

Making Tourism Work for Development

Delivering as One UN

world's Tourism

Jobs
exports
Sustainable
protecting
Energy
MDG's
services
SIDS
Decent
Economic
South
GDP
Growth
Development
Cooperation
FDI
Green
Investment
protection
LDCs
Poverty
tourism
Peace
countries
Environment
Economy
cultural
Social
tools
decent jobs
heritage
protection
Investment
FDI
Development
Cooperation
exports

UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development



The United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development

The United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (UN-SCTD) is a Global Partnership for Development (MDG8) bringing together nine UN agencies committed to strengthening the contribution of international tourism to sustainable development and mainstreaming tourism in the global development agenda. The UN-SCTD’s main objective is to support developing countries’ needs for implementing tourism for development in an integrated approach, by providing guidance and mobilizing the necessary financial resources.

By harnessing the strengths and expertise of each of its members, by engaging donors in an open debate and, most importantly, by working side by side with country representatives, the UN-SCTD aims to maximize the potential of tourism to lift millions out of poverty and contribute to sustainable development. The UN-SCTD is an innovative approach to Delivering as One, which will support the follow-up to the Rio+20 Summit, ensuring coherent action within the tourism sector and across the United Nations system.

“When approached in a sustainable manner, tourism can help drive economic growth and alleviate poverty. In fact, tourism has proved to be one of the leading ways for the least developed countries to increase their participation in the global economy.”

UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon

An Integrated Approach: UN-SCTD Portfolio of Services for Tourism Development

In response to the need for an integrated approach to develop tourism that can drive sustainable growth and development through reducing poverty, the UN-SCTD brings together UN agencies and programmes dedicated to assist in the provision of expertise and services.

The UN-SCTD member organizations have jointly prepared the Portfolio of Services for Tourism Development, with the objective of highlighting the existing opportunities for technical assistance for interested public and private stakeholders in developing countries.

The services available are presented by five areas of intervention directly related to achieving sustainable development of the tourism sector:

1.	TOURISM GOVERNANCE AND POLICY	ILO ITC UNCTAD UNDP UNESCO UNEP UNIDO UNWTO WTO
2.	TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DATA	
3.	EMPLOYMENT, DECENT WORK AND CAPACITY BUILDING	
4.	POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION	
5.	SUSTAINABILITY OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT	

For Tourism-driven Socio-economic Growth

Tourism encompasses the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other. Over the past decades, tourism has experienced continued rapid growth and diversification, becoming one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. Earnings from tourism today equal or even surpass those of oil exports, food products or automobiles, offering a direct entry point into the workforce, particularly for youth and women in urban and rural communities.

Tourism has become one of the major sectors in international trade, at the same time representing one of the main income sources for many developing countries, contributing to their development, though not always in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, the linkage (multiplier) effect of tourist expenditures in local economies is highly dependent on the level of infrastructure development, and contributes to the degree of economic diversification of the country visited. Despite tourism's proven direct, indirect and induced impacts, low priority has typically been assigned to the sector in the development cooperation agenda.

It is one of the world's largest and fastest growing economic sectors, representing...

5%
of direct global GDP

235
million jobs worldwide

1.8
billion international tourists expected by 2030

30%
of the world's exports of services (52% for LDCs)

1.035
billion international tourists in 2012

1.03
US\$ billion generated by tourists

UN-SCTD Mainstreaming Tourism in the Development Agenda

In 2011, the UN-SCTD supported the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the UN-LDC IV Conference held in Istanbul (Turkey) in drawing the attention of the international community to the potential contribution of tourism to development in these countries under the current decennial Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) 2011–2020. The UN-SCTD is well-placed within the IPoA Roadmap and the international development agenda to facilitate the implementation of tourism for sustainable development for the next programming decade and beyond.

During the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 – known as the Rio+20 Conference – the UN-SCTD collaborated with UNWTO and the Brazilian Ministry of Tourism in the preparation of the official side-event Tourism for a Sustainable Future, discussing a series of recommendations on policies and innovative measures that developed and developing countries alike need to implement to

advance a competitive and sustainable tourism sector, making it a major contributor to national and global strategies aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable growth.

Furthermore, the Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want” gave recognition to sustainable tourism, emphasizing that well-designed and managed tourism can make a significant contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development and, having close linkages to other sectors, create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities.

The UN-SCTD is committed to further improve its catalytic role to help developing countries, with special attention to LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs, in enhancing their capacities to achieve a more beneficial participation in the international tourism and travel industry, while ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth of both the tourism sector and local communities.

UN-SCTD Members



International Labour Organization (ILO) is the tripartite UN specialized agency devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity. Decent work reflects the concerns of governments, workers and employers comprising of four strategic objectives relevant to all workers: rights at work and international labour standards; employment and income opportunities; social protection and social security; social dialogue and tripartism.



International Trade Center (ITC) is the technical cooperation agency of UNCTAD and WTO which supports developing countries to diversify and increase exports. ITC works towards sustainable inclusive tourism, which aims to improve lives by promoting local competitiveness and creating mutually beneficial business linkages between local producers of goods and services and the tourism industry. ITC services include, among others: enhancing supply-side quality; strengthening support institutions; strengthening the roles of women in tourism and building successful SMEs.



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assists developing countries in their efforts to achieve a more effective integration into the world economy on an equitable basis. With the view to maximizing the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries, UNCTAD provides a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, conducts economic research and provides technical assistance and advisory services to member states. Increasing attention is being given to the contribution of international tourism to poverty reduction and structural transformation.



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP advocates for nationally-owned solutions to reduce poverty and promote human development. UNDP has been implementing pro-poor interventions in support of the tourism sector under its poverty reduction, private sector and environment programmes.



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the specialized agency that contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. The organization focuses on, inter alia, attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning, fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, etc., the promotion of heritage's vital contribution, in all of its forms and expressions, to the sustainable development of tourism.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the specialized UN programme for environment, providing leadership and encouraging partnership in caring for the environment. Within its Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) branch, which promotes resource efficiency, cleaner and safer production practices and sustainable consumption patterns, UNEP implements a programme to mainstream sustainability into tourism policies, practices and development.



United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the UN with a mandate to promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition. UNIDO's three main priorities actions are poverty reduction through productive activities, strengthening of trade capacity, environment and energy. UNIDO focuses on the promotion of creative industries, enhancing sustainable tourism mainly in the accommodation sector and its supply chain through cleaner production and resource efficiency, investment and promotion, institutional strengthening and public private partnerships.



World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) in the field of tourism; by providing leadership and support to the sector for advancing sustainable policies, practices and actions. Through the promotion and development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, UNWTO endeavours to maximize tourism's contribution to, inter alia, socio-economic growth, job creation, development and international understanding, while minimizing its negative impacts, paying particular attention to the interests of developing countries.



World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main objective is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. Tourism and related services are covered under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), where WTO Member governments have individually made legally binding commitments to guarantee specified levels of trade access.

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