LINKING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION: 
The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyan experience and international perspectives

*Overview of the conservation strategy and future plans of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*

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TOURISM & ENVIRONMENT

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General Environment Authority
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7. Libya’s Sustainable Tourism

1. Tourism in World Economy
- Tourism forms the most quickly developing industry.
- Tourism exports in 1998 achieved about 532 B US$, compared to other automobile industry of 522 B US$.
- Average Tourism income in 2001 ca. 462 B US$ (Ca 11% of GDP)
- 760 tourists in 2004 and it is expected to double by 2020.
- Tourism provides about 215 M jobs (8.1% of total world jobs), annual jobs about 5.5 M till 2010.
- Tourism in developing countries is expected to develop faster than in economically developed nations.


1. Tourism in Arabic Economy
- Total Tourism Income and its percentage from total exports in some Arab Countries in 1999-2000:
  - Jordan 722 M US$ (43%)
  - Tunisia 1507 M US$ (25%)
  - Syria 2108 M US$ (41%)
  - Egypt 4345 M US$ (109%)
  - Morocco 2038 M US$ (39%)
  - Yemen 76 M US$ (6%)
  - Libya ?? (although potential is highly promising)

1. Regional Geographical Distribution of Tourists 2001
1. Components of Tourism

- Elements of tourist attractions: natural elements such as climate, topography, coasts, rivers, forests, reserves, leisure cities, historical, ancient and religious sites.
- Utilities of housing and accommodation: hotels, motels, guesthouses, restaurants, etc.
- Other Services: Tourist Information Centre, Travel & Tourism Agencys, Handcraft centres, banks, health centres, post, police, tourist guides.
- Transportation services: land, sea and air transport to the tourist site.
- Infrastructure Services: Potable water supply, electricity, wastewater and solid waste disposal, road and communication network.
- Institutional Components: Tourism Marketing and presentation, such as issuing of legislations and laws and organisation structures, Training and education of tourism sector staff.

2. Tourism, Environment, Society and Economics

- Most successful tourists sites depends on clean surrounding, protected areas, unique cultural heritage of local societies, etc.
- Locations that do not provide above characteristics suffer from sharp drop in quality and quantity of tourists.
- Tourism industry can become major environmental protection tool if adopted with local natural environment.
- Tourism industry aims to preserve and develop local cultural heritage such as ancient and historical sites, unique architectural designs, public folklore, traditional music, handcrafts, arts and traditions which are all registered as tourist attractions.

2. Environmental Impacts of Tourism

- Nibal' (a country very poor in energy sources) tourists consume big of coal daily for heating.
- Egypt: a large hotel consumes power equivalent to 3600 average families energy consumption.
- Caribbean Islands: 70,000 tons of waste to sea by ships yearly.
- Jordan: (a water resource scarce country) a large hotel consumes water equivalent to 300 average families water consumption.
- In heavy tourist areas and airports air transport contributes to increase of air temperature by 4%.

3. Eco-Tourism

- Global tourism development increased pressure on environment and biodiversity.
- Environmental protection can only be achieved by involvement of all interested parties of which tourism industry and tourists formed a major share.
- Thus a need to call upon integration of tourism and environment resulting in Eco-Tourism.
- Eco-Tourism is a process of education and awareness of the constituents of the surrounding environment.
- It’s a tool to introduce tourists to environment and contribute to its protection.

3. Eco-Tourists

Colvin, 1991 described Eco-Tourists as:
- Desire to explore natural and cultural sites.
- Gaining real experience personal and social.
- Limiting out-numbering of tourists in confined environmentally sensitive areas.
- Working hard and accept difficulties to achieve goals.
- Integration with local inhabitants and comply with their cultural and social lifestyle.
- Easy to adopt even with limited simple tourist services.
- Positive and patient.
- Spend money to gain experience not to relax.

3. Principles of Eco-Tourism

- Eco-Tourism was introduced as an idea not a methodology. Now Eco-Tourism is one of the most important methodologies in Tourism Development.
- This methodology follows a clear set of principles and guidelines that tourism investors and developers follow nowadays.
- Principles of Eco-Tourism include:
3. Principles of Eco-Tourism (2)
- Minimizing negative impacts of tourism on natural, cultural and social resources.
- Educating tourists about importance of natural sites conservation.
- Responsible investment based on cooperation with local authorities in order to provide needs of the locals and protect their traditions, culture and habitat.
- Environmental and social research in tourist sites to minimize negative impacts.
- Maximizing efforts to achieve best possible income to guest country through the use of local human and natural resources.
- Tourism development should go in line with social and environmental development, i.e. avoid sudden changes to society.
- Depend on infrastructure that harmonizes with environmental conditions, minimizing the use of trees for healing and protection of biodiversity.

4. Sustainable Tourism
- It is thus leading to providing opportunities for improvement. Three aspects of sustainability are interrelated:
  - Economic Sustainability.
  - Social and cultural sustainability.
  - Environmental sustainability.
- Sustainability must include continuity. This requires the ideal use of natural resources including biodiversity and minimizing tourism impact on environment and culture.

4. Eco-Tourism and Sustainability (Sustainable Tourism)
- Eco-Tourism is an education and awareness process for tourists.
- Sustainable tourism is the ideal utilization of tourist sites from the point of view of controlling number of tourists access and pre-inform tourists of importance of locations and how to deal with the surroundings without causing any damage.
- Sustainable tourism provides need of tourists and simultaneously protects tourist locations. It also aims at applying best practices for the management of social, economic, cultural and natural resources as well as the protection of environmental balance and biodiversity.
- Sustainable tourism as the meeting point between the needs of visitors and the hosting surrounding.

4. Management of Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable Tourism must involve:
  - Visitors management.
  - Resource management.
  - Management of potential adverse impacts.

4. Principles of Sustainable tourism
- Tourism planning, development and management must be part of the protection or sustainable development strategies of the country with the involvement of all stakeholders.
- All agencies, organizations, groups and individuals involved must respect behavioral principles and the cultural and social heritage of the host area as well as the local traditions.
- Planning and management of tourism should be carried out with the aim of protecting and economical use of natural and human resources in host area.
- Equal and fair benefit to both investors/operators and individuals of host location.
- Studies should be provided on potential impact of tourism on inhabitants and cultural environment prior and during development.
- Encouraging locals to take part in the development process during planning and execution.

5. Development of Sustainable development
- Entrance centres to control movement of tourists and provide necessary information.
- Visitors information centres to provide comprehensive information on locations and provide guidance on way of cooperation with locals running such centres.
- Issue of laws and rules to assure the control on number of visitors and provide them with services, safety and security.
- Environmental friendly management of natural and human resources to preserve such treasures in future generations.
- Education and awareness of locals about importance of environmental protection.
- Determination of maximum capacity of tourist sites to avoid overcrowding and increased pressure on natural and social environment.
- Encouragement of activities to locals such as handcraft industry, horse guiding, organic agriculture as well as tourist guides.
- Cooperation of all sectors, governmental, official organization, NGO's and locals.
6. Success Stories of Sustainable Tourism

**DHANA Reserve: Jordanian experience in Eco-Tourism:**

- Aims to Sustainable management of location, identification of kind of visitors targeted and involvement of local community.
- Establishing a society for management of project.
- Identification of routes of access to the reserve to control no. of visitors.
- Allocation of 3 entry points.
- Automobile is limited to group parking, with provision of transport by a special bus.
- Footpaths, camping site, activities are allocated.
- Employment of 50 local individuals, 80% in the field of Eco-Tourism, providing income for 70 local families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>2,304</td>
<td>6,857 US $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>4,735</td>
<td>51,428 US $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>250,000 US $</td>
</tr>
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LINKING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION:
The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyan experience and international perspectives

*Overview of the tourism development strategy and future plans of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*

*Muftah Sagar*
Studies Planning and Training Office Tourism General People’s Committee of Libya (G.P.C Tourism)
Libya is about to start a Sustainable Ecotourism Industry based on The leader of the first September Great Revolution saying .

( Libya will be the most favorable tourism country in the world if the tourism industry is respected ) .

Libya well aware with expansion and growth if tourism industry over the last 30 years and has become a global tourism industry and main support to national economy of any country .

The Tourism Development Authority one of the executive bodies of the General Peoples Committee for Tourism is paying its full attention on Libya to become one of the best sustainable ecotourism destinations for visit and invest referring to the richness of national tourism product and natural resources and sources, the country historical cities and numerous old civilizations.

Sustainable ecotourism industry will be planned and executed by the tourism development authority according to the many research, reports and advisory publications it has produced on this field, the gained experience, from other countries preceded Libya in such field.
Wherein the Libyan Peoples by practicing the obtainable priority of incentives, encouragement, equal opportunities of investment, shares and working independently or with others will enjoy tourism industry not to live on it.

The Tourism Authority puts concern for sustainable ecotourism as a center of its activities accorded to what Libya is enjoying of:

- Good international reputation, secures, stability, warm accommodation, good climate and not polluted environment.

Aiming to support, the communities culture, preserve the resources and sources of the country and prohibiting all kind of deterioration of the landscape.

In addition, to escort the parallel wide development of all other sectors of economy.

Therein the (Low No 7 for the year 1372 – 2004) concerning tourism and its executive regulation is issued in order to:

1. Introduce the civilization and historical process of Libyan Arab people, and depicting the material and moral accomplishments and transformations of the Great Alfatah Revolution with respect to the potential of the Great Jamahiriya, such as tourist sites and natural, cultural and industrial resources and the civilization achievements therein and providing its honorable picture at international level.

2. Supporting co-operation and human relations with peoples of the world.


4. Exchanging of knowledge in various tourist fields and activities by holding conferences, seminars, forums, festivals, fairs and tourist weeks inside and outside the Great Jamahiriya, and participation therein.

5. Encouraging Libyan and foreign investment for investment in tourist projects with a view to developing the resources and sources of national income.

6. Creation of employment / work opportunities for Libyan citizens.

7. Participation in economic and social development.
Sustainable ecotourism has so many definitions. In the Earth Summit Conference 1992, sustainable ecotourism defined as development which is capable of meeting today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Another definition splits the sustainable ecotourism into deep and shallow. The shallow ecotourism is cynical way to try and attract great number of visitors to an area. The deep ecotourism defined in Australia in 1999 as ecologically sustainable tourism that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation.

We may define sustainable ecotourism as exchange of respect, knowledge, and benefits between travelers, investors and host peoples.

Libya which area is larger fifteen times than the area of UK. Welcome its visitors and investors who's desire to visit or invest in Libya promising them all with thoroughly virgin nature and fascinating cities, lakes, islands and clean beaches beside:

1. A hundreds of hectares covering a hundreds of touristic sites.
2. More than (1700) km of sandy beaches.
3. 40% of Africa heritage.
4. World heritage of old civilizations.
5. Ancient and old cities integrated with modern cities.

Also the research, studies, and observations pointed out to worldwide travelers as they deserting artificial, fabricated, copied, cities, lakes and islands seeking and looking instead for nature and natural places where they can practice their favorable hobbies of nature phenomena, adventures, exploration, research, campaign encampment mounting, skating on sand, and natural cure etc.
6. Chain of mountains with (3376) m above sea level peak.
8. More than (7) inhabited oasis.
9. More than (16) natural springs wells spread all over the country.
10. More than (21) Protected areas and natural parks.

11. The Grand desert with its Akakus mountains, valleys, sand hills, Great sand sea, Great man made river, architectural arts, caves, Impress of human before history, Excavation of animal and trees, aspects of occupation, handmade goods, horsemanship, festivals.

Our honorable guests we meet in the eastern part of my country the Great Jamahiriya and we believe that you have touched the worm hospitality of the peoples of this part. We deeply hope that you will have the chance to enjoy the nature of sandy beaches in the cities of Gimeens, Guliana, Toukra, Tulmitha, Susa, Ras Helal, El Karsa, Derna, Tuproug.
We also wish you the best of luck to travel to the south of Libya where the Grand desert is to enjoy the many mysteries of the Akakus Mountains as natural landmarks, the infinity of great sand sea, the multi color rocks and caves that excavated and colored with arts and history.

In the name of the General Peoples Committee for Tourism and the Tourism Development Authority, we welcome our guests and expertise of organizations, foundations, and societies of world tourism wishing you all a pleasant time.

Thank you very much and good luck.
LINKING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION:  
The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyan experience and international perspectives  

Tourism and sustainability: Regional needs and global strategies  
 Arab Hoballah  
Head - Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch  UNEP – DTIE  

Abstract  
As the UN agency responsible for environment, UNEP- the United Nations Environment Programme, and in particular its Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is committed to work with governments and the industry to achieve responsible investment and a cleaner environment. Among such industries is a key one: tourism.  

Tourism is always suspect of having negative impacts on sustainable development and, in the case of countries where tourism is the dominant economic activity, it has often been declared guilty. Given that tourism makes such a crucial economic contribution to the local development and poverty alleviation in many countries, it is important to develop a rational and objective strategy for addressing any negative environmental and related socio-cultural impacts and proposing measures that will contribute to sustainable tourism development; a term that evolved during the last decade and its used increased day by day.  

According to UNEP and World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) common references, the concept of sustainable tourism development is applicable to all forms of tourism in all types of destinations, including mass tourism and the various niche tourism segments. Sustainability principles refer to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.  

Within this framework, UNEP has developed, and is currently implementing, a tourism strategy that aims at the promotion of economically efficient tourism that safeguards the environment and supports social progress. The main objectives of this strategy are to:  
- support the integration of sustainability in tourism development policies  
- promote sustainable production and consumption patterns in the tourism industry  
- create and encourage demand for “sustainable tourism services”  

To achieve these objectives UNEP is undertaking a number of activities in the following intervention areas:  
- demonstrate the value that sustainability can add to the tourism product  
- improve the knowledge base of the tourism stakeholders  
- enable and promote innovation throughout the tourism value chain  

Biography  
Arab Hoballah has been appointed as Head of Production and Consumption Branch (P&C) in the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), since October 2005.  

Previously, he spent 14 years working in the UNEP Regional Seas programme, more precisely in the
Mediterranean Action Plan where he was the Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP since 1998. He was also responsible for the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). Between 1991 and 1998, he was Deputy Director of the Blue Plan, one of MAP's Regional Activity Centres. Before 1991, he was a private consultant with various international organisations, including several years with World Bank projects in developing countries, involved in preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development projects in the field. He worked and promoted actively the development of the Coastal Areas Management Programmes and the sustainable development indicators programme. Arab contributed actively to the preparation of Agenda MED 21, worked on the launching of the Environment and Development “Observatories”, and was involved in the establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), as an exemplary regional body. He coordinated the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and also launched and supervised the preparation of various National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable development and environment protection depend on the production and consumption patterns through individual and collective decision and behaviour. These require the promotion of a culture of change and adequate policy reforms; cross-cutting by nature, production and consumption patterns can only be changed through a multi-stakeholders approach. To that end, improving knowledge, raising awareness, promoting participation, building capacity through in particular demonstrations projects and the use of relevant tools such us lifecycle assessment, circular economy, clean technology and preparedness to emergencies, structure the work of the P&C team. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production is the backbone of the programme of work that integrates various priority issues such as industrial sectors, waste, construction, tourism and natural resources. Challenges are enormous for changing the unsustainable consumption and production patterns, and we think that our modest contribution within UNEP/DTIE can make a difference with a specific added value cell in the overall integrated building block strategy for sustainable development. A big challenge for me and my P&C team, within DTIE, for which we are and will be putting all necessary energy with enthusiasm to move steadily in the right direction.

Educated and trained in a multicultural environment in various continents, he qualified in Paris: in 1978-79 in Economic Tools and Prospective Analysis (M.Sc), in 1981 in International Relations (M.Sc) and in Economic Development (Ph.D.). Born in Lebanon, Arab grew up and studied in Senegal before moving to France to attend university, where he met his spouse, a Colombian National.
Tourism & Sustainability: Regional Needs & Global Strategies

Arab Hoballah
Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production
United Nations Environment Programme/DTIE

Contents

- UNEP Tourism Strategy
- Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns in tourism
- Market signals and regional opportunities

STAKES & CHALLENGES

Tourism brings benefits...
- One of the world’s largest industries - jobs and business opportunities to steward populations (poverty alleviation)
- Financial and political support to conservation of nature: economically essential for many developing countries and sensitive areas (coral, protected areas, coastal zones)
- Privileged instrument for environmental education

UNEP tourism strategy

One mission

- Support sustainable economic tourism development, while safeguarding the environment and promoting social and cultural progress
- Conservation of natural and cultural heritage
- Promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity
- Impact minimization, climate change & pollution
- Empowerment of local stakeholders, in particular local and indigenous communities

UNEP tourism strategy

Three Objectives

- Support the integration of sustainability in tourism development policies.
  - Governments and other public stakeholders
- Promote sustainable production and consumption patterns in the tourism industry.
  - Industry and the private sector
- Encourage demand for “sustainable tourism services”.
  - Consumers

UNEP tourism strategy

Three intervention areas

- Improve the capacity and knowledge basis of stakeholders.
- Demonstrate the value that sustainability can add to the tourism value chain. Analysis and pilot/demo projects.
- Enable & promote innovation towards resource-use efficiency & sustainability throughout the tourism value chain.
**UNEP Sustainable Tourism Strategy**

- **Industry**: increase accountability, promote voluntary initiatives and best practices
- **Governments**: build capacity to integrate environment aspects into tourism policies and plans
- **Consumers**: raise awareness on responsible travel patterns
- ** Protected areas managers**: provide tools to minimize impacts and increase benefits

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**GMEF OUTCOMES**

- CONCERNED ABOUT NEGATIVE IMPACTS
- AWARE OF ECONOMIC NEEDS
- AGREED TO CREATE ADEQUATE POLICY CONTEXT TO MAKE TOURISM AN ALLY TO ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR DEEP CULTURE OF CHANGE IN OVERALL PROCESS

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**GMEF OUTCOMES**

- CALL FOR INTEGRATION AND MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABILITY
- PARTICIPATORY APPROACH AND STRUCTURES FOR COORDINATION
- PROMOTE INFO/COM, KNOWLEDGE, BEST PRACTICES, RAISE AWARENESS
- ADOPT ECONOMIC & LEGISLATIVE TOOLS, WITH GUIDELINES, CODES OF CONDUCT & IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES,LABELS
- EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES, WATER, ENERGY & RE, SBC PRACTICES

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**UNEP tourism strategy**

**One programme**

- **Improve knowledge/capacity**
  - Workshops; publications; APELL in tourism destinations
- **Demonstrate the added value**
  - Project: Sustainable tourism and ICZM
- **Promote innovation**
  - Planning instruments for sustainable tourism
  - UNEP-UNDP: Environmental principle of QC in the tourism sector
  - WTF 2006 Workshop on Innovation for sustainable tourism
  - UNEP-UNDP: Promotion of sustainable tourism

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**SCP patterns in tourism**

- Identification, assessment and measurement of:
  - the main tourism related negative impacts on sustainability
  - tourism’s contribution towards sustainable development
- Develop and implement the patterns
- Monitor, evaluate, review
- transfer/expand/duplicate success stories
Identifying the impacts

• The main tourism related impacts on sustainability come from:
  - Land use (including overcharging against carrying capacity limits)
  - Transportation
  - Water use
  - Energy use by buildings and facilities
  - Generation of wastes

Identifying the positive effects

• The main contribution of tourism towards sustainability is based on tourism’s potential ability to:
  - Stimulate development and employment creation in disadvantaged, more remote or/and less-developed regions
  - Generate local income
  - Support nature conservation and environmental protection

Main argument

• The sustainability of tourism development depends mainly (but not only) on patterns of:
  - Sustainable consumption of natural resources
    • Production oriented solutions (technology, innovation, CESR, etc.)
  - Sustainable consumption of tourism services
    • Educated and informed ‘demand’

Market signals

• Yearly fluctuations of tourism demand in a number of semi-mature destinations on the basis of:
  - Tour operator’s business development strategies
  - Price strategies of local tourism providers
  - Global and regional political events

Market signals

• Countries with a strong tourism sector that dominates the national economy are facing strong competition from emerging tourism markets:
  - Cost minimisation strategies. Possible short-term recoveries cannot be sustained; structural problems; big environmental impacts
  - Diversification strategies; new environmental friendly products and services; target new markets

Market signals

• The emerging tourism markets are living the “cash-cow” period
  - Increasing investments without sustainability impact assessments
  - Positive environmental friendly investments
Regional opportunities

- Continuing increase of the tourism market
- Demand for new tourism products
  - "Life-style" tourism
  - Adventure tourism
  - Custom made tourism
- Demand for new destinations

Regional opportunities: Libya

- Growing demand
- New destination
- Assets
  - Deserts
  - Coasts
  - Cultural heritage

An epilogue

- The fundamental question for the Mediterranean destinations
- Do we need growth or development?

Thank you for your kind attention

More information on UNEP tourism programme
www.unep.fr/tourism
tourism@unep.fr
LINKING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION:
The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyan experience and international perspectives

*Tourism as a tool to link conservation and development*

Peter Dogsé
Programme Officer – Man and Biosphere Programme UNESCO

**Abstract**

The presentation provided an overview of some of the key positive and negative linkages among tourism, development and conservation and outlined some tools and approaches for promoting sustainable tourism development based on the conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural assets. The importance of forging and projecting a vision of future tourism development was stressed, together with the need for integrated tourism development plans, strategies and a coherent and supportive regulatory and legal framework. Several UNESCO instruments, programmes and networks were highlighted as relevant in this context, such as the World Heritage Convention and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. While recognizing the highly competitive nature of the tourism sector, cooperation among countries in the Mediterranean was called for in order to promote the development of quality, rather than mass tourism destinations and products.

**Biography**

Peter Dogsé is a Programme Specialist in the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, Paris. Mr Dogsé, Swedish national, studied Ecology and Economics at the University of Stockholm and is now working on Ecological Economics activities and projects within MAB, including in the field of ecotourism and sustainable tourism. Mr Dogsé has assisted the World Bank in efforts to reconcile tourism development with Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Seychelles, and consulted The Bahamas in the framework of its Biodiversity Country Study concerning tourism and biodiversity. Present activities include the promotion of ecotourism in Biosphere Reserves and the testing and implementation of the CBD guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development.
UNWTO’s Tourism 2020 Vision forecasts that international arrivals are expected to reach over 1.56 billion by the year 2020. Of these worldwide arrivals in 2020, 1.2 billion will be intraregional and 0.4 billion will be long-haul travelers.
Tourism as a Tool to Link Conservation and Development

- Natural and cultural attractions
- Scenery
- Landscapes
- Adventure
- Restrict expansion and access

Tourism

Conservation

Development

- Payments for Environmental services
- Demand for conservation
- Awareness of natural values
- Crowding out of more damaging economic activities
- Observations/monitoring
- Loss of biodiversity
- Alien species
- Climate change
Tourism as a Tool to Link Conservation and Development

- Finance
- Science
- Management skills

- Destruction of habitats and biodiversity

Tourism as a Tool to Link Conservation and Development

- Ecosystem goods and services (food, water, clean air ...)

- Opportunity costs from foregone development activities

Tourism as a Tool to Link Conservation and Development

Four Main Findings:

- In the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than at any comparable period of time in human history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, fiber, water, timber, and fuel. This has created a substantial and largely irreversible loss of the diversity of life on Earth.
- The changes that have been made to ecosystems have often been uncoordinated, and the net result has been an uncontrolled and largely irreversible loss of the diversity of life on Earth.
- The degradation of ecosystems has had significant economic impacts, and it is a major factor in the loss of biodiversity.
- The challenges associated with the degradation of ecosystems and the associated economic impacts to human societies are complex, and they affect a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and individual citizens.
Tourism as a Tool to Link Conservation and Development

VISION

How do we get there?

Tourism

Conservation Development

Conservation Development
Tourism as a Tool to Link Conservation and Development

Tourists!

Elements for success:
• Integration
• Quality rather than quantity
• Participation
• Benefit sharing
• Control of investments

Competition among destinations is often fierce. How can cooperation be promoted?

Examples of UNESCO’s activities
UNESCO’s functions

- a laboratory of ideas
- a standard-setter
- a clearing house
- a capacity-builder in Member States; and
- a catalyst for international cooperation

UNESCO & Tourism

Culture
- World Heritage Convention
- The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Science
- Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Education
- UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- UNESCO Chairs on Tourism

Partnerships
- UNEP, UNWTO (TOI), UNDP, WB...
- IUCN, WWF...

UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO & Tourism

World Heritage

Grand Canyon National Park, USA

Ancient Ksour, Oualata, Mauritania
Climate Change and Cultural Heritage
- Structural damage and collapse
  - Sahelian Mosque (Mali, Mauritania)
- Increased sea level and storm surges
  - 4 WHS in London (UK)
- Damage to buried archaeological evidence
  - Yukon sites, Canada: Ivvavik (permafrost), Kluane (icecaps)

Climate Change and Natural Heritage
- Changes in species distribution and ranges, spread of invasive alien species
  - Cape floral region (South Africa)
- Coral Bleaching
  - Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
- Glacier Melting and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
  - Sagarmatha NP (Nepal)
Tourism and Deserts

A Practical Guide to Managing the Union of Arab Emirates Desert Region in the 21st Century

Biosphere Reserves

Special places for people and nature

Biosphere Reserves

Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries working with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme to promote local site conservation and sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. As places which seek to reconcile economic development, social development and environmental protection, through partnerships between people and nature. They are a model to test and demonstrate approches to sustainable development at a regional scale.

The main characteristics of biosphere reserves are:
1. Having a sustainable pattern for conservation and development.
2. Focusing on a multi-stakeholder approach, with particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management.
3. Providing a tool for conflict resolution of natural resources through development of dialogues.
4. Integrating culture diversity and biological diversity, research, the role of traditional knowledge in ecosystem management.
5. Demonstrating sound policies based on research and subsequent monitoring.
6. Being sites for education and training.
7. Participating in a World Network.
Origin label for quality goods and services from Biosphere Reserves
Tourism-based user fees

1.1 Overview

Tourism-based user fees are a user-friendly method of funding biodiversity conservation in protected areas. These fees are charged to visitors for activities such as hiking, camping, or guided tours. They are used to support conservation management, research, and education programs. The fees can be applied to various levels of conservation importance, from local to national or international. The revenue generated from user fees can be used to enhance conservation efforts, improve facilities, and support community development projects.
Thank you!

**Finding #1:** Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, fresh water, timber, fiber, and fuel. This has resulted in a substantial and largely irreversible loss in the diversity of life on Earth.

**Finding #2:** The changes that have been made to ecosystems have contributed to substantial net gains in human well-being and economic development, but these gains have been achieved at growing costs in the form of the degradation of many ecosystem services, increased risks of nonlinear change, and the exacerbation of poverty for some groups of people. These problems, unless addressed, will substantially diminish the benefit that future generations obtain from ecosystems.

**Finding #3:** The degradation of ecosystem services could grow significantly worse during the first half of this century and is a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

**Finding #4:** The challenge of reversing the degradation of ecosystems while meeting increasing demands for their services can be partially met under some scenarios that the MA considered, but these involve significant changes in policies, institutions, and practices that are not currently under way. Many options exist to conserve or enhance specific ecosystem services in ways that reduce negative trade-offs or that provide positive synergies with other ecosystem services.
LINKING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION:
The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyan experience and international perspectives

*Integrated coastal zone management in Jordan*

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**Abstract**

Currently, some of the natural, culture and economical resources in the region’s coastal areas are suffering degradation at various levels as a result of unplanned development, and tourism industry growth is a major player in this issue.

Sustainable Tourism as it is based on international understanding for sustainable development cares for the sustainable usages use of the tourism resources alongside its exploitation.

On the other hand, we need to admit the fact that developing a quality tourism product without impacting the natural, cultural and economic resources is a great challenge without the committed implementation of a group of mechanisms and methodologies focusing on creating awareness towards sustainability issues among the hosting coastal zone’s local community and the visitor as well.

Basic elements for the presentation were highlighted:

- The importance of region’s coastal zones for the tourism industry
- The vulnerabilities of the coastal zones to tourism development
- Best integrated management practices to develop sustainable tourism in costal areas (Environmental, social, economic)
- Awareness, education and interpretation for coastal areas’ local communities
- Models of sustainable tourism planning, design and operations in coastal areas

**Biography**

*Qusay Ahmad* is the Via Nova Group's Managing Director and has a track record in nature-based sustainable tourism consultation in some of the most successful region's private, public and non-governmental projects in the region.

Former manager of the Ecotourism Department of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), responsible of ecotourism development in all of the protected areas of Jordan.

**EXPERIENCE (Over 12 Years):** Professional experience managing, researching and administrating environmental, sustainable tourism and eco-tourism projects, tourism management, and stakeholder development.

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE:** USA, UK, Europe (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands); Africa (Morocco, Egypt, South Africa); Middle East (KSA, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Oman, UAE, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar).
Sustainable Tourism as a Concept

A sustainable approach to tourism development is based on globally applicable principles of sustainability.

Tourism in The Arab Region

The image shows a pie chart indicating the distribution of tourists from different regions to the Arab Region, with the largest share coming from Asia and Europe.

Coastal Zones

The image shows a map of coastal zones with data on sea levels and ocean depths.
Integrated Management of Coastal Zones

الإدارة المتكاملة للمناطق الساحلية

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) refers to the full range of approaches pertaining to both planning and management, as applied to both land and sea components of the coastal zone.

Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Zones

السياحة المستدامة في المناطق الساحلية

Tourism Impacts on Coastal Zones

آثار السياحة على المناطق الساحلية

Tourism impacts on coastal resources are far from uniform. First, the coastal zone is a complex of inter linked ecosystems, with different sensitivities and vulnerabilities, and therefore different abilities to withstand stress.

Tourism Impacts on Coastal Zones

آثار السياحة على المناطق الساحلية

The impacts of tourism result not only from the sitting and design of facilities, but also from their operations.

Requirements of Sustainable Tourism Management in Coastal Zones

متطلبات الإدارة المستدامة للسياحة في المناطق الساحلية

• Water quality
• Safety and services
• Environmental management
• Environmental education and information

Planning for Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Areas

tخطيط السياحة المستدامة في المناطق الساحلية
Planning & Management Elements

- EIA
- Zoning
- Infrastructure & facilities
- Entrance & exit points
- Interpretation & information
- Environmental & Waste Management
- Site regulations

Planning & Management Elements

- Size, Diversity & Importance of Natural Resources
- Level of Local Community Dependency on Natural Resources

Planning & Management Elements

- Sensitivity or Fragility of Natural Resources
- Carrying Capacity of the Natural Resources relevant to number of Visitors & Development
- Protecting coastal & marine zones from solid & fluid wastes

Planning & Management Elements

- Existing Infra Structure & Facilities
- Required Infra Structure & Facilities

Success Indicators

- Number of Current & Expected Visitors (& Requested)
- Financial Cost of the Required Architectural Development

Success Indicators

- Direct or indirect economic benefits to local community, complementing their traditional practices
- Maximize the local community participation in the decision-making process
الحد من الآثار السلبية على البيئة والمجتمع المحلي
Minimize negative impact on the environment & local community

زيادة وعي وتفهم الزوار للنظم البيئية والثقافية والأشكاليات التي تتعرض لها المنطقة المحلية
Increase the visitors awareness & understanding of the coastal area’s natural & cultural systems & affecting issues

From Theory to Practice
من النظرية إلى التطبيق

Via Nova Group
 مجموعة الطريق الجديد

- شركة عربية متخصصة في مجال التخطيط والتطوير والإدارة السياحية المستدامة
- منهجية علمية متخصصة ومعتمدة على البحث العلمي الميداني المختلف التخصص
- الهدف هو الوصول إلى بدائل سياحية مستدامة حساسة للقضايا الثقافية والاقتصادية والبيئية

Via Nova Group
 مجموعة الطريق الجديد

- A Specialized Arab Company in the Field of Planning, Development & Management of Sustainable Tourism
- Scientific Methodology Based on Multi-disciplinary Field Research
- We Aim at Providing Alternatives for Sustainable Tourism Solutions that are Sensitive to the Cultural, Economical and Environmental Issues