

# Is scientific research on water-tourism nexus responding to the challenges identified by stakeholders and policy-makers? The case of Benidorm, Spain

Rubén A. Villar-Navascués, Sandra Ricart, Antonio M. Rico-Amorós and María Hernández-Hernández  
Interuniversity Institute of Geography, University of Alicante (Spain); [rnavascues@ua.es](mailto:rnavascues@ua.es)

HS1.2.1 Role of hydrology in policy, society and interdisciplinary collaborations: across disciplines and beyond scientists

## Aim

Identify agreement or disagreement in actions and topics of interest related to tourist water consumption between scientific research, decision-makers and stakeholders from tourist sector applied to the Benidorm case study (SE Spain)



## Data collection

- **Scientific research** (literature review)
- **Decision-makers** (policy review – laws, regulation and plans developed by public administration and tourist sector)
- **Stakeholders from the tourist sector** (questionnaires and interviews to 22 hotel managers from Benidorm and water consumption data).

## Data analysis

- Scientific research and decision-makers **main topics of interest** about water consumption in hotels.
- Stakeholders from the tourist sector: **measures taken to reduce water consumption** and perception about **challenges** and **barriers** in this issue.

## RESULTS: TOPICS OF INTEREST – ACTIONS DEVELOPED

Scientific research	Decision-makers	Hotel managers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Explaining factors</b> of water consumption in hotels.</li> <li>- <b>Potential variables</b> that <b>influences</b> the adoption of <b>water-saving measures</b> in hotels.</li> <li>- <b>Tourist water consumption behaviour.</b></li> <li>- Examples of <b>good practices.</b></li> <li>- <b>Water tariff reform</b> as incentive to hotel water-saving practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design and grant <b>environmental certificates.</b></li> <li>- <b>Limitation of water uses</b> during droughts.</li> <li>- <b>Water tariff schemes.</b></li> <li>- <b>Plans and strategies</b> to promote <b>sustainable water and energy consumption in the tourist sector</b> through recommendations and measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of <b>water efficient devices</b> to reduce operational costs and obtain <b>environmental certificates</b> (corporate image).</li> <li>- <b>Behavioural measures</b> (messages, reuse of towels and linen)</li> <li>- <b>Formalized</b> water management, conservation and saving <b>programs.</b></li> <li>- <b>Alternative-emergency water supply sources</b> (private wells and reclaimed water).</li> </ul>

### Concord

### Discord

Scientific research and Decision-Makers:	<b>Water tariff reforms;</b> Tourist water consumption <b>planning</b>	<b>Update of empirical data</b>
Scientific research and Hotel managers:	<b>Tourist water consumption behaviour;</b> <b>good practices.</b>	Theoretical knowledge ( <b>understanding</b> ) vs practical actions ( <b>managing</b> )
Decision-Makers and Hotel managers:	<b>Compliance with regulations</b>	<b>Lack of incentives</b> to comply with <b>non-mandatory measures</b>