



United Nations Climate Change Conference
COP18/CMP8 Doha, Qatar

DOHA 2012
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP18|CMP8

SIDE EVENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COP18



The tourism sector response to climate change: mitigation and adaptation initiatives and strategies

Thursday, 29 November 2012, 18:30 – 20:00 h
Qatar National Convention Centre. Doha, Qatar

PROGRAMME

18:30-19:30

Tourism Response to Climate Change Challenges

- Mr. Luigi Cabrini; Director Sustainable Development of Tourism; UNWTO

Experiences from Promoting Climate Friendly Tourism in World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks.

- Mr. Peter Dogsé; Manager Intersectoral Platform on Climate Change; UNESCO

Global Action on International Aviation and Climate Change

- Ms. Jane Hupe; Chief of Environment Branch; ICAO

International Shipping's Role as Part of the Tourism Sector's Response to Climate Change.

- Dr. Edmund Hughes; Technical Officer; IMO

The Climate Change Risk Atlas and Tourism: A Sectoral Approach to Vulnerability and Resilience.

- Dr. Murray C. Simpson; Oxford University Centre for the Environment

19:30-20:00

- Discussion
- Conclusions

*On the occasion of this event the publication **"Tourism in the Green Economy"** will be launched.*

Background

Over the past two decades international tourist arrivals have more than doubled, from 433 million in 1991 to 990 million in 2011. By the end of 2012, one billion of international tourists will have crossed international borders while by 2030 this number is forecast to go up to 1.8 billion.

Tourism represents today 5% of the GDP and over 1.1 trillion USD in exports around the globe. Tourism employs 1 in 12 people worldwide and creates opportunities for decent jobs, particularly for women and youth.

The tourism sector is considered to be highly-climate sensitive as climate defines the length and quality of tourism seasons, affects tourism operations, and influences environmental conditions that both attract and deter visitors. The effects of a changing climate have already considerable impacts on tourism and travel.

Tourism and travel is also a vector of climate change, accounting for approximately 5% of global carbon dioxide emissions. For an effective reduction of emissions, the tourism sector needs to apply a combination of mitigation measures. Under the most effective mitigation projection, using a combination of technological innovation and modal shifts/length of stay, the 'business-as-usual' scenario emissions in 2035 could actually be reduced with respect to the 2005 baseline.

A scenario of emissions reduction in the tourism sector has also been recently developed in the tourism chapter of the UN Green Economy Report (GER), jointly prepared by UNWTO and UNEP. Greening tourism would also result in lesser water consumption and higher employment.

The UNWTO-UNEP publication: "Tourism in the green economy", an expanded version of the tourism chapter of the GER, will be officially launched on the occasion of this side event.

As tourism is so important to poverty reduction and economic growth in developing nations, any policy aimed at mitigating and reducing GHG emissions should not disadvantage these countries.

Scenarios of reduction of emissions will require strong support from Governments, International Organizations and Financial Institutions, to materialize. Leadership from the tourism industry is also essential to drive the necessary changes in the transport and accommodation sectors.

The side event will be an opportunity for the relevant UN bodies as well as academia and the private sector to present an outlook of the technological innovations and other strategies which can effectively reduce the contribution of tourism to global warming.



Please note that if you wish to attend this side event, you must be registered to participate at the COP18.