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**APPENDIX:
TOURISM AND GEOTOURISM DECLARATIONS AND
RELATED DOCUMENTS**

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- 2. DIGNITY DECLARATION. DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MEMORY OF THE EARTH - 1991**
- 3. RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT - 1992**
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1. DECLARATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT STOCKHOLM - 1972

<http://www.are.admin.ch/imperia/md/content/are/nachhaltigeentwicklung/international.pdf>

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, having met at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, having considered the need for a common outlook and for common principles to inspire and guide the peoples of the world in the preservation and enhancement of the human environment, Proclaims that:

1. Man is both creature and moulder of his environment, which gives him physical sustenance and affords him the opportunity for intellectual, moral, social and spiritual growth. In the long and tortuous evolution of the human race on this planet a stage has been reached when, through the rapid acceleration of science and technology, man has acquired the power to transform his environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale. Both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights the right to life itself.'
2. The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world; it is the urgent desire of the peoples of the whole world and the duty of all Governments.
3. Man has constantly to sum up experience and go on discovering, inventing, creating and advancing. In our time, man's capability to transform his surroundings, if used wisely, can bring to all peoples the benefits of development and the opportunity to enhance the quality of life. Wrongly or heedlessly applied, the same power can do incalculable harm to human beings and the human environment. We see around us growing evidence of man-made harm in many regions of the earth:
 - Dangerous levels of pollution in water, air, earth and living beings; major and undesirable disturbances to the ecological balance of the biosphere; destruction and depletion of irreplaceable resources.
 - Gross deficiencies, harmful to the physical, mental and social health of man, in the man-made environment, particularly in the living and working environment.
4. In the developing countries most of the environmental problems are caused by under-development. Millions continue to live far below the minimum levels required for a decent human existence, deprived of adequate food and clothing, shelter and education, health and sanitation. Therefore, the developing countries must direct their efforts to development, bearing in mind their priorities and the need to safeguard and improve the environment. For the same purpose, the industrialized countries should make efforts to reduce the gap themselves and the developing countries. In the industrialized countries, environmental problems are generally related to industrialization and technological development.

5. The natural growth of population continuously presents problems for the preservation of the environment, and adequate policies and measures should be adopted, as appropriate, to face these problems. Of all things in the world, people are the most precious. It is the people that propel social progress, create social wealth, develop science and technology and, through their hard work, continuously transform the human environment. Along with social progress and the advance of production, science and technology, the capability of man to improve the environment increases with each passing day.
6. A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well being depend. Conversely, through fuller knowledge and wiser action, we can achieve for ourselves and our posterity a better life in an environment more in keeping with human needs and hopes. There are broad vistas for the enhancement of environmental quality and the creation of a good life. What is needed is an enthusiastic but calm state of mind and intense but orderly work. For the purpose of attaining freedom in the world of nature, man must use knowledge to build, in collaboration with nature, a better environment. To defend and improve the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind—a goal to be pursued together with, and in harmony with, the established and fundamental goals of peace and of worldwide economic and social development.

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7. To achieve this environmental goal will demand the acceptance of responsibility by citizens and communities and by enterprises and institutions at every level, all sharing equitably in common efforts. Individuals in all walks of life as well as organizations in many fields, by their values and the sum of their actions, will shape the world environment of the future. Local and national governments will bear the greatest burden for large-scale environmental policy and action within their jurisdictions. International cooperation is also needed in order to raise resources to support the developing countries in carrying out their responsibilities in this field. A growing class of environmental problems, because they are regional or global in extent or because they affect the common international realm, will require extensive cooperation among nations and action by international organizations in the common interest.

The Conference calls upon Governments and peoples to exert common efforts for the preservation and improvement of the human environment, for the benefit of all the people and for their posterity. Principles States the common conviction that:

Principle 1

Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. In this respect, policies promoting or perpetuating apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, colonial and other forms of oppression and foreign domination stand condemned and must be eliminated.

Principle 2

The natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate.

Principle 3

The capacity of the earth to produce vital renewable resources must be maintained and, wherever practicable, restored or improved.

Principle 4

Man has a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat, which are now gravely imperilled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation, including wildlife, must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development.

Principle 5

The non-renewable resources of the earth must be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion and to ensure that benefits from such employment are shared by all mankind.

Principle 6

The discharge of toxic substances or of other substances and the release of heat, in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, must be halted in order to ensure that serious or irreversible damage is not inflicted upon ecosystems. The just struggle of the peoples of ill countries against pollution should be supported.

Principle 7

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States shall take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas by substances that are liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea.

Principle 8

Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favorable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.

Principle 9

Environmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of under-development and natural disasters pose grave problems and can best be remedied by accelerated development through the transfer of substantial quantities of financial and technological assistance as a supplement to the domestic effort of the developing countries and such timely assistance as may be required.

Principle 10

For the developing countries, stability of prices and adequate earnings for primary commodities and raw materials are essential to environmental management, since economic factors as well as ecological processes must be taken into account.

Principle 11

The environmental policies of all States should enhance and not adversely affect the present or future development potential of developing countries, nor should they hamper the attainment of better living conditions for all, and appropriate steps should be taken by States and international organizations with a view to reaching agreement on meeting the possible national and international economic consequences resulting from the application of environmental measures.

Principle 12

Resources should be made available to preserve and improve the environment, taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and any costs which may emanate- from their incorporating environmental safeguards into their development planning and the need for making available to them, upon their request, additional international technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

Principle 13

In order to achieve a more rational management of resources and thus to improve the environment, States should adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to their development planning so as to ensure that development is compatible with the need to protect and improve environment for the benefit of their population.

Principle 14

Rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the needs of development and the need to protect and improve the environment.

Principle 15

Planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanization with a view to avoiding adverse effects on the environment and obtaining maximum social, economic and environmental benefits for all. In this respect projects which are designed for colonialist and racist domination must be abandoned.

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Principle 16

Demographic policies which are without prejudice to basic human rights and which are deemed appropriate by Governments concerned should be applied in those regions where the rate of population growth or excessive population concentrations are likely to have adverse effects on the environment of the human environment and impede development.

Principle 17

Appropriate national institutions must be entrusted with the task of planning, managing or controlling the 9 environmental resources of States with a view to enhancing environmental quality.

Principle 18

Science and technology, as part of their contribution to economic and social development, must be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems and for the common good of mankind.

Principle 19

Education in environmental matters, for the younger generation as well as adults, giving due consideration to the underprivileged, is essential in order to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in protecting and improving the environment in its full human dimension. It is also essential that mass media of communications avoid contributing to the deterioration of the environment, but, on the contrary, disseminates information of an educational nature on the need to project and improve the environment in order to enable man to develop in every respect.

Principle 20

Scientific research and development in the context of environmental problems, both national and multinational, must be promoted in all countries, especially the developing countries. In this connection, the free flow of up-to-date scientific information and transfer of experience must be supported and assisted, to facilitate the solution of environmental problems; environmental technologies should be made available to developing countries on terms which would encourage their wide dissemination without constituting an economic burden on the developing countries.

Principle 21

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Principle 22

States shall cooperate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

Principle 23

Without prejudice to such criteria as may be agreed upon by the international community, or to standards which will have to be determined nationally, it will be essential in all cases to consider the systems of values prevailing in each country, and the extent of the applicability of standards which are valid for the most advanced countries but which may be inappropriate and of unwarranted social cost for the developing countries.

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Principle 24

International matters concerning the protection and improvement of the environment should be handled in a cooperative spirit by all countries, big and small, on an equal footing.

Cooperation through multilateral or bilateral arrangements or other appropriate means is essential to effectively control, prevent, reduce and eliminate adverse environmental effects resulting from activities conducted in all spheres, in such a way that due account is taken of the sovereignty and interests of all States.

Principle 25

States shall ensure that international organizations play a coordinated, efficient and dynamic role for the protection and improvement of the environment.

Principle 26

Man and his environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass destruction. States must strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons.

21st plenary meeting

16 June 1972

2. DIGNE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MEMORY OF THE EARTH - 1991

(<http://www.progeo.org.se/digne.html>)

1. *“Planets, like people, have their own life history - they are born, they mature and die. For planets, as for people, each life history is unique: the time has come to recognise the uniqueness of the Earth.*
2. *Our planet, the Earth, is the only bond which unites all mankind. We are, each and everyone of us, linked to the Earth, and it is the link between us, and indeed all life*
3. *The Earth is 4.5 thousand million years old and the cradle of life; life which has undergone many metamorphoses and renewals through geological time. Its long evolutions, and slow maturation, have shaped the environment in which we live.*
4. *Our history and the history of the Earth cannot be separated. Its origins are our origins, its history is our history and its future will be our future.*
5. *The surface of the Earth is our environment. This environment is different, not only from that of the past, but also from that of the future. We are the will pass.*
6. *Just as an ancient tree retains the record of its life and growth, the Earth retains 'memories' of the past inscribed both in its depths and on its surface, in the rocks and in the landscape, a record which can be read and translated.*
7. *We have always been aware of the need to preserve our memories - our cultural heritage. Now the time has come to protect our natural heritage. The past of the Earth is no less important than that of Man. It is time for us to learn to protect this Earth heritage, and by doing so learn about the past of the Earth, to learn to read this 'book', the record in the rocks and the landscape, which was mostly written before our advent.*
8. *Man and the Earth share a common heritage, of which we and our governments are but the custodians. Each and every human being should understand that the slightest damage could lead to irreversible losses for the future. In undertaking any form of development, we should respect the singularity of this heritage.*
9. *The participants of the First International Symposium on the Conservation of our Geological Heritage, including over 100 specialists from more than 30 nations, urgently request all national and international authorities to take into consideration and to protect this heritage, by all the legal, financial and organisational measures that may be necessary.”*

(This is the English translation used by ProGEO of the original Digne les Bains Declaration (1991), which was conceived as a French text, modified and accepted by the EWGESG, and adopted at Digne, France, by delegates from more than thirty countries in Europe.)

3. RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT - 1992

www.unep.org/Documents/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163

Having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Reaffirming the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972 and seeking to build upon it,

With the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of societies and people,

Working towards international agreements which respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system,

Recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home,

Proclaims that:

Principle 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 2

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Principle 3

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Principle 4

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

Principle 5

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Principle 6

The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.

Principle 7

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

Principle 8

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

Principle 9

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 11

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.

Principle 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better

address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

Principle 13

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

Principle 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Principle 16

National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

Principle 18

States shall immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help States so afflicted.

Principle 19

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant adverse trans-boundary environmental effect and shall consult with those States at an early stage and in good faith.

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

Principle 23

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.

Principle 24

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.

Principle 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

Principle 26

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Principle 27

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.

Source: Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972

DECLARATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

I. General

1. Tourism activities should be environmentally, economically, socially, and culturally sustainable. Development and management of tourism activities should be guided by the objectives, principles and commitments laid down in the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. Tourism activities which directly or indirectly contribute to the conservation of nature and biological diversity and which benefit local communities should be promoted by all stakeholders.
3. To conserve nature and biological diversity as a major resource of tourism activities, all necessary measures should be taken to ensure that the integrity of ecosystems and habitat is always respected. Additional burdens from tourism development should be avoided in areas where nature is already under pressure from tourism activities. Preference should be given to the modernisation and renovation of existing tourism facilities.
4. Measures inspired by the principle of precautionary action should be taken to prevent and minimise damage caused by tourism to biological diversity. Such measures should include monitoring of existing activities and assessment of environmental impacts of proposed new activities, including the monitoring of the negative effects of wildlife viewing.
5. Tourism activities which use environmentally sound technologies for saving water and energy, prevent pollution, treat waste water, avoid the production of solid waste and encourage recycling should be promoted to the fullest extent. Similarly, tourism activities which encourage the use of public and non-motorised transport should be supported wherever possible.
6. All stakeholders including governments, international organisations, the private sector and environmental groups should recognise their common responsibilities to achieve sustainable forms of tourism. Policies and, where appropriate, legislation, environmental economic instruments and incentives should be developed to assure that tourism activities meet the needs of nature and biological diversity conservation, including mobilising fund from tourism.
7. Concepts and criteria of sustainable tourism should be developed and incorporated in education and training programmes for tourism professionals. The general public should be informed and educated about the benefits of protecting nature and conserving biodiversity through sustainable forms of tourism. Results of the research and concepts of sustainable tourism should be increasingly disseminated and implemented.

II. Specific

8. Inventories of tourism activities and attractions should be developed, taking into account the impacts on ecosystems and biological diversity. Coordinated efforts of governments, the private sector and all other stakeholders should be undertaken to agree on criteria to measure and assess the impacts of tourism on nature and biological diversity. In this regard, technical and scientific cooperation should be subject to prior environmental impact assessment.
9. Tourism activities, including tourism planning, measures to provide tourism infrastructure, and tourism operations, which are likely to have significant impacts on nature and biological diversity should be subject to prior environmental impact assessment.
10. Tourism activities should be planned at the appropriate levels with a view to integrate socio-economic, cultural and environmental considerations at all levels. Development, environment, and tourism planning should be integrated processes. All efforts should be made to ensure that integrated tourism plans are implemented and enforced.
11. Tourism should be based on environmentally friendly concepts and modes of transport. Negative impacts of transport on the environment should be reduced, paying particular attention to environmental impacts of road and air traffic, especially in ecologically sensitive areas.
12. Sports and outdoor activities, including recreational hunting and fishing, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas should be managed in a way that they fulfil the requirements of nature and biological diversity conservation and comply with the existing regulations on conservation and sustainable use of species.
13. Special care should be taken that living animals and plants, and products made thereof for souvenirs, are offered for sale only on the basis of a sustainable and environmentally sound use of the natural resources and in conformity with national legislation and international agreements.
14. Whenever possible and appropriate, economic instruments and incentives including awarding of prizes, certificates and eco-label for sustainable tourism should be used to encourage the private sector to meet its responsibilities for achieving sustainable tourism. The abolition of economic incentives encouraging environmentally unfriendly activities should be strived for.
15. Tourism should be developed in a way so that it benefits the local communities, strengthens the local economy, employs local workforce and wherever ecologically sustainable, uses local materials, local agricultural products and traditional skills. Mechanisms, including policies and legislation should be introduced to ensure the flow of benefits to local communities. Tourism activities should respect the ecological characteristics and capacity of the local environment in which they take place. All efforts should be made to respect traditional lifestyles and cultures.
16. Tourism should be restricted, and where necessary prevented, in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas. All forms of mass tourism should be avoided in those areas. Where existing tourism activities exceed the carrying capacity, all efforts

should be made to reduce negative impacts from tourism activities and to take measures to restore the degraded environment.

17. Tourism in protected areas should be managed in order to ensure that the objectives of the protected area regimes are achieved. Wherever tourism activities may contribute to the achievement of conservation objectives in protected areas, such activities should be encouraged and promoted, also as cases to test in a controlled manner the impact of tourism and biodiversity. In highly vulnerable areas, nature reserves and all other protected areas requiring strict protection, tourism activities should be limited to a bearable minimum.
18. In coastal areas all necessary measures should be taken to ensure sustainable forms of tourism, taking into account the principles of integrated coastal area management. Particular attention should be paid to the conservation of vulnerable zones, such as small islands, coral reefs, coastal waters, mangroves, coastal wetlands, beaches and dunes.
19. Tourism in mountain areas should also be managed in environmentally appropriate ways. Tourism in sensitive mountain regions should be regulated so that the biological diversity of these areas can be preserved.
20. In all areas where nature is particularly diverse, vulnerable and attractive, all efforts should be made to meet the requirement of nature protection and biological diversity conservation. Particular attention should be paid to the conservation needs in forest areas, grasslands, fresh water eco-systems, areas of spectacular beauty, arctic and antarctic eco-systems.

4. CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM - 1995

(<http://www.insula.org/tourism/charte.htm>)

We, the participants at the World Conference on Sustainable Tourism, meeting in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain, on 27-28 April 1995,

Mindful that tourism, as a worldwide phenomenon, touches the highest and deepest aspirations of all people and is also an important element of socioeconomic and political development in many countries.

Recognizing that tourism is ambivalent, since it can contribute positively to socio-economic and cultural achievement, while at the same time it can contribute to the degradation of the environment and the loss of local identity, and should therefore be approached with a global methodology.

Mindful that the resources on which tourism is based are fragile and that there is a growing demand for improved environmental quality.

Recognizing that tourism affords the opportunity to travel and to know other cultures, and that the development of tourism can help promote closer ties and peace among peoples, creating a conscience that is respectful of the diversity of culture and life styles.

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of United Nations, and the various United Nations declarations and regional conventions on tourism, the environment, the conservation of cultural heritage and on sustainable development.

Guided by the principles set forth in the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and the recommendations arising from Agenda 21.

Recalling previous declarations on tourism, such as the Manila Declaration on World Tourism, the Hague Declaration and the Tourism Bill of Rights and Tourist Code.

Recognizing the need to develop a tourism that meets economic expectations and environmental requirements, and respects not only the social and physical structure of destinations, but also the local population.

Considering it a priority to protect and reinforce the human dignity of both local communities and tourists.

Mindful of the need to establish effective alliances among the principal actors in the field of tourism so as to fulfil the hope of a tourism that is more responsible towards our common heritage.

APPEAL to the international community and, in particular, URGE governments, other public authorities, decisionmakers and professionals in the field of tourism, public and private associations and institutions whose activities are related to tourism, and tourists themselves, to adopt the principles and objectives of the Declaration that follows:

1. Tourism development shall be based on criteria of sustainability, which means that it must be ecologically bearable in the long term, as well as economically viable, and ethically and socially equitable for local communities. Sustainable development is a guided process which envisages global management of resources so as to ensure their viability, thus enabling our natural and cultural capital, including protected areas, to be preserved. As a powerful instrument of development, tourism can and should participate actively in the sustainable development strategy. A requirement of sound management of tourism is that the sustainability of the resources on which it depends must be guaranteed.

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2. Tourism should contribute to sustainable development and be integrated with the natural, cultural and human environment; it must respect the fragile balances that

characterize many tourist destinations, in particular small islands and environmentally sensitive areas. Tourism should ensure an acceptable evolution as regards its influence on natural resources, biodiversity and the capacity for assimilation of any impacts and residues produced.

3. Tourism must consider its effects on the cultural heritage and traditional elements, activities and dynamics of each local community. Recognition of these local factors and support for the identity, culture and interests of the local community must at all times play a central role in the formulation of tourism strategies, particularly in developing countries.

4. The active contribution of tourism to sustainable development necessarily presupposes the solidarity, mutual respect and participation of all the actors, both public and private, implicated in the process, and must be based on efficient cooperation mechanisms at all levels: local, national, regional and international.

5. The conservation, protection and appreciation of the worth of the natural and cultural heritage afford a privileged area for cooperation. This approach implies that all those responsible must take upon themselves a true challenge, that of cultural, technological and professional innovation, and must also undertake a major effort to create and implement integrated planning and management instruments.

6. Quality criteria both for the preservation of the tourist destination and for the capacity to satisfy tourists, determined jointly with local communities and informed by the principles of sustainable development, should represent priority objectives in the formulation of tourism strategies and projects.

7. To participate in sustainable development, tourism must be based on the diversity of opportunities offered by the local economy. It should be fully integrated into and contribute positively to local economic development.

8. All options for tourism development must serve effectively to improve the quality of life of all people and must influence the socio-cultural enrichment of each destination.

9. Governments and the competent authorities, with the participation of NGOs and local communities, shall undertake actions aimed at integrating the planning of tourism as a contribution to sustainable development.

10. In recognition of economic and social cohesion among the peoples of the world as a fundamental principle of sustainable development, it is urgent that measures be promoted to permit a more equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of tourism. This implies a change of consumption patterns and the introduction of pricing methods which allow environmental costs to be internalised. Governments and multilateral organizations should prioritize and strengthen direct and indirect aid to tourism projects which contribute to improving the quality of the environment. Within this context, it is necessary to explore thoroughly the application of internationally harmonised economic, legal and fiscal instruments to ensure the sustainable use of resources in tourism.

11. Environmentally and culturally vulnerable spaces, both now and in the future, shall be given special priority in the matter of technical cooperation and financial aid for sustainable tourism development. Similarly, special treatment should be given to zones that have been degraded by obsolete and high impact tourism models.

12. The promotion of alternative forms of tourism that are compatible with the principles of sustainable development, together with the encouragement of diversification represent a guarantee of stability in the medium and the long term. In this respect there is a need, for many small islands and environmentally sensitive areas in particular, to actively pursue and strengthen regional cooperation.

13. Governments, industry, authorities, and tourism-related NGOs should promote and participate in the creation of open networks for research, dissemination of information and transfer of appropriate knowledge on tourism and environmentally sustainable tourism technologies.

14. The establishment of a sustainable tourism policy necessarily requires the support and promotion of environmentally-compatible tourism management systems, feasibility studies for the transformation of the sector, as well as the implementation of demonstration projects and the development of international cooperation programmes.

15. The travel industry, together with bodies and NGOs whose activities are related to tourism, shall draw up specific frameworks for positive and preventive actions to secure sustainable tourism development and establish programmes to support the implementation of such practices. They shall monitor achievements, report on results and exchange their experiences.

16. Particular attention should be paid to the role and the environmental repercussions of transport in tourism, and to the development of economic instruments designed to reduce the use of non-renewable energy and to encourage recycling and minimization of residues in resorts.

17. The adoption and implementation of codes of conduct conducive to sustainability by the principal actors involved in tourism, particularly industry, are fundamental if tourism is to be sustainable. Such codes can be effective instruments for the development of responsible tourism activities.

18. All necessary measures should be implemented in order to inform and promote awareness among all parties involved in the tourism industry, at local, national, regional and international level, with regard to the contents and objectives of the Lanzarote Conference.

5. QUÉBEC DECLARATION ON ECOTOURISM - 2002

<http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/quebec-declaration.pdf>

In the framework of the UN International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO), over one thousand participants coming from 132 countries, from the public, private and non-governmental sectors met at the World Ecotourism Summit, hosted in Québec City, Canada, by Tourisme Québec and the Canadian Tourism Commission, between 19 and 22 May 2002.

The Québec Summit represented the culmination of 18 preparatory meetings held in 2001 and 2002, involving over 3,000 representatives from national and local governments including the tourism, environment and other administrations, private ecotourism businesses and their trade associations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and consultants, intergovernmental organizations, and indigenous and local communities.

This document takes into account the preparatory process, as well as the discussions held during the Summit. It is the result of a multistakeholder dialogue, although it is not a negotiated document. Its main purpose is the setting of a preliminary agenda and a set of recommendations for the development of ecotourism activities in the context of sustainable development.

The participants at the Summit acknowledge the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, August/September 2002, as the ground-setting event for international policy in the next 10 years, and emphasize that, as a leading industry, the sustainability of tourism should be a priority at WSSD due to its potential contribution to poverty alleviation and environmental protection in endangered ecosystems. Participants therefore request the UN, its organizations and member governments represented at this Summit to disseminate the following Declaration and other results from the World Ecotourism Summit at the WSSD.

The participants to the World Ecotourism Summit, aware of the limitations of this consultative process to incorporate the input of the large variety of ecotourism stakeholders, particularly non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local and indigenous communities,

Recognize that ecotourism embraces the principles of sustainable tourism, concerning the economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism. It also embraces the following specific principles which distinguish it from the wider concept of sustainable tourism:

- Contributes actively to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage,
- Includes local and indigenous communities in its planning, development and operation, and contributing to their well-being,
- Interprets the natural and cultural heritage of the destination to visitors,
- Lends itself better to independent travellers, as well as to organized tours for small size groups.

Acknowledge that tourism has significant and complex social, economic and environmental implications, which can bring both benefits and costs to the environment and local communities,

Consider the growing interest of people in travelling to natural areas, both on land and sea,

Recognize that ecotourism has provided a leadership role in introducing sustainability practices to the tourism sector,

Emphasize that ecotourism should continue to contribute to make the overall tourism industry more sustainable, by increasing economic and social benefits for host communities, actively contributing to the conservation of natural resources and the cultural integrity of host communities, and by increasing awareness of all travellers towards the conservation of natural and cultural heritage,

Recognize the cultural diversity associated with many natural areas, particularly because of the historical presence of local and indigenous communities, of which some have maintained their traditional knowledge, uses and practices many of which have proven to be sustainable over the centuries,

Reiterate that funding for the conservation and management of biodiverse and culturally rich protected areas has been documented to be inadequate worldwide,

Recognize further that many of these areas are home to peoples often living in poverty, who frequently lack adequate health care, education facilities, communications systems, and other infrastructure required for genuine development opportunity,

Affirm that different forms of tourism, especially ecotourism, if managed in a sustainable manner can represent a valuable economic opportunity for local and indigenous populations and their cultures and for the conservation and sustainable use of nature for future generations and can be a leading source of revenues for protected areas,

Emphasize that at the same time, wherever and whenever tourism in natural and rural areas is not properly planned, developed and managed, it contributes to the deterioration of natural landscapes, threats to wildlife and biodiversity, marine and coastal pollution, poor water quality, poverty, displacement of indigenous and local communities, and the erosion of cultural traditions,

Acknowledge that ecotourism development must consider and respect the land and property rights, and, where recognized, the right to self-determination and cultural sovereignty of indigenous and local communities, including their protected, sensitive and sacred sites as well as their traditional knowledge,

Stress that to achieve equitable social, economic and environmental benefits from ecotourism and other forms of tourism in natural areas, and to minimize or avoid potential negative impacts, participative planning mechanisms are needed that allow local and indigenous communities, in a transparent way, to define and regulate the use of their areas at the local level, including the right to opt out of tourism development,

Understand that small and micro businesses seeking to meet social and environmental objectives are key partners in ecotourism and are often operating in a development climate that does not provide suitable financial and marketing support for ecotourism,

Recognize that to improve the chances of survival of small-, medium-, and micro enterprises further understanding of the ecotourism market will be required through market research, specialized credit instruments for tourism businesses, grants for external costs, incentives for the use of sustainable energy and innovative technical solutions, and an emphasis on developing skills not only in business but within government and those seeking to support business solutions,

Accept the need to avoid discrimination between people, whether by race, gender or other personal circumstances, with respect to their involvement in ecotourism as consumers or suppliers,

Recognize that visitors have a responsibility to the sustainability of the destination and the global environment through their travel choice, behaviour and activities, and that therefore it is important to communicate to them the qualities and sensitivities of destinations,

In light of the above, the participants to the World Ecotourism Summit, having met in Québec City, from 19 to 22 May 2002, produced a series of recommendations, which they propose to governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based associations, academic and research institutions, inter-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, development assistance agencies, and indigenous and local communities, as follows:

A. To national, regional and local governments

1. *formulate* national, regional and local ecotourism policies and development strategies that are consistent with the overall objectives of sustainable development, and to do so through a wide consultation process with those who are likely to become involved in, affect, or be affected by ecotourism activities;
2. *guarantee -in conjunction* with local and indigenous communities, the private sector, NGOs and all ecotourism stakeholders- the protection of nature, local and indigenous cultures and specially traditional knowledge, genetic resources, rights to land and property, as well as rights to water;
3. *ensure* the involvement, appropriate participation and necessary coordination of all the relevant public institutions at the national, provincial and local level, (including the establishment of inter-ministerial working groups as appropriate) at different stages in the ecotourism process, while at the same time opening and facilitating the participation of other stakeholders in ecotourism-related decisions. Furthermore, adequate budgetary mechanisms and appropriate legislative frameworks need to be set up to allow implementation of the objectives and goals set up by these multistakeholder bodies;
4. *include* in the above framework the necessary regulatory and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional and local levels, including objective sustainability indicators jointly agreed with all stakeholders and environmental impact assessment studies to be used as feedback mechanism. Results of monitoring should be made available to the general public;
5. *develop* regulatory mechanisms for internalization of environmental costs in all aspects of the tourism product, including international transport;
6. *develop* the local and municipal capacity to implement growth management tools such as zoning, and participatory land-use planning not only in protected areas but in buffer zones and other ecotourism development zones;

7. *use* internationally approved and reviewed guidelines to develop certification schemes, ecolabels and other voluntary initiatives geared towards sustainability in ecotourism, encouraging private operators to join such schemes and promoting their recognition by consumers. However, certification systems should reflect regional and local criteria. Build capacity and provide financial support to make these schemes accessible to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In addition, monitoring and a regulatory framework are necessary to support effective implementation of these schemes;
8. *ensure* the provision of technical, financial and human resources development support to micro, small and medium-sized firms, which are the core of ecotourism, with a view to enable them to start, grow and develop their businesses in a sustainable manner;
9. *define* appropriate policies, management plans, and interpretation programmes for visitors, and earmark adequate sources of funding for natural areas to manage visitor numbers, protect vulnerable ecosystems, and the sustainable use of sensitive habitats. Such plans should include clear norms, direct and indirect management strategies, and regulations with the funds to ensure monitoring of social and environmental impacts for all ecotourism businesses operating in the area, as well as for tourists wishing to visit them;
10. *include* micro, small and medium-sized ecotourism companies, as well as community-based and NGO-based ecotourism operations in the overall promotional strategies and programmes carried out by the National Tourism Administration, both in the international and domestic markets;
11. *encourage* and *support* the creation of regional networks and cooperation for promotion and marketing of ecotourism products at the international and national levels;
12. *provide* incentives to tourism operators and other service providers (such as marketing and promotion advantages) for them to adopt ecotourism principles and make their operations more environmentally, socially and culturally responsible;
13. *ensure* that basic environmental and health standards are identified and met by all ecotourism development even in the most rural areas. This should include aspects such as site selection, planning, design, the treatment of solid waste, sewage, and the protection of watersheds, etc., and ensure also that ecotourism development strategies are not undertaken by governments without investment in sustainable infrastructure and the reinforcement of local/municipal capabilities to regulate and monitor such aspects;
14. *institute* baseline environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies and surveys that record the social environmental state of destinations, with special attention to endangered species, and invest, or support institutions that invest in research programmes on ecotourism and sustainable tourism;
15. *support* the further implementation of the international principles, guidelines and codes of ethics for sustainable tourism (e.g. such as those proposed by UNEP, WTO, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Commission on Sustainable

Development and the International Labor Organization) for the enhancement of international and national legal frameworks, policies and master plans to implement the concept of sustainable development into tourism;

16. *consider* as one option the reallocation of tenure and management of public lands, from extractive or intensive productive sectors to tourism combined with conservation, wherever this is likely to improve the net social, economic and environmental benefit for the community concerned;
17. *promote and develop* educational programmes addressed to children and young people to enhance awareness about nature conservation and sustainable use, local and indigenous cultures and their relationship with ecotourism;
18. *promote* collaboration between outbound tour operators and incoming operators and other service providers and NGOs at the destination to further educate tourists and influence their behaviour at destinations, especially those in developing countries;
19. *incorporate* sustainable transportation principles in the planning and design of access and transportation systems, and encourage tour operators and the travelling public to make soft mobility choices.

B. To the private sector

20. *bear* in mind that for ecotourism businesses to be sustainable, they need to be profitable for all stakeholders involved, including the projects' owners, investors, managers and employees, as well as the communities and the conservation organizations of natural areas where it takes place;
21. *conceive, develop and conduct* their businesses minimizing negative effects on, and positively contributing to, the conservation of sensitive ecosystems and the environment in general, and directly benefiting and including local and indigenous communities;
22. *ensure that the design, planning, development and operation* of ecotourism facilities incorporates sustainability principles, such as sensitive site design and community sense of place, as well as conservation of water, energy and materials, and accessibility to all categories of population without discrimination;
23. *adopt* as appropriate a reliable certification or other systems of voluntary regulation, such as ecolabels, in order to demonstrate to their potential clients their adherence to sustainability principles and the soundness of the products and services they offer;
24. *cooperate* with governmental and non-governmental organizations in charge of protected natural areas and conservation of biodiversity, ensuring that ecotourism operations are practised according to the management plans and other regulations prevailing in those areas, so as to minimize any negative impacts upon them while enhancing the quality of the tourism experience and contribute financially to the conservation of natural resources;
25. *make increasing use* of local materials and products, as well as local logistical and human resource inputs in their operations, in order to maintain the overall authenticity of the ecotourism product and increase the proportion of financial and other benefits

- that remain at the destination. To achieve this, private operators should invest in the training of the local workforce;
26. *ensure* that the supply chain used in building up an ecotourism operation is thoroughly sustainable and consistent with the level of sustainability aimed at in the final product or service to be offered to the customer;
 27. *work actively* with indigenous leadership and local communities to ensure that indigenous cultures and communities are depicted accurately and with respect, and that their staff and guests are well and accurately informed regarding local and indigenous sites, customs and history;
 28. *promote* among their clients an ethical and environmentally conscious behaviour vis-à-vis the ecotourism destinations visited, such as by environmental education or by encouraging voluntary contributions to support local community or conservation initiatives;
 29. *generate* awareness among all management and staff of local, national and global environmental and cultural issues through ongoing environmental education, and support the contribution that they and their families can make to conservation, community economic development and poverty alleviation;
 30. *diversify* their offer by developing a wide range of tourist activities at a given destination and by extending their operations to different destinations in order to spread the potential benefits of ecotourism and to avoid overcrowding some selected ecotourism sites, thus threatening their long-term sustainability. In this regard, private operators are urged to respect, and contribute to, established visitor impact management systems of ecotourism destinations;
 31. *create and develop* funding mechanisms for the operation of business associations or cooperatives that can assist with ecotourism training, marketing, product development, research and financing;
 32. *ensure* an equitable distribution of financial benefits from ecotourism revenues between international, outbound and incoming tour operators, local service providers and local communities through appropriate instruments and strategic alliances;
 33. *formulate and implement* company policies for sustainability with a view to applying them in each part of their operations.

C. To non-governmental organizations, community-based associations, academic and research institutions.

34. *provide* technical, financial, educational, capacity building and other support to ecotourism destinations, host community organizations, small businesses and the corresponding local authorities in order to ensure that appropriate policies, development and management guidelines, and monitoring mechanisms are being applied towards sustainability;
35. *monitor and conduct* research on the actual impacts of ecotourism activities upon ecosystems, biodiversity, local and indigenous cultures and the socio-economic fabric of the ecotourism destinations;

36. *cooperate* with public and private organizations ensuring that the data and information generated through research is channeled to support decision-making processes in ecotourism development and management;
37. *cooperate* with research institutions to develop the most adequate and practical solutions to ecotourism development issues.

D. To inter-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and development assistance agencies

38. *develop and assist* in the implementation of national and local policy and planning guidelines and evaluation frameworks for ecotourism and its relationships with biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development, respect of human rights, poverty alleviation, nature conservation and other objectives of sustainable development, and to intensify the transfer of such know-how to all countries. Special attention should be paid to countries in a developing stage or least developed status, to small island developing States and to countries with mountain areas, considering that 2002 is also designated as the International Year of Mountains by the UN;
39. *build capacity* for regional, national and local organizations for the formulation and application of ecotourism policies and plans, based on international guidelines;
40. *develop or adopt*, as appropriate, international standards and financial mechanisms for ecotourism certification systems that take into account the needs of small and medium enterprises and facilitates their access to those procedures, and support their implementation;
41. *incorporate* multistakeholder dialogue processes into policies, guidelines and projects at the global, regional and national levels for the exchange of experiences between countries and sectors involved in ecotourism;
42. *strengthen* efforts in identifying the factors that determine the success or failure of ecotourism ventures throughout the world, in order to transfer such experiences and best practices to other nations, by means of publications, field missions, training seminars and technical assistance projects; UNEP, WTO and other international organizations should continue and expand the international dialogue after the Summit on sustainable tourism and ecotourism issues, for example by conducting periodical reviews of ecotourism development through international and regional forums;
43. *adapt* as necessary their financial facilities and lending conditions and procedures to suit the needs of micro-, small- and medium-sized ecotourism firms that are the core of this industry, as a condition to ensure its long term economic sustainability;
44. *develop* the internal human resource capacity to support sustainable tourism and ecotourism as a development sub-sector in itself and to ensure that internal expertise, research, and documentation are in place to oversee the use of ecotourism as a sustainable development tool;
45. *develop* financial mechanisms for training and capacity building, that takes into account the time and resources required to successfully enable local communities and indigenous peoples to participate equitably in ecotourism development.

E. To local and indigenous communities

In addition to all the references to local and indigenous communities made in the preceding paragraphs of this Declaration, (in particular para. 5, 8, 9 and 10 on page 2; para. 1 on page 3; in A 2 and 17; B 21 and 27; C 35; D 45) participants addressed the following recommendations to the local and indigenous communities themselves:

46. As part of a community vision for development, that may include ecotourism, *define and implement* a strategy for improving collective benefits for the community through ecotourism development including human, physical, financial, and social capital development, and improved access to technical information;
47. *strengthen, nurture and encourage* the community's ability to maintain and use traditional skills, particularly home-based arts and crafts, agricultural produce, traditional housing and landscaping that use local natural resources in a sustainable manner.

F. To the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

48. *recognize* the need to apply the principles of sustainable development to tourism, and the exemplary role of ecotourism in generating economic, social and environmental benefits;
49. *integrate* the role of tourism, including ecotourism, in the outcomes expected at WSSD.

Québec City, Canada, 22 May 2002

Source: www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/TYE/quebec/anglais/declaration.html

6. GEOTOURISM CHARTER - 2002

www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable/pdfs/geoprinciples.pdf,
www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable/pdf/geotourism_charter_template.pdf)

WHEREAS the geotourism approach is all-inclusive, focusing not only on the environment, but also on the diversity of the cultural, historic, and scenic assets of _____,

WHEREAS the geotourism approach encourages citizens and visitors to get involved rather than remain tourism spectators, and

WHEREAS the geotourism approach helps build a sense of national identity and pride, stressing what is authentic and unique to _____,

THE UNDERSIGNED parties to this Agreement of Intent commit to support these geotourism principles, to sustain and enhance the geographical character of _____ — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents:

1. The geotourism approach is all-inclusive, focusing not only on the environment, but also on the diversity of the cultural, historic, and scenic assets.
2. The geotourism approach encourages citizens and visitors to get involved rather than remain tourism spectators.
3. The geotourism approach helps build a sense of national identity and pride, stressing what is authentic and unique.
4. Support the geotourism principles, sustain and enhance the geographical character of its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents by the following actions:
 - **Integrity of place:** Enhance geographical character by developing and improving it in ways distinctive to the locale, reflective of its natural and cultural heritage, so as to encourage market differentiation and cultural pride.
 - **International codes:** Adhere to the principles embodied in the World Tourism Organization's Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and the Principles of the Cultural *Tourism Charter established by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)*.
 - **Market selectivity:** Encourage growth in tourism market segments most likely to appreciate, respect, and disseminate information about the distinctive assets of the locale.
 - **Market diversity:** Encourage a full range of appropriate food and lodging facilities, so as to appeal to the entire demographic spectrum of the geotourism market and so maximise economic resiliency over both the short and long term.
 - **Tourist satisfaction:** Ensure that satisfied, excited geotourists bring new vacation stories home and send friends off to experience the same thing, thus providing continuing demand for the destination.
 - **Community involvement:** Base tourism on community resources to the extent possible, encouraging local small businesses and civic groups to build partnerships to promote and provide a distinctive, honest visitor experience and market their locales effectively.
 - **Help businesses:** Develop approaches to tourism that build on the area's nature, history and culture, including food and drink, artisanry, performance arts.
 - **Community benefit:** Encourage micro-to medium-size enterprises and tourism business strategies that emphasize economic and social benefits to involved communities, especially poverty alleviation, with clear communication of the destination stewardship policies required to maintain those benefits.
 - **Protection and enhancement of destination appeal:** Encourage businesses to sustain natural habitats, heritage sites, aesthetic appeal, and local culture. Prevent degradation by keeping volumes of tourists within maximum acceptable limits. Seek business models that can operate profitably within those limits. Use persuasion, incentives, and legal enforcement as needed.
 - **Land use:** Anticipate development pressures and apply techniques to prevent undesired overdevelopment and degradation. Contain resort and vacation-home

sprawl, especially on coasts and islands, so as to retain a diversity of natural and scenic environments and ensure continued resident access to waterfronts. Encourage major self-contained tourism attractions, such as large-scale theme parks and convention centers unrelated to character of place, to be sited in needier locations with no significant ecological, scenic, or cultural assets.

- **Conservation of resources:** Encourage businesses to minimize water pollution, solid waste, energy consumption, water usage, landscaping chemicals, and overly bright nighttime lighting. Advertise these measures in a way that attracts the large, environmentally sympathetic tourist market.
- **Planning:** Recognize and respect immediate economic needs without sacrificing long- term character and the geotourism potential of the destination. Where tourism attracts in- migration of workers, develop new communities that themselves constitute a destination enhancement. Strive to diversify the economy and limit population influx to sustainable levels. Adopt public strategies for mitigating practices that are incompatible with geotourism and damaging to the image of the destination.
- **Interactive interpretation:** Engage both visitors and hosts in learning about the place. Encourage residents to show off the natural and cultural heritage of their communities, so that tourists gain a richer experience and residents develop pride in their locales.
- **Evaluation:** Establish an evaluation process to be conducted on a regular basis by an independent panel representing all stakeholder interests, and publicize evaluation results.

7. FIFTH WORLD PARKS CONGRESS RESOLUTION 5.12: TOURISM. TOURISM AS A VEHICLE FOR CONSERVATION AND SUPPORT OF PROTECTED AREAS

(5th World Parks Congress Resolution 5.12: Tourism, as cited in McCool, Eagles, Bushell and McNeely: 332, www.cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/world_parks_congress.pdf)

Therefore, PARTICIPANTS in the Stream on Building Broader Support for Protected Areas at the Vth World Parks Congress, in Durban, South Africa (8-17 September 2003):

1. RECOMMEND that the tourism sector, including appropriate institutions, associations, and operators, work together with protected area managers and communities to ensure that tourism associated with protected areas, in both developed and developing countries:
 - a. Respects the primacy of the role of conservation for protected areas;
 - b. Makes tangible and equitable financial contributions to conservation and to protected area management;

- c. Ensures tourism contributes to local economic development and poverty reduction through:
 - i. Support to local small and medium sized enterprise
 - ii. Employment of local people;
 - iii. Purchasing of local goods and services; and
 - iv. Fair and equitable partnerships with local communities;
 - d. Uses relevant approaches that encourage appropriate behaviour by visitors (e.g, environmental education, interpretation, and marketing);
 - e. Uses ecologically and culturally appropriate technologies, infrastructure, facilities and materials in and or near protected areas;
 - f. Monitors, reports and mitigates negative impacts and enhances positive effects of tourism;
 - g. Communicates the benefits of protected areas and the imperative for conservation; and
 - h. Promotes the use of guidelines, codes of practice and certification programmes;
2. RECOMMEND that key decision-makers work with the conservation community, including the IUCN WCPA Task Force for Tourism and Protected Areas, to ensure that tourism:
- a. Supports the sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage;
 - b. Supports local and indigenous community development and economic opportunities:
 - i. Provides political and financial support for the establishment, extension, and effective management of protected areas;
 - ii. Supports implementation of relevant international agreements, national legislation, and guidelines on protected areas;
 - iii. Fosters respect and stewardship for natural and cultural heritage through visitation and education: and
 - iv. Promotes the use of culturally appropriate participatory processes;
3. THEREFORE RECOMMEND to key international and national agencies, local authorities and the private sector to support research and development to:
- a. Understand the links between tourism, conservation and community development;
 - b. Establish reliable data on protected area tourism;
 - c. Determine optimum types and levels of protected area visitation;
 - d. Promote appropriate monitoring and evaluation;
 - e. Promote effective management;
 - f. Encourage policy development on protected area tourism;
 - g. Provide appropriate tourism training for protected area personnel;
 - h. Provide effective interpretation and education;
 - i. Understand visitor experiences, behaviour and impact; and
 - j. Develop appropriate tools and techniques for sustainable finance of protected areas through tourism;

(5th World Parks Congress Resolution 5.12: Tourism, as cited in McCool, Eagles, Bushell and McNeely: 332)

8. WASHINGTON DECLARATION ON TOURISM AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - 2004

(www.rmportal.net/.../wto-tpf-declaration-final-2-efayos.pdf/attachment_download/file)

The first international forum focusing on tourism development and assistance met for the Tourism Policy Forum held in Washington DC from October 18-20, 2004, convened by the World Tourism Organization and The George Washington University, Chair of the WTO Education Council.

The assembly proposes the following declaration:

Whereas, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) has recently become the United Nations Specialized Agency for Tourism, vested with a central role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism;

Whereas, the purpose of the WTO Tourism Policy Forum (WTO.TPF) is to convene educators and knowledge management experts of the WTO Education Council and other informed professionals, together with representative government policy-makers and business leaders, to focus on critical policy issues facing global tourism and to offer recommendations for future directions;

Whereas, 200 delegates and 200 observers from 52 countries participated in global consensus building activities focused on development assistance issues and strategic recommendations;

Taking into consideration that tourism is the largest industry in the world today with significant economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts, requiring sustainable, knowledge-based policies;

Taking into consideration that tourism is an increasingly important development strategy to positively address poverty reduction, economic growth, biodiversity conservation, and socio-cultural integrity generally, as well as the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) specifically;

Recognizing that tourism can contribute to equitable redistribution of income and liberalization with a human face;

Recognizing also the active role of other United Nations agencies and their assistance to developing countries.

Acknowledging that sustainable tourism development necessitates private and public sector, donor agency and stakeholder cooperation and input;

Acknowledging that the measurement and monitoring of tourism's impact with rigorous analytical tools and relevant indicators is crucial;

Acknowledging the importance of the WTO ST-EP program to bring sustainable tourism development into the service of poverty alleviation.

We agree to the following:

To build partnerships of equal opportunity and fair representation within destinations, and to strengthen their leadership;

To engender local community awareness of the tourism planning process and its benefits;

To foster buy-in for the concept of sustainability by all sectors including the sharing of guidelines and good practices;

To delegate the authority for decision-making to the appropriate community level and build capacity there, and empower local development authorities;

To encourage and facilitate brand awareness and a collective image for a destination community;

To recognize the uniqueness of the business perspective as different from that of the public sector and to communicate effectively in business language;

To develop cross-sectoral demonstration projects that illustrate linkages, inter-relationships and working partnerships;

To call upon governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral institutions to facilitate access to capital of all kinds, and to provide guidance, training and support on how to access such funding;

To develop land-use policies through a participatory process, and to provide policy incentives for private land owners;

To enhance communication and coordination between agencies including the use of advanced information communication technologies;

To develop educational programs directed to tourism policy stakeholders including local communities to promote the understanding of cultural/heritage resources, and the need for preservation and social responsibilities;

To encourage the development of a regional network of researchers, practitioners and donor agencies for sustainable tourism development.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. These Forum findings and recommendations will be reported to the relevant bodies and WTO organs for consideration of further action.
2. The Forum delegates call upon aid donors and recipients, to join together with government, private sector, universities and civil society stakeholders to form a global network to enhance tourism's potential to contribute positively to the fulfillment of Millennium Development Goals.

Source:

www.rmportal.net/.../wto-tpf-declaration-final-2-efayos.pdf/attachment_download/file

**9. POSITION PAPER GEOPARK AND GEOTOURISM RESEARCH
FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON GEOPARK AND GEOTOURISM RESEARCH
HOSTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL
SCIENCE/UNIVERSITY OF KARLSRUHE - 2006**

(VOGT, J. und MEGERLE, A. (Hrsg). Frickenhausen und Karlsruhe, RWFV Regionalwissenschaftlicher Fachverlag. Geopark and Geotourismusforschung – Ergebnisse des Internationales Workshop in Karlsruhe 2006:7-8.)

I Preamble/Objectives

This paper is geared towards all protagonists involved in geopark and geotourism research.

Our aims are ...

- ... to sharpen and further develop awareness of the importance of geoparks and geotourism. They are innovating factors
- ... for earth sciences and numerous integrative environmental protection, especially for the integrative sustainable development of appropriate regions
- ... to contribute to supporting the continuation of these innovations by appropriate conditions and measures in science and politics
- ... to lead to a reduction of constraints and risks to the achievement of these aims and a strengthening of supporting factors.

Geoparks play an important role in imparting information and serve as contact spaces of science and public that are gaining importance in view of the increasing pressure of legitimation by society.

We see a great chance in the development of geoparks and geotourism concepts to create new and integrative instruments for development including usage and protection concepts for suitable regions.

We presume that the present situation is marked by insecurities by planning and insufficient embedding of geopark and geotourism concepts into structures and operating procedures of the administration which may lead to endangering the idea of geoparks and geotourism.

II General aspects

1. Geoparks and geotourism are in need of developing a strategy exceeding all administrative levels, focussing on international and national levels, that aims at geoparks and geotourism taking root in the respective national system of protected areas and labelling as well as in the concepts of tourism. This strategy must be embedded in a transparent and participative process including all protagonists. Important parts of such a strategy are the definition of plausible structures and processes (e.g. for labelling), financial security of all protagonists, as well as accompanying scientific research in agreement with the principles of sustainable development.
2. Even though geoparks are not a category of protected areas, they require clearer administrative responsibilities and competences of can create the legal security necessary and lead to the fact that that geoparks were created "bottom-up" will still be efficiently and effectively supported "top-down.
3. The know-how of transfer of scientists and specialists in the field of geoparks and geotourism has to be organised and supported in transdisciplinary networks on international level. We see the need of establishing one or more scientific documentation centres for collecting, archiving and documenting of scientific geopark and geotourism know-how.

III Central areas of research

Many recent upcoming questions concerning geopark and geotourism can only be answered on the basis of scientific research. Due to the high complexity and high level of innovation a specific field of research is called for. Geopark and geotourism research are to be laid out in an international, inter- and multidisciplinary way: the the competencies of earth, social, administrative, political and regional science have to be included. Examples of such research areas of utmost importance are:

- What are the aims, tasks and functions of geoparks?

- Based on the broad spectrum in content and organisation, a typology of geoparks should be developed in order to gain insights in strengths and weaknesses of different types of geoparks
- What are the relations of geoparks to other spatial labellings (nature parks, regional parks, national parks etc)?
- How should geoparks be delimited and do they need minimal spatial distances to each other? The scientific development of criteria for the delimitation of geoparks as well as their application are necessary.
- Which certification systems are needed and how should they be implemented? Do alternatives exist?
- How are geoparks and geotourism perceived by different groups?
- Which ways of participation in geoparks make sense and are successful at the same time? How are different groups and protagonists included? What is crucial for the involvement of citizens?
- In which ways do geoparks influence the acceptance of activities of different stakeholders and users of space, e.g. mining of resources?
- How can professional competences in these areas of research be linked in a framework of education, pedagogical communication and administration?
- How can geopedagogical instruments help to add to the effect geoparks have on the transfer of science into the public and to the sensitivity of the general public for the importance of nature and environment?

Karlsruhe, 24th June 2006

(The translation was done by the congress organisers.)

Source: VOGT, J. und MEGERLE, A. (Hrsg). Frickenhausen und Karlsruhe, RWFV Regionalwissenschaftlicher Fachverlag. Geopark and Geotourismusforschung – Ergebnisse des Internationales Workshop in Karlsruhe 2006: 7-8.

10. GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL GEOPARKS SEEKING UNESCO'S ASSISTANCE TO JOIN THE GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

(January 2007)

<http://www.unesco.org/science/earth/geoparks/2007guidelinesJanuary.pdf>.

GEOPARKS – *Promoting Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities*

Global Network of National Geoparks - a landscape approach for geological heritage conservation, research and sustainable development

Introduction

Geology and landscape have profoundly influenced society, civilization, and the cultural diversity of our planet but until recently, no international recognition of geological heritage sites of national or regional importance, and no international convention specifically on geological heritage have existed. The initiative of UNESCO to support Geoparks responds to the strong need expressed by numerous countries for an international framework to enhance the value of the Earth's heritage, its landscapes and geological formations, which are key witnesses to the history of life.

Pursuant the decision of its Executive Board in June 2001 (161 EX/Decisions, 3.3.1) UNESCO has been invited "*to support ad hoc efforts with Member States as appropriate*" to promote territories or natural parks having special geological features. National Geopark initiatives, which seek UNESCO's assistance should integrate the preservation of significant examples of geological heritage in a strategy for regional sustainable socio-economic and cultural development, safeguarding the environment.

The present document provides guidelines for developing National Geoparks under the assistance of UNESCO for the inclusion in a Global Network. The applicant is asked to respect the terms of the present guidelines. An independent expert group will refer to these guidelines when assessing proposals for the Global Network.

The protection and sustainable development of geological heritage and geodiversity through Geoparks initiatives, contributes to the objectives of Agenda 21, the Agenda of Science for Environment and Development into the twenty-first century adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and which was reconfirmed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg. The Geoparks initiative adds a new dimension to the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by highlighting the potential for interaction between socio-economic and cultural development and conservation of the natural environment.

The Global Network of National Geoparks operates in close synergy with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) World Network of Biosphere Reserves, national and international undertakings and non-governmental organizations active in geological heritage conservation. For national Geoparks in Europe, UNESCO has established a privileged partnership with the *European Geoparks Network (EGN)* since 2001. As a result, the EGN acts as the Global Geoparks Network for Europe. UNESCO recommends the creation of similar regional Networks, reflecting local conditions, elsewhere in the world. Networking among Geoparks is an important component of the Global Network of National

Geoparks. UNESCO encourages any form of cooperation especially in the fields of education, management, tourism, sustainable development, regional planning among Network members.

Part I - Criteria

1. Size and setting

- A Geopark seeking to become member of the Global Network of National Geoparks is an area with well-defined limits and a large enough surface area for it to serve local economic and cultural development (mainly through tourism). It comprises a number of internationally important geological heritage sites on any scale, or a mosaic of geological entities of special scientific importance, rarity or beauty. These features are representative of a region's geological history and the events and processes that formed it.
- A 'Geopark' is a geographical area where geological heritage sites are part of a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. The Geopark should take into account the whole geographical setting of the region, and shall not solely include sites of geological significance. Non-geological themes are an integrated part of it, especially when their relation to landscape and geology can be demonstrated to the visitors. For this reason, it is necessary to include also sites of ecological, archaeological, historical or cultural value. In many societies, natural, cultural and social history are inextricably linked and thus cannot be separated.
- If the area of a Geopark is identical to or partly or wholly overlaps with an area already inscribed, for example, on the World Heritage List or registered as a Biosphere Reserve of the Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO, it is necessary to obtain prior clearance from the appropriate bodies of the said initiatives before submitting the application.

2. Management and local involvement

- Prerequisite to any successful Geopark proposal is the establishment of a management body and plan. The presence of impressive and internationally significant geological outcrops alone is not sufficient. The geological features inside the Geopark area must be accessible to visitors, are linked to one another and safeguarded in a formally managed park-type situation. The Geopark is run by a designated local authority or several authorities having an adequate management infrastructure, qualified personal and adequate financial support.
- The establishment of a Geopark is a bottom-up process. It should be based on a strong multi task-force concept and political will with long-term financial support, and professional management structures, which adopts its own territorial policy for sustainable regional socio-economic and cultural development. Success can only be

achieved through strong local involvement. The initiative to create a Geopark must therefore come from local communities/authorities with a strong commitment to developing and implementing a management plan that meets the economic needs of the local population whilst protecting the landscape in which they live. Nevertheless, it needs to be endorsed at national level by the National Commission to UNESCO.

- A Geopark shall provide organizational arrangements to involve public authorities, local communities, private interests, and both research and educational bodies in the design and running of the park and its regional economic and cultural development plan and activities. This co-operation shall stimulate discussion and encourage partnerships between the different groups having a vested interest in the area; it shall motivate and mobilise local authorities and the local population.
- The identity of a Geopark must be clearly visible for visitors. This is achieved through a strong public relations concept including common branding/labelling of the sites belonging to the Geopark, the publications and all activities taking place there.
- Sustainable tourism and other economic activities within a Geopark can only be successful if carried out in cooperation with local communities. Tourism activities have to be conceived specially to match local conditions and the natural and cultural character of a territory and must fully respect the traditions of the local populace. To respect, reinforce and protect local cultural values, is a crucial part of the sustainable development effort. In many regions and countries it is also necessary to involve the indigenous population in the establishment of a Geopark.
- It is strongly recommended to seek advice from the Geoparks Secretariat and its independent bureau during the preparatory phase of application. Furthermore, the applicant should seek co-operation with respective Geological Surveys, local public and tourism bodies, local communities, universities and research bodies, and private interest groups and to broaden the composition of the start-up team in charge of the Geopark project. These groups should be representative of the scientific, conservation and socio-economic communities of the area. A wide local consultation process must involve the local population to facilitate local acceptance for the planned Geopark and to develop a strong concept for their Geopark application dossier.

3. Economic development

Sustainable development was defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development in *Our Common Future* (1987) as ‘development, which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’

- One of the main strategic objectives of a Geopark is to stimulate economic activity and sustainable development. A Geopark seeking UNESCO's assistance serves to foster socio-economic development that is culturally and environmentally sustainable. This has a direct impact on the area involved by improving human living conditions

and the rural environment. It strengthens identification of the population with their area and triggering cultural renaissance, which in turn aids direct protection of geological heritage.

- Often, aspects of a region's cultural heritage are linked to the geological heritage. Respectful of the environment, the establishment of a Geopark shall stimulate, for example, the creation of innovative local enterprises, small business, cottage industries, initiative high quality training courses and new jobs by generating new sources of revenue (e.g. geo-tourism, geo-products) while protecting the geo-resources of the Geopark (e.g. encouraging casting instead of sale of fossils). This provides supplementary income for the local population and shall attract private capital. 'Geo-tourism' is an economic, success-oriented and fast-moving discipline, a new tourist business sector involving strong multidisciplinary cooperation.

4. Education

- A Geopark must provide and organize support, tools and activities to communicate geoscientific knowledge and environmental concepts to the public (e.g. through museums, interpretive and educational centres, trails, guided tours, popular literature and maps, modern communication media). It also allows and fosters scientific research and cooperation with universities, and between geoscientists and the local populace.
- The success of Geopark educational activities depends not only on the content of tourism programmes, competent staff and logistic support for the visitors, but also on the personal contact with the local population, media representatives and decision-makers. The aspects of wide community participation and capacity building on the local level (e.g. training of visitor guides) helps to develop a wide range of acceptance of the geopark philosophy (and transfer of knowledge and information) in the population. It cannot be repeated often enough that local people are of primordial importance for the successful establishment and maintenance of a Geopark.
- Among the instruments available for the transfer of information are events such as excursions for school classes and teachers, seminars, and scientific lectures for the environmentally and culturally interested public and for residents who enjoy introducing their landscape to visitors. One of the main issues is to link geo-education with the local context, thus local students must learn the importance of their geological heritage. Creating geo-curricula for primary and secondary schools, using the local information about geology, geomorphology and physical geography will help to preserve the Geopark while at the same time reinforcing local awareness, pride and self-identity. Geoparks may be great educational tools at local and national levels.
- Within the educational concept, museums, 'discovery centres', interpretive centres and other innovative new tools must be developed to promote the principle of geological heritage conservation and the necessity of its safeguarding and archiving. The

museums and centres also serve for developing different educational programmes for visitors and local actors.

- All educational activities should reflect the ethical considerations around holistic environmental protection.

5. Protection and conservation

- A Geopark is not specifically a new category of protected area or landscape and can be quite different from what is mostly an entirely protected and regulated National Park or Nature Park. The responsible Geopark authority ensures the protection of the geological heritage of the Geopark in accordance with local traditions and legislative obligations. It is the government of the country where the Geopark is situated which decides about the level and measures of protection of certain sites or geological outcrops.
- In accordance with national legislation or regulations, a Geopark shall contribute to the conservation of significant geological features including:
 - representative rocks
 - mineral resources
 - minerals
 - fossils
 - landforms and landscapes

which provide information on various geoscientific disciplines such as:

- solid earth sciences
- economic geology and mining
- engineering geology
- geomorphology
- glacial geology
- physical geography
- hydrology
- mineralogy
- palaeontology
- petrology
- sedimentology
- soil science
- speleology
- stratigraphy
- structural geology
- volcanology

A Geopark explores and demonstrates methods and best practise of conserving those examples of geological heritage.

- The management authority of the Geopark ensures adequate protection measures, in consultation with relevant statutory bodies, to guarantee effective conservation and provide means for physical maintenance, as appropriate. Those sites remain under the sole jurisdiction of the country in which the Geopark is situated. It is the country's responsibility to decide how to protect the particular sites or areas, in conformity with national legislation or regulations.
- A Geopark must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage. Its managing body should strongly discourage the selling of all elements of ornamental geological heritage, which could not be regarded as sustainable but it should permit, in certain circumstances, the limited (sustainable) collecting of geological samples for scientific and educational purposes from naturally renewable sites. It can be demonstrated that a sustainable approach in this question leads to higher economic benefit than a shortsighted selling of Earth heritage, minerals and fossils.

6. The Global Network

- The Global Network of National Geoparks provides a platform of cooperation and exchange between experts and practitioners in geological heritage matters. Under the umbrella of UNESCO and through cooperation with the global network partners, important local, national geological sites gain worldwide recognition and profit through the exchange of knowledge and expertise, experience and staff between other Geoparks. This international partnership developed by UNESCO, brings the advantage to be a member of and profit from worldwide network, as compared to a local isolated initiative. It permits to benefit from the experience of other members of the network.
- The network comprises all regions of the world and brings together groups that share common values, interests, or backgrounds following a specific methodology and management. It further serves to develop models of best practice and set quality-standards for territories that integrate the preservation of geological heritage in a strategy for regional sustainable economic development. The establishment of a Geopark brings sustainability and real economic benefit to the local populations, usually through the development of sustainable tourism and other economic and cultural activities, in developing the sustainable development component parallel to its conservation efforts.

Geoparks that are part of the Network:

- 1) preserve geological heritage for present and future generations
- 2) educate and teach the broad public about issues in geological sciences and their relation with environmental matters
- 3) ensure sustainable socio-economic and cultural development
- 4) foster multi-cultural bridges for heritage and conservation and the maintenance of

- geological and cultural diversity, using participatory schemes and co-partnership
- 5) stimulate research when appropriate
 - 6) contribute actively to the life of the network through joint collaborative initiatives (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, twinning, participation in meetings, common projects)
 - 7) contribute articles to the GGN Newsletters, books and other publications
- UNESCO supports the development of this initiative, among others, in order to put the geosciences back on the agenda of politicians and decision-makers of the governments and local actors, as well as on the 'radar screen' of private enterprises. An important number of activities within Geoparks are being developed worldwide to increase partnership with the private sector, e.g. the tourism industry. The private sector often requests an international cooperative framework that UNESCO can offer. UNESCO's umbrella will definitely raise the interest of government sectors in this effort, as the Organization has a strong awareness-raising potential that will be used to its maximum extent informing its Ambassadors of the different Member States. This in itself will lead to a much better understanding and support for local initiatives that want to join the UNESCO Network.
 - The inclusion into the Global Network of National Geoparks is a sign of recognition of excellence in relation with the present guidelines and in no ways implies any legal or financial responsibilities on the part of UNESCO. This relates also to the use of UNESCO's name and logo, which needs a special authorization respecting the regulatory framework of sponsorship of the Organization. For approved network members, a special logo was created for the Global Network. Please note that the use of this logo and the mentioning of membership in the Global Network can be used only after the successful evaluation of the application and upon receipt of the official letter of approval from the Global Geoparks Network Secretariat. Further, the use of this common logo linked to the identity of the Global Network Members is strongly recommended and is essential to create a common image for all Geoparks throughout the world.
 - Should a member of the network wish to use UNESCO's logo ("temple logo") and name for a specific event or activity, it can obtain patronage through the National Commissions for UNESCO or by special permission of the Director-General, which must be expressly authorized in advance and in writing. It is the responsibility of the managing body of the Geopark to avoid any misunderstandings with anyone in this regard. (Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and internet domain names of UNESCO can be obtained through the Geoparks Secretariat, address see below.)

Part II - Application procedure - a step by step procedure how to become a network member

In order to guarantee a balanced geographical representation of countries the number of

active Geopark applications is restricted to two per country. Three Geopark applications can be permitted for countries, which apply for the first time and are not yet participating in the Network.

1. Submission of application dossier

- Geoparks seeking UNESCO's assistance are invited to contact the Geoparks Secretariat at UNESCO, prior to the submission of any application dossier.

Geoparks Secretariat
Global Earth Observation Section
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Phone: + 33 (0) 1 45 68 41 18

Fax: + 33 (0) 1 45 68 58 22

e-mail: m.patzak@unesco.org

www.unesco.org/science/earth

- The Geoparks Secretariat at UNESCO shall verify the contents of the application dossier and supporting materials and, in the case of incomplete documentation, request complementary information from the applicant. Applications can be submitted any time of the year and will be verified by a field evaluation mission, undertaken by independent Geoparks experts who will issue a recommendation regarding the membership of the proposed Geopark. Prior to the mission, the experts will contact the applying Geopark and agree on a mission's programme and itinerary. Applications and the findings of the expert mission will be assessed by an independent Geoparks Bureau who will at least once per year. The whole assessment process needs at least a 6-month period. Membership to the Global Network of National Geoparks will be given upon a positive assessment. UNESCO shall notify the applicant with an official letter and certificate, and the National Commission for UNESCO in the country concerned of the decision taken. Travel, accommodation and local transportation costs of expert(s) in charge of advisory missions and on-the-spot evaluation should normally be borne by the country where the Geopark is located or any other party or entity concerned with the application.
- If in country a "National Network for Geoparks" exists, then the applicant must first become a member of the national network before submitting its dossier for membership to UNESCO, which must be certified.

- As part of the application preparation any potential new member may wish to invite an advisor from the network to their area. The costs of such a visit should be borne by the inviting territory.
- The application should be written in English or French and submitted in 3 printed copies and 3 CD-ROMs. The text part should not exceed 30 pages. It should be duly signed by the managing and governmental entities in charge of the running and developing of the Geopark, and be endorsed by the National Commission for UNESCO in the Member State concerned.
- The application dossier should include the following topics, highlighting strong and weak points:
 - 1) - Identification of the area
 - 2) - Scientific description (international geological significance, geodiversity, number of geosites, etc.)
 - 3) - General information on the area
 - geographical setting, economic situation
 - population, infrastructure, employment
 - natural landscape, climate, biology, habitats
 - human activity, cultural heritage, archaeology
 - 4) - Management plan and structure
 - 5) - Sustainable development policy strategy and importance of tourism in this context (regional development territorial action plan)
 - 6) - Arguments for the nomination as a Geopark within the Global Network

Signature part:

- 7) - Letter of expression of interest accompanying the application
- 8) - Official application signed by the competent authorities
- 9) - Endorsement by National Commission for UNESCO of the country where the Geopark is situated
- 10) - Endorsement by a National Geoparks Network (if existing in the country)
- 11) - Annex (self-evaluation form on Geopark:
 - part A) Description of the area
 - part B) Geoparks Progress Evaluation (for Geoparks review and reporting see below)

2. Application from European countries

- A Geopark located in Europe wishing to become member of the Global Network of National Geoparks, is invited to submit a full application dossier to the coordination office of the European Geoparks Network (EGN), which acts as the integration organization into the Global Network for the European continent. The Global

Network of National Geoparks of UNESCO and the European Geoparks Network were designed in parallel on a common conceptual basis. Pursuant to this, national applications to the Global Network from European countries are implemented through the EGN. As a permanent member of the advisory board and expert committees of the EGN, UNESCO participates at every stage in the evaluation of and decision on the applications.

- UNESCO and the EGN have signed two agreements in this respect, the “Agreement for co-operation between the Division of Earth Sciences of UNESCO and the Network of European Geoparks” (2001, Almeria, Spain), and the "Madonie Declaration" (2004, Madonie Italy). As a result, the EGN acts as Global Geoparks Network in Europe.
- The EGN was established in June 2000 by four European Geoparks with the aim to protect geological heritage and promote the sustainable development of their areas, further, to create a strong European thematic group of territories involved in sustainable development, and to prepare and negotiate new common European Programmes.
- European candidates submit their application forms through the Coordination Unit of the European Geoparks Network, Réserve Géologique de Haute Provence, Digne-les-Bains, France from whom up-to-date advice and assistance should be requested in advance.

Coordination Unit
European Geoparks Network
Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence
BP 156
F-04005 Digne-les-Bains cedex
France

Phone: + 33 (0) 4 92 36 70 72

Fax: + 33 (0) 4 92 36 70 71

Contact Mrs. Sylvie Giraud

E mail : s.giraud@resgeol04.org

www.europeangeoparks.org

III. Reporting and Periodical review

- The status of each Geopark shall be subject to a periodical review within 4 years. This review is based on a progress report prepared by the designated authority concerned in cooperation with respective authorities that signed the original proposal, and forwarded to the Geoparks Secretariat at UNESCO through the National Commission for UNESCO.
- If on the basis of this report, the independent expert group of UNESCO considers that the status or management of the park is satisfactory since it was designated or last

reviewed, this will be formally acknowledged and the Geopark will continue to be member of the Global Network.

- If it is considered that the Geopark no longer fulfils the criteria of the Global Geoparks Network set out in the present guidelines, the designated Geopark authority concerned will be recommended to take appropriate steps to ensure maintenance of the accepted standards. Should the Geopark not fulfil the criteria within two years, it shall be removed from the list of the Global Network of National Geoparks and cease to benefit from all the privileges associated with the Global Geopark Membership including the use of the Global Geopark Network's logo.
- UNESCO shall notify the designated authority concerned and the National Commission for UNESCO of the outcome of the periodical review.
- Should a Geopark and the sovereign authority wish to withdraw from the attributed association, it shall notify the Geoparks Secretariat through its National Commission giving the reasons thereto.
- For any modification concerning the physical conditions of the Geopark like, for example, a change of its surface area, members of the Global Network have submitted an official request. At any time it is possible for an existing Geopark to modify its surface and request approval from the Geoparks Bureau of a changed surface area. This includes also the use of the logo within these new enlarged territories.
- The designation of an area as member of the Global Network of National Geoparks shall be given appropriate publicity and promotion by the management body of the Geopark concerned. It shall also keep UNESCO regularly informed about the ongoing progress and developments in the park. This refers to special events (e.g. twinning, inaugurations) and their promotion through appropriate publicity and website links that can be easily connected and reach a worldwide public.

Source:

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL GEOPARKS SEEKING UNESCO'S ASSISTANCE TO JOIN THE GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK. 2007. Global Geoparks Network. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): 10pp (<http://www.unesco.org/science/earth/geoparks/2007guidelinesJanuary.pdf>).

11. THE OSNABRÜCK DECLARATION - 2008

(<http://www.globalgeopark.org/publish/portal1/tab80/info3213.htm>)

The delegates at the 3rd International Conference on Geoparks, held from June 22- 26 2008 during the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth and held in the city of Osnabrück, Germany hereby affirm that:

1. Geoparks are experimental territories for the 21 st century with the joint aims of preserving the rich geological heritage of our planet and using that heritage for the sustainable development of our local communities.
2. Geoparks provide excellent tools for communicating the memories of the Earth not only to local communities but to the wider public both through the provision of educational and sustainable geotourism activities.
3. The amended guidelines and operational procedures for the Global Geoparks Network, adopted at this meeting, provide an excellent framework for the further development of high quality, active geoparks and the basis from which a strong network will continue to develop.
4. We commit to continue to work together to achieve our common goals of the protection and appreciation of the geodiversity of the planet through cooperation and networking between the members of the Global Geoparks Network and to assist aspiring geopark projects in attaining geopark status.
5. While continuing to work in close cooperation with the World Heritage and the Man and the Biosphere programmes, the geopark community will continue to explore ways of further building and strengthening the profile of the Global Geoparks Network within UNESCO and across the world generally.
6. Recognising that communication is the key to our success, the global geological community should continue to work together in communicating the importance of geological issues, such as geohazards and climate change, to society and recognise that geoparks are a valuable tool in doing this.
7. In order to achieve these aims, geoparks need to continually work with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that geoheritage issues are fully recognised, understood and enjoyed by all.

Osnabrück, Deutschland (Germany) 26 June 2008