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e-bulletin

Issue: Nº 16, November 2008

Online at:

<http://www.unwto.org/sdt/ebulletin/en/ebulletin.php>

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1. Launch of the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria



The Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria were launched by the United Nations Foundation, UNWTO, UNEP and the Rainforest Alliance at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2008. The new criteria – based on thousands of best practices culled from the existing standards currently in use around the world – were developed to offer a common framework to guide the emerging practice of sustainable tourism. Mr. Frangialli pointed out that *“In order to minimize the negative impacts of this growth, sustainability should translate from words to facts, and be an imperative for all tourism stakeholders. The GSTC initiative will undoubtedly constitute a major reference point for the entire tourism sector and an important step in making sustainability an inherent part of tourism development.”*

2. Sustainable Tourism Policy Initiative at World Heritage Sites



The Sustainable Tourism Policy Initiative at World Heritage Sites is a collaborative action of UNESCO-WHC, its Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM), UNWTO, as well as other international organizations, addressing congestion management techniques, conservation issues, enhancement of tourist experience and the economic impact in local communities at World Heritage Sites. As part of a series of expert meetings, the last workshop was held from 28 to 30 October 2008 in Blatten b. Naters, Switzerland with the objective to further develop linkages and collaborations with the private sector, considering site financing as a key issue.

3. Management of Protected Areas as a Tourism Resource

A seminar was organized on **Management of Protected Areas as a Tourism Resource**, by the Ministry of Tourism of Croatia, with the support of the Central European Initiative and UNWTO. Following a series of events initiated in Hungary, this seminar brought together officials from tourism, environmental and heritage authorities, as well as protected areas managers, in order to exchange experience on sustainable tourism policies and applications in the region. A wide range of case

study presentations and a technical visit to the Plitvice Lakes National Park hosting this event served as the basis for interactive debates. The presentations and proceedings of this seminar can be found at: <http://unwto.org/sdt/events/en/events.php?op=3>

4. Climate Change and Tourism



Mr. Luigi Cabrini at the Annual Tourism Conference in Madeira

Climate change and tourism remains a priority issue on the agenda of the Department. During the last weeks, the Department participated in a number of related conferences (e.g., **Annual Tourism Conference** in Madeira, 17 October 2008, the **Fifth International Seminar on Innovation and Tourism** in Palma de Mallorca, reflecting on “Tourism, Commitments towards Climate Change – Opportunities and Challenges”, 22 October 2008, and the **XVII Meeting of the Regional Tourism Authorities**, Santa Marta, Columbia, from 28 to 29 August 2008, and celebrated the **World Tourism Day** in Uruguay. UNWTO continues its collaboration with other international organization in the UN framework on climate change. As part of the collaborative action to tackle climate change, the Department participated in the preparatory meetings for the **World Climate Conference (WCC-3)** on “Climate Prediction and Information for Decision-Making” which will be held from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. UNWTO is taking the lead for the session on “Climate Information, Transportation and Tourism”.

5. Climate Change in the Maldives

Final consultations on the project proposal on Integration of Tourism into National Adaptation Strategies in the Maldives took place from 14 to 28 September. As a result of the meetings, site visits and a stakeholder workshop, a good consensus

was reached on the project components, activities and pilot demonstration areas.



The full project proposal will be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in order to obtain funding for a 3-year process involving work in policies, capacity building and on-the ground implementation of adaptation measures. A project website has been set up where detailed information is available: <http://www.unwto.org/maldives-climate>

6. Surveys on the Implementation of the Code of Ethics and on Protection of Children in Tourism



A new Survey on the Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism has been launched during the third quarter of 2008 to UNWTO Member and non-member States. With the objective of

assessing the degree of awareness of the Code and the current status of its implementation worldwide, the present Survey comes as a follow-up to previous surveys conducted in 2000 and 2004. The findings of the present survey will form an important component of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assemblies of both UNWTO and the United Nations scheduled for 2009.



Within the same framework of the Code of Ethics, another survey is being conducted simultaneously on the specific topic of the Protection of Children in Tourism.

The replies to this Survey will be used to revise and complete the database on administrative and legal measures existing in the various countries for the protection of children and young people against sexual exploitation, child labour and trafficking specifically related to the field of tourism. Information on this issue referring to existing legislation and emergency telephone hotlines has been collected in 1997, 2000 and 2003

through similar surveys and is available on our website www.unwto.org/protect_children.

7. Migration and Tourism

The UNWTO is preparing a study on tourism and migration whose objective will be to assess the impact of migratory flows on tourism, as well as to learn about best ways of addressing migration-related opportunities and challenges for tourism development.

Migration is a clear generator of tourism demand. Expatriates return to their countries of origin, on a more or less regular basis, to visit their family and friends. This is increasingly also a two-way flow as more and more relatives from the home country travel to visit the members of their family based in the new host countries. VFR (Visit Friends and Relatives) travel has become a very important component in the tourism sector of many countries.

Migration can also be a source of progress and development, including for the tourism sector. Remittances can be used to foster education and health and, just as income from tourism, can have a real impact in poverty reduction. Migrants' remittances can be a powerful instrument for enhancing tourism-related projects and investments in basic infrastructures at community-based level in the countries of origin of expatriates.

8. World Committee on Tourism Ethics

The World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE) held its seventh meeting in Rome, Italy, on 14 and 15 November 2008. This meeting coincided with the official inauguration of the Permanent Secretariat of this Committee in Rome. The Secretariat will provide technical and expert support to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, in particular, promoting and disseminating UNWTO's Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

At the meeting, the WCTE looked at ethical aspects of important issues for tourism such as facilitation of tourist travel, HIV travel related restrictions and the recent launch of the new UNWTO Campaign to Protect Children from Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, received the Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, observers and UNWTO representatives for an informal group audience. The Secretary-General of UNWTO gave a copy of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism to the Pope.

9. Economic and Social Impacts of Tourism

The Department participated at the **High-level meeting of the OECD Tourism Committee** in Riva del Garda, Italy, from 9 to 10 October 2008 on the theme of "Tourism, Economy and Globalization". The role of tourism as an engine for innovation, growth and employment was thoroughly discussed. At the **first European Conference on Bridging the North-South Divide Through Sustainable Tourism Development** organized by International Institute For Peace Through Tourism (Leeuwarden, Netherlands, 23-25 October), the Department contributed with the UNWTO initiatives on poverty alleviation through tourism and other special programmes for developing countries.

10. One-week training course for tourism authorities in the Americas

The first fully fledged course on "Sustainable Development of Tourism: Management Policies and Instruments" was delivered in the State of Zacatecas, Mexico, to 40 central and regional managers of tourism administrations from Mexico and other Latin American countries. The course – designed by the Department in cooperation with the UNWTO Themis Foundation and the Mexican Secretariat for Tourism – covered, through a combination of lectures and interactive exercises, both conceptual and practical tools and instruments for sustainable development of tourism. Destination management, analysis of sustainability objectives, poverty alleviation, climate change and tourism, tourism management in cultural and natural heritage sites, were among the topics addressed in the course, which also included a field exercise with practical application of indicators for sustainable tourism

11. Latest update from the Tour Operators' Initiative



A **workshop on Building Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism Business and Biodiversity Conservation** was convened by the Tour Operator's Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development (TOI) in cooperation with WWF and MARTI, on 25 June 2008 in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Main objective of the workshop, facilitated by the Department, was to develop a strategic action plan for the region through an international dialogue with local key stakeholders and tourism source markets.

Representatives from most agencies at the local and state levels, including several NGOs, local tourism business stakeholders and federal agencies such as the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas, CONANP) and Congress representatives actively participated.

The report of the workshop will be on-line soon at <http://www.toinitiative.org>

Transat A.T. Inc., a vertically-integrated international tour operator which operates from Canada and Europe and provides vacations to approximately 2.5 million travellers each year joined TOI in July 2008.

Members of the TOI approved unanimously at the **Annual General Meeting**, held in Geneva on 27 October 2008, its future strategy. The TOI will soon open up to entities other than tour operators while keeping the main focus on the tour operating business. The Meeting agreed that the new organizational structure represents a key opportunity for the TOI to renew its image; work more in destinations; cope with new emerging needs of the travel and tourism industry and safeguard their interest through sustainable tourism.



Mr. Gabor Vereczi at the TOI workshop in Mexico

12. Recent SDT Activities and Events

Date and Place	Event
27–29 November 2008 <i>Rimini, Italy</i>	2nd International Conference on Sustainable Tourism
27 November 2008 <i>Rimini, Italy</i>	6th edition of Eurometing on Sustainable Tourism
21 November 2008 <i>Rome, Italy</i>	Meeting of the TOI with WWF MedPo and WWF Italy
14–15 November 2008 <i>Rome, Italy</i>	World Committee on Tourism Ethics
5-7 November 2008 <i>Maputo, Mozambique</i>	Seminar on Ecotourism and Protected Areas in Africa: Contributing to community development and conservation
3-7 November 2008 <i>Zacatecas, México</i>	Course of UNWTO/Themis Foundation on “Sustainable Development of Tourism: Management Policies and Instruments”
28 to 30 October 2008 <i>Blatten b. Naters, Switzerland</i>	Experts Workshop on Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites (WHS) / UNESCO-UNWTO
27 October 2008 <i>Geneva, Switzerland</i>	TOI Annual General Meeting
23–25 October 2008 <i>Leeuwarden, Netherlands</i>	1st IIPT European Conference on Bridging the North-South Divide through Sustainable Tourism Development
22–24 October 2008 <i>Baleares, Spain</i>	Fifth International Seminar on Innovation and Tourism – Session on Tourism and Climate Change
17 October 2008 <i>Madeira, Portugal</i>	II Annual Conference of Tourism: Environment - Tourism Commitment
9–10 October 2008 <i>Riva del Garda, Italy</i>	Meeting OECD High Level Tourism Committee Meeting on “The Tourism Economy & Globalization: An Engine for Innovation, Growth & Employment”
9–10 October 2008 <i>National Park Plitvice Lakes, Croatia</i>	CEI Seminar on Management of Protected Areas as a Tourism Resource
24–27 September 2008 <i>Montevideo, Uruguay</i>	Workshop in Tourism and Climate Change in the Framework of the World Tourism Day
14-28 September 2008 <i>The Maldives</i>	Final consultations on the project proposal on Integration of Tourism into National Adaptation Strategies in the Maldives
3–5 September 2008 <i>Geneva, Switzerland</i>	Second Meeting of the World Climate Conference–3 International Organizing Committee
28–29 August 2008 <i>Santa Marta, Colombia</i>	XVII Meeting of the Regional Tourism Authorities
23–25 August 2008 <i>Panama City, Panama</i>	IX Forum on Development and Integration of Tourism in Central America and the Dominican Republic
2–3 July 2008 <i>Sophia-Antipolis, Greece</i>	Regional workshop “Promote Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean”
26 June 2008 <i>Playa del Carmen, Mexico</i>	Meeting with hoteliers and the Director of the Riviera Maya Hotels Association (Asociación de Hoteles de la Riviera Maya, AHRM)
25 June 2008 <i>Playa del Carmen, Mexico</i>	TOI/WWF/MARTI Workshop on Building Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism Business and Biodiversity Conservation

For SDT Events:

<http://www.unwto.org/sdt/events/>

For other tourism events see WTO Events Calendar:

<http://www.unwto.org/calendar/menu.html>

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is a UN Specialized Agency that serves as a global forum for tourism policy and issues. Its Members include 161 countries and territories as well as over 370 Affiliate Members from the public and private sectors. WTO's mission is to promote and develop tourism as a significant means of fostering international peace and understanding, economic development and international trade.

<http://www.unwto.org/>