

## **WTO: Environmental Mandate & Activities**

### **World Tourism Organization**

#### **Environmental mandate**

The World Tourism Organization is the UN agency responsible for tourism. Ensuring the sustainable development and management of tourism so that its benefits can be enjoyed for generations to come is the philosophy behind the activities carried out by the Sustainable Tourism Development Section. WTO creates practical instruments that allow tourism managers, in both the public and private sectors, to apply the principles of sustainability to concrete situations. The Section has issued several publications, manuals, inventories and analyses of best practices, which have been widely circulated and organized seminars have been held throughout the world.

#### **Environmental activities**

The WTO launched an initiative to creatively develop sustainable tourism as a force for poverty elimination at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The Sustainable Tourism - Eliminating Poverty programme (ST-EP) focuses on longstanding work to encourage sustainable tourism - social, economic and ecological - which specifically alleviates poverty, bringing development and jobs to people living on less than a dollar a day. It will target the world's poorest countries, particularly in Africa and developing states in general.

Other activities include:

- Planning for the sustainable development of tourism
- Compilations of good practices in sustainable development of tourism
- Indicators of sustainability for tourism
- Voluntary initiatives and certification systems for sustainable tourism
- Sustainable development of tourism in coastal areas and islands
- Ecotourism, tourism in protected areas
- Urban tourism and tourism at cultural heritage sites
- Congestion management at cultural and natural sites
- Global Code of Ethics for Tourism
- Climate Change and Tourism
- The Tour Operators Initiative
- Microfinance and Tourism