

Climate Change and Tourism – Responding to Global Challenges

Side Event at UNFCCC COP-13 Conference on Climate Change

Bali, Indonesia

11 December 2007, 13:00 – 15:00, Grand Hyatt Hotel



Adapting – Mitigating – Fostering Sustainable Development

- **TOURISM contributes** to 5% of **CLIMATE CHANGE**
- TOURISM is **affected** by CLIMATE CHANGE
- TOURISM is **BOOMING**; almost 900 million international tourist arrivals in 2007
- TOURISM is the **MAIN EXPORT EARNER** for 46 of the 49 LDCs and a major **DEVELOPMENT DRIVER**

UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** said that:

“You have almost unlimited boundaries and your work is related to almost all aspects of our lives and there is no such area which is not related to Tourism.”

Tourism is one of the biggest and most dynamically growing economic sectors of the world. Tourism generates foreign exchange and provides employment opportunities.

Tourism has a dual relationship with climate change. Tourism is affected by climate change across all its settings – from mountains to tropical islands, coasts and heritage sites; but tourism is also among the causes of this global phenomenon- mainly due to the emissions resulting from tourism transport and energy use in facilities.

Tourism is one of the most effective tools to face the development challenge enshrined in the UN Millennium Development Goals.

While the developing world must also adapt, it cannot pay the price of the global response to the climate change, a phenomenon it has contributed relatively little to. Mitigation policies have to be developed in a balanced way, without jeopardizing the tourism sector of developing countries and its contributions to poverty reduction.

This Side Event aims at integrating UNWTO’s efforts into the UN system response to climate change, and to foster collaboration with related sectors and initiatives.

TOURISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE - RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

WHEN: 11 December 2007; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

WHERE: Grand Hyatt Hotel, Bali, Indonesia

CONTENT:

Recent key events will be presented along with examples by countries and institutions on **adaptation and mitigation policies** and measures taken in the **tourism sector**.

INPUT:

- **Davos Declaration** - 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, Davos, Switzerland (October 2007)
- **London Conclusions** - Ministerial Summit, London, UK (November 2007)
- **Member Endorsement** - UNWTO General Assembly, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (November 2007)

BACKGROUND:

At least since 2003 UNWTO has been actively dealing with climate change issues, when it held the First International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism in Djerba, Tunisia.

Collaborating since then closely with UNEP, WMO, IPCC and UNFCCC, the Organization aims at implementing an effective and comprehensive climate change framework, in the true spirit of One UN.

UNWTO is the United Nations Specialized Agency for Tourism, which has been requested by the UN Secretary General to ensure that tourism is appropriately reflected in the overall UN effort to develop a global response to climate change, in coherence with the Millennium Development Goals.



The World Tourism Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations



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