



MUNOH 2021

**Forum:** Special Commission on Africa

**Issue:** Measures to improve social sustainability in the tourism sector of the oceans

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**Position:** Main Chair

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### **Description of the issue:**

Today's tourist environment is a wide collection of enticing places, services, local or worldwide acts, symbols and components of authenticity, and touristic destinations come and vanish with increasing frequency. As a result, the tourist sector grows increasingly complex, with superficial uses of locations. Tourist forms are offered with the purpose of providing an experience that can be sold as a ready-made product through the media. Obviously, this intricacy creates issues of environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Sustainability is frequently promoted as a means of reaching out to certain tourist segments which are more concerned about environmental issues, but this is not always the case. First, it is necessary to understand what is meant by the term “sustainability”, whether it refers to the preservation of places, the search for territorial resilience, or the comparison with local societies. The UN Global Compact's first six principles, which include human rights as a cornerstone, focus on this social dimension of corporate sustainability. Human rights of certain groups are also addressed in the work on social sustainability, including labor, women's empowerment and gender equality, children, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and people-centered approaches to business impacts on poverty. Social sustainability involves concerns that affect rights holders<sup>1</sup>, such as education and health, as well as groups of rights holders. While governments have the primary responsibility for protecting, respecting, fulfilling, and gradually realizing human rights, corporations can and should play a role. Businesses can make additional efforts as a supplement to, not a substitute for, respecting rights: Create decent jobs, commodities and services that help meet basic requirements, and more inclusive value chains, among other things, to enhance the lives of the people they affect.

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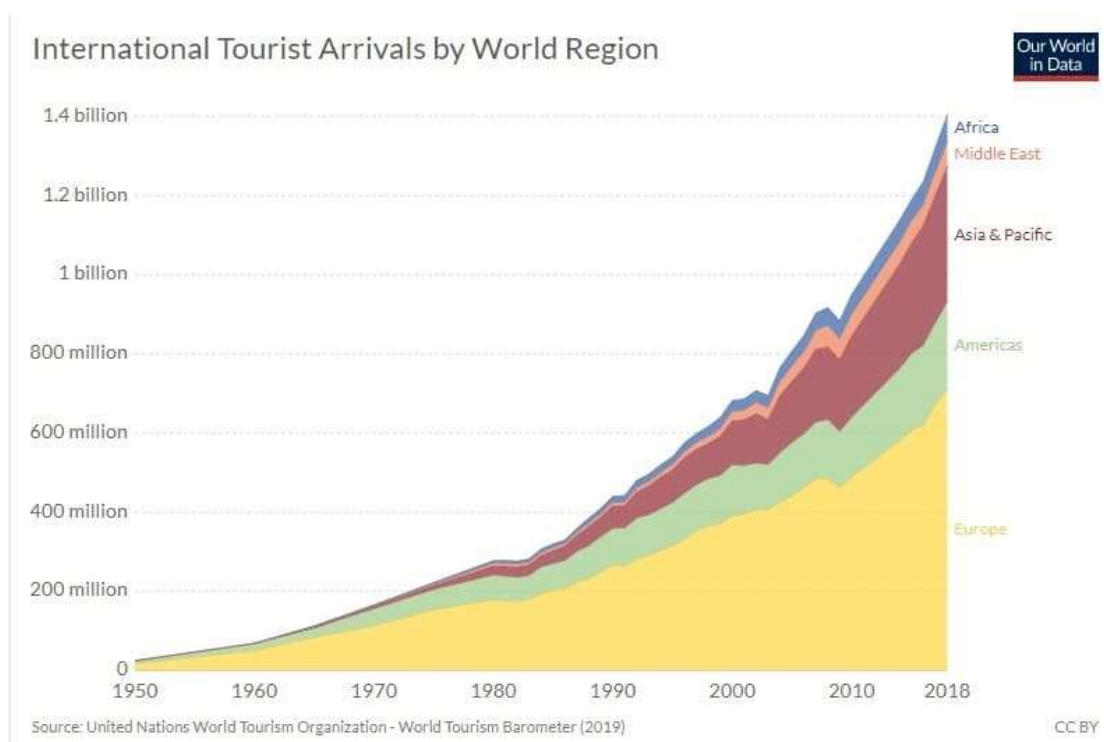
<sup>1</sup> explained in the glossary



(<https://diversity.social/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Four-Dimensions-of-Social-Sustainability-410x1024.png> )

Sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental implications, fulfilling the requirements of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities," according to the World Tourism Organization. The mainstream tourism sector's social and environmental implications, responses, and indicators are examined in five categories: population, peace, prosperity, pollution, and protection. Few, if any, of the 5,000 relevant papers seek to evaluate the entire global tourism sector in ways that are consistent with global research in sustainable development. The industry is still far from becoming self-sustaining. Rather than market forces, regulation is the primary engine of improvement.

Some tourist proponents continue to employ political tactics to get over environmental limitations and acquire access to public natural resources. The importance of tourism in the growth of protected areas, improvements in environmental accounting procedures, and the implications of human conceptions of responsibility in tackling climate change are all future study goals. Aspects that should be considered are population, peace, wealth, pollution, and protection are all indications of sustainability. Regulation, rather than market forces, are the primary drivers of sustainability in mainstream tourism. Though there are localized outliers, the global tourism sector is now far from sustainable. Sustainability accounting, individual responsibility, and conservation tourism are among the research goals.



(<https://www.thewisetravellers.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Travel-infographic.jpg>)

This graph shows how international tourist arrivals have increased over the years. In Europe there has been the biggest increase. In general by now there is 1.4 billion international tourist arrivals all over the world.

### **Background information:**

Identifying and controlling corporate impacts on people, both positive and negative, is central to social sustainability. The quality of a company's stakeholder relationships and participation is crucial. Companies have a direct or indirect impact on employees, value chain workers, customers, and local communities, and it is critical to manage these consequences proactively. Businesses' social license to operate is heavily reliant on their efforts to ensure social sustainability. A lack of social development, such as poverty, inequality, and a poor rule of law, can also stifle company operations and progress. At the same time, efforts to attain social sustainability may open up new markets, assist in retaining and attracting business partners, or serve as a source of new product or service line innovation. Employee involvement and internal morale may improve, while productivity, risk management, and company-community conflict may increase.



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It is often forgotten that two thirds of the Earth's surface is covered by water. The ocean is big, resilient and heals the soul, but what happens when it is facing a crisis and cannot revitalize its own wounds?

Scientists are predicting that 90 percent of the world's coral reefs will die by 2050 and that the ocean's biodiversity is degrading at an alarming pace, due to human activities. The ocean is one of the most vulnerable areas to tourism's detrimental effects. Our enjoyable seaside vacations can have disastrous consequences on marine life. With a growing global middle class and increasing ease of travel, people have achieved greater mobility in recent years. According to United Nations World Tourism Organization, the number of international tourist trips worldwide reached 1.3 billion in 2017, and is predicted to reach 1.8 billion by 2030.<sup>2</sup> According to the World Travel Tourism Council, travel and tourism will support 400 million jobs in the future and account for 25% of worldwide net job creation. The infrastructure required to maintain this level of economic activity has put further strain on natural resources, biodiversity, and local populations. Tourism can be harmful, but it can also help to promote long-term development. Sustainable tourism, when properly planned and managed, can help to enhance livelihoods, inclusion, cultural heritage, and natural resource protection, as well as foster international understanding.

A multibillion-dollar ocean tourism business is fueled by human fascination with the sea. The term "ocean tourism" refers to vacations when the sea is the main attraction. Cruises, ecotourism, and fishing trips are all examples of ocean tourism. Cruises are one of the most popular forms of ocean tourism. Ships sail to far-flung destinations and provide more services and activities than airlines. Cruise ships are enormous ships that act as floating hotels for tourists today. Restaurants, stores, swimming pools, theaters, and cinemas are all available on cruise ships. Onboard some cruise ships, college-level courses are also available. Cruise ships can be over 1,000 feet long, weigh over 150,000 gross tons, and stand taller than a 20-story structure, costing hundreds of millions of dollars to build. The economy of countries that are prominent cruise destinations benefit greatly from tourism on the oceans. Every year, almost 8 million individuals in the United States embark on a cruise. Cruise ships bring in an estimated \$18 billion to the American economy each year. Over 25,000 Americans work directly for cruise lines. The cruise industry supports an estimated 250,000 employment in the United States. Cruise ships are not the only form of ocean tourism. Ecotourism of the oceans has

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www2.unwto.org/content/why-tourism>



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become increasingly popular. Ecotourism involves tourism that focuses on the natural environment without harming it. One popular form of ecotourism is scuba diving. Scuba diving involves the use of a self-contained breathing system that allows a person to remain underwater for long periods. Divers appreciate the beauty of fish, coral reefs, and other marine life. Another type of ecotourism involves taking excursions to see wildlife such as humpback whales or dolphins while having as little impact on their ecosystem as possible.

We, as consumers, frequently overlook the detrimental effects of our excursions on marine life and natural systems. However, there are several things we can do to improve our lifestyle and travel choices. Public opinion and political decisions are evolving as the need for environmental sustainability develops. As a matter of fact, we're already seeing it. Princess Cruises was recently found guilty of illegally dumping oil in the ocean and was fined \$40 million USD. A reward of \$1 million was given to the engineer who reported the illegal conduct, reflecting the growing public concern about environmental sustainability. This case also served as a catalyst: while Princess is still on probation for five years, all other cruise ship companies operating in the United States will be required to improve their environmental compliance. Finally, putting pressure on enterprises that adopt environmentally harmful methods is a straightforward approach for customers to help to ocean conservation.

### **Glossary:**

**Social tourisms:** “all activities, relationships and phenomena in the field of tourism resulting from the inclusion of otherwise disadvantaged and excluded groups in participation in tourism. The inclusion of these groups in tourism is made possible through financial or other interventions of a well-defined and social nature.”

### **How to prepare as a delegate:**

Dear Delegates, bear in mind that preparation is key in order to hold a successful debate and therefore, we urge you to research carefully and detailed. Start by collecting basic information about your country in the following categories as this will give you a good overview on your country's positions in general: politics, economy, geography, history, and society. Find out about your country's alliances with others and then start your research on how your country



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specifically is involved in the topic of social sustainability in the tourism sector of the ocean. Keep in mind that you as a delegate are required to write at least one draft resolution and two, position papers so all topics in the Special Commission for Africa are covered. If you are a first timer and are a bit overwhelmed, feel free to reach out to us for help.

### **UN Resolutions:**

- Resolution on Ecotourism: Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/67/223)
- Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of SIDS (A/RES/67/297)
- Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations (A/RES/67/205)
- Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/RES/67/203)
- Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America(A/RES/66/196)
- Resolution 70/193, 2017

### **Useful links:**

- <https://www.thewisetravellers.com/inspiring-blog/why-is-sustainable-tourism-so-important/>
- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/tourism-is-killing-our-oceans-heres-what-we-can-do-to-protect-them/>
- <https://www.seagoinggreen.org/blog/tourismimpactoceanhealth>

### **Sources:**

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/social>

<https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/environmental-and-social-sustainability-africa-15132>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0160738312000230>

<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/sustainable-tourism>

<file:///C:/Users/Hadir/AppData/Local/Temp/1971-8853-01015-15.pdf>

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/environment/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tourism-oceans>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/tourism-is-killing-our-oceans-heres-what-we-can-do-to-protect-them/>



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<https://www.seagoinggreen.org/blog/tourismimpactoceanhealth>