



**Forum Environment & Development**

# **Workshop Report**

## **Tourism and Biodiversity**

**International Workshop  
March 08 – 10, 2000 in Berlin**

**organised by the Ad-hoc Working Group on Tourism of the  
German NGO Forum Environment & Development**

**sponsored by the Federal Ministry for the Environment,  
Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety**

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Bonn, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2000

## Contents

|            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|
|            | <b>Preface</b>  | 4  |
|            | <b>Summary</b>  | 6  |
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>The Workshop on Tourism and Biodiversity</b>                                       | 10 |
| 1.1        | Programme   | 10 |
| 1.2        | List of Participants  | 12 |
| 1.3        | Welcome   | 14 |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>Presentations for Setting the Scene</b>  | 14 |
| 2.1        | Michael Meyer: History of the CBD<br>process in Relation to Tourism                   | 14 |
| 2.2        | Alison Johnston: Phase Two of the International<br>Dialogue on Tourism & Biodiversity | 16 |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>Expectations of Participants and<br/>Key Issues for Further Group Work</b>         | 19 |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>Working Groups</b>   | 20 |
| 4.1        | <b>Working Groups on 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2000</b>                                 | 20 |
| 4.1.1      | WG 1: Tourism, Biodiversity and Ecology   | 20 |
| 4.1.2      | WG 2: Biodiversity and Socio-cultural<br>Aspects                                      | 24 |
| 4.1.3      | WG 3: Tourism and Biodiversity: Economic<br>Aspects                                   | 26 |
| 4.2        | <b>Working Groups on 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2000</b>                                | 28 |
| 4.2.1      | WG 1: Free of Jacket  | 28 |
| 4.2.2      | WG 2: Recommendations for the Work at Local<br>Level                                  | 32 |
| 4.2.3      | WG 3: Further Activities and Measures   | 34 |
| 4.2.4      | WG 4: Recommendations for the COP5 in Nairobi   | 39 |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>Major Outcome – NGO Statement on<br/>Tourism and Biodiversity</b>                  | 42 |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>Next Steps</b>   | 43 |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>Press Conference at the ITB Berlin</b>   | 44 |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Photo–Exhibition and Brochure: Impressions</b>                                     | 44 |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Info–Market</b>  | 44 |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>International Discussion Panel</b>   | 44 |
|            | <b>Annex</b>  | 46 |

## Preface

During the past two years, tourism has started to become an issue in the Rio follow-up process. In April 1999, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) adopted an international programme of work on tourism and sustainable development. Since the Fourth Conference of the Parties in 1998 in Bratislava, tourism has also been on the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

As German NGOs concerned about the negative impacts of tourism, we see it as our responsibility to take a stand on what is happening at UN level, and to do so in a co-ordinated and participatory manner. In early 1998, we started to co-operate as NGOs at national level in the Ad-hoc Working Group on Tourism in the German NGO Forum on Environment & Development. Our experience with the CSD process has shown, however, that for NGOs in many countries the possibilities of influencing these processes are still rather limited. This applies especially to those most affected by tourism, in the countries of the South.

Therefore, as we continued to monitor international developments from the German NGO perspective, we found it necessary to share the information that we have on what is happening at UN level with our colleagues internationally. We also wanted to create opportunities, to the best of our capacities, for NGOs from the North and the South to exchange knowledge and experience, and to jointly try and influence policy decisions.

Against this background, we organised the International Workshop on Tourism and Biodiversity in March 2000 in Berlin, the results of which are presented in this report. The first step towards the preparation of the workshop was a "Call for Dialogue" at the Meeting of the UN Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in Geneva in 1999. An interactive discussion panel was then established to enhance the exchange of information with international NGOs. All relevant documents and other papers were installed on this homepage ([www.iz3w.org/forum](http://www.iz3w.org/forum) – see Annex).

The major objectives of the Workshop were to meet with representatives from various countries and with different backgrounds, to share these experiences and to work together on the subject of Tourism and Biodiversity. While the occasion on which the workshop was held was the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties on the CBD in May 2000 in Nairobi, the purpose of the workshop was to go beyond this date. The workshop programme was therefore planned to be flexible in order for the participants to be able to work together on key issues presented by themselves.

One of the goals of the workshop was of course the formulation of recommendations and objectives for the CBD COP-5. We are proud of having achieved this goal in a painstaking process and look forward to taking our statement and recommendations to Nairobi. We are even more grateful that at the same time we have had the opportunity to free ourselves from predetermined agendas and to look at the needs at grassroots level, and at the possibilities of and potential for joint networking and co-operation. We sincerely hope to be able to take much of what we have learned from each other into the future.

We wish to express our deepest thanks to all of you, the participants, for contributing your knowledge, competence and positions to the discussion. It was great having had you with us in Berlin! We would also like to thank Martin Dietz and Anja Fleig (FAKT) who facilitated the two day process as moderators. Their support and guidance was invaluable and we are grateful to them for having kept us on track. Finally, we thank the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety for their financial support.

The ad-hoc Working Group on Tourism  
in the German NGO Forum on Environment & Development

Bonn, June 2000

## Summary

### Tourism – Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity?

From May 15 to 26, 2000, the 5th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in Nairobi/Kenya. Within the “Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity” as a major topic on the agenda, the governments of the world will also look at tourism as one option.

In preparation for this conference, the Ad-hoc Working Group on Tourism in the German NGO Forum Environment & Development organised an international workshop on tourism and biological diversity. The workshop took place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2000 in Berlin. Its major objective was an exchange of information and experiences between NGOs from the South and the North.

During the three days in Berlin, 40 participants from 25 countries worked intensely and constructively in plenary sessions and working groups. To visualise their concerns, they produced a photo exhibition on tourism and biodiversity which was shown at the International Tourism Exchange (ITB) subsequent to the workshop.

NGO experience in other international processes has shown that narrow predefined objectives tend to prevent an open dialogue rather than encourage it. Therefore, the objective of this workshop was to explicitly encourage a dialogue, to the extent that a totally “free of jacket” working group was set up giving room for the free flow of ideas and concerns. Radical critique was expressed especially by the Southern NGOs that the international process is dominated by the rules and structure of the North and the (tourism) industry. The sense and legitimacy of global treaties and guidelines in general were questioned.

The less predefined the working goals were, the more evident concrete experiences with tourism became: especially in protected areas, as useful as they may be for the conservation of species, ecosystems and genetic diversity, the traditional resource rights and knowledge and innovation systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are often undermined.

Two working groups on the possible and necessary activities at local level and on networking looked especially at the role of NGOs. It was noted that one of the roles of NGOs is to make the needs of people at grassroots level and their experiences with tourism heard at the international level. It was criticised, however, that real participation by those people actually affected by tourism is hardly possible at the UN-level. NGOs would also have to take up the task of making decisions taken at the international level transparent to the people, with regard to their effects at local level, especially to those who will be most and often negatively affected by these decisions.

In order to get at least “a piece of the discussion cake” at the Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, despite all the limitations to be expected, the workshop participants formulated - in one working group and in a plenary session - a two- page position paper with concrete recommendations to the Parties of the Convention.

This paper acknowledges that when properly managed, tourism can be an incentive for biodiversity conservation. Emphasis, however, is placed on the fact that many tourism activities labelled as „ecotourism“ have accelerated the erosion of both biological and cultural diversity, especially in Indigenous territories where Indigenous Peoples have maintained a high level of biodiversity.

Against this background it was noted with concern that the UN has declared 2002 to be the „Year of Ecotourism“, while there is still no clear definition of „ecotourism“. Since the circumstances under which tourism can contribute to the conservation of cultural and biological diversity have yet to be clarified, the workshop participants feel that this “Year of Ecotourism” must be approached with extreme caution.

It was also regarded as problematic that within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the tourism discussion is limited almost exclusively to protected areas. In order to counterbalance this one-sided approach, the Conference of the Parties is called upon to recognise and address biodiversity as a whole. It was also stressed that cultural diversity must not be regarded as being separated from biological diversity. Other international agreements, such as trade agreements, must not compromise the provisions agreed upon under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The complete text of the statement and recommendations formulated at the workshop is available on <http://www.iz3w.org/forum>. The document is open for endorsement by other interested NGOs. The Interactive Discussion Panel offers the opportunity to send further comments or remarks directly to the webpage. Thereby the discussion process is open and can be continued or followed beyond the Workshop and hopefully beyond the CBD. The NGO–statement has been submitted as an informal conference paper to the Secretariat of the Convention (<http://www.biodiv.org/cop5/Inf-Docs.html>).

## Zusammenfassung

### Tourismus - nachhaltig für die biologische Vielfalt?

Vom 15. – 26. Mai 2000 wird in Nairobi/Kenia die fünfte Vertragsstaatenkonferenz der UN-Konvention über die Biologische Vielfalt tagen. Unter dem Schwerpunkt „Nachhaltige Nutzung biologischer Vielfalt“ werden sich die Regierungen der Welt auch mit Tourismus als einer Nutzungsmöglichkeit beschäftigen.

Im Rahmen der Vorbereitungen auf diese Konferenz organisierte der ad-hoc Arbeitskreis Tourismus im Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung vom 8. bis 10. März in Berlin einem internationalen Workshop zu Tourismus und biologischer Vielfalt. Ziel war der Informations- und Erfahrungsaustausch zwischen Nichtregierungsorganisationen aus Süd und Nord.

Dem Workshop vorangegangen war ein interaktives Diskussionsforum im Internet. Während der drei Workshoptage in Berlin arbeiteten die 40 TeilnehmerInnen aus 25 Ländern intensiv und konstruktiv in Plenen und Arbeitsgruppen. Um ihre Anliegen zu visualisieren, produzierten sie eine Fotoausstellung, die auf der anschließenden Internationalen Tourismusbörse (ITB) gezeigt wurde. Die Erfahrungen von NROs in anderen internationalen Prozessen haben gezeigt, dass enge Zielvorgaben einen offenen Dialog eher behindern. Dies gilt besonders für die Erstellung eines reaktiven Positionspapiers in einem als bürokratisch und größtenteils unverständlich empfundenen UN-Prozess. Deshalb war es Ziel dieses Workshops, den Dialog gezielt zu ermöglichen. Dies ging so weit, dass u.a. eine Arbeitsgruppe mit keinerlei Zielvorgabe eingerichtet wurde, um dem freien Fluss der Ideen und Anliegen Raum zu geben. Insbesondere Süd-NGOs dieser Gruppe kritisierten den internationalen Diskussionsprozess, der in seinen Strukturen und Vorgaben stark durch den Norden und die (Tourismus-)Industrie bestimmt ist. So wurden Sinn und Legitimation globaler Vereinbarungen und Richtlinien im allgemeinen stark angezweifelt.

Je geringer die Vorgaben waren, desto deutlicher traten die konkreten Erfahrungen mit dem Tourismus zutage: Gerade in Schutzgebieten, die sinnvoll für den Erhalt von Arten, Ökosystemen und genetischer Vielfalt sein mögen, werden häufig die traditionellen Rechte, Wissens- und Innovationssysteme indigener Völker und lokaler Gemeinschaften unterminiert und ihr rechtmäßiger Zugang zu Ressourcen beeinträchtigt.

In zwei weiteren Arbeitsgruppen zu den möglichen und nötigen Aktivitäten auf lokaler Ebene und einer sinnvollen Netzwerkarbeit ging es vor allem um die Rolle der Nichtregierungsorganisationen. Ihre Aufgabe sei es unter anderem, die Erfahrungen der Menschen mit dem Tourismus und ihre Bedürfnisse auf der internationalen Ebene einzubringen. Bemängelt wurde, dass eine tatsächliche Partizipation der Betroffenen gerade in der UN praktisch nicht möglich sei. Nichtregierungsorganisationen müssten auch die Rolle erfüllen, Entscheidungen auf internationaler Ebene in ihren Auswirkungen für die Menschen verständlich zu machen, die davon am stärksten und oft negativ betroffen seien.



Um auf der Vertragsstaatenkonferenz in Nairobi trotz aller zu erwartender Einschränkungen wenigstens "ein Stück vom Diskussionskuchen" abzubekommen, formulierten die WorkshopteilnehmerInnen in einer weiteren Arbeitsgruppe und im Plenum ein zweiseitiges Positionspapier mit konkreten Empfehlungen an die Vertragsstaaten. Darin wird eingeräumt, der Tourismus könne zwar mit entsprechender Planung und Kontrolle Anreize zum Erhalt der biologischen Vielfalt schaffen, jedoch gerade unter dem Label 'Ökotourismus' hätten touristische Aktivitäten "die Erosion kultureller und biologischer Vielfalt eher noch verstärkt", vor allem dort, wo indigene Bevölkerungsgruppen eine reiche biologische Vielfalt bewahrt haben.

Vor diesem Hintergrund sei es bedenklich, dass die Vereinten Nationen das Jahr 2002 zum Jahr des Ökotourismus erklärt haben. Eine klare Definition des Begriffes liege dieser Erklärung noch nicht zugrunde. Die Bedingungen, unter denen Tourismus zum Erhalt biologischer und kultureller Vielfalt beitragen könne, seien noch nicht geklärt, so dass dieses "Jahr des Ökotourismus" mit großer Vorsicht angegangen werden müsse.

Ebenfalls als problematisch wurde angesehen, dass sich im Rahmen der Konvention über die biologische Vielfalt die Tourismuskonvention fast ausschließlich auf Naturschutzgebiete beziehe. Um diesem einseitigen Ansatz entgegenzusteuern wird die Vertragsstaatenkonferenz aufgerufen, sich der biologischen Vielfalt in ihrer Gesamtheit anzunehmen. Auch wurde betont, die kulturelle Vielfalt dürfe nicht von der biologischen Vielfalt getrennt betrachtet werden. Andere internationale Abkommen, wie zum Beispiel Handelsabkommen, dürfen die Vereinbarungen der Konvention über die biologische Vielfalt nicht konterkarieren.

Der vollständige Text des Empfehlungspapiers des Workshops ist im Internet unter <http://www.iz3w.org/forum> verfügbar. Das Papier steht weiteren interessierten Nichtregierungsorganisationen zur Unterschrift offen. Im Interaktiven Diskussionsforum besteht die Möglichkeit, weitere Anmerkungen oder Kommentare direkt auf die Internet-Seite zu stellen. Somit kann der Diskussionsprozeß über den Workshop und über die CBD hinaus weitergeführt und verfolgt werden. Das NGO-Statement ist bereits als informelles Konferenzpapier an das Sekretariat der Konvention weitergeleitet worden (<http://www.biodiv.org/cop5/Inf-Docs.html>).

# 1 The Workshop

## 1.1 Programme: International Workshop on Tourism and Biodiversity

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup> March 2000  
(Arrival 8<sup>th</sup> March / Departure 11<sup>th</sup> March)

**Venue:** Hotel Sorat / Berlin Tegel

### Programme of work

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Wednesday 08.03.</b> |   |
| 19.30 h                 | Welcome Dinner<br>Introduction of participants<br>Photo-documentation<br>Preparation of Info-Market   |
| <b>Thursday 09.03.</b>  |   |
| 07.30                   | Breakfast   |
| 09.00 – 11.00           | Introduction of the project - team and Presentation of the organization of the workshop<br>Presentation of objectives and the envisaged process of the conference<br>Feedback from participants; expectations of the participants<br>Presentation I: Michael Meyer - The tourism discussion in context of the Convention on Biological Diversity<br>Presentation II: Alison Johnston - Short synopsis on tourism issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity |
| 11.00 – 11.30           | Tea/Coffee Break  |
| 11.30 – 13.00           | <i>Working Group Session:</i><br><b>Tourism and biodiversity in your working context</b><br><b><i>What are the key issues that are of concern to you?</i></b>   |
| 13.00                   | Lunch Break   |
| 14.30 – 16.00           | Continuation of <i>working group</i> sessions   |
| 16.00 – 16.30           | Tea / Coffee Break  |
| 16.30 – 18.00           | Working groups report back into the <i>plenary</i> .<br>Identification of key issues for further development in the working groups of the next day  |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 19.00                | Dinner  |
| <b>Friday 10.03.</b> |   |
| 07.30                | Breakfast   |
| 9.00 – 13.00         | Summary of the previous day<br>Working groups<br><b>Key issues with regard to tourism and biodiversity in our working contexts: What are the experiences with tackling or solving these problems?</b><br>Proposal of measures to tackle these issues.<br>- At local level<br>- At national level<br>- At international level: demands to be put in front of COP-5 |
| 11.00 – 11.30        | Tea / Coffee Break  |
| 11.30 – 13.00        | Continuation of <i>working group</i> sessions   |
| 13.00                | Lunch Break   |
| 14.30 – 16.00        | Working groups report back into the plenary.  |
| 16.00 – 16.30        | Tea / Coffee Break  |
| 16.30 – 18.00        | What are the perspectives for future co-operation?  |
| 19.00                | Dinner  |
|                      |   |

## 1.2 List of Participants

| No                  | Name / Organization   | Country                |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>AFRICA</b>       |   |                        |
| 1                   | Mr. Daoud Tari <u>Abkula</u><br><i>FONI Friends of Nomads International and Kenya Pastoralist Forum</i>             | Kenya                  |
| 2                   | Ms Fiona <u>Archer</u><br>Participatory Research and Planning   | South Africa           |
| 3                   | Mr. Sheickh Tijan <u>Nyang</u><br>Gambia Tourism Concern  | Gambia                 |
| 4                   | Mr. Bubakarr <u>Sankanu</u><br><i>Pan-African Renaissance e. V.</i>   | Gambia                 |
| 5                   | Mr. Axel <u>Thoma</u><br><i>WIMSA - Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa</i>                   | Namibia                |
| <b>ASIA</b>         |   |                        |
| 6                   | Ms Badmjav <u>Giikhnanan</u><br><i>Society for National Parks of Mongolia</i>                                       | Mongolia               |
| 7                   | Mr. Krishna <u>Ghimire</u><br><i>UNRISD- United Nations Institute for Social Development</i>                        | Nepal                  |
| 8                   | Ms Nina <u>Rao</u><br><i>NGO-Network - Coordinator of the South Caucus on Tourism</i>                               | India                  |
| 9                   | Mr. <u>Tan</u> Chi Kiong<br><i>Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism - ECTWT</i>                              | Hong Kong              |
| <b>LATINAMERICA</b> |   |                        |
| 10                  | Mr. Gonzalo <u>Aguirre</u><br><i>Coalición de Turismo Sustentable en América Latina Abya Yala</i>                   | Ecuador/<br>Costa Rica |
| 11                  | Ms Leida <u>Buglass</u><br><i>CEBSE –Centro de Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno)</i> | Dominican Republic     |
| 12                  | Ms Marcela <u>Alvarez Pérez-Duarte</u><br>ECOSOLAR  | México                 |

|    |  |                        |
|----|--|------------------------|
| 13 | Mr. Wilfried <u>Merle</u><br><i>CORPOMEDINA C.A.</i>   | <b>Venezuela</b>       |
| 14 | Mr. Duval <u>Zambrano</u><br><i>ECOCIUDAD</i>  | <b>Peru</b>            |
| 15 | Mr. Klaus <u>Lengefeld</u><br><i>German Society for Technical cooperation</i><br><i>GTZ – FODESTUR</i> | <b>Nicaragua</b>       |
|    | <b>NORTH AMERICA</b>   |                        |
| 16 | Ms Alison <u>Johnston</u><br><i>International Support Centre for Sustainable Tourism</i>               | <b>Canada</b>          |
| 17 | Ms Deborah <u>Mc Laren</u><br><i>Rethinking Tourism Project</i>  | <b>USA</b>             |
| 18 | Mr. Christopher <u>Holtz</u><br><i>Conservation International</i>                                      | <b>USA</b>             |
|    | <b>EUROPE</b>  |                        |
| 19 | Ms Natalia <u>Moraleva</u><br><i>Ecotourism Development Fund “Dersu-Uzala”</i>                         | <b>Russia</b>          |
| 20 | Mr. Grzegorz <u>Rakowski</u><br><i>Institute of Environmental Protection</i>                           | <b>Poland</b>          |
| 21 | Mr. Aivar <u>Ruukel</u><br><i>Estonian Ecotourism Association – ESTECAS</i>                            | <b>Estonia</b>         |
| 22 | Ms Tricia <u>Barnett</u><br><i>Tourism Concern</i>   | <b>United Kingdom</b>  |
| 23 | Mr. Frans <u>de Man</u><br><i>RETOUR</i><br><i>Coordinator of the North Caucus on Tourism</i>          | <b>The Netherlands</b> |
| 24 | Ms Dora <u>Valayer</u><br><i>Transverses</i>   | <b>France</b>          |
| 25 | Mr. Justin <u>Woolford</u><br><i>WWF UK</i>  | <b>United Kingdom</b>  |
| 26 | Mr. Christian <u>Baumgartner</u><br><i>Respect – Zentrum für Tourismus &amp; Entwicklung</i>           | <b>Austria</b>         |
| 27 | Ms Marianne <u>Frei</u><br><i>Akte – arbeitskreis tourismus und entwicklung</i>                        | <b>Switzerland</b>     |

## 1.3 Welcome

In the evening of March 8<sup>th</sup> participants were heartily welcomed by Heinz Fuchs citing Ron O'Grady, the organiser of the Manila workshop of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in 1980:

“Each year the number of tourists and the amount they spend increases at a much faster rate than the worlds income. So we are dealing with a (complex) phenomenon and one which is affecting every person on this planet.

There are several ways to view tourism. The industry and the governments see it in terms of statistics and growing profits. Most Western people see it as an industry which promises dreams and paradise on earth. A few workers in the development field have raised their eyebrows at some aspects of tourism which disturb them.“ ...

„When we use the term „first world“ we are referring to those tourist-generating capitalistic societies and also to those elites in all countries who are also free–spending tourists. „Third world“ generally represents those people who never have been tourists and have travelled no further than the neighbouring villages. They are the victims of tourism and are expected to be the smiling hosts.“...

He expressed the hope that the Berlin–Workshop should be part of and a milestone in further co-operation to influence and to change the global tourism industry.

## 2 Presentations for Setting the Scene

### 2.1 The Tourism Discussion in the Context of the Convention Biological Diversity (Michael Meyer, Ö.T.E.)

Michael Meyer gave a brief overview on the links between the CBD and its special issues and other Conventions and international agreements both in the sectors Economy and Environment. He clarified the difficulties which will arise when the CBD is seen as separated from other related activities on the international level and how necessary it is to understand that interactions between the agreements can affect decisions on both sides. A perfect example of such interdependencies is the development of the tourism discussion in the CBD process.

What is the present situation?

- 1) The recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of SBSTTA towards COP-5 seem to be clear, regarding the tourism topic. If you read through the documents all relevant issues were discussed and accepted by the delegates at SBSTTA-4 and -5.

What made this result possible or why did it take such a long time?

- 2) After three Conferences of Parties and three meetings of the SBSTTA the tourism topic was discussed at the Ministerial Roundtable at the COP-4 in Bratislava for the first time. The majority of Member States did not agree with the German attempt at COP-4 to propose a German paper on tourism and to install a specific

CBD-body on tourism. The very weak decision on tourism was regarded as a battle half lost for Germany, as the topic was transferred to SBSTTA-4 for further discussion and to develop appropriate recommendations.

- 3) One reason for this failure, some delegates from the South argued, was (or still is) a lack of information of and contacts between the Member States before the topic was put on the agenda of COP-4. This would have helped other delegations to become more familiar with the German suggestions and ideas and to develop own points of view for the upcoming discussion.
- 4) A major milestone on the way to further discussion within the CBD was the decision of CSD-7 in 1999 just before the SBSTTA-4 to invite the CBD to contribute to „International Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism“ (in certain areas). In fact, most of the Ministers and delegates from the countries involved in the CBD process are also involved in the CSD process. And as you know, tourism was one of the big topics of the CSD-7 and will be back on the agenda of CSD-10 in 2002.
- 5) The relation between CSD and CBD is a special one because decisions of the CSD have recommending character, in contrast to the decisions of the CBD as a legally binding instrument. CBD decisions can be used by all stakeholders to call for their implementation on national level. This might be one of the reasons why the tourism topic and a positive decision about it at the CBD is such a difficult task.
- 6) To come back to the present situation: The recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of SBSTTA will be one of the discussion points under the topic „Sustainable use“ at the upcoming COP-5 in Nairobi. If there is agreement to follow the invitation of CSD-7, delegates have to intensify their work on the development of „International Guidelines“. Possibilities to deal with sustainable tourism within the CBD are the formation of an expert panel or the installation of an ad-hoc working group. Both could, with different political standing, contribute to the further tourism debate and report back to SBSTTA and COP.

Without a positive decision on the formation of one of these bodies there may not be any results to present at CSD-10, since COP-6 as the next decision-making opportunity of CBD is scheduled after CSD-10 in 2002.

The initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany during the last years can be seen as a valuable step towards a discussion of sustainable tourism issues at international policy levels like CBD and CSD.

We have to ask why this discussion is so difficult. One problem could be that we already have a lot of declarations or charters, yet they are lacking the point of view of NGOs concerning implementation. Even in Germany, with its official environmental declaration set up by the tourism industry, dated 1997, and our country as the birthplace of the Berlin Declaration, the industry is still far away from implementation.

## 2.2 Alison Johnston: Key Issues at the various levels within the CSD Process

### PHASE TWO OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON TOURISM & BIODIVERSITY

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#### Background: Where We Stand

Following the Fourth Conference of the Parties (COPIV) to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) in May 1998, considerable debate existed on how seriously tourism would feature in future negotiations on biodiversity. However, uptake on tourism issues by the *U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development* in 1999 injected new clarity to the process of strengthening international standards for the tourism industry.

The first substantive discussion on tourism and biodiversity would occur during the Fourth meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical & Technological Advice (SBSTTA4) in Montreal in June 1999. Here, Parties to the CBD began to exchange views on how to integrate biodiversity into national policies, programmes and activities for the tourism sector.

A major development concerning tourism in the interval between COPIV and SBSTTA4 was the declaration by the United Nations of 2002 as the "International Year of Ecotourism." While this announcement promises to focus more attention on tourism, it should not be assumed to promote biodiversity conservation. Organizations working on the ground, i.e. at the ecosystem level, continue to document the devastating social, cultural, and ecological losses linked to most types of ecotourism, without any real opportunity or authority to convey this information to government decision makers.

#### The International Year of Ecotourism: 2002

Among indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), great concern surrounds the International Year of Ecotourism, for it has the potential to boost industry profile before the ambiguity around what constitutes "ecotourism" or "sustainable" tourism has been resolved. Many feel that such premature endorsement of the term "ecotourism" by the U.N. may in fact prejudice multilateral negotiations on tourism standards.

A related, and much more immediate, concern is that the announcement concerning 2002 puts indigenous peoples and other local communities at risk. Indigenous homelands, comparatively rich in biological diversity due to the continuing transmission of millennial knowledge systems, are the mainstay of the fast growing



ecotourism segment of the tourism industry. Meanwhile, culture itself is being commercialized and sold as “ecotourism,” by tourism companies operating in remote indigenous and non-indigenous communities, eroding the very knowledge systems in question. In both instances, local peoples not only bear the usual costs of consumer-driven tourism, but also experience more pronounced forms of loss due to the penetration by outside tourism interests of unique and sacred aspects of their daily life.

Because of this discrepancy between the policy arena and ground level realities, the question of “good faith” in negotiations is being raised. There is still no comprehensive or compelling process in place internationally within the tourism sector to avoid the ongoing infringement of indigenous or human rights, let alone to proactively address related threats to biodiversity. In the absence of this, there is neither a level playing field nor an objective referee in the discussion of appropriate, i.e. precautionary, standards for tourism.

#### Issues of Significance at COPV in Nairobi

The Fifth Conference of the Parties (COPV) to the CBD in May 2000 serves as a reminder of the little distance covered in advancing support for indigenous peoples and other local communities to exercise their fundamental rights in relation to tourism. Since COPIV in 1998, discussions on tourism and biodiversity have remained in the closed circle of “experts” and officialdom. There is still no process underway to alert indigenous organizations or grassroots NGOs with hands-on knowledge of tourism to what is being negotiated, how they can effectively monitor and contribute to the debate, who is accountable to them for reporting on outcomes, or potential implications. Continent to continent, indigenous peoples and other local community representatives lack the information and resources necessary to demand due process from state governments in implementing the CBD.

In June 1999, at the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical & Technological Advice of the CBD (“SBSTTA4”), the debate on tourism illustrated just how disconnected “expert” events tied to the CBD are from realities on the ground. Despite substantial detail in the CBD Secretariat’s official paper on tourism impacts, discussion of the underlying causes of biodiversity erosion was not welcome. Governments reviewing the paper through the Tourism Contact Group dismissed NGO submissions clearly stipulating that prior informed consent, from authentic community leaders, is necessary for sustainable tourism.

The irony of this outcome at the SBSTTA4 Contact Group is that the CBD process itself is not “sustainable”. The CBD offers protection vis-à-vis collective property rights, but at every turn within the implementation process there is a barrier to activating these provisions. Indigenous peoples, for example, cannot officially participate as “peoples,” i.e. holders of collective rights, and must therefore masquerade as NGOs. Confined to this position of “stakeholder,” they become a bystander to decision-making concerning access to and use of their traditional territory and resources. The process is simply a politically correct form of continuing colonization.

### Action Required for Sustainable Tourism

Analysis of the current status of negotiations on biodiversity and tourism is more crucial now than continuing the exchange of so-called “expert” papers on tourism impacts. Without a meaningful process in place, the dialogue between governments, industry, and tourism professionals amounts to mere posturing and public relations. At the end of the day, impacts are accelerating outside the conference room and boardroom walls, especially in relation to travel products billed as “ecotourism.”

Basic inventory questions that need to be asked in Nairobi, and individually by Parties to the CBD, include:

➤ Degree of Transparency

Are indigenous peoples and other local communities being pushed into a reactive or defensive position vis-à-vis the tourism industry, e.g. through *faits accomplis* in policy decisions, inflexible consultation strategies, or prejudicial legal and/or grievance systems? Where such barriers to protecting traditional resource rights exist, basic structural and procedural questions need to be asked if biodiversity conservation is to be a sincere topic of discussion. Government support is required for the innovation and testing of protective mechanisms that are locally relevant and enforceable, i.e. based on traditional knowledge and innovations systems, and associated customary laws.

➤ Effectiveness of Dialogue

Is there an accessible, transparent, and inclusive process in place to facilitate dialogue on how to best develop policies, programmes, and activities for sustainable tourism? If the dialogue process itself infringes on the traditional resource rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, this is a clear and early indicator of the process outcomes. Government initiative and action is required to assess and build upon international “best practices” for consultation.

➤ Level of Due Diligence

Does the existing dialogue framework promote outcomes that are consistent with the CBD, i.e. a precautionary approach? If there is a capacity deficit in financial and technical resources at the ecosystem level, i.e. among the local peoples whose traditional territory and resource base are targeted for tourism development, the answer is “no.” Under these circumstances, their communities can neither engage in or monitor policy and planning discussions. There is no “readiness to negotiate,” as required for effective public participation in or consultation on land-use decisions. Government support is required for capacity building directly among indigenous peoples and other local communities.

➤ Quality of Interim Measures

Is industry self-regulation importing impacts on cultural and biological diversity that are common to consumer-driven tourism? Where known tourism impacts are prevalent or poised for growth, there is a need for government to deflect problem solving back to industry and provide incentives for new approaches to auditing industry performance. Government leadership is required for developing active partnerships and decision-making tools that have as their baseline respect for traditional knowledge and innovation systems.

## Conclusion

The topic of biodiversity conservation and tourism presently has an attentive audience among the small fraction of indigenous peoples and grassroots NGOs that are aware of the CBD. This audience could be a considerable resource to the CBD negotiations on tourism, if engaged first and foremost in a discussion of viable process.

For there to be a positive legacy from the negotiations on tourism taking place under the CBD, consistent with the objectives and provisions of the *Convention*, technical analysis must be opened up to embrace procedural questions. Experts nominated by representative organizations of indigenous peoples and other local communities should not be asked to steer clear of the most fundamental building block: how they can meaningfully contribute, so as to make the core issues around cultural and biological diversity tangible and decisive at the policy table.

## 3 Expectations of Participants and Key Issues for Further Group Work

Divided into small groups of four, the participants were asked to express their expectations regarding the workshop. There were a lot of common and not too divergent ideas regarding the major issues:

- **Exchange and Contacts:**
  - The Workshop was seen as an opportunity for co-operation
  - Equality and Democracy in our collaborative work as NGOs etc.
  - exchange experiences
  - Time for learning from participants' projects and working fields
  - Contacts to workshop participants and their organisations
  
- **Attitude**
  - Constructive Dialogue
  - Hope that this workshop can listen to "the South"
  - Come up with practical suggestions on how local community can benefit
  
- **Actions and Follow up**
  - Actions needed: Crucial not to be a talk shop
  - Find joint positions to be forwarded to COP and CBD
  - Offer perspectives towards 2002 – International Year of Eco-tourism
  - Establish networking
  - Creation of an international advocacy-desk (Tourism Ombudsman)
  - The status of the Issues has to be understood by our government
  - Education and info-dissemination locally and regionally
  - Public education not only by words
  
- **Differences**
  - Develop common understanding of issues

Develop a common base of knowledge so that NGOs active at the community level can advise and inform the international process  
Clearly mention constraints and conflicting interests  
Collect differences and put them into new strategies

➤ **Additional Expectations:**

Agree on a Definition  
Lessons learned  
External Validation of internal priorities

**Key Issues**

Participants were asked to name their main issues to be dealt with during the workshop. These were:

- How to enable local communities to take a decisive role in the discussion process and in decision making (to see interrelation between community and biosphere)
- How to find tools and criteria for environment assessment (to find indicators on how to measure success; what is a successful project and who measures?)
- How to define Tourism and Biodiversity (biodiversity seen in a broader sense and not only referring to national parks; how should tourism look if it is not to destroy?)
- Funding for community activities (how to make funds available to the right people)

## **4 Working Groups**

### **4.1 Working Groups on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2000**

The facilitators had the key issues clustered and proposed that the following subjects be worked on during the afternoon and next day sessions:

- Ecological Aspects
- Social Aspects (Stakeholders / NGOs at local level)
- Economic Aspects

4 working steps were proposed to be followed by each group:

Step 1: Collection (problems and chances)  
Step 2: Filter (up to the most important three topics)  
Step 3: Analysis (with regard to implementation)  
Step 4: Outlook (measures, demands, suggestions on how to ...).

#### **4.1.1 Working Group 1: Tourism, Biodiversity and Ecology**

The key issues were discussed according to their chances/potentials and problems/danger/risks. In assigning the issues to the relevant subject (clustering) it

became obvious that many of them could be or contained both and that tourism related to ecology in general was a “big chance with a high risk”.

### **Problems/Danger/Risks**

Eco–Imperialism was the first key issue under discussion because it is a term NGOs in the North are blamed for.

Some examples from Africa and The Americas gave a deep impression about this issue. The advice given by NGOs of “the North” to those of “the South” is highly problematic because of the imposition of ideas on the locals and on other regions. Also the imposition of methodology was seen as imperialism.

The tour–operator TUI for example kept its customers from whale–watching in favour of protecting the animals but did not think about whale–hunting being the traditional subsistence economy of the local fishermen. Protected turtles reduce the resources for local people.

In this context the following points also have to be noted:

- We should all accept that Tourism is colonisation. Instead of imposing ideas a dialogue should be held. Costa Rica for example had 2–3 positions against tourism. It is important to look for the points in imperialism, to break down the term into concrete actions.
- In this context the question arose whether tourism in general was necessary. It turned out to be a rhetorical question, because it was stated that tourism brings income. How could solutions be found which turn out as a win–win–situation – is it too late to balance out the differences regarding the conflicting ideas in the follow–up of Rio? Communities should stay off limit for tourism. Today a tendency can be observed that the community decides but it is not clear on what grounds.
- Value the culture people are living in. Culture should be evaluated with 51% and nature with 49%. Communities should be shareholders. Cultural sensitivities have to be defined and the higher the values the higher the shares. A distinction must be made between community owned vs. community based tourism.
- Job creation instead of self–employment. The community seldom has a chance to open up their own business – how can this be avoided? By setting up a dialogue to see where the problems are.
- Lack of prior informed consent
- Control over international tourism industry missing – tour guides could serve as monitors
- The structure of the tourism industry does not allow for biodiversity (lack of industry respect for collective cultural property; conflict between biodiversity and sustainable tourism)

- Lack of government respect for traditional resource rights and cultural property
- Need to correct the picture on eco-tourism and biodiversity
- Threat of marketing prior to comprehensive assessment, planning, benefit sharing systems
- Difficulty in agreeing to issues both within this group and outside
- Look at the CBD Convention critically

### **Chances / Potentials**

- International control of the tourism industry similar to Amnesty International
- Management of tourism within protected areas (& others)

### **Ambiguity between Chances / Potentials and Problems/Dangers/Risks:**

#### **Inter-linkages of cultural & ecological aspects of Biodiversity**

- Linkage between environment and tourism
- Discuss South tourism as a new dimension of biodiversity. There is no limitation of rights. There is no need to romanticise the issue. Rural people wish to live in the cities and do not want to preserve nature and culture. Urban people want national parks. There is a difference in experiences and perceptions of where to find a balance.
- Does tourism really help conservation? Can it help both, conservation and communities? Yes, tourism is one tool for development but we have to look for alternatives. It is a privilege for the first world to take the right to protect – the poor people do not have a chance to protect their resources
- Mechanisms have to be found which are effective in the field in using the potentials of tourism for conservation – to a) design projects and b) detect barriers.
- Tourism is a diamond in the hands if played with in the right way and can help to find a balanced income
- Biodiversity related to agriculture and urban environment
- Impact of tourism on protected areas
- Tourism as a sensitive tool to put value on nature and culture

- Cultural values are in principle at any times the higher shares in tourism enterprises (how to value natural / cultural values other than in monetary terms)
- Tourism is a human rights issue
- Tourism is not a remedy for all problems
- Tourism concepts cannot include all aspects at once.

#### **Usefulness / need of indicators, methodologies, assessment of tools, criteria ...**

- Do codes work? Where is the evidence of benefits derived from them? Do assessment and planning, and monitoring and evaluation systems work (on international and local level) ?
- Opportunity to develop criteria to § 16 Berlin Declaration
- Open up the discussion on biodiversity and new approaches to tourism/definition
- Value / usefulness of codes, standards, guidelines and certification

#### **Tourism as part of a holistic concept / part of a package with the help of public–private partnership and others ...**

- Usefulness of partnership public–private sector
- Never detour your government but promote partnership between NGOs and public sector
- Integration of tourism into a holistic concept
- Channelling funds in the right direction, e.g. for a workshop like this one. Every project should have funds for NGOs to develop indicators for biodiversity, for cultural, social and economical issues
- Develop a win–win situation

The intense discussions within the group revealed that despite ecology being the overall topic three quarters of the time was spent discussing culture in the context of biodiversity.

#### **Sharing of Results**

Emphasis was laid upon the issues that local communities need full information to make decisions and not rely exclusively on tourism and that full cost accounting should be implemented.

#### 4.1.2 Working Group 2: Biodiversity and socio-cultural aspects

##### Definitions lacking

This working group started with the confusion of terminology imposed by the CSD and CBD process (“so many topics and buzz words”). It also ended with the language of the international processes – “indigenous peoples have been talking about the subject for years but not in these terms”. It is necessary to have an effective and strong link between the international level and the indigenous peoples – a task which has to be supported.

The group concentrated on the process and on the question of who the stakeholders and mayor groups are. It was suggested to widen the concept so that women and indigenous peoples would not be left out of the CBD and CSD process. It was pointed out that there are more people affected by tourism than people who have a stake in it. Therefore, it was proposed to speak of actors or interested and affected groups / parties (I+AP). Only when “sustainable development”, “tourism” and “biodiversity” are **defined**, can a definition of “the stakeholders” and “indigenous peoples” also be created. While there are clearly defined groups in their habitats with limited contacts to the outside world, there are other groups who already have adopted traits from the Spanish culture. Indigenous peoples might find their own definitions. Also parties in the local communities have to be defined – it is an illusion to believe that everyone benefits. Interest groups affected by tourism have to be distinguished, i.e. the interests of the local communities have to be looked into and common concerns be found.

##### Role of NGOs

Another issue was the role of the NGOs – who speaks for whom? NGOs have to criticise themselves. They can be a watchdog and bring education and information to the people, but there are dangerous elements, too. There is corruption in NGOs as well as a mission they follow. Corruption should be a topic on the agenda – it is a hidden agenda and dominating on every level. With the different interests of NGOs there should be one body which combines them.

Until now the processes of CSD and CBD are lead by Northern NGOs who determine what do discuss and by whom it is discussed. Indigenous peoples as a group of special importance have to express their own wishes and solutions and the NGOs have to give them priority and room to do so. The indigenous perspective has to be brought into the discussion – but also other groups interacting with tourism should be heard. The horizon of biodiversity has to be widened. Furthermore, the focus should be laid on small scale entrepreneurs who are left out in the CSD process. Whereas non-local enterprises are better equipped to deal with biodiversity, the small scale entrepreneurs are very important for sustainable development but cannot meet quality standards. There is a gap between large projects and small scale ones – this gap has to be filled creating more balance between investment coming in and local control. Awareness has to be created of who is benefiting, who is losing. NGOs play a very important role, especially when there are local/indigenous communities without democratic structures.



NGOs can be very useful and a very dangerous power in a country – they have no rules, they just have a good heart, but they have – like in Burkina Faso – real political power. They have to be questioned on what they stand for, what interests they have. As tourism is so complex the different NGOs are contradicting each other. There are conflicts for instance between NGOs for the Massai, who need the Serengeti for their cows, and those NGOs refusing the Massai access to the national park in order to protect biodiversity.

### **Role of local authorities**

The use of land is very important. We should beware of glorifying the issue of participation because it has to be seen as being regarded in a differentiated manner. Traditional land use is a cultural link to biodiversity – a fact which often is not respected by the authorities.

### **Culture exchange**

Emphasis was placed on cultural aspects, since biodiversity and cultural diversity are closely linked with each other. Tourism can destroy and enhance a region. Cultural exchange is not happening on equal terms – the dominant culture is brought to a non-integrated society. It is a catching up-process: the powerful economies dominate – the urban culture is dominating the rural culture – everybody wants to catch up.

Through tourism cultural diversity can be reinforced as well as lost. A thesis was brought in with the term economic diversity: If you want to have positive cultural effects you have to establish positive economic effects. If the local economy doesn't benefit biological diversity would not work. Local communities have to realise the economic benefit. Cultural identity is a driving force – looking at biodiversity and culture only from an economic perspective will lead to both being reduced.

Education and training should be region- and culture-specific; there is also self-education and self-training.

Asia is now in the process of building up civil society – an empowerment process of the grassroots is taking place.

The question is how the capacity of people can be improved to say what they want, articulate their interests and improve their living conditions. Indigenous peoples have to be asked about how they benefit in the best way. Then alliances have to be found. Women have to be empowered because by educating them you educate a whole family. Youth and small scale local industry have to be empowered to control industry.

### **Role of Tourists**

Tourists could be seen as a bridge between cultures, as possible links in bringing both cultures together – the local and the global culture – in negative as well as in positive terms. The tourists come from the 6 dominating consuming cultures with their

respective languages, with the effect that other languages disappear even if education can be seen as a base for the diversity in languages – a feature of eco-imperialism.

It was suggested that concrete resolutions and actions developed in the workshop should be presented in the COP and brought back to the countries to bring them closer to the process. Precondition for that is the dissemination of understandable information and education.

Some issues should be pursued further by a small group.

### **Sharing of results**

It was quite clear that special attention needs to be given to indigenous peoples and that NGOs should offer them the space to come up with their own solutions. The role of the NGOs is a wide one – they have to identify the I+AP and those who have the most impact on biodiversity, inform all of them and make sure that all groups enjoy the benefits of tourism.

It was obvious, however, that some NGOs cannot be considered NGOs. Many NGOs cannot deal with the terminology of the CBD (bureaucratic and complicated language) and there is not enough information on the process. They should look out for counterparts within the governments. The Berlin Declaration should be translated into operational terms. The UN-CBD/-CSD process is considered too much top down – everything is ready but coming from outside. There are insiders on one side and uninformed people on the other. Participation and involvement remain a prerogative of lip service. For our future we should think beyond the CBD and allow development from below. A code of ethics for NGOs was suggested as precondition for socially responsible development refraining from corruption.

#### **4.1.3 Working Group III: Tourism and Biodiversity: Economic Aspects**

Working Group III started out with three possible aspects identified in the plenary as starting points. These were 1) funding, 2) the availability of resources and 3) the conflict between tourism and other economies.

The initial discussion in the group centred around the question how we define and perceive biodiversity. Habitats, species and ecosystems were seen as components of biodiversity by the majority of the participants. It was noted that biodiversity exists beyond and outside of protected areas.

The fact that there is naturally a pluralistic view on income, on potentials and on threats was as evident in the working group as in 'real life'.

Among the threats perceived, it was noted that a large proportion of the earnings from tourism in the south goes back to the north. Different stages of development harbour different threats. Poverty is often seen as an enemy to biodiversity. A free market economy implies that more and more people will lose access to resources and are forced to become a threat to biodiversity. The protection of nature often does not

include people. “If it is untouched nature, who says it should only be touched by tourists?”, it was asked. Monetary income does not resolve malnutrition. It is resource income that is replaced by monetary income.

Biodiversity has become an item of trade. The tourism industry lobbies for incentives while local governments usually have no concept for sustainable tourism. They require economic plans in which tourism can play a part. Eco-regions should form a basis for these plans.

Tourism has an impact on local economies. There are economic impacts in terms of conservation and in terms of market forces. For the people, it is often economy versus biodiversity. Tourism is displacing other economies by causing a shift in local ownership, unemployment, etc.

On the other hand, biodiversity can be used as a form of income. Local people need to be aware of the benefits of biodiversity. In many cases, they do not know the concept of biodiversity, but naturally or traditionally they protect biodiversity and use it sustainably. If local communities are aware of the value of biodiversity, they will defend themselves against negative influences. When it comes to biodiversity, wealth is assessed in a different way. The one who is regarded the poorest may actually be the richest.

In order to realise the benefits from biodiversity, such as the generation of income, there is a need for participation by and equity of involvement of the different stakeholders. However, this alone is not enough. Local cultures need to be understood and respected. There is potential in the fact that tourists are often sensitised regarding environmental protection. Guidelines (at local, national and international level) already exist. There are already some good examples but the mainstream is far behind.

## **Plenary Discussion**

Some additional aspects were discussed in the plenary. Tourism should be seen as business and biodiversity as a marketing tool for business. While tour operators presently use nature for free, nature should be seen as something valuable, i.e. means should be developed to make nature valuable. Tourism should be a tool for giving a value to the use of nature.

It was noted that different forms of tourism have different economic impacts. For example, individual tourists leave more money in local communities than package tourists (who may not even buy their tea in the local tea stall). Eco-tourists were termed “ego-tourists”.

The funding aspects were dealt with in detail. Local communities need capital. However, little funding is provided for local communities. Local people must be enabled to participate economically. Therefore, funding and improving skills need to go together. There should be support for traditional economies, but this should not be an alibi for keeping people at a certain level. A locally specific solution should be

found between the two economic systems, a) the traditional subsistence and b) the modern one. Support should help to make improvements. This includes information.

There are huge investments into natural resource conservation projects from humans of the first world countries and the tourism industry standing on the doorstep. The upcoming GATS negotiations will reinforce this process. Solutions, however, always need to be very location specific. What works in one area may not work in another.

## 4.2 Working Groups on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2000

Due to the different streams of participants' expectations and interests to be followed up, four working groups were established in the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> March, representatives of which reported to the plenary in the afternoon. The groups were asked to concentrate on the potentials of tourism development and – on the basis of the previous work – give relevant recommendations for the work on local, national and international level.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Working Group I:   | “Free of Jacket”                            |
| Working Group II:  | Recommendations for the Work at Local Level |
| Working Group III: | Further activities and measures             |
| Working Group IV:  | Recommendations for COP–5, Nairobi.         |

### 4.2.1 Working Group I: Free of Jacket

The so-called “Free of Jacket Group” was a very small working group albeit with an impassioned discussion. This group followed the guidelines on

- Wealth / poverty in the context of biodiversity
- Who speaks for whom
- Critical view at CBD
- Process of international conferences
- Co–operation of NGOs.

#### Different Concepts of Biodiversity

The group started off by thinking about the concept of biodiversity. There are many definitions of biodiversity, especially when talking on an international and intercultural level. The relation between religion and nature, the different religions' perceptions and interpretation of nature are hardly considered in the debate on biodiversity. It is important to know how different cultures and religions relate themselves to nature in order to come to a complex definition on what biodiversity can mean.

The tourism discussion does not contain the differences from where we come from. But in all these international and intercultural discussions and meetings on tourism time should be taken to discuss our differences. Only when we know about our

differences can we start to understand and accept them. And only that can be a starting point for a good communication and co-operation.

### **Why is Biodiversity on the Agenda?**

Why did the Northern NGOs put biodiversity on the agenda? Is it an imposed issue? Is it important for Southern NGOs, too? We are still trying to get tourism on the agenda and there are still difficulties to succeed. For too long the NGO world has kept tourism outside the discussion, maybe because many NGOs were afraid and refused to be part of the dirty business. So they neglected the interference of tourism and the development business – now we react, but it seems to be too late already. Some NGOs are afraid to handle the issue of biodiversity, because it is taken seriously by the powerful forces. Biodiversity is an item of trade – the World Trade Organisation is dominating it. As the NGOs want to play a part they are now concentrating on that issue. For example, in Switzerland everyone is now talking about sustainable tourism, they (i.e. part of the tourism industry, tourism training institutes, development agencies...) want to use it for their purposes very quickly – they want labels and so on; the question is whether to react or not.

### **One example from India: Pilgrimage and its Interrelation with Biodiversity**

Before Independence there was no tourism in India. Later on people came to travel but nobody bothered. Only with the financial crisis did the government start to look at tourism, because the United Nations said so. National tourism in India works out well, as the people struggled for the right for everybody to travel – now they have the right to travel for 500 km with free travel concessions. Therefore, domestic tourism generates three times more than the international: 160 Mio domestic tourists (pilgrims, vacationers: there are LTCs on trains and flights). International tourism declined, UN said “you missed the bus, nobody is interested in your culture, go and construct tourist resorts”: Goa and Kashmir were developed...

In terms of biodiversity, domestic tourism like pilgrimage is very important and interesting to look at. Pilgrim sites are areas where nature is affected: there is a high interrelation between tourism, biodiversity and religion. Now the sacred sites are under threat: in former times people would go on a pilgrimage once in their life time – now, with the offers of the domestic airlines, people go more often. We developed a welfare state and fighting for the right to travel was part of it: but now it is too much, because the numbers are! Is there carrying capacity for those sites? And how it can be defined?

Is there a relation between economic development and biodiversity or the threat of biodiversity in this case? We could look at the example of the Massai who were thrown out of the Serengeti, because some biologists say that there is a problem of numbers: too many Massai and cows threaten the biodiversity of the Serengeti. This is a very reduced and dangerous vision of biodiversity. The sacred sites in India are not closed to the pilgrims, but the authorities are regulating the visits: now you can only go with a permit.

Another example in India shows what happens when biodiversity and nature are seen as being separate from the people living in these regions. In order to install a Nature Reserve the world bank gave payments for a buffer zone. The Indian government thus

started to throw the people out because there was money involved. Once the zone was „cleaned“ they wanted to bring the tourist in.

We should question the right of tourists to be there.

### **The Gambia won against “All-inclusive”**

Gambia Tourism Concern won the battle against all inclusive tours – tour operators cannot longer come in with all-inclusive offers. As there are no Gambian tour operators it was possible to get consensus on this issue in The Gambia. There is no local lobbying for the tour operators in The Gambia. In India it is not that easy to fight against all-inclusive as there is a strong lobby of national Indian tour operators.

Gambia Tourism Concern tries to sensitise the tourists as well as the local population for the problems of tourism also by Radio programmes. There are, for example, in-flight videos for education: do’s and don’ts (dress codes, taking pictures for example), which probably could also be shown in the hotels. Bumbsters (beachboys) in The Gambia sell the magazine “Tourism Concern” in and near hotels.

The Gambia started with a special concept for tourism development – 80% on the beach – they caged the tourists in. In the very beginning tourism was quite free (influenced much by the Scandinavian tourists), but then people realised that tourism interferes with their culture (half naked people...). Ecotourism is now important as well in The Gambia. It is pushed by the World Tourism Organisation.

### **Is there any good in tourism?**

Tourism for The Gambia is very important, because they have very few economic alternatives. But these arguments were the same for many countries in the Third World: Is there really any good in tourism? Are there really regions where tourism is the ONLY option?

“A small place” –written by Jamaica Kincaid – is a very good book about tourism in the third world. She questions the idea that tourism is the only option for some regions – as a destination every place becomes a small place.

### **Why is tourism sustainable?**

Are other options more sustainable? No option can function as a single option! The underlying question is, what development model is used and what development model in general is wanted.

Talking about tourism is talking about whether everybody wants to be pulled into the world market, which is a capitalistic market. Micro-credits for instance force people into the market who up to now were living in non-monetary surroundings. Now they are confronted with the question of where to get the money to pay back the credit. Up to this moment tourism has often been presented as an option to earn money: but now they have to sell themselves to tourists.

In some places of the world, for example in India, there are still non-monetary economies, especially for women. Why do NGOs fulfil the task of integrating these societies into the capitalist market? Women in India expressed how they hated to enter the monetary market – the men had already entered. Tourism is a perfect means to spread the capitalist market all over.

**Who speaks for whom?**

Based on all these examples – we should look at the NGOs and ask the question who speaks for whom? What are the interests the NGOs are standing for? The locals have to have a say for themselves. The community must always come together by their own organisational structure. Government and NGOs are interfering in this structure.

Western NGOs have target groups – so they have special interests. They want to interfere where they see that the interests of their target groups are harmed. Why should NGOs be allowed to intervene? NGOs are not just a voice for local communities, they have a mission!

When they try to be a voice for nature it becomes difficult, as nature has no voice and therefore can't speak for itself. Nature can't defend itself, including against NGOs. Conflicts between nature, local people and NGOs should be considered and analysed carefully. There is always an unseen, but important illogical dimension.

**Northern NGOs operating within the capitalist market**

The basis of sustainable development is a multi-stakeholder one. Industry is a stakeholder. NGOs in the West now opt for development with small entrepreneurs. With that, Northern NGOs have lost their potential to protest against capitalism. We as Northern NGOs are so happy that the industry seems to take us seriously and want to talk to us about sustainable development. At this stage we have lost! But we don't talk about that. Fighting in the North to consume less means on the other hand fighting for the poor to consume more. But it's a wrong concept to get everybody to consume what capitalism puts on the market.

NGOs (especially Southern NGOs) have to object to this concept of poverty!

NGOs fought to put value on natural resources to make clear that they are scarce resources. (Unintentionally) the NGOs made natural resources a commodity. For the industry that comes out as a profit. Efforts of NGOs to come up with solutions within the international conferences will be taken up by the powerful as far as they can be used by them according to their interests – and therefore they will turn it against the NGOs in the process!

We are talking about a philosophical question. But it doesn't free us from fighting within as well as outside of the system.

The logic is: if you don't have anything else to bring to the market – you have only services left, so enter into the market with tourism. The problem for the NGOs is that they are always fighting for the short term. Industry is planning for the long term, creating a world according to its plans. NGOs are always late, we only react. Furthermore NGOs seem to be forced to fight according to their rules and structure. Therefore (Southern) NGOs seem to be so weak.

That is why we don't want global treaties and guidelines! We do not feel that we can be empowered within the system! We are only reacting to their agenda. We don't want to privatise our collective spaces!

Our wealth is NOT to participate!

## **4.2.2 Working Group II: Recommendations for the Work at Local Level**

This group concentrated on three items:

- What does empowerment include?
- Role of NGOs
- Measures.

### **Empowerment includes**

- Control over resources and development
- Being partner in the management of resources
- Sharing responsibility
- Awareness raising
- Ability to make appropriate decisions
- Self-esteem / pride for their culture
- Education and participation
- Good communication
- Access to information
- Bottom up approaches.

Emphasis has to be put on how local people can benefit. Empowerment has to be demystified. Simple steps, components and tools are to be developed and measures for transferring experiences in the field.

### **The roles of NGOs as catalysts are multi-facetted:**

- NGOs as a bridge between people and other stakeholders
- They are tourism driven by supply – when NGOs criticise industry, they are invited to improve things, research about best practices to be presented e.g. at the ITB.
- They are asked to find control mechanism to control research.
- They have to think about how to get the right kind of tourists
- NGOs lack experience and understanding of business and of dealing with business, they should take on a stronger business orientation, learn the language



of the people in the industry.

- They have good ideas but no funding – they should find means to support themselves and have a plan for the future.
- NGOs need to be aware of their boundaries.
- NGOs need to be clear with regard to their mission / objectives
- Energy is lost in co-operation with NGOs due to jealousy
- Linking and networking needed.

**Measures to be taken by the NGOs are:**

- Develop capacity of communities and build initiatives on grassroots level; people should have a diversified economy
- Provide credit for investments
- Provide basic training in services
- Create awareness among people of their resources, work on what kind of tourism people want (tourism demands authenticity)
- Bring stakeholders together
- Provide help to sell the product
- Support tourism initiatives – but how? – e.g. in marketing
- Provide communities with tools to take responsibilities
- Organise people at local level, get the trust of the people
- Training in administration, learning negotiation skills, get leadership training
- Encourage establishment of tour operator business
- Develop rooms which suit tourists
- Advocacy with governments and national agencies
- Tourism is an integral part of the local economy.

### **Indicators and criteria for culture- and ecology-conserving tourism**

Indicators for either success or failure were discussed. It has to be borne in mind that those indicators are location specific so that every region has to develop its own indicators:

- People change from spectators to actors
- People give value to their resources
- Retaining traditional structures
- Growing independence from NGOs
- Monitoring standards of living
- Health and access to health facilities
- Drinking water access
- Women's role in business (women bring the income into the household)
- Women "wearing trousers" (respect for women, because their are in contact with nature)
- Access to basic social services
- Changing attitudes of local authorities
- Communities take an active role in planning and implementing of measures in nature conservation
- Changes in leadership (political) in community.

Emphasis was placed on the fact that local people should be enabled to develop their own indicators. It has to be asked whether NGOs have to participate in the market system as it is true for the North, or if NGOs should refrain from participating in this system as it is true for the South.

#### **4.2.3 Working Group III: Further activities and measures**

Members of this working group had the following cards/items to work on: ITB activities: creativity / brainstorming – input for the afternoon session; Research; consultation mechanism advising sensitive/interested companies; tourism control mechanism / group – example AI; actions, networking, campaigning; internet-discussion panel.

**ITB activities:** the question of what should be the message for the ITB lead to the discussion that Sustainable Tourism was verbally accepted by all, but action to be taken was lacking or not clear. The point was left aside because it was supposed to be covered by working group IV on the COP–5. It had to be borne in mind that there was a North–South–conflict as the South had started with sustainable tourism and eco–tourism and that presently the international train was running too fast so that the South should concentrate on their work, namely on concrete projects instead of talking too much.

As one of the expectations of the workshop was the collaboration in the area of tourism and biodiversity, this item was taken up. There are four important elements: first, the need to tackle the knowledge gap; second, co–operation and lacking information about the concrete areas of collaboration – areas which should be listed; third, the funding to counterbalance the impact of tourism; and fourth, the necessary active networking.

### **Knowledge gap:**

- Fill the information and knowledge gap between international biodiversity debate and local communities
- Find out different expertise of countries / groups in order to effectively link knowledge areas (who are the international organisations, which is the role of the government, where are possible alliances, what is the code of ethics)
- Involve local knowledge on biodiversity
- Avoid buy–out of local knowledge. The role of the industries, their pressures and financial investment has to be known.
- Information needed / experiences on a local level
- Identify areas of research: Research is needed in mass tourism countries for example, where there is a strong interest by the industry regarding certification (danger: “greenwashing” like in Costa Rica and Mexico). In Russia for instance the term biodiversity is unknown – there, a process has to be started to influence the development, define sustainable tourism and learn from the experiences of other countries. There are experts in Russia on “biodiversity” but not on tourism.
- Certification criteria
- Impact assessment
- Education for tourists.

## Co-operation

- Research as part of future collaboration. Linkages between biodiversity and tourism have to be studied as well as biodiversity as regional wealth in urban areas. Also interrelations between biodiversity and cultural aspects should be the focus of research projects.
- See different context: biodiversity and eco-tourism on one side and dying men on the other, cultural aspects and diseases are not taken care of. Biodiversity and eco-tourism should tackle the poverty of local people. Tourism and biodiversity is a precondition for conventional tourism.
- There are different perceptions regarding what tourism can affect – not only concentrate on parks and nature: South-North, East-West, urban-rural, tourists, politicians, local people. The role of biodiversity as a product and encouraging tourism has to be taken up in the economic planning. A holistic approach to biodiversity should be taken: biodiversity located outside of protected areas such as agricultural land/urban areas should be included, agro-ecological tourism instead of ethic/protected areas.
- Exchange information about own regional agenda, about political diversities.

## Networking

The question of how to promote collaboration was answered: To bridge the knowledge gap by networking, to exchange knowledge, bring in local / regional knowledge, exchange knowledge at local level, collect available information and network with partners on information and methodologies. On the national level it should be found out where the knowledge is, how it is used and what kind of experiences exist which have to be systemised. Points of the discussion were:

- Establishing an international network / platform
- It should be a network for exchange, lobbying and research
- Networks should be established at national and regional level and be interconnected
- There should be an information exchange about contents and methodology of sustainable tourism
- Networking should be linked to WTO (World Tourism Organisation) / WTTC (World Travel and Tourism Council) and be a bridge to governments
- Existing networks should be analysed (who has what) and involved (websites on eco-tourism like Eco-Tip, Eco-Tour and the newly installed interactive panel of FernWeh, the Forum Environment and Development etc.)

- Networks need to be open for newcomers
- A platform for exchange should be planned also on the local/regional level
- Networking should be bottom–up instead of inducing it from a high level
- Institutions and organisations have to be identified which are keen on implementing and monitoring networking (don't start without a monitoring process)
- Networks should be a part of developing new and site–specific tourism concepts

The network should be created with the support of the industry. Dangers were seen in the language problem / linguistic barrier / translations and the relevance of information. The ad–hoc working group should find a student to work on the language problem. Material about the knowledge has to be generated, case studies brought into the net, information which has to be filtered so that a synopsis is possible. Linkages should be provided according to the example of Great Britain: Tourism fairly traded, a project funded by the EU over 3 years. There are 150 groups world wide already working on good practice and communicating among themselves.

Of utmost importance is the future promotion of permanent contact and dialogue. All stakeholders in government and business have to be involved to guarantee broad participation. This led to the question “what kind of network do we want?” The powerful position of the top–down Biodiversity and Tourism structure should be turned around. It was stated that international agreements are often counterproductive to local initiatives. Within the topic of networking following the points came up:

- Network to legitimise NGO initiatives
- Network at county level: Look what your neighbour is doing
- Monitor impact of network
- Whom do we want to service with a network? What groups and needs? What can we offer to whom? The problem is that the people most affected by tourism are not approached.
- The concept of “AI” for tourism – where does it fit? Ombudsmen should be installed, or an international Tourism Watch. Tourism Concern UK for example is hungry for information about impacts of tourism.

## **Funding**

Support and funding to put forward ideas and networking are the main problems as well as the availability of personal capacity and resources. Individual members must get tangible advantages. It has to be clearly seen that NGOs are competitors for funding.

As there is no funding for networking, the benefits and advantages for each member of the NGOs has to be made clear and translated into money. To concentrate on the networks we have, the viable network of the Ecumenical Coalition was named. Here impacts of tourism were studied and a workshop organised to share results. A country like Estonia does not need a network for networking but as a tool for work. The following suggestions were made:

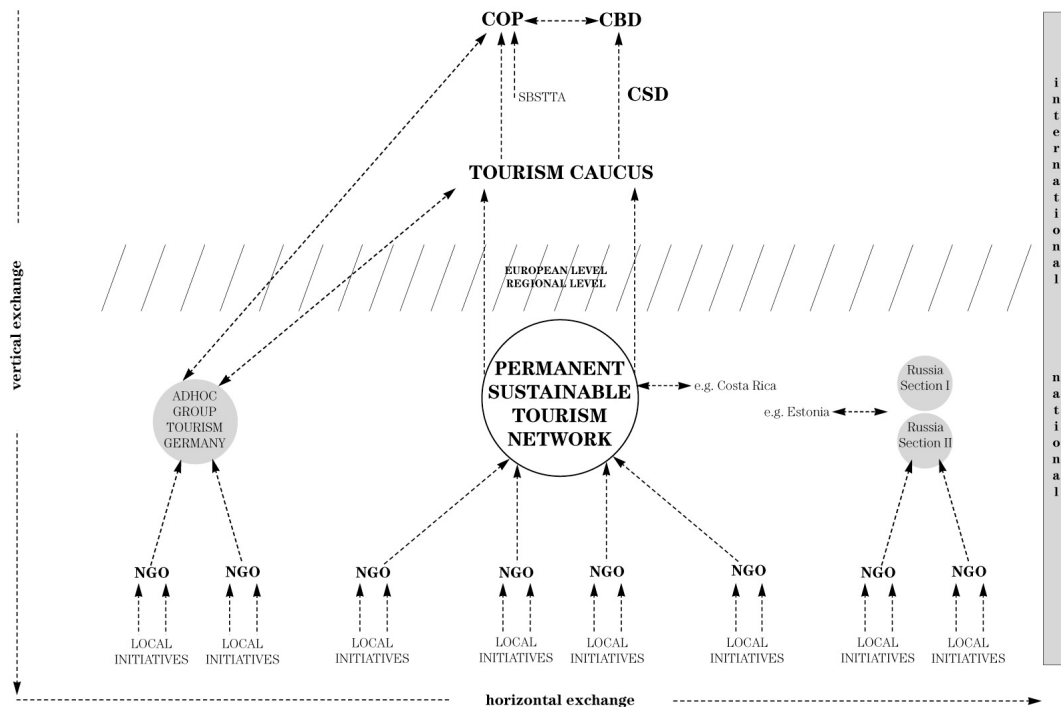
- Elaborate network proposal and apply for funds
- Identify areas of collaboration beyond Nairobi
- Identify the role of international organisations post–Nairobi
- Ask for a fund from the tourism industry for research and giving consultation and information
- Industry and Public sector to finance Foundation for Sustainable Tourism.

#### **Next steps and Proposals for the work beyond Nairobi:**

- Promote research to fill knowledge gap on sustainable tourism and biodiversity
- Make use of existing networks / websites for exchange
- Find out about the knowledge available
- Define problems related to language
- Translate outcomes of international process for local level into native languages (filter useless documents)
- Inventory of local group initiatives
- Use existing e–groups.

The sketch of a structure of networking which should be horizontal and vertical to transmit and create knowledge was set up. It was suggested that a **permanent sustainable tourism network** should exist on a national level (Costa Rica served as example) which should be the link between the activities on an international level and those of local initiatives. The European and regional levels are seen as part of the international level.

FIG.II: HOW TO CREATE KNOWLEDGE



This figure shows that on a national level an institution, a body that can carry out the tasks outlined before has to be set up. It has to collect the knowledge of NGOs and local initiatives and to disseminate it vertically and horizontally. Demands and knowledge of NGOs have to be analysed so that they can be classified according to their legitimisation at international level.

#### 4.2.4 Working Group IV: Recommendations for COP5 in Nairobi

Participants of this working group had a strategic discussion. They felt it was necessary to work towards a powerful document and expressed the need to establish an intervention body and early warning system: an institution like amnesty international. It was clear that if the COP did not accept tourism as a sector, it would not be dealt with at all. Participants were concerned about links between the working groups and the own group. It had to be decided upon either sending a letter to or attending the conference in Nairobi personally, to plan a side event plus additional information. The decision was made in favour of a sharp and transparent printed draft document which had to be widely supported by the NGOs internationally and presented personally in Nairobi.

The question was where to go and which were the important issues for Nairobi:

In a precautionary approach key points of intervention statements were stated:

- 1) Tourism is a sector
- 2) 2002 : Year of eco-tourism
- 3) Appropriate terms from industry as a partner
- 4) Article 8j should be mainstreamed through any discussion about tourism:  
indigenous homelands = eco-tourism (has to go into the general introduction)
- 5) no compartmentalisation of article 8j and related provisions on benefit sharing  
(technical discussion should include indigenous people)  
(see general introduction).

Added in the discussion:

- 6) Control of Tourism
- 7) Tourism in other processes than CBD
- 8) Tourism as a tool to „solve“ conflicts between nature conservation and local communities
- 9) Biodiversity and tourism should not only be dealt with in protected areas
- 10) Parties should not negotiate provisions in other conferences which compromise CBD (GATS)

During the discussion a clarification about SBSSTA and its work were given, and key points of the process identified. The need to get backing from other NGOs in Nairobi, and to further discuss the input given at this workshop in Nairobi, was emphasised.

Recommendations should be addressed to the COP and to the national governments, technical recommendations were required as an input for COP.

It was stated that tourism can support biodiversity conservation if managed correctly. Tourism can help both: Biodiversity conservation plus local/indigenous people if potentials and threats are defined and economic aspects are taken into consideration. The conflict between tourism and other economies has to be discussed and local cultures need to be understood and respected.

Furthermore tourism had to be seen as an important issue not only within the CBD and that it is dangerous to declare 2002 as a year of eco-tourism. In this context following points were discussed:

- eco-tourism has accelerated more destruction than created benefits



- there are potentials of eco-tourism
- use the year as a chance
- Different positions about the term of eco–tourism and whether it has benefits or accelerates cultural and ecological destruction.

First recommendations were set up:

- 1) Tourism as a sector should be maintained by the COP
- 2) COP should recommend that parties formulating national action plans on eco-tourism do not undertake marketing prior to comprehensive assessment, planning and benefit sharing systems are in place. COP should recommend that parties give priority funding to the development of criteria, indicators and early warning systems that embrace both the cultural and ecological aspects of biodiversity. The circumstances under which tourism can contribute to the conservation of biological and cultural diversity must be clarified. Best practises on benefit sharing in the tourism sector, consistent with Art. 8j and related provisions of the CBD
- 3) COP should ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities are included alongside industry as a partner in any process established under the CBD to address the tourism sector
- 4) Parties should not negotiate provisions in other agreements which compromise CBD (including GATS, Forest Convention)
- 5) The COP should recognise and address biodiversity as a whole and not limit the process established under the CBD to address the tourism sector just to protected areas and other “areas of priority” as formulated in the SBSTTA Document 4/14.

Points of discussion were:

- Description of tourism development which is too positive
- Abbreviations
- Definition of the term eco–tourism especially in the context of the year 2002
- Traditional collective land use / common resource rights vs. private use
- Lack of funding of NGOs to participate in the discussion
- Statement being a document of compromise/consensus or a strong one allowing people to distance themselves and disagree
- Participants in the workshop vs. representatives of NGOs to sign the document.

## 5 Major Outcome: NGO STATEMENT ON TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY

The NGO statement and recommendations proposed by the Working Group IV were discussed in the plenary and amended by the workshop participants. Comments and suggestions made in the plenary were incorporated into the document.

After a hot debate, participants approved the following document as a joint outcome of the International Workshop on Tourism and Biodiversity. The participants agreed to take back the statement to their groups to discuss and endorse it. The statement is available on the internet at [www.iz3w.org/forum](http://www.iz3w.org/forum) to be endorsed by as many international NGOs as possible. Comments are welcome in the interactive discussion panel.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Fifth Meeting  
Nairobi, 15-26 May 2000

### NGO STATEMENT ON TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY

Mr. Chair and Delegations

Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns and recommendations in relation to the tourism sector.

Tourism can be an incentive for biodiversity conservation when properly managed. However, it is well documented that many tourism activities labelled as „ecotourism“ have accelerated the erosion of both biological and cultural diversity (e.g., loss of customary access to land and use). This is particularly true in Indigenous territories where Indigenous Peoples have maintained a high level of biodiversity. These areas are experiencing the most rapid growth of the form of tourism marketed as „ecotourism.“ It is vital to ensure that all forms of tourism are developed with full benefit sharing by Indigenous Peoples and local communities and are based on prior informed consent.

It is important to note that the U.N. has declared 2002 to be the International Year of Ecotourism. Yet there is no clear definition of „ecotourism.“ Given that the circumstances under which tourism can contribute to the conservation of cultural and biological diversity have yet to be clarified, we feel that this declaration could threaten biodiversity, and must be approached with extreme caution.

During the Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-4), many Parties felt technical matters regarding Article 8(j) and related provisions should be dealt with solely within the Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j). As NGOs, we express great concerns. We want to emphasise the importance of incorporating Indigenous knowledge and innovation systems, and the matter of benefit sharing, into sectoral discussions. This is especially important with regard to tourism, for this sector is highly cross-sectoral.

We are also concerned about the potentially contradicting elements of Article 8. Research has shown that protected areas can enhance biodiversity conservation. On the other hand, protected areas are also known to undermine the traditional resource rights, and knowledge and innovation systems, of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Therefore, it is critical that Parties operationalize Point 16 of *The Berlin Declaration on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Tourism* (signed by the Secretariat of the CBD, the GEF, UNEP and others), and support the development of criteria for both cultural and ecological diversity directly by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

In view of these concerns, as well as concerns about the tourism sector that NGOs submitted during COP IV and SBSTTA 4, we respectfully submit the following recommendations to the Delegations of the Parties at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP):

#### **Recommendations**

1. The COP should maintain tourism as a sector of dialogue within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The COP should ensure that the circumstances under which tourism can contribute to the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, and benefit local communities, must be clarified.
3. The COP should further ensure that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are thoroughly informed and meaningfully involved in any process established under the CBD to address sustainability in the tourism sector.
4. The COP should recommend that Parties and multi-lateral agencies give priority funding directly to Indigenous Peoples and local communities for the development of criteria, indicators, early warning systems, and guidelines that embrace both the cultural and ecological aspects of biodiversity.
5. The COP should request Parties to document best practices on benefit sharing and sustainable use in the tourism sector, in a manner consistent with Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD.
6. The COP should recommend that Parties promoting tourism and formulating national action plans on sustainable tourism do not undertake tourism marketing, business planning or product development prior to comprehensive assessment, planning, and benefit sharing systems being in place.
7. The COP should recognise and address biodiversity as a whole and not limit the process established under the CBD to address the tourism sector just within protected areas and other „areas of priority“ as formulated in the SBSTTA 4/14 document.
8. The COP should ensure that Parties do not negotiate provisions in other international agreements which compromise the CBD.

## **6 Next steps**

Participants agreed in the plenary that Michael Meyer and Daoud Tari Abkula should take the NGO Statement and Recommendations on Tourism and Biodiversity to the Fifth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2000. A funding proposal will be worked out by the German ad-hoc working group on tourism and submitted to the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety to make this possible.

## **7 Press Conference at the International Tourism Exchange (ITB)**

As the Workshop took place prior to the International Tourism Fair in Berlin (11th – 15th March, 2000), we had the opportunity to present the results of the Workshop at a press conference on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000, in the Palais am Funkturm. Presenters at the Press conference were Gonzalo Aguirre (Coalición de Turismo Sostenable en Abya Yala, Costa Rica), Tricia Barnett (Tourism Concern, UK), Nina Rao (Southern Co-ordinator of the CSD Tourism Caucus, India) and Michael Meyer (Ö.T.E., Germany). The NGO Statement and Recommendations to the COP5 were distributed.

## **8 Photo Exhibition: “Impressions” and Brochure**

On the first evening of the workshop and continuing the next day participants presented photos on negative and positive impacts of tourism in their countries which should be shown to the public at the International Tourism Fair. The photos (prints and slides) of authentic situations were presented on Thursday morning and ten photos were selected for the planned photo exhibition. In a small group titles and a short description in English and German were developed. Overnight the photos were worked on so that the exhibition could be presented at the start of the ITB. The photo exhibition on tourism and biodiversity that was prepared by the participants during the workshop will be professionally worked on and be taken to Nairobi for the CBD COP5 if funding can be obtained. The photos will also be published in a brochure on Tourism and Biodiversity.

## **9 Info–market**

At an info–market set up outside the conference rooms participants had the opportunity to present their institutions as well as their work on tourism and biodiversity using posters, photos, flyers, pamphlets etc. After dinner the material was presented by the participants and served as a colourful and highly interesting information base on the daily work in the context of Tourism and Biodiversity.

## 10 Call for a Dialogue and Interactive Discussion Panel

The interactive discussion panel set up in the internet prior to the workshop was regarded as a time consuming but useful tool especially for quick action when international help is required.

In December 1999 this interactive discussion panel was installed under [www.iz3w.org/forum](http://www.iz3w.org/forum)<sup>1</sup>. Considering the brief preparation period for the International Workshop, the discussion panel was intended to put the relevant information at people's disposal as soon as possible. It turned out that this forum was widely used in the search for the relevant background information. However, it was not considerably accepted in its function as interactive discussion forum at that time. Nevertheless, interest in it doubled since January 2000. In order to make the interactive character of the forum more attractive, a new design with three different sections was framed. Since March 20<sup>th</sup>, Internet users are invited to choose between three sections.

With the **forum** the organisers want to offer the technical instrument and thus the opportunity for a broad debate of positions between indigenous peoples, local communities, and NGOs from the South and from the North. The interactive discussion panel is aimed at broadening access to the debate and improving the chances of participating in the discussion process on a wider scale. On the one hand, the **forum** invites comments on those papers that have already been a part or a result of an international debate. On the other hand, users have the opportunity to present their own positions and experiences and to actively participate in the ongoing discussion process.

Furthermore, a list of **contact** addresses was set up to further stimulate the information flow and encourage the discussion process. This section will offer the opportunity of putting people and organisations in touch. If interested groups, organisations or persons feel like joining the list, they are requested to send a mail and a short description of their working background.

For further information on events related to tourism, indigenous peoples, local communities, and biodiversity, the separate section **news** was installed. The news will help to keep interested people informed about activities, decisions, projects and events related to tourism in the context of biodiversity issues or affecting the rights and the roles of local communities and indigenous peoples. With this section the organisers will provide the technical means to spread information about campaigns, workshops and seminars, field studies, conferences, local/regional programmes and national/international policies. It is planned to add to the Internet page a list server which could be especially helpful for those organisations and groups with limited access to the Internet due to financial or technical restrictions – a repeatedly mentioned constraint to people operating in Third World countries.

The organisers hope that the exchange of ideas and questions will be very vivid in future and that the forum will prove to be an adequate instrument for guaranteeing the continuation of the dialogue.

## Annex

### 1. Material in the Workshop

- Agenda
- List of Participants
- A short history of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- A short description of the NGOs in the Workshop Team of the ad-hoc Working Group "Tourism"
- List of Acronyms
- Informations about the City of Berlin – Welcome Package

### 2. Documents as a Basis for Discussion (available in the Internet prior to the Workshop)

- **Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice** (Excerpt). UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/14. Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Fourth Meeting, Montreal, 1999.
- **Development of Approaches and Practices for the Sustainable Use of Biological Resources, including Tourism.** UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/11. Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Fourth Meeting, Montreal, 1999.
- **Suggestions and Notes** on: Development of Approaches and Practices for the Sustainable Use of Biological Resources, including tourism (Submission by SBSTTA of 17/02/1999). Michael Meyer, E.T.E., Martin Stähler & Christina Kamp, Tourism Watch, and Petra Stephan, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF).
- **Call for a Dialogue on a Joint List of Priorities for the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, 2000.** Ad-hoc Working Group "Tourism" of the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, Bonn.
- **Berlin Declaration** - Biological Diversity and Sustainable Tourism. International Conference of Environment Ministers on Biodiversity and Tourism, 6 - 8 March 1997, Berlin.

### 3. Background Documents and Papers

- **Biological Diversity and Sustainable Tourism: Preparation of Global Guidelines.** UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf. 21. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Fourth Meeting, Bratislava. Submission by Germany, 1998.

- **Tourism and Sustainable Development.** Report to the 7th Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, Bonn, 1998.
- **CSD Report on the seventh session** (1 May and 27 July 1998, and 19-30 April 1999), E/CN.17/1999/20. Decision 7/3. Tourism and sustainable development. UN, New York, 1999.
- **Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity,** Recommendations from the International Workshop and Symposium, 20 - 26 October 1999, Isle of Vilm, Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (gtz) GmbH

#### **4. Dokument which came in shortly after the Workshop**

- Provisional Agenda of COP to the CBD, 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Nairobi 15–26 May 2000 + Item 22, Sustainable use, including tourism (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/1/Add. 1)
-