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**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND TOURISM: DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CASE-STUDIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE GUIDELINES**

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This note presents, in annex I, a revised text of the draft Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism Development in Vulnerable Ecosystems, prepared on the basis of comments received from Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Section I of the note provides a brief introduction, setting out the mandate for the preparation of the revision, while section II gives a more detailed background to the development of the draft Guidelines. Annex II contains a summary of specific recommendations on the structure of the guidelines made by Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations that, because of their nature, could not be included in the text of the draft Guidelines.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

1. *Endorse* the Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism Development in Vulnerable Ecosystems contained in annex I to the present note;

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/1.

** Submitted to the Secretariat by Parties, international and non-governmental organizations.

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2. *Recognizing* that these international guidelines have a broad application and audience, *request* the Executive Secretary to develop tools such as a user's manual, checklists, public-private partnerships or information exchange that would:

(a) Increase clarity and facilitate the detailed understanding of the document, facilitate the implementation in member countries and identify and address specific stakeholders;

(b) Include specific case-studies on the implementation of the Guidelines and make clearer reference to the use and application of specific analytical management tools; and

(c) Provide the reader with a glossary and definitions of terms used in the Guidelines;

3. *Invite* Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to implement pilot projects to test the applicability of the Guidelines, understand their practical implications and provide feedback on their effectiveness;

4. *Invite* international organizations to provide technical and financial assistance in the implementation of the Guidelines and pay due regard to the Guidelines when preparing, approving and funding tourism development projects having potential implications on biological diversity, as also recommended in the report of the Workshop on Tourism and Biodiversity, held in Santo Domingo in June 2001 (In this connection, SBSTTA may wish to discuss the feasibility of implementing the Guidelines for financing agencies and developers and, on the basis of that discussion, make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.);

5. *Invite* Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to ensure their active participation in all the stages of the policy-making, development planning and management indicated by the Guidelines;

6. *Establish* a monitoring and reporting system to assess the applicability and status of implementation of the Guidelines, include the development of standards, regulation and accreditation to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of activities related to sustainable development tourism and to also include reporting on sustainable tourism into national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. In light of the collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *invite* the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, World Trade Organization and regional development banks, to take these Guidelines into account in undertaking their activities;

8. *Invite* the international community to acknowledge the role played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of sustainable tourism principles and *invites* non-governmental organizations to continue and increase their involvement in fostering effective policy-making for sustainable tourism development;

9. *Invite* all Governments to develop a national strategy and action plan for sustainable tourism, including a management framework and timeframe for the implementation of the Guidelines;

10. *Call for* additional efforts by relevant organizations and Parties to increase awareness on the Guidelines and their applicability among the tourism sector and other stakeholders;

11. *Request* the Executive Secretary to gather and compile a series of best-practice case-studies on the involvement of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles in sustainable-tourism and ecotourism activities and projects.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision VI/14, on biological diversity and tourism, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity took note of the progress made in the development of guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development and biological diversity in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and mountain ecosystems and requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to “review the current draft guidelines taking into account the results of the electronic consultation on the draft international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development and the outcome of the World Ecotourism Summit, and to transmit the reviewed draft to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties”.
2. The present document has been prepared in response to that request.

II. BACKGROUND

3. In decision V/25, the Conference of the Parties accepted the invitation to participate in the international work programme on sustainable tourism development under the Commission on Sustainable Development, with a view to contributing to the development of a set of international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems. To this end, the Secretariat was requested to convene an international workshop in support of the development of such guidelines.
4. The Workshop on Biological Diversity and Tourism was held in Santo Domingo, in June 2001. The workshop produced the draft International Guidelines for Activities related to Sustainable Tourism Development in Vulnerable Terrestrial, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats of Major Importance for Biological Diversity and Protected Areas, including Fragile Riparian and Mountain Ecosystems. The draft Guidelines were intended to assist Parties to the Convention, public authorities and relevant stakeholders at all levels, to apply the provisions of the Convention to the sustainable development and management of tourism activities. The draft was submitted to SBSTTA at its seventh meeting and, as recommended by SBSTTA at that meeting, forwarded to the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the World Ecotourism Summit, held in Quebec City, in May 2002.
5. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to review the guidelines, in order to strengthen their applicability and clarity, taking into account the results of two rounds of consultations organized by the Secretariat, as well as the outcome of the World Ecotourism Summit. During the first electronic consultation, the Secretariat received inputs from four Parties, namely Canada, Costa Rica, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Germany. The results of the consultation reported to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting as part of the progress report of the Executive Secretary on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12/Add.2) and have been included in the revised text of the draft Guidelines in annex I below.
6. A second round of consultations was held so as to give ample opportunity to stakeholders to submit their views on the matter. Contributions were received from a number of Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Their views and suggestions have also been taken into account and are reflected in the revised text.
7. As requested in decision VI/14, the revised draft Guidelines take into consideration the outcome of the World Ecotourism Summit and they are fully consistent with the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism. They are also consistent with the draft Cairns Charter on Partnership for Ecotourism, developed during the International Ecotourism Conference held in Cairns, Australia, in October 2002. They also take into

consideration the Guidelines for Planning and Management of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Tourism Organization (WTO/OMT) and IUCN, the WWF Guidelines for Community-based Ecotourism Development, and the South African Responsible Tourism Guidelines submitted to the Secretariat as a contribution to the revision of the draft Guidelines. Furthermore, the draft Guidelines on sustainable tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems support the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ^{1/} (as they refer in particular to paragraphs 43 and 44 (b) and (d)) and cover issues addressed by the International Year of Ecotourism.

8. In addition to those reported to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (see para. 5 above), comments and inputs were provided by the Bahamas, China, Germany, the Philippines, Poland, Mexico, the European Community, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Tourism Organization, Ecological Tourism in Europe,* Indigenous Tourism Rights International, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights. The suggestions provided by Germany were developed in collaboration with, and supported by UNESCO, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics and Portugal.

9. Notably, most of the contributions emphasize similar issues and offer comparable solutions and language to identified gaps and requirements of the previous text. Remarks pertaining to recommendations for future implementation and further requirements of the guidelines were generally consistent and unanimous in emphasizing:

(a) The need to identify the main recommendations of the guidelines and to elaborate a user manual to facilitate their implementation and link the guidelines to existing principles and guidelines (such as the UNEP principles for sustainable tourism, the IUCN ecosystem management, the World Ecotourism Declaration); make direct and practical reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (ecosystem approach, other decisions, guidelines and recommendations); identify and address specific stakeholders;

(b) The need to assist Parties in their capacity-building and education efforts and in their public-awareness campaigns.

10. A summary of specific recommendations by Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the structure and format of the draft Guidelines that could not be integrated into the revised text is presented in annex II.

11. Pursuant to paragraph 3(c) of decision VI/14, requesting the Executive Secretary to gather and compile existing case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines and make them available to the eighth meeting of SBSTTA, the Secretariat will prepare an information document presenting a synopsis of two case-studies: the Tayrona National Park in Columbia and the natural and cultural heritage of Banska Stiavnica in the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Environment of Colombia has tested the utility and applicability of the draft Guidelines and has translated the recommendations into a legally binding resolution for the Tayrona National Park authorities and local institutions involved in the implementation of the

^{1/} A/CONF.199/20, chapter I, resolution 2, annex.

* On behalf of the participants to the international non-governmental organization workshop "Tourism towards 2002", which took place in New Delhi, India, in September 2001 and the International Workshop for Central and Eastern European countries on Tourism in Mountain Areas and the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Sucha Beskidzka, Poland, in October 2002.

Guidelines. The full text of both case-studies is available on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity at: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/tourism/gd-cs.asp>.

Annex I

**(DRAFT) GUIDELINES ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN
VULNERABLE ECOSYSTEMS**

*[(DRAFT) INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN VULNERABLE TERRESTRIAL, MARINE AND COASTAL
ECOSYSTEMS AND HABITATS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND
PROTECTED AREAS, INCLUDING FRAGILE RIPARIAN AND MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS]*

A. Scope

1. The present Guidelines will assist Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, public authorities and stakeholders at all levels, to apply the provisions of the Convention to the sustainable development and management of tourism policies, strategies, projects and activities. They will provide technical guidance to policy makers, decision makers and managers with responsibilities covering tourism and/or biodiversity, whether in national or local government, the private sector, indigenous and local communities,^{2/} non-governmental organizations or other organizations, on a process for working together with key stakeholders involved in tourism and biodiversity.

2. The Guidelines cover all forms and activities of tourism that should be consistent with the principles of sustainable development. These include, but are not limited to, conventional mass tourism, ecotourism, nature- and culture-based tourism, heritage tourism, cruise tourism, leisure and sports tourism. Although the primary focus of the Guidelines is vulnerable ecosystems and habitats, they are also appropriate for tourism and biological diversity in all geographical locations and tourist destinations. Furthermore the Guidelines recognize the need for collaboration between originating and receiving countries and should be used to address situations of conflict between local interests and national, regional and international policies.

B. The policy-making, development planning and management process

3. The main elements considered in developing the Guidelines are:

- (a) Framework for management of tourism and biodiversity;
- (b) Notification process in relation to such a management framework;
- (c) Public education, capacity-building and awareness-raising concerning tourism and biodiversity.

4. Policy-making, development planning and the management process need to be undertaken through a multi-stakeholder process. Governments will normally coordinate this process at national level. This process may also be undertaken at more local levels by local government, and should ensure strong involvement of indigenous and local communities throughout the management and decision-making process. In addition, those responsible for tourism development and activities are encouraged to consult with and involve all relevant stakeholders, and especially those who are or may be affected by such

^{2/} For the purposes of the present Guidelines “indigenous and local communities” means “indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”.

developments and activities. The process applies to both new tourism development and the management of the existing tourism operations.

Institutions

5. In order to ensure coordination between the levels of decision-making in government departments and agencies concerned with management of biological diversity and tourism, inter- and intra-departmental and inter-organizational structures and processes should be established, if they do not already exist, to guide policy development and implementation.

6. There is a need to improve awareness and exchange of knowledge between those responsible for and affected by tourism and nature conservation at a national, subnational and local level. In addition, national biodiversity strategies and action plans should include consideration of tourism issues, and tourism plans should likewise include full consideration of biodiversity issues. Existing documents, strategies and plans should be coherent or revised and amended to that effect as applicable.

7. A consultative process should be established to ensure ongoing and effective dialogue and information-sharing with stakeholders, as well as to resolve conflicts that might arise in relation to tourism and biological diversity and build consensus. To assist in this process, a multi-stakeholder body should be established including government departments, the tourism sector, non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, to ensure their engagement and full participation in the whole process, and encourage the establishment of partnerships.

8. The institutional arrangements should provide for the involvement of all stakeholders at all levels and in all phases of the management process described in these Guidelines.

9. Authorities and managers of protected areas have a special role for the management of tourism and biodiversity. To this end, there is a need for government support and resources for managers, including training to perform their role effectively. In addition, it is necessary to establish and review mechanisms and funding policies to ensure the availability of adequate resources for maintaining biodiversity and promoting sustainable tourism. International institutions and development agencies should be involved as appropriate.

10. To be sustainable, tourism development in any destination requires coordinated policy-making, development planning and management. The policy-making, development planning and management process comprises the following steps:

- (a) Baseline information and review;
- (b) Vision and goals;
- (c) Objectives;
- (d) Review of legislation and control measures;
- (e) Impact assessment;
- (f) Impact management and mitigation;
- (g) Decision making;

- (h) Implementation;
- (i) Monitoring and reporting
- (j) Adaptive management.

1. Baseline information

11. Baseline information is necessary to enable informed decisions to be taken on any issue. A minimum of baseline information is needed to enable impact assessment and decision-making, and it is recommended that its compilation follow the ecosystem approach.

12. For tourism and biodiversity, the baseline information should include information, as appropriate, on:

(a) Current economic, social and environmental conditions at national and local level, including current and planned tourism development and activities and their overall positive and negative impacts, as well as development and activities in other sectors;

(b) Structure and trends within the tourism sector, tourism policy and tourism markets and trends, at national, regional and international level, including information based on market research as necessary;

(c) Environmental and biodiversity resources, including any special features and sites of particular importance, and identifying those resources that may be off bounds to development due to their particular fragility and those resources identified by existing analysis of threats;

(d) Culturally sensitive areas;

(e) Benefits from, and costs of, tourism to local communities;

(f) Information on damage done to the environment in the past;

(g) National biodiversity strategies, action plans and reports and other sectoral plans and policies relevant for tourism development and biodiversity;

(h) National, subnational and local sustainable-development plans.

13. Baseline information should take into consideration all sources of knowledge. The adequacy of the baseline information available will need to be reviewed, and where necessary, further research and information-gathering can be undertaken to fill gaps that may be identified.

14. All stakeholders may contribute relevant information to this process, including indigenous and local communities. To this end, there is a need for capacity-building and training to assist stakeholders in documenting, accessing, analysing and interpreting baseline information

15. Collation and synthesis of information provided will need to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified team, drawing on a range of expertise, including expertise in tourism and in biodiversity issues, and in traditional knowledge and innovation systems.

16. In order to ensure that all relevant information, its credibility and reliability, are considered, all stakeholders should be involved in review of the collated baseline information available, and in the synthesis of this information.

17. Baseline information should include maps, geographical information systems and other visual tools, including already identified zoning schemes.

18. The baseline information-gathering and review process should make full use of the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as other relevant networks such as the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage sites and Ramsar sites.

19. Requirements for site-specific information in relation to proposals for tourism development and activities at particular locations are set out in the notification process, and its compilation should follow the ecosystem approach. To enable impact assessment and decision making, the basic information required includes:

(a) Site-specific aspects:

- (i) The various laws and regulations that may be applicable to the specific site, including overviews of:
 - Existing laws at local, subnational and national levels;
 - Existing uses, customs and traditions;
 - Relevant regional and international conventions or agreements and their status, and cross-boundary agreements or memoranda of understanding (MoUs);
- (ii) Identification of various stakeholders involved in or potentially affected by the proposed project - including stakeholders in governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors (particularly those from the tourism sector), and local communities - along with details concerning their participation in and/or consultation on the proposed project during its design, planning, construction and operation;

(b) Ecological aspects:

- (i) Detailed indication of the protected and biodiversity significant areas;
- (ii) Specifications on the ecosystems, habitats, species;
- (iii) Quantitative and qualitative information on the loss of habitats and species (main reasons, trends);
- (iv) Indexing of species;
- (v) Identified threats;
- (vi) Existing zones, ecological zones and existing tourism zones within the ecological zones;
- (vii) Ecologically sensitive zones and zones where ecological disasters have or will most likely take place.

- (c) Development aspects:
 - (i) Summary of the proposed project, why and by whom it is proposed, estimated outcomes and possible impacts (including impacts on the surrounding areas and transboundary impacts), and quantitative and qualitative data on these aspects;
 - (ii) Description of the stages of development and the various structures and stakeholders that may be involved at each stage.

2. *Vision and goals*

Vision

20. An overall vision for sustainable tourism development in harmony with the main goals and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related conventions, such as the World Heritage Convention, is important for the effective management of tourism and biodiversity, and for ensuring that this also contributes to poverty alleviation and a reduction of threats to biodiversity. The vision developed at the local level, while reflecting local priorities and realities, should take into account, as appropriate, national and regional sustainable development plans for economic and social development and for land-use, as well as the baseline information and review. It should be based on a multi-stakeholder process including indigenous and local communities that are or may be affected by tourism development.

Goals

21. The main goals are established to maximize the positive benefits of tourism to biodiversity, ecosystems, and economic and social development, and of biodiversity to tourism, while minimizing negative social and environmental impacts from tourism, and can cover, *inter alia*:

- (a) Maintenance of the structure and functioning of ecosystems;
- (b) Sustainable tourism compatible with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- (c) Fair and equitable sharing of benefits of tourism activities, with emphasis on the specific needs of the indigenous and local communities concerned;
- (d) Integration and interrelation with other plans, developments or activities in the same area;
- (e) Information and capacity-building;
- (f) Poverty alleviation, through the generation of sufficient revenues to effectively reduce threats to biodiversity in local communities;
- (g) Protection of indigenous livelihoods, resources and of access to those resources;
- (h) Diversification of economic activities beyond tourism to reduce dependency on tourism;
- (i) Prevention of any lasting damage to biological diversity, ecosystems, and natural resources, and of social and cultural damage, and restoration of past damage;
- (j) Ensuring the effective participation and involvement of representatives of indigenous and local communities in all aspects of the development, operation and monitoring of tourism activities;

(k) Zoning and control of tourism developments and activities, including licensing and overall targets for and limits to the scale of tourism, to provide a range of activities for user groups that meet overall visions and goals;

(l) Empowerment through participation in decision-making;

(m) Access to infrastructure, transport, communications and healthcare provisions laid on for tourists;

(n) Increased security;

(o) Increased social pride;

(p) Control of tourism development and activities including licensing and clear indication on the limits to the scale and type of tourism development.

22. In relation to sharing of benefits arising from tourism and the conservation of biodiversity with indigenous and local communities, it should be noted that benefits may take various forms, including: job creation, fostering local enterprises, participation in tourism enterprises and projects, education, direct investment opportunities, economic linkages and ecological services. Appropriate mechanisms need to be established/ evolved to capture the benefits.

23. The vision and goals will form the basis of national strategies or master plans for sustainable development of tourism in relation to biodiversity. Such plans should also incorporate consideration of biodiversity strategies and plans. In addition, biodiversity strategies and plans should include consideration of tourism issues.

24. Governments will normally coordinate this process at national level. This process may also be undertaken at more local levels by local government, and by communities at community level. Where local and community level vision and goals for tourism and biodiversity have been set, these may be taken into account by governments when preparing the national level vision and goals, for example through workshops at the local level.

3. Objectives

25. The objectives focus on actions to implement specific elements of the overall vision and goals, and may include clear activities and the time by which these will be achieved. Objectives should be performance-based (e.g., construction of an interpretative trail to aid development of local guide services) and process-based (e.g., establishment of an operational management system for tourism and biodiversity). As with the vision and goals, it is important to involve and consult with all relevant stakeholders, and especially the tourism industry and indigenous and local communities that are or may be affected by tourism development, in the process for setting objectives.

26. Objectives should be specific and should include specific areas identified in clearly delineated zones listing the types of activities and infrastructure that would be acceptable and should be developed. It should also outline the impact management measures that would be appropriate, and intended markets (with greater detail, as set out in the notification process, being required for proposals for tourism development or activities at specific locations).

27. Governments may also wish to consider:

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(a) Measures to ensure that sites designated at international level, such as Ramsar or World Heritage sites or Biosphere Reserves, are accorded appropriate legal recognition and government assistance at the national level;

(b) Establishing reserves based on the biosphere reserve concept and incorporating sustainable-development objectives, generating income and employment opportunities for local communities, and promoting appropriate product development;

(c) Strengthening the protected area network and encouraging the role of protected areas as key locations for good practices in the management of sustainable tourism and biodiversity, taking into account the full range of protected area categories;

(d) Use of economic policy tools to encourage the channelling of part of total tourism revenues towards supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, such as conservation of protected areas, education, research programmes, or local community development;

(e) Encouraging all stakeholders, as well as the private sector, to actively support the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components.

28. Governments will normally coordinate this process at national level. This process may also be undertaken at more local levels by local government, and by communities at community level. Where local- and community-level objectives for tourism and biodiversity have been set, these may be taken into account by governments when preparing national level objectives.

4. *Legislation and control measures*

29. Legislation and appropriate regulatory mechanisms and tools, such as land-use planning, environmental assessment, building regulations and standards for sustainable tourism, are essential for the effective implementation of any overall vision, goals, and objectives. A review of legislation and control measures could consider, as appropriate, the legislation and control measures available for implementation of the overall vision, goals and objectives for tourism and biodiversity, their effectiveness, including enforcement, and any gaps that may need to be addressed for example, by revision of—or the development of additional—legislation and control measures.

30. The review of legislation and control measures could include, *inter alia*, assessment of the effectiveness of any provisions for resource management, access, and/or ownership by communities, especially indigenous and local communities that are traditional use areas for their livelihoods and cultural purposes; addressing existing collective rights of indigenous and local communities; and for enabling these groups to make decisions about tourism development and activities, amongst other forms of development and activities, in these areas.

31. Legislation and control measures considered could include measures for:

- (a) Effective enforcement of existing laws, including the participation of all stakeholders;
- (b) Approval and licensing processes for tourism development and activities;
- (c) Controlling the planning, siting, design and construction of tourism facilities and infrastructures;

- (d) Management of tourism in relation to biodiversity and ecosystems, including vulnerable areas;
- (e) Application of environmental assessment, including assessment of cumulative impacts and effects on biodiversity, to all proposed tourism developments, and as a tool to develop policies and measure their impacts;
- (f) Setting national standards and/or criteria for tourism that are integrated with overall national or regional plans for sustainable development and national biodiversity strategies and action plans:
 - (i) Environmental quality and land-use criteria in and around tourism sites;
 - (ii) Development of a decision-making process with environmental and cultural sustainability guidelines for new and existing tourism development within the designated goals and objectives of the site's different zones and within the limits of acceptable change;
- (g) Integrated land-use management;
- (h) Ensuring inter-linkages between tourism and cross-cutting issues, including agricultural development, coastal zone management, water resources, etc.;
- (i) Mechanisms to resolve any inconsistencies between policy objectives and/or legislation in a manner that takes into account the interests of all stakeholders;
- (j) Application of economic instruments, including tiered user fees, bonds, taxes or levies, for the management of tourism and biodiversity;
- (k) Creating incentives for sustainable tourism development in line with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21 through relevant economic mechanisms;
- (l) Supporting private sector voluntary initiatives consistent with these Guidelines, such as certification schemes and providing opportunities for the private tourism sector to contribute to management initiatives through direct donations, in-kind services, and other voluntary initiatives consistent with these Guidelines, and relevant policies;
- (m) Avoiding tourism development or activities outside those areas set out in the objectives;
- (n) Monitoring, control of and provision of information on activities related to collection and trade of biological and related cultural resources within tourism sites.

32. Governments will normally coordinate this process at the national level. It is important to involve and consult with all relevant stakeholders, and especially indigenous and local communities that are or may be affected by tourism development, in the process for reviewing legislation and control measures, assessing their adequacy and effectiveness, and proposing development of new legislation and measures where necessary.

5. *Impact assessment*

33. At a minimum, impact assessment should outline a decision-making process and should address the impacts, effects and information that are required to be covered in the notification process. Policies should be adjusted according to the results of impact assessment, including potential risks.

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34. Impact assessment should be objective and transparent, and based on recognized standards.
35. Impact assessment includes assessment of the environmental, social, cultural, economic effects, both positive and negative, of proposed and existing developments. The impacts of tourism development may be spread widely.
36. Governments are encouraged to develop mechanisms for impact assessment with the participation of all stakeholders, including nature conservation bodies, and to ensure effective implementation of existing mechanisms for the approval of the approach, content and scope of impact assessment. Such mechanisms could include the establishment of steering committees with representatives of all stakeholders, including nature conservation bodies, for approval and reporting of the approach and content of impact assessment.
37. Comprehensive impact assessments are important for all tourism developments and activities, and include taking into account cumulative effects from multiple development activities of all types. Impacts from tourism development and activities to be considered include those at the local, regional, national and transnational levels.
38. At national level, Governments should normally undertake assessment of impacts associated with the overall vision, goals and objectives for tourism and biodiversity. In addition, this process may also be undertaken at more local levels by local government, and by indigenous and local communities.
39. Proposers of tourism developments or activities should assess the potential impacts of their proposals and provide information on this through a notification process.
40. Governments will normally undertake evaluations of the adequacy of impact assessments submitted by proposers of tourism developments or activities. These evaluations will need to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified team, drawing on a range of expertise, including expertise in tourism and in biodiversity management, and also involving those indigenous and local communities that would be affected by the proposals. There should be public access to the documentation.
41. If the information provided is not sufficient, or the impact assessment inadequate, then further impact assessment studies may need to be undertaken. The proposer may be requested to undertake such studies, or the Government may decide to undertake these studies, and may request funds from the proposer for this purpose, as appropriate. Other stakeholders, including biodiversity managers and indigenous and local communities that may be affected by a proposed development, may also provide their assessments of impacts associated with specific proposals for tourism developments or activities, and provisions may be needed to ensure that any such assessments are taken into account by decision-makers.
42. Indigenous and local communities concerned should be fully involved in impact assessment. Their traditional knowledge should be acknowledged and considered for impact assessment in particular tourism projects that affect their sacred sites or lands and waters occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.
43. Sufficient time should be allowed considering the different conditions and circumstances to ensure that all stakeholders are able to participate effectively in the decision-making process for any project using information provided by the impact assessment. Such information should be provided in forms that are accessible and comprehensible to all the various stakeholders involved.
44. Impacts of tourism in relation to the environment and biological diversity may include:

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- (a) Use of land and resources for accommodation, tourism facilities and other infrastructure provision, including road networks, airports and seaports;
- (b) Extraction and use of building materials (e.g., use of sand from beaches, reef limestone and wood);
- (c) Damage to or destruction of ecosystems and habitats, including deforestation, draining of wetlands, and intensified or unsustainable use of land;
- (d) Increased risk of erosion;
- (e) Disturbance of wild species, disrupting normal behaviour and potentially affecting mortality and reproductive success;
- (f) Alterations to habitats and ecosystems;
- (g) Risk of fires;
- (h) Unsustainable consumption of flora and fauna by tourists (e.g., through picking of plants; or purchase of souvenirs manufactured from wildlife, in particular such endangered species as corals and turtle shells; or through unregulated hunting, shooting and fishing);
- (i) Increased risk of introduction of alien species;
- (j) Intensive water demand from tourism;
- (k) Extraction of groundwater;
- (l) Deterioration in water quality (freshwater, coastal waters);
- (m) Eutrophication of aquatic habitats;
- (n) Introduction of pathogens;
- (o) Generation, handling and disposal of sewage and waste-water;
- (p) Chemical wastes, toxic substances and pollutants;
- (q) Solid waste (garbage or rubbish);
- (r) Contamination of land, freshwater and seawater resources;
- (s) Pollution and production of greenhouse gases, resulting from travel by air, road, rail, or sea, at local, national and global levels;
- (t) Noise.

45. Socio-economic and cultural impacts related to tourism may include:

- (a) Influx of people and social degradation (e.g. local prostitution, drug abuse, etc.);
- (b) Impacts on children and youth;

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(c) Vulnerability to the changes in the flow of tourist arrivals which may result in sudden loss of income and jobs in times of downturn;

(d) Impacts on local communities;

(e) Impacts on cultural values;

(f) Intergenerational conflicts and changed gender relationships;

(g) Erosion of traditional practices and lifestyles;

(h) Loss of access by indigenous and local communities to their land and resources as well as sacred sites, which are integral to the maintenance of traditional knowledge systems and traditional lifestyles.

46. The potential benefits of tourism may include:

(a) Revenue creation for the maintenance of natural areas;

(b) Contributions to economic and social development, for example:

(i) Funding the development of infrastructure and services;

(ii) Providing jobs;

(iii) Providing funds for development or maintenance of sustainable practices;

(iv) Providing alternative and supplementary ways for communities to receive revenue from biological diversity;

(v) Generating incomes;

(vi) Education and empowerment;

(vii) An entry product that can have direct benefits for developing other related products at the site and regionally;

(viii) Tourist satisfaction and experience gained at tourist destination.

6. *Impact management and mitigation*

47. Impact management is essential to avoid or minimize any potential damage to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use that tourism development or activities might cause. Proposals for tourism development or activities may incorporate proposals for impact management, but these may not necessarily be judged sufficient to deal with potential impacts on biodiversity. Therefore all stakeholders, and especially Governments that exercise overall control over tourism development and activities, will need to consider the various impact management approaches that may be necessary in any given situation.

48. Tourism should be planned and managed using the internationally accepted planning methodologies (such as the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and the Limits of Acceptable Change). In vulnerable ecosystems, based on these methodologies and relevant background information, tourism should be restricted and where necessary prevented.

49. Impact management can include, *inter alia*, measures for the siting of tourism development and activities, including establishing appropriate activities in different designated zones, differentiation between the impacts of different types of tourism, and measures to control tourist flows in and around tourist destinations and key sites, to promote appropriate behaviour by tourists so as to minimize their impacts, and to establish limits to numbers of visitors and their impacts within Limits of Acceptable Change at any site.

50. Impact management in relation to transboundary ecosystems and migratory species requires regional cooperation.

51. There is a need to identify those who will be responsible for implementing impact management and the resources that will be required for impact management.

52. Impact management for tourism development and activities can include the adoption and effective implementation of policies, good practices and lessons learned that cover, *inter alia*:

- (a) Controlling impacts of major tourist flows including excursions, cruise ships, etc., which can cause serious effects on destinations even though they are visited for only short periods;
- (b) Reducing impacts of activities outside tourism areas on adjacent and other ecosystems of importance for tourism (e.g., pollution from nearby farming activities or extractive industries may affect areas of tourism development);
- (c) Responsible use of natural resources (e.g., land, soil, energy, water);
- (d) Reducing, minimizing and preventing pollution and waste (e.g. solid and liquid waste, emissions to air, transport);
- (e) Promoting the design of facilities that are more eco-efficient, which adopt the cleaner production approach, and use environmentally sound technologies, in particular to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances, as set out in international agreements;
- (f) Conserving flora, fauna and ecosystems;
- (g) Preventing the introduction of alien species as a result of tourism activities, including for example from shipping associated with tourism;
- (h) Conserving landscapes, cultural and natural heritage;
- (i) Respecting the integrity of local cultures and avoiding negative effects on social structures, involving, and cooperating with, local and indigenous communities, including measures to ensure respect for sacred sites and customary users of these sites, and to prevent negative impacts on them and on lands and waters occupied or used by indigenous and local communities, as well as on their subsistence resources;
- (j) Using local products and skills, and providing local employment;
- (k) Promoting appropriate behaviour by tourists so as to minimize their adverse impacts, and to promote positive effects through education, interpretation, extension, and other means of awareness-raising;

(l) Alignment of marketing strategies and messages with the principles of sustainable tourism;

(m) Contingency plans for handling accidents, emergencies or bankruptcies that may occur during construction and use of facilities and which may threaten the environment and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(n) Environmental and cultural sustainability audits and review of existing tourism activities and developments and of the effectiveness with which impact management is being applied to existing tourism activities and developments;

(o) Mitigation measures for existing impacts, and appropriate funding to support them. Such measures should include development and implementation of compensation measures in cases when tourism has resulted in negative environmental, cultural, and socio-economic effects, taking into consideration the polluter-pays principle.

53. Governments, in cooperation with biodiversity managers, those communities that would be affected by the proposals, and other stakeholders, would normally assess the need for impact management in addition to any management measures included in the proposals under consideration. All stakeholders should understand the importance of such impact management.

54. The tourism industry can assist in promoting corporate policies on sustainable tourism and biodiversity, with defined goals, monitoring and reporting their progress publicly on a regular basis.

7. *Decision-making*

55. Decisions will be made concerning approval or otherwise of, *inter alia*:

(a) National strategies and plans for tourism and biodiversity;

(b) Proposals for tourism development and activities at particular locations in relation to biodiversity, which are to be submitted through the notification process;

(c) Adequacy of impact management measures in relation to anticipated impacts from tourism development and activities.

56. Such decisions will ultimately be taken by Governments (or specific authorities designated by Governments). It is recognized, however, that effective consultation with and participation of the communities and groups affected, including specific input from biodiversity managers, and from indigenous and local communities as well as the private sector in a broad sense, is an important foundation of the decision-making process and critical to sustainable development. Decision makers should consider using multi-stakeholder processes as a tool for the decision-making process.

57. The decision-making process should be transparent, accountable, and apply the precautionary approach. Legal mechanisms should be put in place for notification and approval of tourism development proposals and for ensuring implementation of the conditions of approval of development proposals.

58. For proposals for tourism development and activities at particular locations, the proposers will normally be required to provide the information set out in the notification process. This should apply equally to public-sector development and infrastructure projects, as well as to private-sector development. Impact assessment should be a component of any decision-making process.

59. Measures should be taken to ensure full and timely disclosure of project information concerning tourism development proposals. Decision-making should include the prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities affected by projects in order to ensure, *inter alia*, respect for the customs and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and adequate funding and technical support should be provided for these groups to participate effectively. A thorough consultation process with the indigenous and local community, based on the availability of all relevant information, is needed as a basis for prior informed consent.

60. Decisions should include a review of the adequacy of information available, that could cover, *inter alia*, baseline information, impact assessment, and information on the proposed tourism development or activity, its nature and size, the type(s) of tourism involved, and information on human settlements and communities that may be affected.

61. In cases where there is not sufficient contextual/baseline information available at the time, or where the overall vision, goals and objectives for tourism and biodiversity have not been developed sufficiently to make a decision, decisions may be deferred pending sufficient information being obtained, and/or completion of overall plans/goals.

62. In making a decision, conditions may be attached to any approvals that may be granted, including conditions regarding management of tourism in relation to avoidance or minimisation of adverse impacts on biodiversity, and for appropriate decommissioning of tourism activities should the development cease. Decision makers may also, as appropriate, request further information from a proposer; defer a decision pending further baseline research by other agencies; or refuse a proposal.

8. *Implementation*

63. Implementation follows a decision to approve a particular proposal, strategy or plan. Unless otherwise stated, the developer and/or operator will be responsible for complying with the conditions for granting the approval; and, as part of this process, they can also be required to notify the designated government authority of any failures to comply with conditions attached to an approval, including conditions for decommissioning, and/or of any changes in circumstances, including unforeseen environmental conditions and/or biodiversity issues (e.g., detection of rare or endangered species not recorded in the original proposal and impact assessment).

64. Any revisions or changes to an approved project, including additions and/or variations of activities, must be approved by the designated authorities before construction.

65. Implementation plans should recognize that local communities and other relevant stakeholders may require assistance as actors in implementation, and should ensure that sufficient resources are available for implementation and for effective participation.

66. Local stakeholders should be given an ongoing opportunity to express their wishes and concerns to those managing tourism facilities and activities. As part of this process, clear and adequate information regarding implementation should be provided for review by the stakeholders, in forms that are accessible and comprehensible to them.

67. Availability of information on policies, programmes, projects, and their implementation, including information on existing and future guidelines, should be ensured and exchange of information fostered, for example, through the clearing house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. *Monitoring and reporting*

68. It is necessary to establish a monitoring and control system for the management of tourism activities and biological diversity. Long-term monitoring and assessment are necessary in relation to the impacts of tourism on biodiversity, and will need to take into account the timescale for ecosystem changes to become evident. Some effects may develop quickly, while others may take place more slowly. Long-term monitoring and assessment provide a means for detecting adverse effects that may arise from tourism activities and development in relation to biodiversity, so that action can be taken to control and mitigate such effects.

69. Monitoring and surveillance in relation to management of tourism and biodiversity includes, *inter alia*, the following main areas:

(a) Implementation of approved tourism developments or activities, and compliance with any conditions attached when approval was granted, and taking appropriate actions in cases of non-compliance;

(b) Impacts of tourism activities on biodiversity and ecosystems, taking appropriate preventative actions as necessary;

(c) Impacts of tourism on the surrounding population, especially indigenous and local communities;

(d) General tourism activities and trends, including tour operations, tourism facilities, and tourist flows in originating and receiving countries, including progress towards sustainable tourism;

(e) How identified tourism projects designed to help mitigate threats to biodiversity are accomplishing this objective;

(f) Compliance with, and enforcement as necessary, of conditions attached to any approval. Communities and other interested stakeholders may also monitor and report their findings to the designated government authorities.

70. Developers and operators of tourism facilities and activities should be required to report periodically to designated authorities and to the public on compliance with conditions set out in approvals, and on the condition of biodiversity and the environment in relation to the tourism facilities and activities for which they are responsible.

71. Prior to the commencement of any new tourism development or activities, an inclusive monitoring and reporting system should be put in place, with indicators to track how tourism actions are mitigating threats to biodiversity, along with agreed upon quantifiable standards indicating thresholds of acceptable change. These should be developed in conjunction with all key stakeholders including indigenous and local communities.

72. Indicators to cover aspects of management of biodiversity and sustainable tourism, including socio-economic and cultural aspects, should be identified and monitored at global, national, and local levels, and should include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Conservation of biodiversity;

(b) Generation of income from tourism (long-term and short-term);

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- (c) Proportion of tourism income retained in the local community;
- (d) Effectiveness of multi-stakeholder processes for management of biodiversity and sustainable tourism;
- (e) Effectiveness of impact management;
- (f) Contribution of tourism to the well-being of the local population;
- (g) Visitor impacts and visitor satisfaction.

73. Monitoring results depend largely on the appropriate set of data to be collected. Guidelines on how to collect data in a way that can be used to evaluate change over time should be developed. Monitoring could follow a standard process and format, and be based on a framework including parameters on social, economic, environmental and cultural impact.

74. Monitoring and surveillance in relation to biodiversity impacts should include activities undertaken to ensure respect for endangered species under relevant international agreements, prevention of the introduction of alien species as a result of tourism activities, compliance with national and international rules concerning access to genetic resources, and prevention of illegal and unauthorised removal of genetic resources.

75. In relation to indigenous and local communities, monitoring and evaluation should include development and use of appropriate tools to monitor and evaluate tourism impacts on the economy of indigenous and local communities, particularly their food and health security, traditional knowledge, practices and customary livelihoods. Use of indicators and early warning systems should be developed as appropriate, taking into account traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous and local communities, and guidelines developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to traditional knowledge. Measures should also be taken to ensure that indigenous and local communities involved in, or affected by tourism, have the opportunity to be involved effectively in monitoring and evaluation.

76. Monitoring of general environmental and biodiversity conditions and trends, as well as tourism trends and impacts, can be undertaken by Governments, including designated biodiversity managers. Management measures may need to be adjusted, as appropriate, where adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems are detected. The need for and nature of such adjustments will be based on the results of monitoring, and it is important for these to be determined in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, including the developers and/or operators of tourism facilities and activities, communities affected by those facilities and activities, and other interested stakeholders. The monitoring process needs to be multi-stakeholder and transparent.

10. Adaptive management

77. The ecosystem approach requires adaptive management to deal with the complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems and the absence of complete knowledge or understanding of their functioning. Ecosystem processes are often non-linear, and the outcome of such processes often shows time-lags. The result is discontinuities, leading to surprise and uncertainty. Management must be adaptive in order to be able to respond to such uncertainties and contain elements of “learning-by-doing” or research

feedback. Measures may need to be taken even when some cause-and-effect relationships are not yet fully established scientifically. ^{3/}

78. Ecosystem processes and functions are complex and variable. Their level of uncertainty is increased by the interaction with social constructs, which need to be better understood. Therefore, ecosystem management must involve a learning process, which helps to adapt methodologies and practices to the ways in which these systems are being managed and monitored. Adaptive management should also take the precautionary approach fully into account.

79. Implementation programmes should be designed to adjust to the unexpected, rather than to act on the basis of a belief in certainties.

80. Ecosystem management needs to recognize the diversity of social and cultural factors affecting natural-resource use and sustainability.

81. Similarly, there is a need for flexibility in policy-making and implementation. Long-term, inflexible decisions are likely to be inadequate or even destructive. Ecosystem management should be envisaged as a long-term experiment that builds on its results as it progresses. This ‘learning-by-doing’ will also serve as an important source of information to gain knowledge of how best to monitor the results of management and evaluate whether established goals are being attained. In this respect, it would be desirable to establish or strengthen capacities of Parties for monitoring. In addition, adaptive management learning portfolios should be developed between different sites so that comparison can be made and lessons learned.

82. Implementing adaptive management in relation to tourism and biodiversity will require the active cooperation of all stakeholders in tourism, and especially those in the private sector, with biodiversity managers. Impacts on biodiversity at a particular location may require rapid curtailment of visits by tourists to prevent further damage, and to allow for recovery, and in the longer-term, may necessitate an overall reduction in tourist flows. It may be possible for tourists to be redirected to less sensitive areas in such cases. In all cases, maintenance of the balance between tourism and biodiversity will require close interaction between tourism managers and biodiversity managers, and appropriate frameworks for management and dialogue are likely to need to be established.

83. Governments, including designated biodiversity managers, in conjunction with all other stakeholders will therefore need to take actions, as appropriate, to address any problems encountered and to keep on track towards agreed goals. This may include changes and additions to conditions set in the original approval, and will require participation of and consultation with the developer and/or operator of the tourism facilities and activities concerned, and with local communities.

84. Adaptive management can also be undertaken by all those who have management control over any specific site, including local governments, indigenous and local communities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other organizations.

85. Where necessary, legal frameworks may need to be reviewed and amended to support adaptive management, taking into account experience gained.

^{3/} Monitoring at World Heritage sites should be designed to also incorporate the World Heritage criteria upon which the site was inscribed. The monitoring system should be designed to contribute to the World Heritage periodic reporting structure, aimed at gathering information on the state of conservation of the site.

C. Notification process and information requirements

86. Proposals for tourism development and activities at particular locations in relation to biodiversity are to be submitted through the notification process. As such, this process provides the link between proposers of tourism activities and development, and the management process steps outlined above. In particular, the notification process makes specific links to the steps in the management process for impact assessment and decision-making and should take into account local, regional and national impacts. Proposers of tourism projects, including government agencies, should provide full and timely advance notice to all stakeholders who may be affected, including indigenous and local communities, of proposed developments through a formal process of prior informed approval.

87. Information to be provided as part of the notification could include:

(a) Scale and types of tourism development or activities proposed, including a summary of the proposed project, why and by whom it is proposed, estimated outcomes and possible impacts, and a description of the stages of development and the various structures and stakeholders that may be involved at each stage;

(b) Analysis of market for proposed tourism development or activities, based on market conditions and trends;

(c) Geographical description including recreation opportunity zones, outlining tourist activities and infrastructure development, and location of the site of tourism development or activities, the identity and any special features of the surrounding environments and biodiversity;

(d) Nature and extent of human-resource requirements and plans for their procurement;

(e) Identification of various stakeholders involved in or potentially affected by the proposed project - including stakeholders in governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors, and local communities - along with details concerning their participation in and/or consultation on the proposed project during its design, planning, construction and operation;

(f) The perceived roles of local stakeholders in the proposed development;

(g) The various laws and regulations that may be applicable to the specific site, including overviews of existing laws at local, subnational and national levels, of existing uses and customs, of relevant regional and international conventions or agreements and their status, and cross-boundary agreements or memoranda or understanding and any proposed legislation;

(h) The proximity of the site to human settlements and communities, sites used by people from those settlements and communities as part of their livelihoods and traditional activities, and heritage, cultural or sacred sites;

(i) Any flora, fauna and ecosystems that could be affected by the tourism development or activities, including keystone, rare, endangered or endemic species;

(j) Ecological aspects of the site and its surroundings, including indication of any protected areas; specifications on the ecosystems, habitats, and species; quantitative and qualitative information on the loss of habitats and species (main reasons, trends), and indexing of species;

(k) Training and supervision of personnel carrying out the tourism development or activities;

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- (l) Likelihood of impacts beyond the immediate area of the tourism development or activities, including transboundary impacts and effects on migratory species;
- (m) A description of current environmental and socio-economic conditions;
- (n) Expected changes to environmental and socio-economic conditions as a result of the tourism development or activities;
- (o) Proposed management measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts from the tourism development or activities, including verification of their functioning;
- (p) Proposed measures for mitigation, decommissioning and compensation in the event of problems arising with the tourism development or activities;
- (q) Proposed measures to maximize the local benefits of the tourism development or activities on surrounding human settlements and communities, biodiversity and ecosystems, which may include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) Using local products and skills;
 - (ii) Employment;
 - (iii) Restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- (r) Relevant information from any previous tourism development or activities in the region, and information on possible cumulative effects;
- (s) Relevant information from any previous tourism development or activities by the proposer.

88. Categories of responses that Governments may wish to consider making in response to notification of proposals for, and requests for permission to undertake, tourism development, include, *inter alia*:

- (a) Approval without conditions;
- (b) Approval with conditions;
- (c) Request for further information;
- (d) Deferral pending further baseline research by other agencies;
- (e) Refusal of the proposal.

D. Education, capacity-building and awareness-raising

89. Education and awareness-raising campaigns need to be addressed to both the professional sectors and the general public and should inform them about the impacts of tourism on biological diversity, and good practices in this area. The private sector, and, especially, tour operators, could provide information more widely to their clients—the tourists—about tourism and biodiversity issues, and encourage them to conserve, and avoid adverse impact on, biodiversity and cultural heritage, and to support actions in conformity with the present Guidelines.

90. Awareness campaigns explaining the link between cultural diversity and biological diversity will need to be tailored for various audiences, particularly stakeholders including consumers of tourism, developers and tourism operators.
91. Education and awareness-raising is required at all levels of government. This should include processes for increasing mutual understanding between relevant ministries, including joint and innovative approaches for dealing with tourism and environmental issues.
92. Awareness should also be increased within and outside government that vulnerable ecosystems and habitats are often located within lands and waters occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.
93. The tourism sector as a whole, along with tourists should be encouraged to minimize any negative impacts and maximize positive impacts on biodiversity and local cultures associated with their consumption choices and behaviour, for example through voluntary initiatives.
94. It is also important to raise awareness within the academic sector responsible for training and research on issues regarding the interaction between biological diversity and sustainable tourism, of the role that they can play concerning public education, capacity-building and awareness-raising on these issues.
95. Capacity-building activities should aim to develop and strengthen the capacities of Governments and all stakeholders to facilitate the effective implementation of the present Guidelines, and may be necessary at local, national, regional and international levels.
96. Capacity-building activities can be identified through the adaptive management process and can include strengthening human resources and institutional capacities, the transfer of know-how, the development of appropriate facilities, and training in relation to biological diversity and sustainable tourism issues, and in impact assessment and impact management techniques.
97. Such activities should include ensuring that local communities are equipped with the necessary decision-making abilities, skills and knowledge in advance of future tourist in-flows, as well as with relevant capacity and training regarding tourism services and environmental protection.
98. Capacity-building activities should include, but not be limited to:
- (a) Capacity-building and training to assist all stakeholders, including Governments, and indigenous and local communities, in accessing, analysing and interpreting baseline information, undertaking impact assessments and evaluations, impact management, decision-making, monitoring and adaptive management;
 - (b) Development or strengthening of mechanisms for impact assessment with the participation of all stakeholders, including for the approval of the approach, content and scope of impact assessment;
 - (c) Establishment of multi-stakeholder processes involving government departments, tourism sector, non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders;
 - (d) Training of tourism professionals in conservation and biodiversity issues.

99. Information exchange and collaboration regarding sustainable tourism implementation through networking and partnerships between all stakeholders affected by, or involved in tourism, including the private sector, should be encouraged.

Annex II

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE
GUIDELINES MADE BY PARTIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT COULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE
TEXT OF THE GUIDELINES**

China

According to the Government of China, a distinction should be made between guidelines to be applied at the national and subnational levels, for the preparation of national and subnational strategies and action plans, and guidelines for the management of tourism development and activities at specific sites. The Government of China recommends that the guidelines for sustainable tourism strategies and action plans at the national and subnational level include the following issues:

- (a) Vision and principles;
- (b) Strategic goals;
- (c) Existing laws and regulations, and assessment of management measures;
- (d) Tourism resources assessment;
- (e) Action programme;
- (f) Tourism activities and environmental impact assessment;
- (g) Monitoring;
- (h) Safeguard measures;
- (i) Benefit-sharing.

The guidelines for specific sites should include:

- (a) Selection of site;
- (b) Collection of baseline information;
- (c) Goal for zone development;
- (d) Land-use planning programme;
- (e) Tourism resources management and environmental protection measures;
- (f) Tourist management;
- (g) Fund allocation mechanisms;
- (h) Emergency response;

- (i) Tourism activities and environmental impact assessment;
- (j) Notification;
- (k) Approval;
- (l) Monitoring;
- (m) Benefit-sharing.

According to China, collation and synthesis of information contained in sustainable development strategies and action plans should be performed by the State, while collation and synthesis of information of specific sites on sustainable tourism development and activities should be undertaken by the economic entities responsible for tourism development. As with the structure of the Guidelines, objectives of the strategies and action plans and the objectives of the development of specific sites should be separately presented. Decision-making on the national and subnational strategies and action plans is performed by the State (or provincial) government in consultation with relevant departments, the local government, non-governmental organizations, experts and resident representatives. As far as decision-making at specific sites is concerned, all interested stakeholders should be involved and participate extensively in project planning and design, impact management and the formulation of relevant mechanisms for benefit-sharing.

Philippines

The Philippines expressed the view that the Guidelines should include a chapter developing the issue of product development, marketing and promotion of sustainable tourism. In addition, there is a need to improve terminology used in the Guidelines.

Poland

Poland stated that the Guidelines need more clarity and that they are currently drafted for a specialized audience and cannot be understood properly by all users (including indigenous and local communities).

European Community/International Institute for Environment and Development

Both the European Community and the International Institute for Environment and Development emphasized the need to shorten the text, so as to have a more concise and succinct set of overall guidelines. IIED believes that the draft Guidelines are exceptionally long and as such may deter potential readers. The European Community suggested that the shortened set of guidelines might be supplemented by a comprehensive user-friendly implementation manual.
