Embratur | greeninitiative For a climate positive planet | Glasgow Declaration Climate Action in Tourism | FUNDTUR FUNDAÇÃO DE TURISMO DE MATO GROSSO DO SUL

carbon neutral® CERTIFIED

BONITO

First Carbon Neutral Ecotourism destination of the world

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Number of tourists in 2021: **205,460.**

INTRODUCTION

Bonito, in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, is a leading ecotourism destination known for its crystal-clear rivers, biodiversity, and unique geological formations. The city is committed to sustainable tourism, preserving its pristine landscapes. Visitors can explore stunning caves like Gruta do Lago Azul, enjoy transparent rivers for snorkeling, and encounter diverse flora and fauna. Adventure activities such as hiking and diving are popular, and the region emphasizes responsible tourism practices to ensure long-term conservation. Bonito offers a perfect blend of untouched natural beauty and thrilling outdoor experiences.

CLIMATE ACTION

In 2022, the destination took a next step into its sustainability efforts, by becoming one of the first touristic destinations to obtain the Climate Neutral Certification in the world. Bonito underwent a detailed carbon footprint analysis of its touristic activities, as well as a carbon capture estimation of their preserved forests, which indicated sufficient carbon emissions neutralization for the touristic sector.

Although Bonito still does not have evidence of carbon reduction, as they are on the way to monitor the second year's footprint, the municipality is already working in key activities that will play a fundamental role accelerating their transition to net-zero emissions. These activities are:

- Setting an emission reduction target with concrete goals for 2025, 2027 and 2030;
- Developing a Climate Action Policy for Tourism (in the framework of the Glasgow Declaration);
- Scale up strategic mitigation efforts such as organic waste management systems, producing valuable inputs for local agriculture and providing biological remediation to their soil and lands.
- Working alongside the local community to further engage in climate and nature positive action;
- Engaging with key tourism stakeholders such as tourism operators and transportation services/ car rentals to introduce climate-smart services.

These key initiatives are being implemented, creating an enabling environment for climate-smart public and private investments. The municipality's commitment to sustainable tourism practices is evident, signaling a positive shift towards a greener and more environmentally conscious future.

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GHG EMISSIONS

Key Actions:

- ZERO WASTE — Reduce emissions from organic waste disposal by implementing organic waste treatment facilities and separation projects with the local community.
- Support the use of biofuels such as ethanol or electric vehicles by the tourists in the city, for transportation.

Expected growth for the tourism industry of 5,8% per year

2021: – Measured carbon footprint baseline | **2022/2023: –** Under development | **2024/2025 –** Expected carbon footprint.

Expected reduction of 45% of emissions per tourists until 2030

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OTHER SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

- Organic residue composting and tree sapling production
- Environmental education projects for children and tourists
- Electronic garbage and water pollutants management
- Forest preservation projects for watersheds and touristic spots

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

- Ensure the engagement of the regional government.
- Reinforce the collaboration with other economic sectors such as agriculture and livestock to reinforce their engagement in landscape restoration and climate-smart production.
- Scale up strategic mitigation efforts such as organic waste management systems, producing valuable inputs for local agriculture and providing biological remediation to their soil and lands.
- Influence other tourism destinations in Brazil to follow climate-smart tourism development guidelines.
- Enhance tourists in climate-smart traveling to Bonito, promoting their collaboration in climate and nature positive activities.
- Support local communities to engage in circular economy and other climate and nature positive action.

To learn more about climate action in tourism, please visit

www.greeninitiative.eco

For downloading Green Initiative's Climate Action Guide for Tourism,

click here