

Forum: Environmental Committee

Issue: Devising sustainable strategies to promote a green tourism industry

Student Officer: Sofia Papadaki

Position: Co-Chair

INTRODUCTION

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), tourism is one of the “largest and fastest growing sectors in the world”¹, as it is responsible for the contribution of a significant GDP percentage, as well as noteworthy amounts of exports and about 10% of employment rates², on a global scale. Therefore, tourism can undeniably be characterized as a steppingstone for economic growth, as it combines both socioeconomic benefits and the involvement of new technologies to develop. Studies indicate that the rate of tourism development on average is 3% and 8% in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), respectively³.

Even though tourism has proven to have the potential to assist the economies of Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), it presents certain drawbacks which must not be neglected.

One of the major scourges of the 21st century is climate change. Contributing to the United Nations’ vision of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) a new project falling under the category of tourism comes to life, namely sustainable tourism. Ecotourism’s goal is to diminish the detrimental impacts of tourism on the ecosystems and the environment, which are more severe than expected, as they could utterly change the livelihoods of both the local populations and, indirectly, ours.

There are a wide variety of consequences and ways tourism takes its toll on the environment⁴. From the most obvious instances being the repetitive emissions of carbon dioxide in the form of gas (CO₂), to the least apparent examples being the degradation of a region’s natural heritage as a result of the overabundant visiting rhythms. Consequently, the natural

¹ “Sustainable Tourism | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” *United Nations*, 2024, www.sdg.un.org/topics/sustainable-tourism. Accessed 29 June 2024.

² “Tourism.” *UNEP*, UN Environment Programme, <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/responsible-industry/tourism#:~:text=In%20a%20%E2%80%98business-as-usual%E2%80%99%20scenario%2C%20tourism%20would%20generate%20through,define%20tourism%20development%20%20in%20the%2021%20st%20century>. Accessed 29 June 2024.

³ Greentumble. “The Negative Environmental Impacts of Tourism.” *Greentumble*, 14 Jan. 2022, www.greentumble.com/environmental-impacts-of-tourism#google_vignette. Accessed 06 July 2024.

⁴ Baloch, Qadar Bakhsh, et al. “Impact of Tourism Development upon Environmental Sustainability: A Suggested Framework for Sustainable Ecotourism - Environmental Science and Pollution Research.” *SpringerLink*, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 19 Aug. 2022, www.link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-022-22496-w. Accessed 29 June 2024.

development and preservation of local fauna and flora are disrupted, constituting the maintenance of a biotope difficult to, sometimes, merely impossible.

Having experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, humanity reached the conclusion that the ongoing and repetitive lockdowns that occurred all over the world allowed the environment to regenerate, whilst the everyday and allegedly harmless human behavior had been damaging it since day one. Since tourism is an important sector to the economy, and it was heavily impacted negatively by the pandemic, measures which will permit human and environmental harmonious balance and coexistence must be implemented.

As the Environmental Committee, being the primary decision-making and advisory organ in whatever concerns the well-being of the environment, it is our duty to develop and work on strategies to tackle the issue in question, as well as ensure that already-existing legislations find the appropriate implementation.

It is thus of paramount importance to stop the vicious cycle of acts leading to the current situation which hinders sustainable economic growth. Alleviating the negative effects of tourism can only happen by taking initiatives; creating and implementing appropriate policies and strategies allowing the progress of tourism into a more sustainable and environmentally friendly practice, is not only going to enhance the atmosphere surrounding us but also the quality of our lives.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Biotope⁵

A precisely and clearly defined geographical area endowed with particular ecological conditions that are capable of supporting physically the organisms living there.

Degradation⁶

The process through which the looks or quality of something, in this case the environment's, is ruined or damaged.

Ecosystem⁷

⁵ "Biotope Definition: Biodiversity a." Z, <https://www.biodiversitya-z.org/content/biotope#:~:text=Biotope%20Definition%20Well%20defined%20geographical%20area%2C%20characterised%20by%20specific,which%20physically%20supports%20the%20organisms%20that%20live%20there>. Accessed 23 July 2024.

⁶ *Degradation | English Meaning - Cambridge Dictionary*, www.dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/degradation. Accessed 10 July 2024.

⁷ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Ecosystem." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 23 May 2024, www.britannica.com/science/ecosystem. Accessed 30 June 2024.

The group comprises the living organisms, their natural environment as well as the relationships bonding them within a certain geographical area.

Flora and Fauna⁸

The total of plants and animals, respectively, existing in a specific area and that in some way connect to the environment resulting in the creation of an ecosystem.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)⁹

“The total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country’s borders in a specific time period.” Its goal is to show accurately and understandably the degree to which a country’s economy is healthy.

Sustainable tourism¹⁰

Also referred to as ecotourism or green tourism, this type of tourism prioritizes taking responsibility for the effects of tourism on the economy, society and the environment, both in the present and in the long run. This is primarily achieved through observing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities.

Tourism¹¹

The act and process of being away from home in views of recreating, relaxing, and enjoying oneself, while utilizing the commercial provision of services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The tourism industry

Tourism is undeniably an industry which assists the economy in multiple ways. It goes without saying that if tourists are happy and satisfied by the accommodations offered, they are willing to spend more money on the industry and therefore they are the catalyst different nations need to boost their economies and enhance their living conditions. Moreover, taking into consideration that tourism involves several sub-“sectors” just like transport, sightseeing, hotel/motel accommodations and so on, tourism is an important player when it comes to employment, as it offers about 1 in 10 job positions globally. Although tourism, evidently, does

⁸ McCollum, Jonn, and Amanda Robb. “Flora & Fauna | Definition, Types & Examples - Video.” *Study.Com*, 21 Nov. 2023,

www.study.com/academy/lesson/video/flora-fauna-definition-examples.html. Accessed 30 June 2024.

⁹ Fernando, Jason, et al. “Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Formula and How to Use It.” *Investopedia*, 3 June 2024,

www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gdp.asp. Accessed 29 June 2024.

¹⁰ Statista Research Department. “Topic: Sustainable Tourism Worldwide.” *Statista*, 22 Jan. 2024,

www.statista.com/topics/1916/green-tourism/#editorsPicks. Accessed 29 June 2024.

¹¹ Walton, John K. “Tourism.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 25 June 2024,

www.britannica.com/topic/tourism. Accessed 29 June 2024.

not provide a permanent or life-changing solution to the issue of unemployment, it is currently an important contribution to the global employment rates.

The issue

Even though tourism presents positive remarks, it does not come without its drawbacks. To be more specific, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has reported that tourism is accountable for three environmental impacts, namely the depletion of natural resources, the pollution and the degradation of ecosystems¹².

Depletion of Natural Resources

According to the Global Footprint Network, we are currently using up natural resources approximately 1.7 times-that is almost twice-faster than the Earth can reproduce. In an alternative statement, humanity is now living based on resources produced by 1.7 earths.¹³ Therefore the diminution of natural resources is a topic of concern, especially in regions where they are already depleting and are used more in comparison to other areas.

Water is one of the most over-exploited resources by the tourism industry. Apart from the fact that the most profitable tourism seasons are against, timewise, the natural water cycle of a region, tourists regularly display a problematic mindset. For starters, the “jewels” of the hotel accommodations that result in the reputation of an area are majestic architectural creations, just like intriguing swimming pools and wellness areas full of luxury, which demand large quantities of water to function properly. Additionally, tourists tend to use water way more than they do when at home, sometimes even wasting it completely, expecting that the resorts will provide them with limitless availability to edible water supply.

The excessive use of water supply by resorts generates a multitude of issues for the local residents of an area, who do not have the sufficient water supply to cover their fundamental everyday needs.

Water is not the only resource tourism is dependent on. Minerals, metals, and biomass resources, both renewable and non-renewable resources, are burnt and used by the industry. The tourism sector expands selfishly, harming the environment through the release of fossil fuels, and thus the production of greenhouse gases, through the decrease of soils capable of growing food and crops, deforestation, and through the destruction of natural biotopes of animals, in order to build profitable projects.

Pollution of Ecosystems

¹² Greentumble. “The Negative Environmental Impacts of Tourism.” *Greentumble*, 14 Jan. 2022, www.greentumble.com/environmental-impacts-of-tourism#google_vignette. Accessed 06 July 2024.

¹³ “Global Resources Dwindling as Demand Rises.” *Population Matters*, 26 Mar. 2024, <https://populationmatters.org/news/2024/03/global-resources-dwindling-as-demand%20rises/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Global%20Footprint%20Network%2C%20humanity%20is,equivalent%20of%20using%20the%20resources%20of%201.7%20earths>. Accessed 01 July 2024.

Emissions of fossil fuels at higher rates, resource waste, sewage, chemical spills (e.g. of oil or petroleum) in the open of the sea, noise and light pollution are all frequent ways an ecosystem is polluted. All these are results of human activity.

Not only do they worsen the quality of tourism in the region, but also threaten wildlife, as the lives of all animals living in the same area are disrupted and impacted. Pollution by noise can harm wildlife physically and mentally, causing it stress or other bodily effects. Light pollution can also heavily impact wildlife. For instance, by the time they hatch, baby sea turtles seek the sea. Usually, the light of the moon is what guides them, but due to the lights installed by human, which shine brighter than the moon, the turtles get disoriented.

Degradation of Ecosystems

Another issue unravelling from the tourism sector is the deterioration of reputable sites and areas. Characteristic examples of such vulnerable ecosystems involve coral reefs, rain forests, and alpine regions.

As increased tourists express their volition to visit these sensitive regions, local “businesspeople” often take advantage of the attractiveness of the area. Quick infrastructure development results in practices just like sand mining, wetland draining, deforestation and many more. These actions cause the degradation of the scenery.

¹⁴The exploitation of the sites does not only take away from their natural beauty, but also the flora and fauna, the living organisms, including marine life, that live in the sites, are heavily impacted as their biotope gets altered by the human factor.

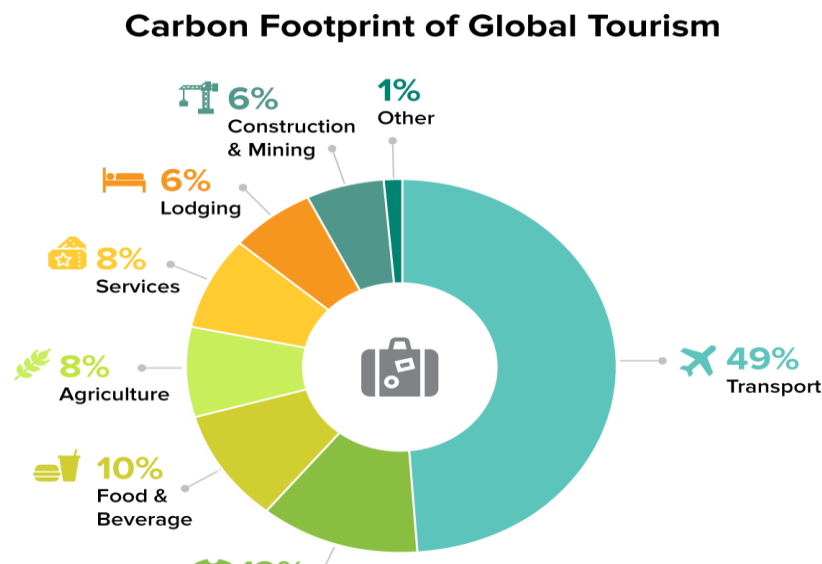


FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF CO2 EMISSIONS PER TOURISM SECTOR

¹⁴ “Sustainable Tourism Trends 2024 - Audry Caralie.” *Audry Caralie - Explore Ideas, Tips Guide and Info Audry Caralie*, 25 Mar. 2024, <https://maddyqleoine.pages.dev/zwijgedr-sustainable-tourism-trends-2024-ymjbans/>. Accessed 23 July 2024.

Green Tourism

As its name reveals, ecotourism is a project attempting to make tourism as environmentally friendly as it can be, while visitors can still enjoy their travel. Green tourism lies on certain principles which establish the framework based on which stakeholders of the industry should act to guarantee the sustainable practices of tourism.

To begin with, one of the principles is environmental conservation to alleviate the negative effects of the industry on the environment overall. It is achievable if the carbon emissions are reduced, and the resources are used moderately. To attain the later it is necessary to adapt to more eco-friendly practices in all components of tourism¹⁵; selecting appropriate accommodations, avoiding using unnecessary transport services which emit gas, getting involved in activities which are friendly to both the environment and the biotopes, and when visiting attractions, being careful not to degrade them in any way.

Moreover, another principle is socio-cultural respect. The principle in question ensures the respect towards the local cultures, traditions and lifestyle. It is of vital importance to educate tourists on the local customs, not only because embracing them would allow them easier communication with the locals, but also because it would support the local economy and safeguard the cultural heritage of an area, such as its historical monuments.

One more principle constitutes the education and awareness of travellers and local stakeholders on issues regarding sustainability. It is another measure to promote responsible travelling to make sure that both the environment and the cultural heritage of a region will remain intact, despite their contact with a multitude of tourists.

The aforementioned were not the only principles promoted by ecotourism, yet they were an accurate depiction of its goals. Other principles involve the community involvement into the industry and the local economy, the cooperation among businesses, non-governmental organizations, government agencies and local stakeholders to encourage the adoption of sustainable tourism practices and the constant evolution of the industry. It is, in any case, prominent that sustainable tourism can prove beneficial in multiple aspects of life.

¹⁵ “Components of Tourism: Structure of the Tourism Industry.” *Tourism Teacher*, 19 Feb. 2023, www.tourismteacher.com/components-of-tourism/#google_vignette. Accessed 10 July 2024.



FIGURE 2: COMMODITIES REMAIN THE SAME WHILE THEY RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Tourism Practices

All practices of ecotourism value sustainability and applaud environmental and resource conservation as well as responsible tourist behaviour.

Sustainable Transportation

Transportation is responsible for a significant percentage of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere in the form of gas. Therefore, it is imperative to not underestimate or neglect the necessity of being more conscious when selecting means of transportation. Public transportation, cycling, and walking must be chosen whenever plausible.

Eco-friendly Accommodations

Hotels and resorts often neglect the principles of ecotourism suggesting the conservative use of resources, especially water and its approachability to tourists, while they often waste it unreasonably. Energy efficiency as well as the use of renewable energy sources, like profiting from the sun-solar energy, are the key to transforming a regular resort to an eco-resort that prioritizes environmental consciousness over profit.

¹⁶ GreenStories. "Travel Green: Sustainable Tourism." *GreenStories*, 5 Oct. 2021, <https://greenstories.co.in/travel-green-sustainable-tourism/>. Accessed 23 July 2024.

Experiences and contact with wildlife

Since by definition ecotourism endorses the protection of both wildlife and its biotopes, it is critical to ensure that visitors are aware of the responsible observation of the ecosystems when visiting an area. Resort-accommodation operators, tour operators as well as the locals should be capable of informing tourists on the responsible viewing practices when it comes to the observation of the local flora and fauna. These acts will certainly diminish the risk of biotope disruption, as visitors will be acquiring experiences while remaining at a safe distance and therefore will not disturb natural behaviours.

Support Local Communities

Ecotourism stresses the importance of supporting the local communities. This is achieved through the involvement of the individuals in cultural activities and events, the local economy, by purchasing local products and services, and their preference towards businesses and restaurants, owned by local inhabitants. Supporting the local economy as tourists has massive effects on the socio-economic status of the region and its community.

Diminishing Waste

An ecologic lifestyle mandates the reduction, reuse and recycling of as many wasted products as possible. To contribute to that, tourists are proposed to adapt to an eco-friendlier lifestyle mainly by showing their engagement with ecotourism's philosophy. When it comes to water, its use should be targeted to evade from wasting it and creating the need for searching new sources of clean water for the permanent habitats of the area.

Respect towards Local Culture and Customs

One of the major drawbacks of regular tourism is the disrespect shown by travellers towards the local cultural heritage as well as towards the residents. Ecotourism promotes both reverent relationships with the locals and their culture, primarily through the engagement with the customs and the familiarization with the essentials to know prior to the travel.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Spain

Spain is one of the nations that suffer the severe consequences of not being in accordance with ecotourism's principles. A balance has not been achieved between Spain's tourism industry and the daily activities of the country, as the excessive water waste combined with the detrimental effects of climate change has resulted in insufficient agricultural produce. Since Spain is a key exporter of many products in Europe, the issue rapidly spreads to other countries. Yet tourism is still an important part of their economy and therefore common ground between the two sectors must be found¹⁷.

¹⁷ Greentumble. "The Negative Environmental Impacts of Tourism." *Greentumble*, 14 Jan. 2022, www.greentumble.com/environmental-impacts-of-tourism#google_vignette. Accessed 06 July 2024.

European Union (EU)

The EU has committed itself to diminishing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 50% by the end of the decade¹⁸. It has, thus, been a firm supporter of ecotourism for years and has already proceeded with actions to promote it. For instance, the EU has been supporting the adoption of greener habits by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), launching campaigns to inform on the benefits of transitioning to sustainable tourism as well as promoting sustainable destinations to visit. At the same time, most countries found to have the sustainability spirit are members of the European Union¹⁹.

African Union

The African Unions supports ecotourism, as sustainable tourism not only protects their fragile wildlife and ecosystems but also carries advantages for their local communities. National parks are a source of income that runs in accordance with the sustainable tourism practices. Simultaneously, ecotourism and its initiatives have created a lot of job positions which have significantly altered the living conditions. Some of ecotourism's development projects have resulted in the building of schools. While ecotourism protects the African heritage, the Union heavily depends on it²⁰.

Costa Rica²¹

The region had been placed as one of the best destinations for ecotourism, as it promotes multiple sustainable tourism practices, such as but not limited to the usage of renewable energy sources, the presence of sustainable agriculture and many more. Costa Rica has established a payment program which encourages landowners to protect and aid in the preservation of forests rather than taking advantage of them or contributing to deforestation. In these ways, Costa Rica has achieved the maintenance of its biodiversity and resources.

¹⁸ "The Green Transition of Tourism." *Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs*, https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/tourism/eu-tourism-transition/green-transition-tourism_en. Accessed 03 July 2024.

¹⁹ Skirka, Hayley. "The World's Top 10 Countries for Sustainable Tourism, from Sweden to Slovenia." *The National*, 2 May 2021, www.thenationalnews.com/lifestyle/travel/the-world-s-top-10-countries-for-sustainable-tourism-from-sweden-to-slovenia-1.1190368. Accessed 10 July 2024.

²⁰ "Sustainable Tourism in Africa: Wildlife Conservation and Local Communities." *ONLYONE AFRICA*, Sept. 2024, <https://onlyone.africa/sustainable-tourism-in-africa-wildlife-conservation-and-local-communities/>. Accessed 10 July 2024.

²¹ Breland, Nedi. "What Is Green Tourism." *TouristSecrets*, 28 Dec. 2023, www.touristsecrets.com/travel-tips/what-is-green-tourism/#:~:text=Green%20tourism%2C%20also%20known%20as%20sustainable%20tourism%20or,social%20and%20economic%20benefits%20to%20the%20host%20communities. Accessed 10 July 2024.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
December 1998	The year 2002 was declared the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE) by the UN's General Assembly, as an opportunity to reflect on past mistakes of ecotourism and its benefits.
21 December 2009	Resolution A/RES/64/205 is adopted by the UN General Assembly.
21 December 2012	The UN General Assembly adopts resolution A/RES/67/214.
27 February – 1 March 2024	The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) is embraced as the means of measuring the sustainability of tourism.
26 February 2024	A/RES/78/260 declares 2027 as the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/214²²

The resolution “Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection” was adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on the 21st of December 2012. The resolution’s content revolves around the positive effects of sustainable tourism directly and indirectly, both on the environment and the ecosystems, and humanity. It therefore highlights the importance of embracing ecotourism as a permanent alternative to traditional tourism.

²² Reddy, Maharaj Vijay, et al. *Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Tourism: Ecotourism ...*, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3130Summary_of_Conclusions_and_Recommendation_Ecotourism_EGM_summary_29_30Oct2013.pdf. Accessed 15 July 2024.

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/205²³

This 2010 resolution, entitled “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty and environment protection” is a “predecessor” of resolution A/RES/67/214. The document stresses the importance of enhancing as well as profiting from the benefits ecotourism can provide and the way sustainable tourism could be used as a means of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/260²⁴

The resolution emphasizes on the importance of the emerging culture of sustainable tourism and ecotourism as well as its crucial contribution to accomplishing the mandates of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To be more specific, the issues of unemployment and equality are addressed, as one of ecotourism’s benefits is the creation of working positions hence the provision of job opportunities. This can significantly diminish the inequality gap amongst individuals, while also serving the purpose of the SDGs. Within the resolution 2027 is declared as the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

International Year of Ecotourism (IYE)²⁵²⁶

The year of 2002, entitled as the International Year of Ecotourism by the General Assembly, was dedicated to studying ecotourism, designing strategies and organizing plans based on which all stakeholders of the society could collaborate harmoniously in order to ensure that ecotourism would not just be a short-term trend, but rather a permanent project that needs constant support. This could only be achieved through the exchange of opinion and experiences regarding sustainable tourism and numbering its drawbacks and positive remarks to ensure that ecotourism would remain a lasting, positive project, capable of enduring in the long run. ECOSOC

²³ “Un Tourism: Bringing the World Closer.” *UN General Assembly: Ecotourism Key to Eradicating Poverty and Protecting Environment | UN Tourism*, 3 Jan. 2013, www.unwto.org/archive/global/press-release/2013-01-03/un-general-assembly-ecotourism-key-eradicating-poverty-and-protecting-envir#:~:text=The%20resolution%2C%20entitled%2C%20%E2%80%9CPromotion%20of%20ecotourism%20for%20poverty,thus%20on%20the%20fight%20against%20poverty%20and%20hunger%E2%80%99. Accessed 15 July 2024.

²⁴ Ambrose, Ivor. “UN Resolution: 2027 Proclaimed International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.” *ENAT*, 1 Apr. 2024, www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.news.2376#:~:text=The%20resolution%20officially%20declares%202027%20as%20the%20International.organizations%20to%20implement%20comprehensive%20measures%20for%20its%20success. Accessed 22 July 2024.

²⁵ Srinivas, Hari. *International Year of Ecotourism 2002*, 2002, www.gdrc.org/uem/ecotour/2002/yearecotourism2002.html. Accessed 15 July 2024.

²⁶ “Un Tourism: Bringing the World Closer.” *Ecotourism and Protected Areas | UN Tourism*, www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/ecotourism-and-protected-areas. Accessed 10 July 2024.

proposed the establishment of a year as such in 1998, in hopes of tackling the multiple environmentally related issues.

The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST)²⁷

In the time period of February-March of 2024, as a part of the 55th session of the UN Statistical Commission, all 193 UN members states adopted the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST). By implementing the framework nations are enabled in initiating and planning accordingly so as to maximize the sustainability of their tourism industry. This is due to the fact that the measurements considered are apart from GDP, anything that matters to people and the planet, thus way more factors are concerned with this model.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Focusing on education

One of the challenges imposed by ecotourism is the visitors' lack of awareness around the sense of sustainable tourism. Consequently, it is very hard for specific regions transition to ecotourism. Launching campaigns and designing projects which opt to educate and raise awareness among the vast population will have a positive impact, as in this way individuals get the opportunity of being informed on sustainable tourism's practices and the habits, they need to adopt in order to avoid the facilitation of issues during their stay at the region in question.

Available resources

Both infrastructure and technology constitute the key to sustainable practices in the tourism industry. Nevertheless, given the current situation and data, smaller destinations, not only the ones located in the LEDCs face issues regarding advancing their technologies and infrastructure, as they are both very costly. They cannot afford shifting to sustainable infrastructure and technology, since they are not capable of investing in greener energy sources and so on. It is, thus, of vital importance that they receive the funding needed to evolve and aid in the full transition towards a greener tourism sector.

Stricter Control

When tourists visit an area-landmark of a region, it is important to acknowledge whether that area also happens to be a biotope and therefore a protected ecosystem. It is thus the stakeholder's' responsibility, the tourist guides for instance, to inform the visitors appropriately. Some visitors are fully aware of the aforementioned fact, and still proceed with specific actions which either harm the environment or the flora and fauna itself. Such actions could be taking photos with flash, potentially causing loss of sight in animals, polluting the area with residue, talking loudly or shouting, getting too close to the wildlife, and so on. Since this type of behaviour is common among tourists, it is important to create a framework with which some responsible

²⁷ "Un Tourism: Bringing the World Closer." *UN Adopts a New Global Standard to Measure the Sustainability of Tourism*, 5 Mar.

2024, www.unwto.org/news/un-adopts-a-new-global-standard-to-measure-the-sustainability-of-tourism. Accessed 22 July 2024.

stakeholders will be able to punish the ignorant tourists. Types of punishments could vary depending on the frequency and the gravity of the act.

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