

Topic: Measures to ensure environmentally safe tourism

The United Nations Environment Committee,

Understanding the International Ecotourism Society's (TIES) definition of ecotourism as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education;”

Bearing in mind that according to the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) World Tourism Barometer, 2016 saw about 46 million more tourists travel internationally in comparison to 2015;

Recognizing the many benefits of tourism, including the promotion of diversity, education on environmental and cultural issues, and the economic development of local communities;

Further recognizing the potential drawbacks of the tourism industry, including the overuse and degradation of ecosystems and corporate invasion on local destinations;

Realizing that the tourism sector contributes to roughly 10% of global GDP and 30% of the world's service exports;

Fully aware that the growing demands of the tourism industry has often led to the prioritization of economic development over environmental sustainability;

Affirming the twelve pillars of sustainable tourism as economic viability, local prosperity, employment quality, social equity, visitor fulfilment, local control, community wellbeing, cultural richness, physical integrity, biological diversity, resource efficiency, and environmental purity;

Deeply disturbed that the tourism industry is responsible for about 60% of all air transportation, contributing significantly to air pollution and global warming;

Reaffirming the importance of the guidelines set out by the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism in maximizing the sector's socio-economic benefits while ensuring environmental protection;

Confident that the tourism industry is fully capable of helping nations towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially those of affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, and more;

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), their branching organizations, and various non-profit organizations have contributed to the development of environmentally safe tourism through work with local governments and raising awareness of environmental issues;

1. **Emphasizes** on local participation in decision-making through:
 - a. Setting a quota of a minimum percentage of local people involved in financial management of the touristic business,

- b. Setting a quota of a minimum percentage of locals in order to approve and pass a decision regarding the property and finances of a touristic business,
- c. Sustainably benefiting local communities with one or more of the following:
 - i. Drawing out a portion of the land for their private use and consumption,
 - ii. A share of incomes given to them in proportion to their donations of the land or the amount spent on their conservation of the land,
 - iii. Supporting their local conservation efforts and offering them educational components within ecotourism;
- d. Implementing the indigenous people rights act, a landmark social legislation that aims to protect the “Four Bundles of Rights”

2. **Urges** that the UN set up the United Nations National Parks Protection (UNNPP). The body will serve to decide how funds are shared between:

- a. Educating tourists as they enter the parks on how to behave, for example, no littering and what designated paths look like in order to prevent erosion of land by people walking off paths,
- b. Buying signs and barriers to put up across the park, without damaging the park’s natural beauty,
- c. Increasing the number of park rangers in all national parks to watch over tourist behavior and look after the park,
- d. Requests that fines are increased for littering and that all money goes back to the UNNPP who will invest the money into further means of protection.

3. **Suggests** a limitation of tourism on areas which are at risk of pollution, economic and cultural causes damages by means such as but not limited to:

- a. Implementing fees and raising prices to discourage people to visit areas that are affected negatively while compensating the businesses that rely on tourism from UN funds,
- b. Creating limited access permission certificates on the basis first come, first serve that will limit the amount of people visiting a specific place in order to avoid big crowds and give the local authorities more flexibility,
- c. Invoking an all-out ban on tourism in extremely affected areas such as specific parks with severely endangered animals to reduce any harmful impacts on the area and its ecosystem.