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ABSTRACT & OBJECTIVES

This research sought to construct an exploratory nationally comparative tourism accessibility measure (TAI) through developing an objective set of metrics in the spirit and intent of the international treaties and missions regarding the rights of persons with disabilities.

ACCESSIBILITY: conditions that a destination must have in order to be enjoyed by all individuals with access requirements and as a key factor of destination competitiveness

Applied to: Australia and New Zealand (Oceania) and Argentina and Brazil (South-America)

Data: the TAI draws upon data collected cross-country, cross-continent and for a period of 25 years (1990–2015) based on factor and principal component analysis.

The TAI is developed based on: socio-demographic data; legal framework, political will and policy actions; and access conditions in tourism attractions. This measure is a useful tool to provide information about the critical elements, stages of development, evolution and understanding of the accessible tourism approaches in each of the studied countries.

METHODS

The research design included:

- Comprehensive literature review comparing previous models
- Country case studies at the national and regional levels across 4 countries
- Developed composite measures for articles 9 & 30 across 5 temporal periods

The Tourism Accessibility Index (TAI) is constructed as:

$$TAI = (0.12 * GII + 0.05 * PWDI + 0.15 * TI + 0.16 * IF + 0.13 * APSI + 0.32 * LFI + 0.7 * SAI) * 100$$

The Alternative Tourism Accessibility Index (ATAI) is constructed as:

$$ATAI = (0.22 * GII + 0.09 * PWDI + 0.13 * TI + 0.24 * APSI + 0.31 * LFI) * 100$$

Variables and sub-variables of the methodology proposed

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population
 Areas (km²)
 Density
 Gross Domestic Product per capita
 Human Development Index

POPULATION WITH DISABILITIES

Total PWD
 Total PWD (% Total Pop.)
 PWD with one type of disability (% PWD)
 PWD with more than one type of disability (% PWD)
 Pw sensory disability (% PWD)
 Pw intellectual impairment (% PWD)
 Pw motor impairments (physical disability) (% PWD)

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Adherence to International Treaties
 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of PWD (1983)
 Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against PWD (1999)
 UN CRPD (2006) & Optional Protocol (2006)
National-Disability
 PWD in National Constitution
 PWD main Law
 Disability National Organization
 PWD Program-Plan
National-Tourism
 Tourism National Organization
 Tourism accessible Law
 Accessible Tourism Program

TOURISM

International tourist arrivals (nº of arrivals)
 Tourist arrivals for 1000 habitants
 International tourist departures (nº of departures)
 Tourism inbound (millions dollars)
 Inbound in relation to tourism arrivals
 Tourism inbound (% GDP)
 International tourism expenditure (% total imports)
 International tourism receipts (% total exports)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Nº International Airport
 Nº Domestic Airport
 Accessible facilities main airline
 Accommodation with accessibility (% of rooms)

ACCESSIBILITY IN WORLD HERITAGE SITES (WHS)

Nº of WHS FA (% WHS FA)
 Nº of WHS Cultural FA (% WHS Cultural FA)
 Nº of WHS Natural FA (% WHS Natural FA)
 Nº of WHS Mixed FA (% WHS Mixed FA)
 Nº of WHS PA (% WHS PA)
 Nº of WHS Cultural PA (% WHS Cultural PA)
 Nº of WHS Natural PA (% WHS Natural PA)

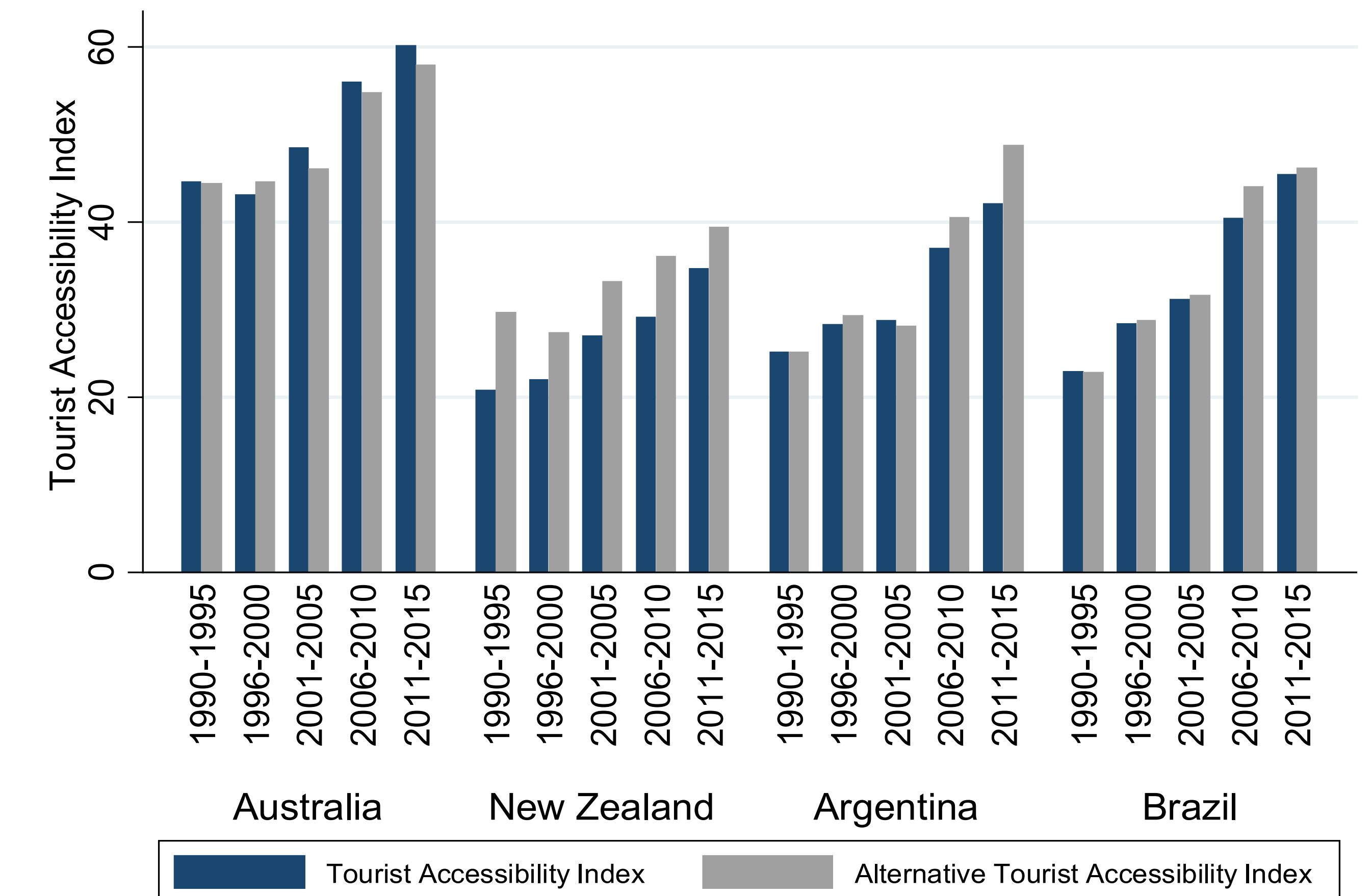
STATS & AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Accessibility in official web sites
 Information in web sites
 Books/Guides of Accessible Tourism
 Building Code/Accessible transport law
 Statistics

Source: Developed by authors

RESULTS

Tourist Accessibility Index (TAI) and Alternative Tourist Accessibility Index (ATAI)



Source: Developed by authors

Figure 1 presents the results over the 5 time periods. A summary of the outcomes were:

- Australia had the highest TAI across all 5 time periods
- Brazil ranks second with gradual growth across all 5 time periods
- Argentina ranks well in the early time periods but experiences little growth between 1996 and 2005
- New Zealand had the lowest TAI across all time periods
- All four countries have experienced improvements in TAI across the years 1990-2015, especially from 2006 –coinciding with UN CRPD.

CONCLUSIONS

- Data and comparative data is everything to developing a comparative understanding of the position of PWD in social participation
- Accessible tourism in each of the countries is a complex interaction between the individual components of the TAI
- The underlying pillars of infrastructure and legislation need to be in place and then specific accessible tourism initiatives can leverage off this foundation
- The relative stage of economic development of nation states has a significant effect on the resources available for strategic tourism development
- This exploratory research project leaves many avenues for future investigation

DISABILITY & TOURISM

The study of disability and tourism began with a series of adhoc studies in the 1970s. As we moved into the 2000s the area was conceptualized as accessible tourism recognizing the importance of several bodies of knowledge in its development. These include:

- Human Rights initiatives such as the 1971 Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons through to the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Anti-discrimination and disability discrimination legislation
- World Health Organisation international classification systems (ICIDH2)
- The disability social movement and the development of critical disability studies
- Accessible tourism as a research field and industry practice
- Specific accessible tourism legislation and national and international standards

