

CLIMATE CHANGE AND TOURISM

THE DAVOS PROCESS

BACKGROUND



The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) organized in 2003 in Djerba, Tunisia, an international event on climate change and tourism, a first step which paved the way for the “Second International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism”, held in Davos, Switzerland, in October 2007.

Key outcome of the conference is the “Davos Declaration” acknowledging the reality of climate change and its strong interrelationship with tourism. It also recognizes the need for a long term strategy for the sector to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in line with other sectors. It calls for urgent adoption of a range of policies to encourage sustainable tourism and travel patterns that take into account climate responsiveness. It gives a clear commitment for action to respond to the climate change challenges and identifies concrete initiatives from governments, industry, consumers, research and communications networks to build awareness, data, education, collaboration and establish a culture of priority climate responses.

Backed by the findings of a comprehensive report on climate change and tourism, the Davos Conference initiated a process within the tourism sector and in the context of the wider United Nations response to climate change. The way ahead is composed of four key actions: **mitigate**, **adapt**, apply new **technology**, and secure **financial** resources.

Within this framework, the tourism sector must address climate change without losing sight of other priorities, especially poverty alleviation and tourism contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. It needs also to give special consideration to the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. Such concerns are additional criteria integrated in the Davos process and fully endorsed by the Tourism Ministerial Summit and by the UNWTO’s General Assembly held respectively in London and in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in November 2007, leading to a contribution of the tourism sector to the UN Summit on Climate Change in Bali.

UNWTO, in partnership with other international, national and private sector stakeholders will continue to lead initiatives in response to this global challenge. As a mean to raise awareness in the sector, ‘tourism and climate change’ has been the theme of the World Tourism Day 2008. UNWTO will also continue to engage in capacity building to address adaptation and mitigation challenges in the tourism sector as well as supporting the action of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change toward a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

OBJECTIVES

- Development of practical policy-guidelines, tools and services for adaptation to climate change and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions
- Support to Member States and Affiliate Members in response to specific requests
- Integration of tourism in international policy processes on climate change
- Awareness raising of tourism authorities, private sector, non-profit organizations and tourists on the relation between climate change and tourism



Second International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, 2007

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ACTIVITIES

- Organization of international and regional conferences, seminars and workshops (e.g., Ministerial Summit in 2008)
- Development of replicable and sector specific adaptation and mitigation measures (e.g., pilot projects on adaptation in SIDS and energy use in hotels)
- Dissemination of good practices and specific knowledge on climate change and tourism (e.g., <http://www.unwto.org/climate>)
- Representation of UNWTO in international, regional and national processes and events, and advancing the role of tourism in these processes and events (e.g., World Climate Conference-3 in 2009)
- Research on climate change and tourism (e.g., joint study with UNEP and WMO)
- Cooperation and partnerships with UN entities, non-profit organizations and the private sector (e.g., UNEP and WMO)
- Awareness-raising on global, regional and national level (e.g., World Tourism Day 2008)

PARTNERS

- UNEP
- WMO
- WEF
- Private Sector
- Tourism Authorities
- Researchers



UN Summit on Climate Change in Bali, 2007

FURTHER INFORMATION

- UNWTO – Department of Sustainable Development of Tourism: www.unwto.org/sdt
- General information on climate change and tourism: www.unwto.org/climate
- Climate Solutions: www.climatesolutions.travel

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