism supply and activities remains essential for assessing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

# 01 Longevity of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities

Challenges

Wildlife-based activities

What factors might be causing this?



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 fishing or hunting trips due to a cabin damaged by a falling tree during high winds.  
Cancellation of guided tours (fishing, hunting) due to damage to the dock caused by high winds.

Closure of a hunting area due to a forest road being damaged by flooding.  
Cancellation of fishing or hunting trips due to the closure of access roads caused by a forest fire.

More frequent maintenance of forest roads due to rutting and soil erosion during heavy rain.  
Repeated repairs to the docks due to significant fluctuations in water levels.



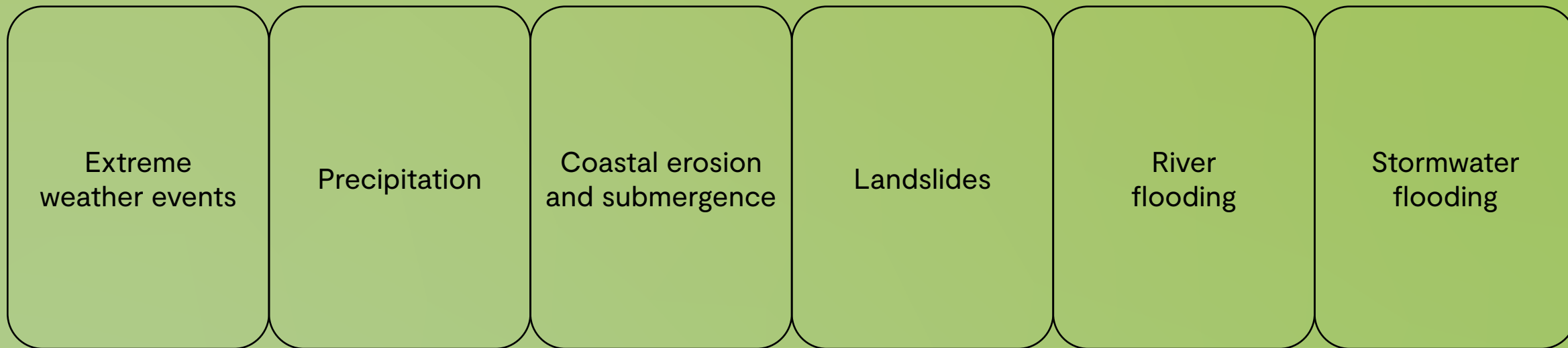
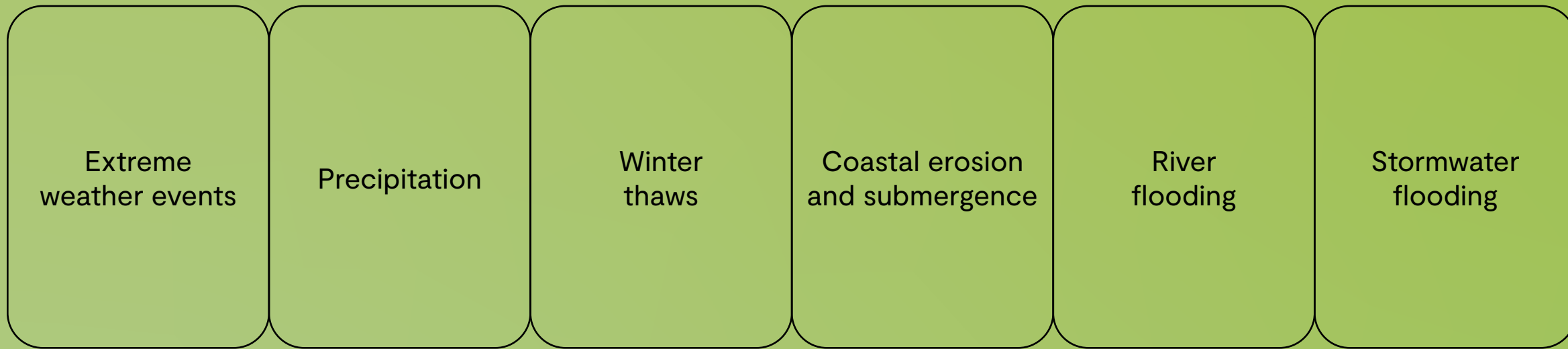
Track climate change and inform your actions on [Climate Portraits](#) platform.

# 01 Longevity of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities

Challenges

Wildlife-based activities

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 that are exposed to extreme weather events.

Examples for the industry

Total loss of a cabin due to flooding.  
Damage to a bridge and culvert leading to a fishing site, caused by floating materials in the watercourse.  
Loss of an ice fishing shack due to ice that was too thin.

Relocation of a waterfront cottage to higher ground due to repeated flooding.  
Relocation of an access trail following a landslide.



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# 02 Viability of the tourism offering

Challenges

Wildlife-based activities

## What factors might be causing this?

Heat waves and rising temperatures  
Droughts  
Low water levels

Coastal erosion and submergence  
River flooding  
Stormwater flooding

Extreme weather events  
Coastal erosion and submergence  
River flooding  
Stormwater flooding

## 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

Decline of native or endemic species in favour of invasive species.  
Declining populations of certain species (salmon, trout) due to rising water temperatures.  
Poor hunting results due to changes in migration patterns (birds, big game).

Higher insurance premiums for vacation homes in flood-prone areas.

Delays in the delivery of food and fuel to a remote site due to a flood rendering access roads impassable.



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# 02 Viability of the tourism offering

Challenges

Wildlife-based activities

What factors might be causing this?

Heat waves and rising temperatures

Droughts

Low water levels

Cold snaps



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.



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## What factors might be causing this?

Heat waves and rising temperatures

Presence of disease vectors

Low water levels

Heat waves and rising temperatures

Winter thaws

## 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

The emergence of ticks carrying Lyme disease in areas where they were previously absent, affecting hunters.

An increase in parasitic infections in fish.

The spread of invasive species (certain aquatic plants) that harm fishing.

Discomfort in poorly insulated buildings during heat waves.

An increase in parasite infestation in fish and in venison following slaughter, rendering certain species unfit for consumption.

Safety issues for activities conducted on water bodies (ice fishing) during winter thaws.



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## 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 James Bay and Abitibi-Témiscamingue

#### Threat

Higher risk to hunting and fishing activities due to the increased frequency and intensity of forest fires

#### Opportunity

Promote environmental responsibility among visitors and businesses through awareness-raising

The 2023 forest fire season in Quebec disrupted forest ecosystems and hindered activities in the areas affected by the fires. Hunting and fishing outfitters had many cancellations due to their severity and the risks to guest safety. There has been a growing collective awareness of the fragility of the natural environment. The tourism associations Tourisme Baie-James and Tourisme Eeyou Istchee are using a blog to educate tourists about the best practices recommended by SOPFEU for outdoor activities in the forest. [Learn more](#)

Tourisme Abitibi-Témiscamingue, for its part, has developed a document to support the adaptation of outfitters' facilities to the risks of forest fires. [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 wildlife-based tourism activities (hunting and fishing)

Fédération des pourvoiries du Québec

Indigenous Tourism Quebec

Aventure Écotourisme Québec

SÉPAQ

Réseau Zec

Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique

Regional tourism associations