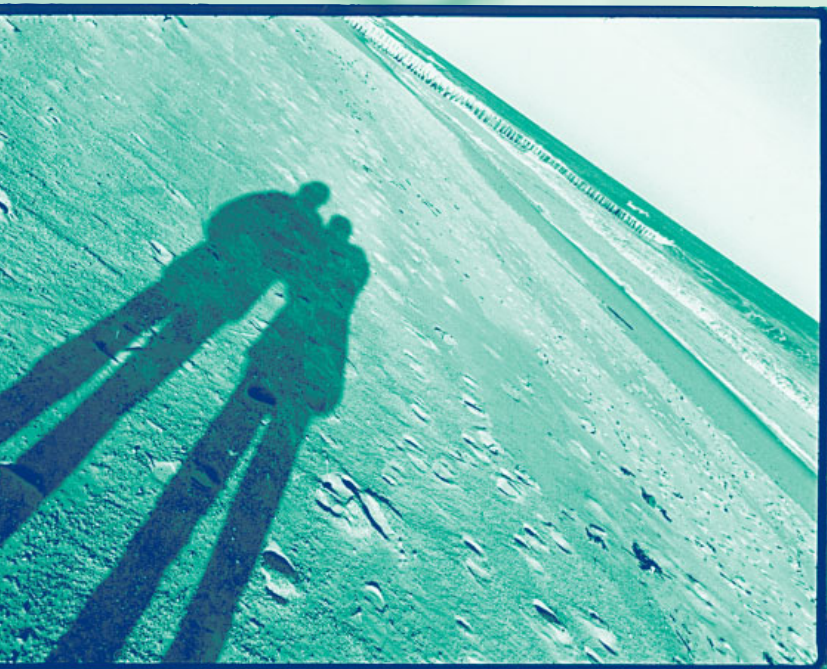


# **TOURISM INTERVENTIONS**

Process Documentation  
2003/2004



## **Fortaleza:**

First International Conference on  
Sustainable Tourism

## **Hanover:**

DANTE International Seminar

## **Mumbai:**

Tourism Interventions at the  
World Social Forum

## IMPRESSUM

### Editor



### FernWeh - Tourism Review

Kronenstraße 16 a  
D - 79100 Freiburg  
Germany  
fernweh@iz3w.org  
www.iz3w.org

### Organisers of Tourism Interventions

#### First Conference on Sustainable Tourism

Instituto Terramar, Brazil

#### DANTE International Seminar

DANTE WSF-Working Group:  
akte - Working Group on Tourism and Development, Basel / Switzerland  
EED-Tourism-Watch, Bonn / Germany  
FernWeh - Tourism Review, Freiburg / Germany  
KATE - Center for Ecology and Development, Stuttgart / Germany  
respect, Vienna / Austria  
stattreisen Hannover / Germany

#### Tourism Interventions at the WSF

Equations, Bangalore / India  
ECOT - Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism, Hong Kong / SAR, China  
EED-Tourism-Watch, Bonn / Germany  
akte - Working Group on Tourism and Development, Basel / Switzerland

#### © Photographs

Equations, FernWeh, Instituto Terramar, version

**Print:** schwarz auf weiss, Freiburg

**With support from** Hans-Böckler Foundation, Germany and European Union



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication is the sole responsibility of FernWeh and can in no way be taken to reflect the view of the European Union.

**March 2004**

# ***TOURISM INTERVENTIONS***

## ***FORTALEZA - HANOVER - MUMBAI***

<b><i>TOURISM @ WSF: FROM PORTO ALEGRE TO MUMBAI</i></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><i>FORTALEZA: FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</i></b>	<b>6</b>
Socially Responsible Tourism for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction	<b>7</b>
Final Declaration	<b>8</b>
<b><i>HANOVER: TOURISM: UNFAIR PRACTICES - EQUITABLE OPTIONS</i></b>	
Introduction	<b>11</b>
WORKING CONDITIONS - Some Statements	<b>14</b>
Working Group I: Labour Rights in Tourism	<b>15</b>
PRIVATISATION - Some Statements	<b>18</b>
Working Group II: Liberalisation and Privatisation	<b>19</b>
Two Visions about Machupicchu / The Case of Kuelap	<b>20</b>
Working Group III: Community-based tourism development	<b>23</b>
Tourism as an instrument of poverty alleviation? NGOs are not so sure!	<b>29</b>
TOURISM AND POVERTY - Some Statements	<b>30</b>
<b><i>MUMBAI: TOURISM INTERVENTIONS AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM</i></b>	
Ecotourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	<b>32</b>
World Social Forum 2004: Reaching out to the Grassroots	<b>33</b>
Sunderbans - Encroachment of the Final Frontiers	<b>34</b>
Boycott Burma Campaign and Tourism / Amby Valley: Privatisation of Hills	<b>36</b>
Community Tourism in Brazil / Kumarakom / Coastal Communities in Mahabalipuram	<b>38</b>
Impacts of Tourism on Women in Goa	<b>42</b>
	<b>43</b>
<b><i>STATEMENT OF CONCERN OF THE TOURISM INTERVENTIONS GROUP</i></b>	<b>44</b>
<b><i>SERVICE PART</i></b>	<b>46</b>

# TOURISM @ WSF

## FROM PORTO ALEGRE TO MUMBAI

Whereas tourism had not featured very prominently on the agenda at the 3rd World Social Forum (WSF) in Porto Alegre 2003, the 4th WSF in Mumbai 2004 experienced a change in this regard. Tourism was the thematic focus of three workshops and one of 31 WSF-Plenary-discussions and thereby occupied a prominent space in the WSF programme.

The WSF generally provides a space for strengthening alliances between social movements, non-governmental organisations, local communities and workers' unions from South and North. For this reason the WSF was seen as a good opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the tourism issue and seek dialogue and linkages with other NGOs and activist groups.

### Thematic Overview

The idea to bring tourism issues into the WSF is motivated by the obvious lack of participation of local communities in tourism development plans. The interventions attempt to denounce bad practices and capitalise on encouraging examples. Tourism development has generated many

conflicts around the world, which have been intensified by neo-liberal policies. Liberalisation of international trade, privatisation and tourism development are mutually dependent and accelerate each other. In consequence communities and local people lose access to and control over local resources. Thus, tourism has endangered livelihoods while policy making institutions have kept local communities out of decision making. As a result struggles are emerging on working conditions, land use and resource allocation.

Liberalised trade in tourism services substantially intervenes with domestic regulations, which could ideally enhance people's rights. Under the neo-liberal regime it becomes virtually impossible to impose regulations for social and ecological standards on foreign suppliers. Unrestricted investment rights for foreign companies reduce the possibilities for the host countries to profit from tourism. At the same time they weaken the scope for action for people's movements and NGOs to call their governments to action. However, governments have often too willingly adopted the neo-liberal agenda to attract foreign investment catering to the needs of state finances and local elites.

### OBJECTIVES OF TOURISM INTERVENTIONS AT WSF

- ~ Motivate people from NGOs and movements who work in different thematic fields to take linkages with tourism into account and join the struggle against unfair practices and for a more equitable tourism
- ~ Exchange experiences and opinions to link micro and macro perspectives and motivate to continue the local political struggles towards fair and equitable practices in tourism while maintaining a perspective of global solidarity
- ~ Seize the opportunity to promote a network of researchers, social movements and NGOs interested in an ongoing exchange and cooperation in the field of reviewing tourism policies
- ~ Encourage capacity building in different regions of the world on the issue of tourism and its impact on people's economy
- ~ Overcome the confinement of a corporate-dominated space into a space that "belongs to all of us", where NGOs set the agenda instead of the travel industry

The tourism industry takes advantage of the weak position of many people in the travel destinations of the South, although hardly any other term in development jargon have enjoyed such a boom as participation. "Participation" is used particularly in international agreements on tourism. The programme for the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE), designed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Tourism Organisation (WTO-OMT), is full of "participation phrases". In the "International guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development and biological diversity" in the frame of the Convention on Biological Diversity "involvement" and "participation" are equally emphasised. Yet declarations of intentions fail. If there is no funding for the participation of interested representatives from southern NGOs and no appropriate time frame for preparation, consultation and a participatory formation of opinion at local level and within local communities, the actual effect will be exclusion rather than participation.

On the other hand, indigenous communities and NGOs have been actively campaigning for a people-centred approach in tourism development. They have taken the initiative in analysing the implications of new economic frameworks such as the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and in exploring theoretically and empirically the potential of fair trade in tourism. Others have created new small-scale tourism products within democratic structures. Community-based experiences increasingly come into focus as well as the role of development cooperation in tourism projects.

### **Tourism interventions:**

#### **Fortaleza - Hanover - Mumbai**

Two events in 2003, the first Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Fortaleza and the DANTE International Seminar "Tourism: Unfair Practices - Equitable Options" in Hanover helped to shape the strategy and thematic focus of the WSF tourism interventions.

This brochure documents the leading questions and debates of this process. At the same time it gives an overview of the current discussion on tourism and presents the major concerns as well as the outcomes and demands that came up. We put an emphasis on the process. First, because many issues would not be expressed as clearly by presenting only the final statements. Second, because

the discussions during the preparatory workshops and at WSF reflect various aspects and a wide range of views according to local experiences. Our aim is to inform groups and individuals in order to facilitate the task of taking tourism into account within their work with marginalized communities or political decision makers. Consequently, this documentation will be useful for those who want to join the debate on tourism.

The first chapter of this document presents the major results of the First Conference on Sustainable Tourism held in Fortaleza, Brazil from May 12 to 15, 2003 which was centred around strategies for the construction of a model for sustainable tourism development and put a strong emphasis on the topic of Community Based Tourism (CBT).

The second chapter presents the discussions at the Seminar "Tourism: Unfair Practices - Equitable Options" from December 7 to 10, 2003 in Hanover, Germany. The seminar was organised to structure the debate and to prepare the tourism interventions at WSF. The major topics were "Labour rights and working conditions", "privatisation / liberalisation in tourism" and "community-based tourism". The issue of "poverty reduction through tourism" was debated at a panel discussion "**Tourism: From all inclusive to inclusive for all?**" together with representatives of the travel industry (TUI), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The third chapter documents the Tourism Interventions at WSF in Mumbai from January 16 to 21, 2004. Under the umbrella of the question "Who really benefits from tourism?" three workshops and one panel discussion were organised. The topics of the workshops were "Sustainable tourism", "Community involvement in decision-making in tourism", "Vulnerable and marginalized groups in tourism". The panel "An intercontinental dialogue on tourism" brought together testimonies of people's struggles in tourism and responses from representatives of Indian mass organisations.

The outcome of the two days "Activists Strategy Meeting" from January 22 to 23, 2004 in Mumbai is documented in the conclusive chapter. It presents the next steps of action the newly created "Global Interventions Group on Tourism" agreed to take. It serves as conclusion of the 2003/2004 "**Tourism at WSF**" - process and as an outlook toward the next WSF in Porto Alegre in 2005.



## OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Promote the exchange of tourism experiences between national and international organisations within a perspective of social inclusion.
2. Define strategies for development and solidarity to strengthen sustainable tourism experiences.
3. Build cooperation strategies between national and international organisations.
4. Put the debate on Socially Responsible Tourism on the agenda of the society.

## TARGET PUBLIC

Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations, community leaders, managers of municipal and state tourist offices, tourism trade representatives, professors, researchers and students of environment, social and tourism sciences.

# ***SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TOURISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION***

*FORTALEZA, BRAZIL, 12 - 15 MAY 2003*

Tourism has long provided economic benefits - jobs and income - for national and local economies. Especially in developing countries tourism has the potential to generate employment and income and to improve the quality of life of local people in the destination areas; but in reality just the opposite happens: social and spatial segregation, loss of land tenure, concentration of wealth and income and other undesirable social, cultural and environmental impacts. This is the case of some places on the coast of Ceará and many other places around the world. But, fortunately there are exceptions; places with community-based tourism projects. Community tourism seeks to ensure that impacts are positive ones and provide economic benefit to local communities, values local culture and diversity and protects the environment. Tourism can thus provide a lasting benefit to local communities. Ultimately, responsible tourism is about the mutual benefit for local people and visitors. Community-based tourism contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, sustains the well-being of local people, provides a learning experience to the visitor and stresses local participation, empowerment, ownership and business opportunities for the population.

The Instituto Terramar, a non-governmental organisation created in 1993 and located in Fortaleza, has been working with several communities along the coast of the Ceará State in the planning and execution of socially responsible tourism projects, through capacity-building, strengthening of community organisations, empowerment and assistance in developing strategies for project development. The WWF Brazil (World Wildlife Fund) has been working with communities in other Brazilian regions, such as Fernando de Noronha and the Amazon region, in the implementation of community-based tourism, and the number of institutions working with social and cultural tourism that is in harmony with nature and local culture is growing. A Community-Based Tourism Network has been created, and the WWF, Brazil Nature and the Instituto Terramar, together with other NGOs, the Brazilian Council on Sustainable

Tourism (CBTS), the Ceará State University (UECE/NETUR) and the Federal Center for Technological Education (CEFET/UNITUR) foster the discussion about a socially responsible tourism model. Several European NGOs support community-based tourism as a tool for poverty reduction.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), even without achieving satisfactory global results, has defined priorities for fishery, has created programmes for tourism as a tool for poverty reduction and has revalued the partnership between civil society, the enterprise sector and the Government in order to find solutions for the problems related to sustainable development. Experiences based on the principles of solidarity, community action, participation and endogenous impact realised in different parts of the world may work as lighthouses to indicate ways that contribute to the implementation of a socially responsible tourism. To bring together social actors involved and persons interested in this issue has become a must, bearing in mind that in the whole world tourist practices are today considered like activities of huge expression.

In this search, the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Tourism and two workshops were realised: One workshop about rural tourism and one about community-based tourism as a mechanism of social inclusion. Organisations and scholars working on tourism from Europe, Latin America, Brazil and Ceará came together and discussed "Socially Responsible Tourism for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction". Cooperation strategies between NGOs, state secretaries, the private sector and communities were meant to develop a more balanced and participative tourism model. The programme therefore consisted of three events, two of them preparatory, which were meant to illustrate the potential of tourism as a factor for economic development and as a tool to fight against rural poverty and to reduce social inequalities.

## ***FINAL DECLARATION: A LANDMARK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM WORLDWIDE***

**Around 500 people from 15 states in Brazil and 10 foreign countries got together in the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Tourism, from 12 to 15 May 2003, in the city of Fortaleza, Ceará (Northeast of Brazil) to discuss strategies for the construction of a model for sustainable tourism development.**

Ideas for alternative models of tourism development during the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Tourism contrasted with the existing models of governments, the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) and national and foreign investors, which lead to the social exclusion of the majority of the population and especially communities in areas demarked for tourism development. Constructive interventions by NGOs, universities, environmentalists, representatives of communities and the experiences of community-based tourism carried out by ILO (United Nations International Labor Organisation) in Latin America were in the center of the discussions during the Conference.

### **Communities from all over Brazil join in preparatory workshops**

Representatives from 15 communities from six different states of Brazil came from two preparatory workshops about rural and community-based tourism, where they had discussed alternative methods that can lead to the development of a tourism that fosters people's participation, solidarity and fair trade, integrating eco-tourism and cultural values of the communities and empowering people to plan, execute, manage and monitor tourism projects providing income, jobs and benefits for their communities. Together they developed strategies to consolidate existing community-based tourism experiences and assist other communities in implementing their own projects in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation on regional, national and international level.

During the four-day event several cooperation agreements between national and international

organisations were concluded with the aim to promote socially responsible tourism. On a national level, the regional networks of tourism destinations that had been separately developed by Instituto Terramar and the WWF Brazil in the Amazon region were integrated into a national network for community-based tourism destinations. Thus, the communities of Prainha do Canto Verde, Ponta Grossa on the coast of Ceará, the project of Casa Grande do Homem do Cariri in Nova Olinda, Ceará and three communities in the Amazon Region - Mamirauá, Valé do Guaporé and Aldéia dos Lagos (Silves) will join forces for a network built on mutual cooperation and solidarity. The cooperation also extends to the two NGOs.

### **Recife will host next sustainable tourism discussion**

Several NGOs from the Northeast of Brazil working on gender relations and monitoring of multilateral bank projects have agreed to join forces and realise a seminar to take place in Recife in November of 2003 to continue the discussion about sustainable tourism with a special focus on monitoring of PRODETUR (Government Program for the Development of Tourism). Several of the international organisations present at the conference expressed their interest in participating in the event. Representatives of Federal Government agencies responsible for eco-tourism development expressed an interest to join and support the initiatives that are developing from the conference. A first meeting between representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Instituto Terramar and WWF Brazil is scheduled to take place in Brasilia in June 2003.

### **UN interest to promote community-based tourism initiatives**

The conference also was fertile ground for discussions on an international level with UN organisations and NGOs from Europe and Asia: The UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade

and Development) representative presented the joint program of UNCTAD and WTO (World Tourism Organisation) called STEP (Sustainable Tourism / Elimination of Poverty). There are plans to present some of the community-based initiatives on the occasion of the 11th UNCTAD Conference that will take place in São Paulo, Brazil, in June 2004. Discussions about future cooperation between UNCTAD, Brazilian NGOs and the ILO are scheduled. The ILO representative showed the experience in Spanish speaking Latin American countries under an ILO program to develop small entrepreneurship in community-based tourism. Redturs, an association of community-based tourism destinations in seven countries is a result of this initiative. The six consolidated communities from Brazil will be integrated into Redturs in the upcoming months. There are plans to extend the ILO program for community-based tourism to Brazil, possibly within a program that is being prepared to promote job opportunities for young people. ILO and Brazilian NGO representatives have also started to discuss future cooperation to work with community-based tourism projects. The cooperation will also include universities, tourism schools and municipal as well as state governments interested in supporting and developing community-based tourism initiatives.

#### **North-South alliance interventions at WSF 2004**

NGOs from Switzerland, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, England and India had an expressive participation in the conference and showed great interest in tourism development in Brazil and other Latin American countries. Many bilateral cooperation agreements ensued from these contacts. North-South cooperation will also be intensified through a programme called Turismovision, which foresees the cooperation between NGOs in Germany, Italy and Spain on one hand and communities and NGOs in Brazil and Spanish speaking countries of Latin America on the other. The four-year programme is not fully funded yet. An international alliance has been sealed between European

NGOs, Instituto Terramar and Equations from India with the aim of bringing the issue "Community-Based Tourism" to the center of discussions at the World Social Forum (WSF). After three years in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the WSF is moving to India and will take place in Mumbai in January 2004. The World Social Forum is the people's movement to contrast with the World Economic Forum (WEF), dominated by multinational corporations, which takes place, also in January, in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

Organisers of the International Forum for Solidarity in Tourism and Sustainable Development to take place in France in September of 2004 came to Fortaleza to join in the conference and to visit the project in Prainha do Canto Verde. As a result, three communities from Brazil will join more than 250 delegates from 40 countries of five continents to participate in workshops in the French Alps and the Forum in Marseille on the Côte d'Azur.

#### **Community integration and change of paradigms as outstanding results**

The organisers of the event - Instituto Terramar, the State University of Ceará and the Federal Center for Technologic Education - and the sponsors - Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism (SST) and the Association Amigos da Prainha do Canto Verde - are satisfied to realise that the conference is a landmark in the discussion of community-based tourism and a starting point for a movement towards the development of sustainable tourism for all stakeholders in Ceará and all over Brazil. The event also marks the beginning of the integration of community-based tourism destinations in Latin America. In addition to the different agreements for cooperation, the organisers consider that the diversity of the public, the participation of more than 60 community representatives, a great number of tourism professionals and academics, along with government officials on all three levels, laid the foundation for a change of paradigms in the development of tourism in the country.

**FIGHT FOR LAND TENURE IN CEARÁ, NORTHEAST OF BRAZIL**

In the Ceará State real estate prices have soared due to demand for weekend homes for city residents, followed by the demand for resort and hotel space (helped along by multi-million dollar spending of public funds and loans from multilateral banks for infrastructure, such as roads, airports and electric grids) and, more recently, by the shrimp farming and wind parks for energy generation along the coast. Thus, real estate speculation has intensified significantly, threatening thousands of families, leading to the depletion of natural resources and the loss of living space. Movements of resistance and fight for land tenure are now occurring in several communities. Land tenure by the community is a fundamental condition for building community-based tourism initiatives. At the same time, these communities need to strengthen their organisation, their planning and management capacity and the ability to work together and share experiences.

**PRAINHA DO CANTO VERDE**

Prainha do Canto Verde is a community of 1.100 people, developing its principal activity that is fishing. At the same time the community writes some pages of history thanks to the spirit of adventure of its population, while suffering the aggression of real estate speculators who sense a million dollar business on the land where the humble fisher-families live. The community, with the support of NGOs and a human rights defense group, not only resists the speculators, but looks for the way of sustainability. In this sense, tourism means not only complementary income to fishing, but also a way to show that communities with strong village organisations and support from well-meaning volunteers can develop tourism, challenging the government view that "tourism is for business". Income from tourism stays and circulates in the community generating economic activities.

Esther Neuhaus, Instituto Terramar / Brazil

**Ten Important Factors for the Construction of a Sustainable Tourism Model**

1. Decentralisation of tourism planning on the local and municipal level.
2. Land tenure regulation, in order to guarantee the tenure of the land to the traditional populations; planning of land use; zoning and implementation of Conservation Units within the framework of the National System of Conservation Units (SNUC).
3. Need for basic infrastructure, government and donor organisations support.
4. Clusters for: a. Strengthening of local economic activities b. Access to capital for local investments c. Technical and management training d. Business consulting services.
5. Exchange of experiences of community-based tourism.
6. Marketing concept and internet network.
7. Elaboration of a Code of Ethics in Tourism.
8. Programme for ecosystem and local culture conservation.
9. Environmental education programmes for communities and tourists.
10. Identification of more communities with potential for community-based tourism to strengthen the network.

# ***TOURISM: UNFAIR PRACTICES - EQUITABLE OPTIONS***

*HANOVER, GERMANY, 7 - 9 DECEMBER 2003*

At DANTE International Seminar held in Hanover from 7-9 December 2003, 43 representatives of NGOs and social movements, unions, community and grass-root initiatives from 21 countries came together to exchange their experiences and perspectives on social issues in tourism and to discuss strategies for the presentation of tourism at World Social Forum (WSF). Despite coming from very different backgrounds, the seminar participants shared the conviction that social issues have to be brought to the forefront of the international debate on tourism and development. The objectives of the seminar were to bring the different perspectives together, in order to bridge the gap between micro- and macro-perspectives and to link global and local insights from different regions of the world. A further objective was to discuss how the issues could be addressed at WSF in order to motivate other like-minded groups to join the tourism debate.

Setting tourism on the WSF-agenda reflects the evolution of the international tourism discourse: During the last years the debate on alternatives in tourism was dominated by ecological considerations, whereas social effects of tourism development on local communities and national economies were largely underrepresented. Especially during the International Year of Ecotourism the debate focussed on the linkages between ecological impacts, nature conservation strategies and (eco-)tourism development. As a result the promotion of nature-based tourism and corresponding tourism development plans lack due attention to social settings and conflicts.

In 2002, at the occasion of the World Summit in Johannesburg, the DANTE Rio+10 Working Group initiated a cross-sector dialogue on tourism and presented a strategy paper with ten principles and challenges for a sustainable tourism development in the 21st Century. This was the first step to bring social aspects of tourism development back to the agenda. When the World Summit and

the UN International Year of Ecotourism were over DANTE felt the need to exchange views and opinions with initiatives, social movements and NGOs about local tourism development in order to re-assess the impact of tourism, especially from a social point of view. Thus DANTE decided to provide a forum to capitalise on experiences and to identify the most important issues as well as political strategies in view of the upcoming WSF. The belief that the travels of the rich help poor countries and regions to prosperity still dominates socio-economic analysis - a belief as old as tourism itself. In the hope of quick foreign currency earnings and employment creation, many governments opt for tourism as their development strategy. Foreign investors are attracted to the country through generous incentives. In many indebted countries, the promotion of tourism is a part of the structural adjustment programmes prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Liberalisation of tourism is further fixed through the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). In order to be able to keep the pace of global competition, host countries are forced to invest more and more in order to increase their attractiveness.

These processes of global scope are showing results at the local level. Consequently the analysis drives the attention towards people who are affected by tourism development. People are displaced by tourism, work in tourism and organise themselves against tourism or for more equitable options in tourism. In order to cover some of the most significant social impacts of tourism the International Seminar focussed on the following three topics:

## **1. Working conditions in tourism and workers' rights**

Tourism is known for bad labour conditions. The average wages in this personnel-intensive industry are 20 percent lower than in other sectors. In many places, people work under precarious conditions in tourism: long and irregular working hours, lack of



### **OBJECTIVES OF THE DANTE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**

- ~ learn from new insights and share experiences and opinions
- ~ extend the network of organisations and initiatives who resist unfair tourism practices and who are engaged in equitable and sustainable tourism options
- ~ take stock of critical issues in tourism development, especially the impacts of GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) and of debt policy
- ~ look critically at new practices in tourism, such as "poverty alleviation strategies" (ST-EP) or pro-poor tourism approaches and review voluntary initiatives (TOI - Tour Operator Initiative) and labelling initiatives (such as proposed by Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council)
- ~ discuss community-based tourism approaches and human rights issues
- ~ formulate strategies of action and discuss the presentation of tourism issues at WSF 2004 in Mumbai/Bombay

job security due to seasonality, few opportunities for qualification and promotion. The fall in the cost of travelling in the past years has affected the work conditions of many employees in tourism. Especially in times of crisis labour conditions deteriorate dramatically. Nevertheless development organisations emphasise that cheap labour is a valuable advantage when recommending the promotion of tourism to poor countries and regions. This shows that the poverty of host regions is an asset for tourism.

## 2. Privatisation and liberalisation in tourism development

Many countries promote tourism as an export sector and a source of foreign exchange earnings. Liberalisations were initiated or expanded in 1994 under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) within the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO-OMC). Most countries in the world committed themselves to deregulate their tourism markets. Under the pressure of debts or from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to implement structural adjustment programmes, especially southern countries have taken on liberalisations in the tourism sector. Privatisation of infrastructure (such as water and energy supply) and privatisation of public goods

such as biodiversity or land implies severe losses of access to and control over resources for local communities as well as national economies.

## 3. Challenges and perspectives for community-based tourism

Community-based tourism is the field where the social conscience in the tourism debate is tried to put into practice. Recent experiences with a more participatory development of tourism come together with strategies of how to make these practices visible in the market in order to attract the "right" tourists. To attain this objective the questions of certification and "fair trade" in tourism are debated. The ability of tourism to alleviate poverty, the demonstration of good or bad practices and awareness-raising in destinations as well as in tourist sending countries are themes that shape the different perspectives on the subject. Assuring access to and control over resources, equal involvement into decision-making and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms, dealing with social hierarchies and exclusion processes in concerned communities and influencing national/international policy frameworks are some of the ambitious tasks of community-based development.

Martina Backes and Steffen Schuelein  
FernWeh / Germany



## WORKING CONDITIONS - SOME STATEMENTS

**Wolf Michael Iwand (panel guest):** I am a believer in tourism. Tourism creates jobs.

**Patrick Dalban Moreynas:** 55 % of workers in the hotel and restaurant sector have no weekly rest compared to 27 % in other sectors and only 5 % are organised. There are jobs, but very precarious jobs and very bad jobs.



**Patricia Barnett:** In both, the European Union and developing countries, people are pressurised into working extra hours without pay.

**Christine Beddoe:** In all the case studies of good practices recently published by the Tour Operator Initiative there is not one page that is relating to labour rights and conditions.

**Christine Plüss:** Women in the formal tourism sector earn up to 35 % less than their male colleagues in similar positions.

**Jaqueline Leite:** Women are being exploited for tourism advertising.

**Wolf Michael Iwand:** It's better to have a bad job than no job.

**Patrick Dalban Moreynas:** We are strongly against saying that bad jobs are better than no jobs. Otherwise it is a race to the bottom. There is an alternative to no jobs or bad jobs - and that is good jobs.



**Christine Beddoe:** Our research results on labour conditions in a number of developing and industrialised countries were quite different from what we initially assumed. The worst, complicated and most exploitative working conditions were found in the European Union context and not in the South.

**Adama Bah:** When we talk about labour conditions in developing countries it's becoming more and more evident that the informal sector is growing very fast. To consider this huge sector you should not only look at employers but you should integrate trade between tourists and the person who is providing services of producing crafts.

**Ashraf El Sayad:** Especially in times of crisis in tourism, working conditions tend to deteriorate dramatically.

**Patricia Barnett:** In crisis it becomes very obvious how dependent people are on tips and service charges because their wages are extremely low.

## CONCEPT - WORKING GROUP I

# LABOUR RIGHTS IN TOURISM

### RESPECT OF WORKERS' RIGHTS - EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN - PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Tourism is considered one of the world's leading employers with an estimated 200 million people worldwide working in this industry, equivalent to eight percent of global employment. Governments and international agencies are invariably promoting tourism for its job creation potential.

Reports provided to NGOs and trade unions over a number of years have indicated that tourism workers are facing difficult, often exploitative, conditions due to low wages, over-dependency on tips, long working hours, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, stress, lack of secure contracts, poor training and almost no promotion opportunity - especially for women and young people. Trade unions are also concerned by commercial practices that discourage collective bargaining agreements and ban trade union membership. This has become even more relevant when in times of crisis tour operators, hotels, and airlines are implementing harsh cost-cutting measures, laying off permanent staff and reducing opportunities for full time paid positions.

Labour experts, including ILO and trade unions, are calling for increased action for corporate social accountability across the whole supply chain in tourism, from point of sale to those that supply the hotels. It is not only the formal sector that needs support - the informal sector is so integral to tourism yet has hardly ever been accounted for in actions to protect workers' rights.

Examples of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) in tourism can be seen in the many new initiatives arising from the work being done by European tour operators together with NGO partners on environmental management, customer education, combating child abuse and donating to community development projects. However, there is almost no integration of workers' rights and conditions

into the CSR-framework being talked about by the European travel and tourism industry. This is probably because the wages and conditions of tourism and hotel workers in Europe are so bad that sometimes their counterparts in developing countries are looking good by comparison.

Tour Operators seem reluctant to address the issues of workers' rights and conditions, yet there is a wealth of evidence to show that they have a responsibility to ensure that their suppliers are operating in accordance with international labour standards.

CSR-policies are usually adopted in the form of voluntary initiatives, which raises the question of monitoring. How to make sure that at least legal norms are respected and working conditions gradually improved by CSR-policies?

Working Group I of the DANTE-Seminar "Tourism: Unfair Practices - Equitable Options" will address the following questions during discussion:

- ~ **How to ensure the rights of people working in tourism?**
- What rights? Are there particular rights that require specific focus?**
- ~ **Who are the stakeholders?**
- ~ **What strategies are required?**

Christine Beddoe, Tourism Concern / UK,  
Christine Pluess, akte / Switzerland,  
2003

## REPORT - WORKING GROUP I

# LABOUR RIGHTS IN TOURISM

The introductory round in Working Group I already resulted in a collection of relevant issues to be addressed by NGOs with regard to labour rights in tourism. In the course of the discussion, we added additional points to the list and elaborated the demands to different groups of stakeholders as well as our strategic approaches.

Christine Beddoe had presented her inputs in the plenary. In the working group, the following resource persons gave short presentations of about five minutes each, highlighting various issues and experiences; interesting discussions followed:

### Session I:

- ~ Ashraf El Sayed, Chef on Nile Cruisers and lawyer, on working conditions in tourism in Egypt
- ~ Patrick Dalban Moreynas, IUF / Geneva, on the work of trade unions and their demands
- ~ Renzo Garrone and Marta di Cesari, RAM / Italy, on the results of their research in Mexico
- ~ Adama Bah, Tourism Concern Gambia / ASSET, on a project aimed at integrating workers from the informal sector in the formal economy
- ~ Jaqueline Leite, Chame / Brazil, on the position and role of women in tourism and her work in the fields of advocacy and empowerment of women

### Session II:

- ~ Camelia Tepelus, The Code-ECPAT, on the experiences with the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism"
- ~ with additional inputs by Mechtild Maurer, ECPAT Germany, and Christine Beddoe, Tourism Concern, on the ASEAN Travellers' Code

### Main insights

This was probably the first time that NGOs had such focussed and intensive discussion on labour

rights in tourism. The discussion was extraordinarily productive. Given the broad range of issues, from jobs and working conditions in tourism to the commercial sexual exploitation of children, we can only summarise some of the main points. What is certain however, is that NGOs must continue to address labour rights in tourism and must deepen their work in this field as a basis for broad, effective campaigns.

Working conditions in tourism must be analysed in a sophisticated manner. Depending on the employer, the country and culture and on the image of jobs in this service sector, the situation of workers in tourism may differ considerably.

### The main problems with regard to labour rights in tourism were noted as follows:

- ~ low wages, service charges and lack of transparency in handling services charges, tips
- ~ casual, precarious employment (instability, seasonality, no contracts etc.)
- ~ "stress", commuting, migration
- ~ lack of health insurance, pensions
- ~ unionising
- ~ formal / informal sector
- ~ women and young people / children

Especially in times of crisis in tourism, working conditions tend to deteriorate dramatically. (A. El Sayad, R. Garrone, Ch. Beddoe) While the workers affected are seeking support - international pressure on companies (A. El Sayad) - NGOs in the countries tourists come from often lack reliable information - lack of evidence - in order to conduct campaigns against large companies. There is a need for more research and better organising at the local level (workers, informal sector) and among NGOs on the regional and international levels.

This is a case for trade unions! In tourism, however, most employees are not organised in

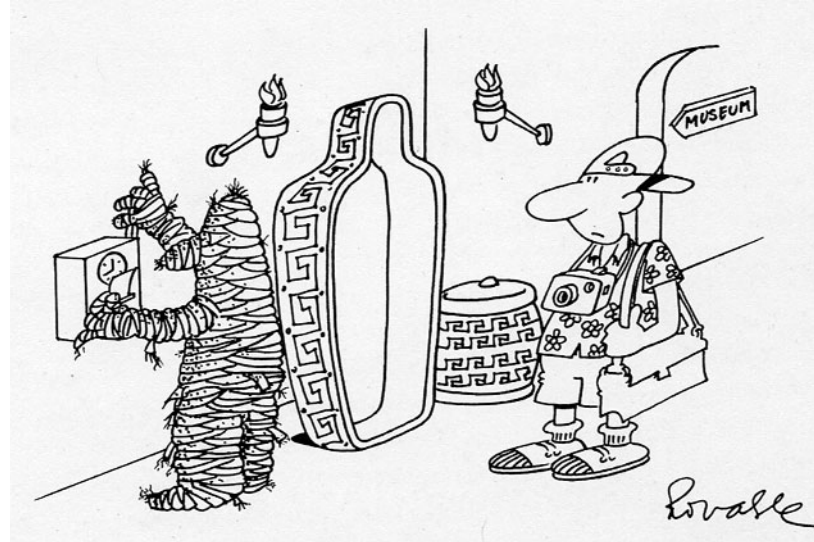
trade unions and their unionisation is often being prevented by tourism companies. Furthermore, different trade unions are in charge of hotel workers, the employees of tour operators and carriers. Since the tourism sector had in many cases been in the hands of the state, many trade unions work rather close to the government. Others represent business interests rather than workers' interests. In addition, trade unionisation is often dangerous. Nevertheless, freedom of association is the central demand laid down as a core labour standard, so that genuine trade unions can improve their work. Labour disputes can be successful only if they emerge from within, if they are owned by those affected.

IUF, the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations - which was for the first time involved in a strategic planning workshop of NGOs - is very much interested in a closer cooperation with NGOs with regard to campaigns. IUF will continue to blacklist hotels in which labour conflicts have occurred (strikes, dismissals), will expand on this and will make information available to NGOs. (P. Dalban)

The blacklisting of companies as well as other forms of campaigning may endanger those affected! Every campaign must consider how to empower workers to claim their rights. (Ch. Beddoe) Most of the jobs in tourism are jobs in small companies or family businesses (80 per cent according to WTC estimates). Could international campaigns at best point a way to the future, if at all? (Ch. Plüss)

Many of the people working in tourism are self-employed, they are not working in the formal sector. Hawkers, informal fruit sellers, tourist guides, taxi drivers etc. must get a fair chance. According to Adama Bah's experiences, this fair chance encompasses the following:

- ~ awareness-raising among consumers about what is a fair price,
- ~ encouraging local tour operators and hotel managers to work with people of the informal sector and to provide training for them,
- ~ organising the informal sector.



cartoonist: Ronaldo Cunha Dias

Women in the formal tourism sector earn up to 35 per cent less than their male colleagues in similar positions. Women are being exploited for tourism advertising. When women have to do with tourists, they are often not aware that they are actually working in tourism: as tourist guides, by ensuring the tourists' safety and by satisfying their sexual fantasies - all of which remain unpaid. Their husbands give up traditional occupations in order to work in tourism. When the family income is not sufficient, children are also being made to work in tourism. J. Leite therefore recommends:

- ~ Awareness-raising in schools (in destinations)
- ~ Encouraging tourism leaders and entrepreneurs to assume more responsibility

The NGO experiences with regard to the agreements with the tourism industry regarding the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism" are mixed. Convincing tourism leaders to take action is very tedious work. British Airways has given an award to "The Code", but has not adopted it. Governments must be involved (C. Tepelus, Ch. Beddoe), multi-stakeholder fora should be promoted instead of bilateral partnerships between NGOs and the private sector or public-private partnerships. Further discussions on labour rights in tourism and strategies how to ensure these rights will take place during the ECOT strategy workshop to be held in Mumbai after WSF.

Facilitator: Silvia Stuppäck, respect / Austria

Text: Christine Pluess, akte / Switzerland

## PRIVATISATION: SOME STATEMENTS

**René Schärer:** If the community in the village had not resisted a land speculation attack then this land would have gone to a real estate company that planned to build recreation homes. The the village people would have lost the access to the beaches and therefore their principal activity which is fishing.

**Anita Pleumarom:** A new and quite unexpected phenomenon with regard to the privatisation of the health system is the recent boom of medical tourism in many countries that can offer relatively cheap health services. Whereas private hospitals are being re-vamped into five-star complexes that cater for rich tourist patients, public health care is rapidly deteriorating in most parts of the world.

**Rodrigo Ruiz:** The cultural heritage concept that attracts tourists goes along with privatisation, although the heritage itself remains on public land. But the area around the heritage first attracts private investors. In consequence the infrastructure like transport, water, energy, land or even health services are privatised.

**David Ugarte:** In Peru the Ministry of Tourism has no leading role nor authority, due to the derogation of rules for the main tourism activities such as lodging, travel agencies, restaurants and others, to the extreme of ignoring even the number of companies involved in tourist services.

**Tan Chi Kiong:** Privatisation means demarcation and division between rich and poor, powerful and powerless, haves and have-nots.

**Marianne Hochuli:** In the tourism sector the industrialized countries are really pushing southern countries to open up their markets.

**K.T. Suresh:** GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) means locking in our own space to create domestic policies: for India to change domestic policy regulations we need to give a three month notice and have to get a no-objection-certificate from the 169 WTO member countries.

**P. Krishnamoorthy:** Tourism's impacts on communities and plundering of common property resources are the two prominent concerns of tourism groups.

**Anita Pleumarom:** Governments are now openly collaborating in the corporate takeover of the public domain...[But] Common sense tells us that the world's last nature reserves, important cultural and religious sites and indigenous peoples' ancestral domains should be kept free from commercial tourism forces and properly maintained for public good, now and in future.

**K.T. Suresh:** Privatisation has become a holy word to governments. The public sector is put equal with inefficiency, the private one with efficiency. If the new road is an efficient road on which I can never travel, who says that efficiency is good? Who defines efficiency?

**NO A LA PRIVATIZACION  
DE KUELAP**



**Por respeto a nuestra  
tierra y a nuestro  
patrimonio**

cartoonist: Jorge Miyagui

## **CONCEPT - WORKING GROUP II**

# **LIBERALISATION - PRIVATISATION**

### **EFFECTS AND STRATEGIES**

During the 1990s, structural adjustment programmes were imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which were - in terms of their social impact - considered by experts "as the most severe economic measures ever applied in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe". These programmes were accompanied by a process of privatisation of state-owned enterprises as well as other national resources. They had devastating social impacts on the population.

In the second half of the 1990s, the number of tourist arrivals in many countries increased considerably. Tourism was made a priority on the agenda of many countries. This encouraged national and transnational companies to set up tourism businesses. At the same time, governments promoted private investment in tourism projects.

There is no doubt that in some countries tourism offers additional economic opportunities. But in other countries, including many small island developing states, tourism accounts for more than half of the gross domestic product (GDP). These countries are totally dependent on foreign markets and are subject to the respective market fluctuations.

They often have few development alternatives. Especially poor countries face obstacles in creating the preconditions necessary to make international tourism take off: airports, roads, hotels of different categories, water and energy supplies, waste disposal and sewage systems. Investment incentives such as tax holidays and the repatriation of profits are introduced in order to attract foreign investors. This entails the risk that the tourism industry is being controlled by foreigners, and that the urgently needed foreign exchange largely leaks back to where it had originally come from.

The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which is meant to promote trade liberalisation in tourism, poses additional threats.

The principle of "national treatment", granting foreign companies the same treatment as domestic ones, implies that many countries and regions lose the ability to control and develop tourism in line with their own priorities. National and state laws and regulations are being undermined. Multinationals make enormous profits by successfully selling something that actually does not belong to them. Apart from transportation, food and accommodation, tourists buy "nice holidays" including sunshine, beaches, the sea, exotic nature and culture, adventures - and guaranteed well-being. The local population often benefits very little.

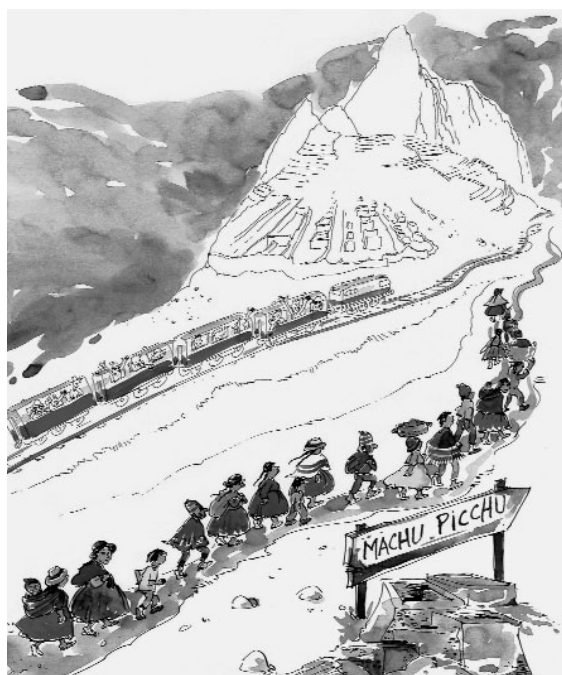
Both the UNDP's recent "Human Development Report" and the "Social Watch Report" note that if development goals are not achieved it is also because of the trend towards privatisation. Privatisation has contributed to increasing prices and deteriorating service quality, especially in the fields of water, energy and health. The conclusion: For the rich, the quality of services improves, the poor do not get adequate access.

After brief introductory presentations in the plenary on the subject of privatisation and the loss of cultural heritage, Working Group II discussed the following questions:

- ~ **What may be the social conflicts caused by privatisation, who will be affected and in which way?**
- ~ **Who will win, who will lose?**
- ~ **Can we define criteria for "good" and for "bad" privatisation?**

## EFFECTS OF PRIVATISATION

- ~ Privatisation takes place without participation of the local population
- ~ Aggravation of existing local conflicts: social hierarchies amplify
- ~ Expropriation of land and resources (water, etc.) and access for tourists only
- ~ Industry/investors and national governments act against local communities
- ~ Political space to act gets lost
- ~ Elected politicians are entrepreneurs in big business and services
- ~ National governments offer loans and make tax concessions to investors and protect the private sector
- ~ Distortion of reality by politicians, e.g. privatisation is being shown as synonymous to efficiency
- ~ Politicians see tourism as standard model for development and instrument for politics in globalisation
- ~ One model concept in tourism for all. Loss of diversity in concepts



cartoonist: Marlene Pohle

### VISIONS ABOUT MACHUPICCHU

There are two well pronounced positions, on the one hand of those who defend its preservation and protection as a world property, as CULTURAL HERITAGE which consolidates our cultural identity and who advocate for a sustainable development of tourism. On the other hand there is the trend towards privatisation of ENCLAVE type professed by those who only look for easy profit from overexploited cultural resource, without taking care of its preservation and the right of future generations to enjoy this cultural and historical heritage.

The offer of Peruvian tourism in the form of ecotourism, adventure, mysticism and other forms in tourist destinations as the National Parks of Manu and Bahuaja Sonene, among

others, falls into the hands of private enterprise which looks for major profits far from considering any sustainable policy of tourism development.

The most obvious example is the operation of the transnational company ORIENT EXPRESS that monopolises the tourism activity. In the first place, there is a hotel in the city of Lima where tourists have to spend at least two nights, then an airline which carries them from Lima to Cusco, the hotel Monasterio in Cusco, the railway PERU RAIL that carries the tourists to Machupicchu Pueblo or to Aguas Calientes, and a hotel in the fortress itself. The whole tourist circuit is in the hands of only one company, ORIENT EXPRESS. To this we add the cost of these services, with benefits only for this monopolistic company, with the guarantee of the Peruvian Government and the national, regional and local authorities. So, beside this monopolistic

## LEGALIZED ROBBERY

The corporate tourism system, in the pursuit of maximum profits, wants to own and commodify everything for tourist consumption, and it is known for using any and all means to achieve its goals. So we should not be confused about the industry jumping on the bandwagon of “corporate social responsibility” and the World Tourism Organisation’s (WTO/OMT) rhetoric of “poverty alleviation” and “social harmony” as part of its new initiative with the well-sounding name “Tourism Liberalisation with a Human Face”. It is by no means a novelty that damaging, predatory and even criminal practices have been painted over by excessive spin from corporate powers involved in tourism. The “ecotourism” and “greenwash” stunts have been clear examples of that.

In fact, privatisation of land and natural resources for tourism is also nothing new, as developers all over the world have a long history of “privatising” public assets by simply stealing them! Over recent decades, we have experienced again and again the illegal takeover of public beaches, forests and mountain areas for the construction of hotels, resorts, golf courses and other commercial tourism facilities. The illegal “privatisation” of water from public reservoirs to fill hotel swimming-pools and bathtubs and to water the greens of golf courses has also been going on for many years.

What is new, however, is that the robbery of people’s land and resources is increasingly organised under corporate regimes and legalised through privatisation and liberalisation agreements between government and industry. Among other things, that means authorities in charge have less problems to ward off criticism for turning a blind eye to the exploitative and illicit activities of tourism-related businesses. Indeed, governments are now openly collaborating in the corporate takeover of the public domain.

Anita Pleumarom, t.i.m.-team / Thailand

company there are other companies of national and local capital which operate without any rules in Machupicchu Pueblo provoking a chaotic growth of hotels, restaurants and other collateral activities. Today in Peru one can establish a private company of tourist services with all freedom and ease by just registering the company at the national tax service Superintendencia Nacional de Tributacion (SUNAT), without any knowledge and authorisation by the Ministry of Tourism (MINCETUR).

In the year 2000, there existed 30 hotels with a capacity of 430 rooms and 903 beds. In the year 2001, due to political instability in Peru, tourism decreased and only 24 hotels were in operation. However, from the beginning of 2002, we observe a growth of hotels. Starting with 29 hotels, there were soon 47 hotels.

In the same way restaurants have increased in an exaggerated manner. In the village centre there are more than 60 restaurants and only 23 of them have authorised classification. To this we have to add a messy growth of collateral activities.

There is a high pressure of migration to the village of Aguas Calientes. The ancient inhabitants of the region exist in reduced numbers, while people who have immigrated for commercial and tourist activities are now the majority. In a high percentage they are also the former dismissed workers of the state company ECAFER PERU, sold to ORIENT EXPRESS, as well as dismissed workers of the ENTUR PERU and ENTURIN hotel companies, who by the time have become permanent inhabitants of the villages of Machupicchu or Aguas Calientes.

David Ugarte, University of Cusco / Peru

## THE CASE OF KUELAP

During second half of the 1990s the rise in the arrivals of foreign tourists to Peru accelerated, transforming tourism into a priority activity within the state's agenda, which declared 1996 as "The Year of 600 Thousand Tourists". In addition to the interest expressed by the state giving incentives to tourism activity, national and foreign companies showed increased interest in investing into tourism business in Peru.

In September 2000, the Peruvian government with its aggressive policy of promoting private investment - a policy that forms part of the economic agreements with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - created the Special Committee of Promotion of the Investment in Tourism (CEPRI-TURISMO). This state entity was "charged with identifying, evaluating and promoting tourist projects that can be granted to the private sector". The committee started with the identification of the cultural and natural resources that can be delivered to the private sector for their exploitation under the mode of service concessions. Drawing upon previous studies and the rising interest of transnational investment groups, CEPRI selected "The Archaeological Complex of Kuelap" as concessionable project of primary interest and to be the main point of the "Northern Tourist Circuit", in addition to other medium term projects such as "The Archaeological Complex Huaca Rajada, Sipán" in Lambayeque.

These places are inhabited by human communities with their own history and social, economic, and cultural practices. However, the tourist

projects consider the population in a disadvantageous and subsidiary way. If the projects are executed, the local people will be seriously affected by expropriation of their territories, restriction of their traditional activities and cultural reproduction, as well as other violations of their fundamental human rights. This threat latent in the spirit of the projects was made real with the publication of the Supreme Resolution of December 2001 that ratified for the case of the Department of Amazonas the "allocation of concession of infrastructural works for the contribution of tourist services in the archaeological complex of Kuelap".

In this context the Association for the Defense and Development of Kuelap (ADDK) was formed in 2001 by the population of Kuelap and solidarity

professionals. ADDK aims at coordinating actions towards a resolution of the conflicts caused by the projects of the Northern Tourist Circuit and constructing an alternative tourism proposal that is really sustainable. For that reason ADDK initiated a detailed investigation of the implications of the projects and the organisation of the communities in Kuelap and in other parts of the

Department of Amazonas, who were affected directly and indirectly by this process of concessions. Another aim is to develop a task force for raising awareness and empowerment within the communities in view of human rights, cultural identity, ecology, archaeology and sustainable tourism.

Rodrigo Ruiz, ADDK / Peru

### Impacts of Private Tourism Concessions on the Community of Kuelap

- ~ Expropriation of land
- ~ Restriction of traditional activities
- ~ Dislocation of the population
- ~ Drastic disturbance on their culture
- ~ Loss of cultural and natural heritage and control over resources
- ~ Violation of human rights
- ~ Poverty and marginalisation

## CONCEPT - WORKING GROUP III

# COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Most Rural Development Strategies (RDS) on national level often regard community-based tourism as a developmental strategy. The basis of this tourism concept depends a lot on demands on the travellers: love for travelling, a responsible concern for a sustainable and fair tourism and the wish that not only travellers should benefit from their activities but also local people and the social and natural environment. To consider the welfare of local people does not mean a less interesting holiday. The initiatives for community-based tourism are founded on the belief that tourism can support local people, cultures, environment and economies while remaining exciting and enjoyable for travellers. The focus lays on getting into contact with people, communicating and worldwide understanding.

Community-based tourism offers do have long and sometimes diverse stories of origin and specific development. While focussing on the needs and on participation of the local people community-based tourism offers are diverse and very unique in their singular conception. After a time of experiences it came up to name common features (good ones as well as bad ones), similar criteria for 'good' practice and common challenges for the involved communities. The future might lay in a considered certification scheme - which should include experiences in the work for community-based tourism and support the sustainability of the initiatives by improving quality. Most existing certification schemes are national in scope (e.g. Costa Rican in Sustainable Tourism or Fair Trade Tourism South Africa label). However well intentioned, certification schemes may have negative impact on poor people and hinder a pro-poor tourism development. The future challenge will be the development of a tool to differentiate good practice from bad.

The workshop gives a forum to examples of community-based tourism and will take into account the history of projects, name main challenges and obstacles and will summarise successful experiences. Effective participation reasons and methods will be taken into account as well as crosscutting and structural framing issues: key persons, challenges of national politics and the role of important stakeholders.

Lessons learnt from respective projects will be named and discussed in regard to a prospective certification scheme for community-based tourism.

With respect to the participative concept of community-based tourism the working group will discuss the following questions:

- ~ **What are the main obstacles for sustainable CBTD?**
- ~ **What should the political framework to support CBTD and participation on local level look like?**
- ~ **In which ways are actual international processes and institutions (GATS, IWF) counter-productive for sustainable CBTD?**
- ~ **What strategies are required?**

Christian Baumgartner, respect / Austria, 2003

## REPORT - WORKING GROUP III

# COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The task of the group was to specifically analyse the topic of Community-Based Tourism Development (CBTD). 12 people from different countries participated in the seminar which was coordinated by Mark Schmid. The debates were organised in two sessions.

1.) In the first session it was attempted to approach community-based tourism (CBT) from a global perspective. In order to arrange the discussion, the following priority lines for approaching the topic were established:

1. International framework
2. Local and national framework
3. Participation
4. Strategies

During the discussion, the question of a possible certification for the CBTD was extensively analysed. Although the group considered it unnecessary, inadequate and inconvenient to propose this topic within the framework of the World Social Forum (WSF) 2004 in Bombay, we will include in this summary some conclusions of the debate, considering them to be of interest at any rate.

2.) On this basis, and with the aim to be precise about all possible results of the group discussion, the second session adopted a different focus. Concretely, the group identified the universe of actors that could intervene in the development of CBT and made proposals for each of them with respect to the function of the role they play in the process. The identified actors were noted as follows:

1. Multilateral institutions
2. Civil Society of the North
3. Local governments
4. Tourism sector
5. Allies
6. Communities

Finally the group touched upon the question of participation in the WSF. In this sense, all the seminar participants agreed on the necessity that CBT will be one of the topics analysed at the WSF.

### FIRST SESSION:

#### A global approach on CBT - Conclusions

For the time being, the group pointed out some criteria and essential elements for the concept of CBT which we propose, considering them to be indispensable properties for the beginning and development of all intentions in this field. In concrete terms, they were noted as follows:

- ~ The communities should be able to decide freely which model of touristic development they want, if they want any. The populations have the right to say "no!" to the development of tourism in their territory.
- ~ Tourism is an instrument to encourage development, not a result of it. Therefore, the initiatives of CBT have to contribute to the empowerment of the basic organisations and their capacity to control and decide over the administration of any resources (natural, social, cultural, etc.) existing in their localities and territories.
- ~ In the same way, the CBT has to consider not only the rentability, but also and especially the distribution of the obtained income, an aim that in principle can stretch out to different modalities of administration (social economy, micro enterprises, collaboration with companies outside the tourism sector, etc.).

#### 1. The international framework

- ~ We have to strengthen networking and the alliances for international action. The organisation of meetings and seminars, the arrangement of formal networks for the capacity of service, exchange of experiences, etc. between local CBT initiatives was valued positively.

- ~ One of the most important subjects to include in the working agenda of these networks would be the improvement of the positioning of CBT on the international tourism market. Therefore, the travellers must be able to easily obtain information about the options of "Fair Tourism" all over the world.
- ~ Apart from the extension of our capacities and the improvement of our channels and information or communication medias, we have to work on the sensitisation of the public opinion in the countries of the North, in order to make potential tourists aware of the importance of adopting certain values, behaviour, solidarity attitudes and intercultural respect during their journey.
- ~ We must as well act together to internationally denounce touristic developments that presuppose a threat for certain groups of population, ecosystems, etc.

## 2. The local and national framework

- ~ At the moment the national and international norms of many countries paralyse the legal recognition of the communities' rights over their own resources, especially the property of their land, which makes the development of CBT more difficult. At the root of this problem there is often a conflict between the traditional rights of the communities and the recognition in the legislation of the country.
- ~ In this respect, integrative policies of support are missing for the sector that consider tax systems and adequate administrations, professional training programmes, access to credits and investigation sponsorship, conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage, etc.
- ~ Nevertheless, some countries have responded to those problems (South Africa, Namibia...), therefore it would be important to analyse their experiences and to bring out the positive aspects.

## 3. Participation

- ~ The participation of grass-root organisations was considered an imperative factor in every initiative of CBT. CBT presupposes the existence of social organisation and must serve to enable and strengthen it.
- ~ Therefore it is necessary that the organisations existing in the territory have previously analysed the possibility to promote CBT and in this case, have decided which strategy to pursue. Furthermore, they must be equipped with mechanisms and procedures for the continuation, evaluation and social control of the process.
- ~ Besides popular local organisations, this participative process should convene all other potential stakeholders (local governments, NGOs, activists, tour operators...) seeking to establish agreements for the concluded development of the sector.
- ~ The principle of participation can be put into concrete terms in different ways, depending on the case and necessity of the development process of CBT (social, popular, and community organisations, federations of producers and of service, cooperatives and other forms of social economy, etc.).

## 4. Strategies

- ~ CBT must be part of a general strategy of local development and as such has to be integrated in a more extensive way of intervention considering the movement of other activities (education, health, other traditional economic activities, etc.)
- ~ Those strategies and plans of local development have to integrate into all their actions the perspective of equality of opportunities between genders, social and cultural sustainability, distributive justice and conservation of the environment.
- ~ CBT has to be compatible with other local

activities. Therefore, positive activities are necessary in order to permit the local population to continue their alternative traditional activities.

- ~ Prior to the possibility of a touristic development, including CBT, the communities and populations often face a situation of inequality, vulnerability and defenselessness. This original situation has to be considered in the draft of any policy for the sector.
- ~ The cultural dimension of tourism achieves a transcendental importance in the case of CBT. Policies and media are necessary to preserve local heritage against the risk of acculturation as well as to encourage intercultural meeting and dialogue.
- ~ CBT is an activity that creates great challenges for the communal organisation. Therefore, activities must be conceived to increase political capacities and administration of social and popular organisations before and during the process.
- ~ The existence of qualified local guides is one of the most important factors for the success of CBT initiatives. In this sense, it was considered that the self-organisation of those guides favours the defense of their interests and rights, therefore any proposals of this sort should be supported.
- ~ The exclusive orientation of CBT toward the international market might be an excessively risky option. It seems more necessary and convenient to combine this possibility with the offer of the local market, that should be encouraged at any rate.
- ~ One of the main weaknesses of CBT is the small size of most of the initiatives that are also disconnected in most cases. With regard to this

situation, it is important to favour proceedings of regional, national and international articulation. The resulting structures should clearly define their function in regard to community service. Established internal proceedings should guarantee transparency and internal democracy.

- ~ CBT needs to equip itself with elaborated codes of conduct for its own actors. Those codes must thoroughly regulate the values, behaviour and attitudes that are expected from the visiting persons, especially focussing on social, cultural and environmental aspects.
- ~ In this session good national practices were presented and agreed to be adopted (Philippines, Singapur, South Africa).

### **A certification for CBT?**

In the opinion of the working group, the possible certification for CBT continues to be an open debate with many unanswered questions.

At first, a certification is not a priority for the communities involved in CBT who mostly consider this question to be the expression of a trend imposed from outside. Proceeding from the assumption we actually experience a flood of quality seals and certifications that risk to lose their sense of guarantee.

In spite of this, it is no less certain that CBT has to differ from other touristic offers. Therefore it needs to guarantee the fair, ethical and solidarity character of its proposals and has to be able to communicate them in an adequate way. This is particularly important with regard to possible market tendencies of appropriating the CBT label, leaving it with-



out meaning. In this sense, the certification could turn into a denunciation method for private initiatives hiding behind the name of CBT.

Apart from this, we consider the actual systems of certification to be selective, minoritarian and discriminating. Their economical cost and technical complexity converts them into tools that are inappropriate and inaccessible for most of the organisations and communities, which in many cases are affected in a negative way when applying these procedures of certification to activities.

Secondly, we ascertain that the majority of these certifications avoid or treat in a superficial or inadequate way the questions of economy, labour, social issues and culture, which are present in every CBT initiative. Finally, we have doubts about the relation between certification and increased income derived from community tourism.

For these reasons, it seems evident that CBT needs alternative certification systems more adequate to the characteristics and necessities of its principal actors, the local population. A certification whose focus on quality means combining criteria and indicators relating to values, the educational impact of the journey, interculturalism, sustainability and authenticity.

This possible certification should be elaborated in a democratic and transparent way, with direct participation of the local population. All stakeholders should organise in international networks capable of guaranteeing the integrity of their members and actions.

We definitely think that the crucial point of the debate is not the certification but the better positioning of CBT in the market. That is to say, how can we improve the marketing of the product among its potential clients. This is obviously a complex question with multiple implications that exceeds the frame of this seminar.

At any rate, and while the debate about certification is still ongoing, there are communities who responded to their principal marketing needs with their own formula (coining their own label, for

example). We think that the articulation of those local experiences in regional and national networks is a sufficient response to the actual necessities of CBT.

## **SECOND SESSION: Actors of CBT - Proposals of action / Conclusions**

It was repeated that every CBT development must be based on a series of values, among them exchange, mutuality, solidarity and peace.

At the same time the necessity to apply a focus on gender, social and environmental sustainability was emphasised.

Finally it was pointed out that the proposals of CBT for indigenous people must consider a specific focus that respects the own characteristics of every population.

### **1. Multilateral institutions**

- ~ At the moment, the multilateral institutions with competences of promoting and regulating of the tourism sector do not concede enough importance to CBT. This is why we need international actions (dialogue-pressure) that produce changes in the political priorities of those institutions.
- ~ Meanwhile, the internationally approved regulations and conventions are often not fulfilled by a part of the countries that formally signed them. We have to find formulae that increase our capacities of denouncement and resolution of these problems, in favour of the majorities.

### **2. Civil Society of the North**

- ~ The information and sensitisation of the Civil Society of the North has to be a priority for the organisations committed to CBT. CBT requires tourists who are informed and conscious of the reality they are going to visit.

### **3. Local governments**

- ~ CBT needs legal national frames that guarantee the population access to their property of re-

sources and adequate conditions for their administration. Additional supporting policies are required for the sector, being equipped with the corresponding qualification, and the modalities to conceive and execute participation plans and programmes. National CBT policies have to evolve from below to above.

#### 4. Touristic sector

- ~ It seems necessary to maintain the dialogue with the tourism sector in order to permit the identification of possible common actions in favour of CBT. These networks must integrate conventional tour operators as well as new alternative agencies.

#### 5. Allies

- ~ CBT can advance collaborations between a great number of different organisations and institutions (universities, institutions of private education, NGOs, etc.). We must favour and enable these collaborations, especially in terms of education, technical assistance, finance, commercial promotion, etc.
- ~ International solidarity networks are especially needed in order to denounce touristic

developments that affect the rights of the local population.

#### 6. The communities

- ~ Sustainability has to be the main criterion of orientation in any CBT operation. We understand sustainability in a comprehensive way, incorporating economical, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions.
- ~ CBT has to convert into an opportunity for the population to regain and strengthen their identity and self-respect.
- ~ The communities and organisations working with CBT increase their capacities by working together in networks. Meetings and exchanges to favour alliances for the activity have to be made possible.
- ~ These meetings must also favour the exchange of experiences. The communities and organisations need to have access to quality information about other successful experiences.
- ~ The communities must be able to empower themselves and to develop their capacities of any type, not only technical and professional, but also political and organisational.

Rafael Mauri, ACSUD / Spain

### PROPOSALS FOR THE WSF

It is important to present the questions regarding CBT at WSF. As a suggestion three concrete proposals were drawn up:

1. Presentation of good practices, which means concrete CBT initiatives that are momentarily functioning with success. The aim would be to analyse the factors of this success, the risks, weaknesses, networks etc. in order to favour learning from experience.
2. Denouncement of bad practices. Presentation of touristic development plans that affect the communities' rights. Give impulse to international campaigns of solidarity, lobbying, denouncement, etc.
3. The forum should be an opportunity to create and strengthen international operating networks and to establish North-South and South-South alliances through CBT.

# ***TOURISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION? NGOs ARE NOT SO SURE!***

By adopting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the international community has placed poverty reduction at the top of the political agenda. By 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty is to be halved. The World Tourism Organisation (WTO-OMT), recently upgraded to a specialised UN agency, has also taken up the cause of poverty alleviation. Whether tourism can play a meaningful role in achieving this goal remains an open question. NGOs have voiced their doubts.

A panel discussion in Germany, organised by DANTE as part of the international seminar "Tourism: Unfair Practices - Equitable Options" on 8th December in Hanover, reinforced their scepticism. About 40 representatives of NGOs and tourism initiatives from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the USA got a clear reply from TUI's director of environmental management, Wolf Michael Iwand, to the question "Why should the tourism industry have an interest in poverty alleviation?".

For such an interest is obviously non-existent. "The business of business is business", said Mr. Iwand. TUI therefore did not include poverty alleviation into their objectives. On the contrary: tourism is based on inequality. "And we are living comfortably with it", he admitted. "People in the destinations are asking: Send us more!"

Adama Bah from Gambia Tourism Concern emphasised that the question was much more complex. "Yes, people will say 'Bring us more tourists!'. But do they have a choice? No!" In many developing countries it was not a question of whether or not you wanted more tourists, but whether you had a choice.

K.T. Suresh from Equations (Bangalore/India) stressed that at Equations he did not meet those people who said "send us more!", but that he did in fact hear people who said "enough!". "We just

live in two different worlds." At a time when there had been a debate for more than ten years, injustice was becoming more and more pervasive. "It is not acceptable that inequality is something we should profit from", was K.T. Suresh's strong reaction from an Indian NGO perspective.

Unlike the tourism industry, the German government does regard poverty reduction as one of its goals, confirmed Burghard Rauschelbach, senior advisor at the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). About one hundred of GTZ's current development projects have to do with tourism, some of which include public private partnerships. "If there was not the illusion of tourism as an income generating activity, we would have no justification", said Mr. Rauschelbach.

For Patricia Barnett from Tourism Concern (London), jobs as such are not sufficient. She stressed the often exploitative working conditions in tourism, including long working hours and job insecurity. The high dependency on tips and service charges must also be seen as problematic. In times of crisis, people became dependent on inadequate wages. There are international conventions such as human rights and labour conventions, "but governments don't care and operators don't care".

Mr. Iwand objected: "Compliance is essential for big companies". But according to the experiences of several seminar participants, e.g. from India and Peru, laws and regulations are being changed to suit tourism companies (such as TUI) in order to lure them into these countries. The companies then find it easy to comply with these - rather low - standards. However: "It's news for me that all big companies are following the laws in all countries", K.T. Suresh said.

"Is a bad job worse than no job?", asked moderator Jürgen Hanefeld, NDR. A resolute "yes"

## TOURISM AND POVERTY - SOME STATEMENTS

**Jürgen Hanefeld (facilitator):** Cheap labour is an argument for TUI to sell tourism. Tourism is based on inequality. So the elimination of poverty is not a goal for the tourism industry?

**Wolf Michael Iwand (panel guest):** If all in your countries claimed that you wanted to earn the same money as I do, that you wanted to achieve the same standard of living and would like to drive a Mercedes, then of course I wouldn't have any solution for tourism.

**K.T. Suresh:** The idea of tourism being a catalyst of poverty reduction is certainly not based on a good analysis of the nature and structure of poverty.

**Jürgen Hanefeld:** Tourism is based on inequality... **Wolf Michael Iwand:** ... and we are living comfortably with it.

**K.T. Suresh:** It is not acceptable that inequality is something we should profit from. But I thank you for having said it.

**K.T. Suresh:** Documents and tourism development plans talk about benefit sharing. But when the communities ask "how does it actually work" the consultants disappear because that is not their business.

**Burghart Rauschelbach (panel guest):** We have a very idealistic view of community-based tourism. Indeed we have to deal with many different and sometimes conflicting interests within the community.

**Tom Ole Sikar:** Tourism investors deepen the local conflicts of community members over local resources. Nowadays private investors do not put up a fence, but they put restrictions and deny access to the public.

**Rodrigo Ruiz:** During the last years the district of Cuzco has received many tourists and the situation of poverty has not improved... The privatisation of state-owned companies has led to a monopolistic situation. One company owns the water, one owns the light, one the telephone... they are lucky to have monopolies to control the market and keep the prices high... In this context the question arises whether tourism can change itself into development with the goal to overcome poverty.

**Maria Rocío Martínez Montero:** A general objective is that these small hotels pass into a mode of economy a bit more advanced: not only subsistence but somehow to have an income higher than just survival.

**Mechtild Maurer:** Tourism is not the cause of child sexual exploitation; however, exploiters make use of the facilities offered by the tourism industry (hotels, bars, nightclubs, etc.). In turn, the tourism industry may help to create a demand by promoting a location's exotic image.

**K.T. Suresh:** The danger I see is a mainstreaming of the process. Tourism development plans that generalise poverty reduction strategies by using templates without looking at the nuances, at local interests and needs, bring in tourism even where tourism is unwanted or inadequate to deal with poverty.

**Anita Pleumarom:** Tourism is a pioneering activity followed by mining, logging, and other destructive activities.



cartoonist: Jorge Barale

was the answer given by Patrick Dalban Moreynas from the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF/UITA/UIIL). "We are strongly against saying that bad jobs are better than no jobs. Otherwise it is a race to the bottom. It is better to have no job than a bad job because the alternative is a good job! That's why we say, yes, fight poverty by creating employment, but by creating good jobs!"

René Schärer from the Brazilian Instituto Terramar expressed his doubts about the World Tourism Organisation's approach to poverty reduction. "The WTO exaggerated a bit, after not having done much", he said. And recommended: "Stop talking about poverty elimination. Call it a wealth redistribution programme or something else. It might help a little, but there is still much to do." Mr. Schärer looked back to his own experiences with attempts to transfer expensive land from the poor to the rich: "If we had not been able to strengthen community organisation in Prainha do

Canto Verde, land would have gone to a real estate agent, tourist bungalows would have been built, fishermen would have lost access to the beach and their livelihoods."

Carlos Maldonado from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) pointed out that communities in Latin America took very different approaches to tourism. "Some communities don't want any tourism, because they consider it a threat. Some communities say it could be interesting under certain conditions. It depends on the context. We have the best and the worst examples. Some countries are making the same mistakes and experiencing the same difficulties as others."

Not only are the experiences with tourism rather diverse. So are people, so are the structural reasons for poverty, emphasised K.T. Suresh. And the responses must therefore also be different. "There is a long way to go until tourism can contribute to the reduction of poverty."

Christina Kamp, Journalist / Germany





### *ECOTOURISM AND ITS IMPACTS ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS*

The indigenous communities in the Andamans have been living there for over 20,000 years but there is very little knowledge on their history. Today they comprise only 260 individuals. In the last 40 years forests have been burnt to make way for a number of settlements. There is a large timber industry which was started by the British colonialists. One of the biggest threats today to the Jarawas (one of the indigenous communities) is the Andamans Trunk Road. The communities get no benefits out of the road. Earlier there were a number of killings when they defended themselves. Now an insidious kind of tourism is promoted called "Jarawa Tourism" where tourists give them alcohol, tobacco and biscuits. Cases of sexual exploitation of Jarawas are reported.

The Supreme Court of India has ordered the closure of the road where it directly affects the Jarawas but it is still in operation. The Court has also ordered that tourism should be developed in a way that is in conformity with the needs of ecological conservation and cultural integrity of the islands. On the other hand, there are attempts to make Phuket, a tourist paradise in neighbouring Thailand, a twin city of Port Blair on Andaman Islands in the hope to attract tourists from Thailand. Ten new areas have been identified for intensive development for tourism promotion - these include beaches on remote islands. By offering excursions for those who look for unspoiled or untouched nature and culture, upcoming tourism activities on the Islands would be directly linked to the global tourism industry operating from neighbouring Phuket.

Pankaj Sekhsaria, Kalpavriish / India

# WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2004: REACHING OUT TO THE GRASSROOTS

It was an impressive gathering, a colourful megamela that took place in Mumbai/India from 16th to 21st January, 2004. For the first time, the World Social Forum (WSF) was held in a place other than its birthplace, Porto Alegre/Brazil. For the first time, it saw a concerted effort of tourism groups from various parts of the world highlighting their concerns on tourism and linking up with grass-roots groups and NGOs engaged in the struggle for human rights and against corporate-driven capitalist globalisation.

One panel, three seminars at the WSF venue, an additional workshop at the Youth Forum and a big stall in one of the exhibition halls had been organised in order to make the tourism debate an integral part of the WSF movement. A survey was conducted among WSF participants regarding their interest in tourism issues. The results will feed into a data base and help improve networking. A press conference was organised to give journalists an overview of the interventions and a chance to raise their questions.

What made the tourism interventions at the 4th World Social Forum unique was not so much their content - it had been highlighted on previous occasions. Rather, it was the space that was provided by the WSF as a true people's forum. It was a chance this time not so much of lobbying politicians or confronting the industry, but of engaging like-minded groups in a struggle that could gain considerable momentum in the years to come.

There was a strong sense of commitment to joint politically relevant action by tourism NGOs from different continents in the North and South. A similar commitment had been seen before, e.g. in the lobbying for an adequate outcome of the 7th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN-CSD) in 1999. However, the respect for the diversity of approaches and opinions, ranging from the denouncement of neo-liberal trade regimes to the promotion of small-scale community-based tourism initiatives, had not been visible to that extent. In fact, the tourism interventions at the

Mumbai mela were more than ever an expression of pluralism and diversity within a joint struggle, in line with the WSF charter of principles, set up for the first WSF in 2001 in Porto Alegre. The tourism interventions at the WSF - more than in other fora - provided space for grass-roots representatives including members of local self-governments ("panchayats") in India, to present their cases and raise their concerns. They were organised by the Tourism Interventions Group (EQUATIONS from India, the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism ECOT from Hong Kong/China, EED-Tourism Watch from Germany and the Working Group on Tourism and Development akte from Switzerland).

## Intercontinental Dialogue on Tourism

The main event was a panel held on 19th January in one of the huge conference halls. Its objective was to bring into focus the impacts of one of the world's largest industries on communities and resources, and to share experiences from local community struggles to democratise and regulate the tourism juggernaut. Reflecting on the varied negative impacts of tourism related activities on local communities, the panel presentations stressed the need for a social auditing of tourism.

David Ugarte, Regional Director of the National Institute of Culture in Cusco in the Andean region of Peru, presented the local people's struggle against ongoing attempts to privatise the holy site of Machupicchu. He pointed out the high degree of vertical integration in the tourism industry, where airline, private railways, hotels and transport are all in the same hands. The planned cable car project at Machupicchu would add to the destruction of the site and bypass the local village of Aguas Calientes, thus depriving local people from earning their income from tourism.

Charm Tong, Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN), Burma, highlighted human rights violations in Burma under the military, stressing that both international development aid and the money earned from tourism helped to keep the military regime in power. She warned participants against travelling to Burma as tourists. "Your money given to



cartoonist: Marlene Pohle

Sunderbans is an unique ecosystem in West Bengal and Bangladesh that comprises the largest mangrove forests in the world. Today, even though it is a notified national park and sanctuary only half of the original area is intact and the rest has been degraded or converted into agricultural land. Tourism exists only on a small scale. The West Bengal government now literally jumps into investments in the area. Any regulation is anathema to the government.

The Sahara Group, a prominent Indian corporate house, is planning to invest 7000 million rupees to build a floating city, which is expected to be 10-20 kms wide. To promote tourism, charter flights are to be introduced and tourists are to be transported by helicopter. Floatels and golf courses are to be set up. Four out of the five sites identified for the project will affect the livelihood of the fishing communities. None of the groups are aware of the issues involved and Sahara has been reticent to share data. The initiation of the project would mean the coming of thousands of tourists and hovercrafts moving about in this area. There are plans to have a zoo with white tigers, build ropeways etc. Efforts are being made to seek alternatives to the present proposal by Sahara. Civil society groups are closely monitoring the process and the issue is likely to snowball into a major controversy when plans are initiated.

Joy Dasgupta,

National University of Juridical Sciences Kolka / India

## SUNDERBANS - INDIA & BANGLADESH:

### ENCROACHMENT OF THE FINAL FRONTIERS

About 60% of the Sunderbans are situated in Bangladesh. Its total size including the Indian part is more than 10,000 sq. kilometres. On February 6, 1997, the UNESCO declared it a world heritage. The forest is presently under threat because of the different kinds of interventions such as the large-scale intervention under the label of 'eco-tourism' that destroys plants and animals, and various development interventions initiated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), USAID and the Department for International Development (DFID).

These interventions were organised under several 'development' initiatives such as the ADB's Forestry Sector Project from 1997 - 2002 and the Fourth Fisheries Project of the WB, UNDP, GEF and DFID from 1999 - 2002. In this context it was important to resist the Sunderbans Biodiversity Conservation Project (SBCP), which was funded by ADB and some other donors with an investment of 77.5 million US-Dollar. The project does not address the actual root cause of the destruction of plant and animal varieties in the Sunderbans. Among the declared objectives of the project is the promotion of eco-tourism. In fact each component of the project deals with tourism issues. The project has proposed a "build and operate" formula to ensure investments from transnational corporations. It should be mentioned clearly that the TNCs have taken two approaches to take over the forests and natural resources. On the one hand, they are influencing the multilateral trade negotiation in WTO and guiding the GATS negotiations. On the other hand, they are receiving help from the international financial institutions like the ADB and WB who have already started work on privatising forest resources.

Ziaul-Hoque Mukta, Action Aid / Bangladesh

the military means you are supporting human rights violations in the country. Such support will only give the chance for the military to oppress people and continue to be in power", she said.

Adama Bah, coordinator of The Gambia Tourism Concern, reported on the success achieved by his group in the fight against 'all inclusives' in his small West African home country. He pointed out that local people had invested heavily in tourism, and there had to be returns. "When NGOs conduct campaigns, they usually focus on moral or ethical aspects", Adama Bah said. The Gambia Tourism Concern, however, convinced both local enterprises and the government that 'all inclusive' packages did not work to their advantage.

Pankaj Seksharia, who works with the noted environmental watchdog group Kalpavris in India, provided a comprehensive account of the impacts of tourism on the indigenous communities of the fragile Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Rodrigo Ruiz Rubio from the Association for the Defence of the Kuelap in Peru brought with him struggle notes from the campaign to stop the eviction of 250 indigenous families and the privatisation of the historic fort of Kuelap. Luc Ferran from ECPAT International ("End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes") touched on the social and economic impacts of the sexual exploitation of women and children in tourism and the response of civil society.

A group of respondents reacted to these powerful testimonies from the grassroots. Noted Dalit leader Paul Divakar, National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights, and Ashok Bharati, World Dignity Forum, said that tourism would further marginalise Dalits. Sheelu Francis, Tamil Nadu Womens Collective, India, and Marina Durano, International Gender and Trade Network, Asia called for women's groups to look at tourism as a critical developmental issue. L. Antonyamy, coordinator of the Social Action Movement and founder of the Tamil Nadu Environment Council, spoke about the complete marginalisation of international environmental conventions by governments. Noted trade

unionist Ashok Rao drew the links between the ongoing privatisation programmes in developing countries, dilution of labour legislation and the growth of the tourism industry.

### **Sustainable Tourism in the Context of Privatisation, Liberalisation and Deregulation**

The seminar on "Sustainable Tourism in the context of Privatisation, Liberalisation and Deregulation" held on the 18th of January was well attended by over 150 participants. Tourism is a prominent sector in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The seminar showed that deregulation in tourism, strongly promoted by industry lobbies such as the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), is a downward spiral. Panellists from different parts of the world gave accounts of the privatisation of people's natural and cultural heritage. Whole areas, including holy sites and fragile ecosystems, are in danger of being handed over to corporations to be exploited for profit.

Joy Dasgupta, National University of Juridical Sciences, India spoke on the long-term leasing of the Sundarbans. The Sundarbans covers 10,000 sq. km of land and water in the Ganges delta. It is a unique landscape, the largest single mangrove ecosystem. Once considered as a "backward" area, it has been turned into a national park. The West Bengal State Government, in collaboration with a domestic corporation, the Sahara Group, has started to promote ecotourism to the Sundarbans. As Mr. Dasgupta pointed out, local groups were not aware of the issues involved and the Sahara Group was reticent to share data on the project. Ziaul-Hoque Mukta, Action Aid, Bangladesh spoke from the Bangladesh side of the Sundarbans. He pointed out that transnational corporations are promoting liberalisation under the WTO, but the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are also involved in the privatisation of forest resources. Under the GATS, the European Union (EU) has requested Bangladesh to open up six sectors including tourism. While the government had offered its tourism sector to the EU, it has not had any discussions with local communities.

### **BOYCOTT BURMA CAMPAIGN AND TOURISM**

In 1962, Burma was taken over by the military. General elections took place only in 1990 and the party 'National League for Democracy' led by Aung San Suu Kyi won by an 80% margin. But, the regime annulled the elections and placed her under house arrest where she remains to date.

From April 1994 till May 1995, approximately hundred thousand visitors came to Burma and left behind 30 million US dollars in the country, thereby helping the military regime. Hotels in Burma make use of slave or forced labour and inhabitants of tourist destinations have been relocated. The forced relocation programmes give local people only four to five days to pack their belongings and move out of their homes of several generations. The military regime has also imposed systematic sexual violence against ethnic women. A report is available which details 173 incidents of rape. But in only one case was the soldier punished. The regime is constantly telling the international community that Burma is facing crises such as HIV and drug menace. But most of the crises are created by the regime itself. By securing international aid, they have shown to the external world that the drug problem is under control. The regime ironically calls itself the 'State Peace & Development Council'.

**"As a tourist, you are supporting human rights violations in the country."**

Many of these violations take place in areas that are not open to tourists. So the experience they have of Burma is very different from reality. Tourists should consider the fact that all the money they spend on a visit to Burma will support the military and keep the regime in power.

Charm Tong, Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN). Charm Tong refers to her country as Burma and not Myanmar, a name given by the military regime. She is a refugee in Thailand.

### **PRIVATISATION OF HILLS: AMBY VALLEY IN INDIA**

Amby valley in the state of Maharashtra in western India is a classic example of the deregulation and privatisation of hills stations in India. The tourism industry has aggressively marketed the hills. Three hill stations in Maharashtra have been declared environmentally sensitive. In 1960, Maharashtra received 6400 tourists per year and in 1991, tourist arrivals rose to 960,000 tourists.

**"Civil society groups should address squarely the question of legislative changes by governments that promote such skewed investments in fragile areas."**

Considering the present growth of tourism in the area, there is a need to develop alternative forms of tourism in the hills. Any suitable area at appropriate height and suitable topographical feature can be declared by government for the purpose of development as hill station. Recent legal changes allow the development of a hill station to be treated as an industry and this is likely to have severe repercussions on the community and the environment. In the case of Amby Valley, the court agreed that the development was illegal but could be legalised. 900 cottages, 18 to 27 hole 24-hour golf courses, construction of an airstrip and heliport were sanctioned. Construction of nearly a dozen lakes each involving diversion of natural watercourses is presently underway. There are now barricades that prohibit the entry of local people into the Amby Valley.

Sameer Mehta, Bombay Environmental Action Group / India

The example of deregulation and privatisation of the Amby Valley in Maharashtra was brought forth clearly by Sameer Mehta, Bombay Environmental Action Group, India. Under the existing laws in Maharashtra, the proposed developments of Amby Valley, including an artificial lake, 900 luxury cottages, a golf course and a heliport, could not be undertaken. Mr. Mehta explained how the government of Maharashtra bent over backwards to accommodate the needs and requirements of a powerful corporation with alleged political links. The hill station has become like any other private property. Access is controlled and is at the whim and fancy of the owner.

Adama Bah, The Gambia Tourism Concern, reported on 'all inclusives' as an extreme form of denying local people their freedom. While foreign investors wanted profit from the capital invested, people in Gambia were investing everything including their identity in tourism. "People are stakeholders, not only from a moral point of view. If they are calling for a fair share of the tourism cake, it is justified," he said.

David Ugarte, in relation to the historical site of Machupicchu in Peru, mentioned that he was strongly against private monopoly. "It is a world heritage site, but for companies it is a merchandise", he said. As part of their resistance against the cable car project, the University of Cuzco mobilised solidarity with a network of 150 universities worldwide. "We Peruvians can no more afford to go to Machupicchu. This kind of tourism does not benefit the region," he said.

Patricia Barnett, Tourism Concern, UK, on the issue of labour rights and practices in tourism said that the conditions of the porters in the Himalayas and Tanzania were appalling, with no contracts and low wages. Tourism Concern's efforts were to raise issues concerning porters and to get the tour operators in the UK to accept guidelines for the porters, with good response: "Getting tour operators to change practise is fairly easy. They are afraid of bad press."

P.G. Padmanabhan, member of the Kumarakom Grama Panchayat (local self-government) in Kerala, India stressed the role of neighbourhood groups in

local planning. He said that in Kumarakom they were in the process of registering a society for "People to People Tourism" to ensure people's participation in sustainable tourism development. The society is expected to help organise small and micro enterprises with a view to integrating the tourism industry and to increase economic and social benefits for host communities.

Sunita Dubey, India, criticised the dilution of national regulations to suit private interests, and the ways and means to get around existing laws. "Any project worth five crore needs environmental impact assessment. But if it is 4.99 crore, it has an equal impact on the environment", she said.

Roland Martins, Jagrut Goenkaranchi Fauz (JGF) in Goa, spoke about "The great sale of Goa". "When you sell a destination, you sell its people, you sell its cultures", he said. He criticised the move of the Government of Goa for spending its time to get more tourists to Goa. "We are a fragile place. For every local person, there is a tourist sitting on his head." He also destroyed the myth that land is 'acquired' for tourism. "If the government is to acquire land, compensation must be paid. However, acquisition is something that governments like to do 'in public interest'".

### **Community Decision-Making in Tourism**

The Seminar on "Community Decision-Making in Tourism" was held on the 19th of January in one of the smaller halls. The seminar captured trends and issues of communities' proactive initiatives and struggles for democratic space across the world.

Mrs. A.G. Ushakumari, President of the Kumarakom Grama Panchayat (local self-government), and P.G. Padmanabhan, Member of the Kumarakom Panchayat, raised concern over the unscrupulous planning for tourism development which is destroying their backwaters, bird sanctuary and mangrove forests. According to them, people's participation in the planning for tourism that safeguards the environment and is in the interest of the host community is the need of the hour. They said that the Grama Panchayat, empowered with the constitutional and legal provisions and resources, can act as a regulating governmental

## COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM EXPERIENCES IN BRAZIL

Brazil attracts nine million international tourists and 65 million domestic tourists every year and aggressive promotion of tourism is currently going on. A single tour operator controls 60% of all tourism circuits in Brazil.

Some amount of confusion exists between the Ecotourism Department and the Ministry of Environment that controls the Ministry of Tourism with regard to the formulation of tourism policies. The Government is processing tourism development plans in 9 states of Brazil and wants to double the number of visitors in the coming year. The environmental implications, particularly on the coastal mangroves are to be examined critically. Construction of an international airport in the coastal area is also another issue.

**“The community  
has decided to host only  
a thousand tourists per  
year and no more than  
four guests a day.”**

A sustainable tourism project is located in the Brazilian Amazon Region, where a Sustainable Development Reserve has been created. The region spreads over 450 kilometres within an area of more than one Million hectares. In 1990, Brazil has created an ecological station based on the policy on Protected Area of National Systems. This reserve does not allow people to live in these areas. Hence, NGOs and local communities were involved in preparing a management plan and re-categorising protected areas during 1990-1996. This re-categorisation

enables the traditional local population, whose subsistence is based on sustainable use of natural resources, to remain settled in such reserves without relocation. The people consider various subsistence options like forest management, fishery management, family agriculture and eco-tourism. There is a strong correlation between conservation and generation of economic benefits. These benefits act as incentives to conserve the environment. There are four steps followed in the process of community tourism initiative. The first step includes community discussions and building collective understanding on what kind of tourism is wanted, what potential impacts of tourism are expected. An economic feasibility study was the second step to know about people's expectations on what kind of tourism they would like to have, with what kind of infrastructure. Step three was capacity building in various fields of tourism and step four was marketing and monitoring. Ongoing monitoring is important for the continued success of the initiative.

The community has decided to host only a thousand tourists per year and no more than four guests a day. They have formulated a local code of ethics and rules for tourists. Seven community village organisations have been strengthened due to community-based tourism initiatives. The Community has allocated 50 % of tourism income to environmental protection and the other 50% for themselves based on various parameters such as to what extent they have contributed to the community tourism initiatives, comply with management rules and investment on social functions. NGOs are monitoring this aspect of investment of tourism revenue for social causes. This gave the people the choice to stay in the village or to migrate and migration has decreased. Conservation of specific fish species has been increased to 300%.

The basic factors underlying the community initiatives are land tenure, land ownership for the locals, infrastructure, exchange of experiences, marketing, local investment, management training, stakeholder participation, and a programme for the conservation of the ecosystem. Environmental awareness and networking are the focus of community-based tourism. The big challenge is to build and keep alive these initiatives and turn community-based tourism into public policy.

Esther Neuhaus (Instituto Terramar), Ely Fernandes (Tourism and Handicrafts Cooperation, Prainha do Canto Verde)

Nelisa Peralta (Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development) / Brazil

institution and participatory planning agency for the sustainable development of tourism.

Alka Sabharwal, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu (Nepal), reported on her experiences with tourism in the Himalayan region. Tourism-related pollution had serious impacts. Petrol pollution made live-stock refuse to graze. A yak died from eating plastic. However, there were also positive examples, such as in Annapurna, where tour operators have to pay money that goes into a community fund.

Esther Neuhaus (Instituto Terramar, Brazil), Ely Fernandes de Lima (Tourism and Handicrafts Cooperative, Prainha do Canto Verde, Brazil) and Nelisa Peralta (Mamiraua Institute, Amazon, Brazil) elaborated on socially responsible tourism projects in their country. In Prainha do Canto Verde, tourism was taken up by a local fishing community to fight land speculation and to complement their main activity, which remains fishing. "Before you develop tourism, the land has to belong to the people", Nelissa said. Rosemary, MST, Brazil, highlighted the struggle of the rural landless workers in Brazil. She linked their struggle to tourism by recommending to "show tourists the beauty of land reform".

Ramesh Jangid, Apni Dhani, India spoke on the challenges faced by him in "swimming against mainstream tourism" in Rajasthan. He mentioned the difficulties he encountered in the fields of promotion and marketing of small-scale tourism. "At the beginning it was difficult to get tourists. Now it is difficult to get the right type of tourists." He also threw light on his efforts to preserve the cultural identity despite constant pressures to adjust to foreign needs. "Travellers agree on words at home, but once on their trip, they become mere consumers."

Steffen Schuelein, FernWeh, Germany, said that economically, tourism should lead to livelihood security. However, it is subject to trends, shocks and seasonality. Socially, it is often not the community that manages tourism, but tourism that manages the community.

### **The Impacts of Tourism on Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups**

The seminar on "Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups and the Impacts of Tourism on Them" was organised on the 19th of January 2004. It brought in experiences from different parts of the globe to discuss the impacts of tourism on marginalised and vulnerable groups and to highlight the challenges that the communities are facing in the context of tourism development. Heinz Fuchs, EED-Tourism Watch, Germany said that much had changed in tourism, both qualitatively and quantitatively, and therefore there was a need to take a deeper look into the role of women and children in tourism.

Luc Ferran, ECPAT International ("End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes"), Bangkok, said that social responsibility is central to protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation in tourism and safeguarding children's rights. To combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children, tourism players must not only be accountable, but actively involved, too.

Albertina Almeida, Bailancho Saad, Goa, spoke on the impacts of tourism on women in Goa. With regard to their campaign, she said, "Why should Goan women be used to sell Goa?" Women were not to be commodified to sell Goa to the world and to create an image that women are easily available in Goa. She spoke on the subversion of laws for the promotion of tourism and raised the question of accountability in the case of public-private partnerships. It was easier in the case of direct impacts, but many issues were more subtle and complicated.

M.A. Sekar, East Coast Forum for Development Action, Tamil Nadu, spoke on tourism and the marginalisation of coastal communities in Tamil Nadu, India. He said that rules were amended and that there had been political marginalisation of the fishing communities, and a lack of protection of their rights. Beaches, like at Mahabalipuram, are used by fishermen to dry and repair their nets. Waste water from the hotels reduces the fish

## *KUMARAKOM PANCHAYAT'S EXPERIENCE IN DEMOCRATISING TOURISM*

Kumarakom is a recently developed backwater tourist destination in Kerala, India. In the initial period, people welcomed tourism in this tiny village hoping that local people would reap benefits out of tourism by way of employment opportunities. At that juncture the local people did not know much about the implications of tourism and when they became aware they began to get involved in the process. To democratise tourism planning, Kumarakom adopted local level planning. Kumarakom has a unique type of planning unit called Neighbourhood Group, which is a group for every 50 households. There are 5000 households in Kumarakom and accordingly 98 neighbourhood groups have been formed to involve local people in tourism planning. To ensure wider participation of all strata in the local planning process, Kumarakom also has women's self-help groups (SHGs). There are 162 SHGs with total membership exceeding 3000 women actively involved in the local planning process. Ward committees of the local government and the General Assembly of People (Grama Sabha) have discussed the issues confronting them in the framework of tourism.

**“After ten years of tourism development and increase in revenue from tourism, infrastructure facilities for the local population are very poor.”**

Tourism affecting the means of livelihood like shell collection and fishing by local fisher folk was brought up in the discussions as well as encroachments of the lake and canals. The problems created by tourism establishments by blocking the natural flow of air due to clustering of resorts with huge buildings on the bank of Vembanad Lake were vehemently attacked in the discussion. The open outlet from the toilets in the houseboats is affecting lake water and polluting it.

At this critical juncture, the Panchayat decided to take on this menace created by tourism development. The follow-up was to draft the People's Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The Charter was discussed and debated at Panchayat Ward Members level, and subsequently adopted. Sourcing from the People's Charter, the community of Panchayat has decided to ban all forms of plastics inside the village, set up provisions to safeguard the mangroves and a land use pattern while granting licenses. Panchayat will not allow big buildings near the lake. To translate the People's Charter into practice, they have distributed a copy to hotel owners.

After ten years of tourism development and increase in revenue from tourism, infrastructure facilities such as road, electricity, and drinking water supply for the local population are very poor. Interruption and low voltage power supply is the order of the day. The revenue to the local government of Panchayat is not substantial either. In the 2002-2003 plan, the State Government has allocated twenty million Rupees for the development of tourism infrastructure: five million rupees for constructing tarred roads and fifteen million for deepening canals and constructing parking facilities.

Due to continued promotion of tourism in Kumarakom by the State Government with scant respect to protection of the local environment, Kumarakom has been facing tremendous pressures such as depletion of precious mangroves in Vembanad and depletion of rare species of Kumarakom Karimeen (fish resources) due to letting out waste from houseboats. Nearly 160 houseboats are plying in the lake and ultimately these will impact the livelihood of fisher folk and agriculturalists.

A. G. Ushakumari, Kumarakom Grama Panchayat  
(Local Self-Government) / India

population, so that fishing is no more profitable. "If you don't democratise tourism, it is going to become a threat to the tourist", Mr. Sekar warned.

### **Tourism Activists Strategy Meeting: Taking The Tourism Case Forward**

To follow up on the new momentum created by the tourism interventions at WSF, tourism NGOs came together for a "Tourism Activists Strategy Meeting" from 22nd to 23rd January in Mumbai. Hosted by the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT), the meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate, strategise, build solidarity and prepare for global campaigns. As the World Social Forum (WSF) will move back to Brazil in 2005, the Brazilian delegation present in Mumbai was asked to take responsibility for preparing tourism interventions at the fifth WSF in Porto Alegre next year. The "Intercontinental Dialogue on Tourism" shall be

carried forward. As one major issue, it may focus on the financial leakages that prevent local communities from really benefiting from tourism.

In a statement of concern, the NGOs involved stressed their commitment to change the character of global tourism towards a tourism that is just and equitable for people in destinations. They decided to address the new mandate of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO-OMT) as a specialised UN agency. They also emphasised the need to bring in experiences from the grassroots on the environmental and social costs of tourism to inform the negotiating positions of governments in the World Trade Organisation's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The website created for the tourism interventions at the WSF in Mumbai ([www.wsf-tourism.org](http://www.wsf-tourism.org)) will serve as a permanent platform to make more information available to network partners.

Christina Kamp, Journalist / Germany  
Shirley Susan, ECOT, Hongkong / SAR

### **MARGINALISATION OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN MAHABALIPURAM (TAMIL NADU)**

**"There is no space for  
communities to participate  
in law making."**

In tourism, communities have been facing a massive slash in income from their traditional occupation. With pollution and unplanned tourism development, the fish produce is affected. Women from the community have to procure fish from other places to sell to the local restaurants. But they are not given fair rates under the threat that the hotels will procure the fish from cities if they do not sell them fish at the said rates.

Communities also do not find equitable alternatives to fishing in tourism. They are not provided with training or work with fair amount of wages. There exists a fear among the industry that if fish workers become workers in tourism, they will unionise and use their community strength to negotiate with the industry.

Law and policy making are merely academic processes, consisting of conducting studies, with communities pulled in at the final stages merely as showpieces. In states such as Tamil Nadu, not even the Director of Fisheries is part of the Committee for Coastal Protection due to political dynamics. As a result of the suppression of the voice of the coastal communities, there is no law that recognises the rights of the fishing community as workers. Welfare legislations for other marginalized groups such as sex workers and beedi workers are considered, but the coastal communities have been consistently ignored.

M. A. Sekar, East Coast Forum for Development Action / India

## IMPACTS OF TOURISM ON WOMEN IN GOA

The consequences of tourism promotion are felt by various sections of society, by both women and men; but it is women who face a double discrimination. The sexist and racist advertising indulged in by the tourism departments of the Government of Goa and the Government of India as well as by the hoteliers have presented a distorted picture of Goan culture in their portrayal of Goa as a land of wine, women and song, thus displaying total insensitivity to our feelings and the drastic ill effects of such unscrupulous advertising on the women in Goa. Besides distorting the image of women in Goa this has led to increasing sexual harassment. The government and big hoteliers with the sole aim of tourism promotion disgustingly misuse the tra-

ditional festivals of Goa. While Carnival initially was a spontaneous celebration by people, over the past decade commercial interests began to take over. These floats, where scantily dressed women gyrate to western music, have projected a perverted image of women in Goa. The only employment possibilities open to Goans in the star hotels are jobs as cooks, butlers, receptionists, massage girls and bell-boys. Tourism development will effectively wipe out Goa's toddy tappers, farmers, fisherwomen and fishermen who live and make their living on its shores. Employment of women is often seasonal, and on a temporary or 'hire-and-fire' basis. Given that the government is orienting the economy of Goa to tourism and given that even in a full tourism economy, only a handful of jobs can be created, what are all the remaining people expected to do?

**“The employment of women is often seasonal and on a temporary or ‘hire-and-fire’ basis.”**

Golf is being promoted with a view to boost tourism and attracts the elite tourist in order to earn foreign exchange. 'Even if it is only a game why should our lifestyles be disrupted and our environment threatened for sake of the golfing pleasure of few elite locals and foreigners?' Panchayats are not informed about the huge land requirement. There are special consequences when golf courses are located in plateaus. You must realise that during monsoon huge amounts of toxic chemicals (i.e. insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, herbicides) will be washed off from the plateaus into fields, rivers, and water sources contaminating the paddy crops, fish and the drinking water sources of the people in Goa. As a result, women have to walk miles to get fresh water for drinking and domestic use.

With globalisation, local people are increasingly finding themselves on the fringes of the economy with multinational companies and big sharks from elsewhere invading the Goan scenario. We need to wait and see whether this era will result in a resurgence of local identities with an army of employed / underemployed / oppressed and exploited section of the people to uphold their rights and identity.

Albertina Almeida, Bailancho Saad, Women's Collective in Konkani / India

Tourists visit places under the cover of anonymity and are therefore, entering a 'no man's land'. This gives rise to inappropriate and violent behaviour such as eve teasing and sexual harassment.

Sheelu Francis,  
Tamil Nadu Women's Collective / India

Tourism must be seen in the context of a globalised world order where the movement of knowledge and goods is entirely based on buying power. Tourism is one of the few industries where the product must be consumed on site and therefore has deep implication for the nature, culture, religion, and livelihoods of the people in tourism destinations.

Paul Gonsalves, Equations / India

Global tourism objectifies Dalits and Adivasis making them like animals in a zoo.

Paul Divakar, National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights / India

The government is talking of privatisation of airports, national parks and historical sites and it is now clear that it is mainly for the global tourism industry. Tourism is an industry that is used by the elite and in the context of the Dalits it is likely that they will continue to be further marginalized by it. When the tourism industry is set up the most menial jobs as scavengers and porters will go to the Dalits.

Ashok Bharati, World Dignity Forum / India

According to WHO standards, the minimum water requirement of a person is 135 litres per day whereas the Dalits hardly get 35 litres. The hotels in these areas have 24 hours running water and abundant electricity.

Sheelu Francis, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective / India

The UN Agenda 21, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, The International Year of Eco-tourism in 2002 and the Convention on Biological Diversity all recognise that tourism development needs to be subject to three basic values - sustainability, participation of local communities and benefit sharing. It is clear from the case studies presented (at WSF) that governments don't seem to be interested in using any of these instruments to ensure making tourism indeed sustainable.

L.Antonyamy, Tamil Nadu Environmental Council and Social Action Movement / India

In India several public owned hotels are being sold in the name of competition and efficiency but it is only leading to crony capitalism as in the case of the Centaur Hotel in Mumbai, which was re-sold at a tremendous profit within a matter of weeks. Most of India's tourism was built on public-sector enterprises. Today all of it is being sold at a pittance to domestic and foreign corporations.

Ashok Rao, National Confederation of Officers Associations of Central Public Sector Undertakings / India

Tourism is a business with heavy investment and expectations of high returns. But, the social costs paid by communities are much higher than the returns that are gained by the tourism industry, whether it is environmental degradation, unfavourable labour conditions or sex tourism.

Sheelu Francis, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective / India

Tourism is about increasing profits. Women as workers are usually given jobs with meagre pay and low skill requirements. They are also subject to exploitative working conditions. If development is about increasing choices, this is not true for women. The income in tourism is based on the exploitation of women.

Marina Durano, International Gender and Trade Network / India

In tourism locations, the prices of commodities invariably rise to ten times more than the normal price. While tourists can afford these goods, the local people cannot.

Sheelu Francis, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective / India

## STATEMENT OF CONCERN OF THE TOURISM INTERVENTIONS GROUP AT THE 4TH WSF

We, the Tourism Interventions Group, at the 4th World Social Forum (WSF) in Mumbai (16-21 Jan. 2004) declare our commitment to change the character of global tourism towards a tourism that is just and equitable for people in destinations. Our interventions (including an intercontinental dialogue on tourism and four seminars) brought tourism issues to the forefront of the WSF agenda.

Through testimonies of community struggles and initiatives, we highlighted a wide range of responses to globalised tourism at the grassroots. Our interventions at WSF provided a platform for a meaningful intercontinental dialogue on the social, economic, political, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism.

In an 'Activists Strategy Meeting on Tourism' (Mumbai, 22 - 23 Jan. 2004, hosted by the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT)) we evaluated the impacts of our interventions and committed ourselves to carrying forward the momentum to the next WSF at Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2005. The Strategy Meeting emphasised the need for wide dissemination of the news of our successful interventions at Mumbai. Discussions on future actions will be shared with communities, movements, network partners and other groups. It was also decided to form the Global Tourism Interventions Forum, which would take forward this important work.

We decided to strengthen and uphold the grassroots perspectives of tourism, which position our interventions against those of the World Tourism

Organisation (WTO-OMT), the World Travel and Tourism Council (W TTC) and other mainstream definitions of tourism policy and development. As the WTO-OMT is now a specialised UN agency, we will address its new mandate and take forward civil society engagements to democratise tourism.

A primary concern is the undemocratic nature of the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organisation's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) that are slated to end by January 2005. We stress the urgent need to bring in experiences from the grassroots on the environmental and social costs of tourism to inform the negotiating positions of governments and underline the need for a rollback in the negotiations.



Highlighting tourism issues within a multitude of anti-globalisation and human rights movements such as those related to women, children, dalits, indigenous people, migrants, unorganised labour, small island, mountain

and coastal communities, as well as struggles related to land, water and access to natural resources, is crucial to sharpen local struggles and community initiatives of those impacted by tourism. Networking is at the core of future strategising to identify areas of common concern, forge alliances with like-minded individuals, organisations and movements and influence tourism policy agendas. Democracy, transparency and corporate and governmental accountability in tourism will be placed high on the agenda for concerted action and strategic interventions.

From our experiences of working on tourism issues we are extremely sceptical about the claims of tourism being a provider of jobs and earner of foreign exchange. We are concerned that the actual benefits that finally reach people in destinations are negligible compared to the profits of transnational tourism corporations. Leakages constitute a major loss of income for host communities and countries. At the same time it is local communities who bear the costs of tourism development in terms of social, cultural and environmental impacts.

At the next WSF in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2005, we will continue to highlight critical issues in tourism. We look forward to working in solidarity with local community representatives, activists and researchers from various parts of the world to strengthen our struggle and develop strategies for a tourism that is equitable, people-centred, sustainable, ecologically sensible, child-friendly and gender-just.

### Members of the Tourism Interventions Group

Ely Fernandes de Lima, Tourism and Handicrafts Cooperative, Prainha do Canto Verde, Brazil.

T. T. Sreekumar, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, SAR, China

David Ugarte, Director, Instituto de Estudios y Desarrollo de la Amazonia, Peru

Christine Pluess, Arbeitskreis Tourismus und Entwicklung (akte), Switzerland

Ranjan Solomon, Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism, Hong Kong, SAR, China

Tan Chi Kiong, Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism, Hong Kong, SAR, China

Prawate Khid-Arn, Christian Conference of Asia, Hong Kong, SAR, China

Shirley Susan, Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism, Hong Kong, SAR, China

Rodrigo Ruiz Rubio, Association for the Defence of the Kuelap, Peru

Abdul Sabur, Asia Muslim Action Network (AMAN), Thailand

Nina Rao, School of Vocational Studies, New Delhi, India

Steffen Schuelein, FernWeh - Tourism Review, Germany

Philip Kuruvilla, National Council of Churches in India

Adama Bah, Gambia Tourism Concern, The Gambia

Nelisa Peralta, Mamiraua Institute, Amazon, Brazil

Patricia Barnett, Tourism Concern, United Kingdom

Christina Kamp, Freelance Journalist, Germany

Heinz Fuchs, EED - Tourism Watch, Germany

Rosemary Viswanath, EQUATIONS, India

Sumesh Mangalassery, EQUATIONS, India

Esther Neuhaus, Instituto Terramar, Brazil

P. Krishnamoorthy, EQUATIONS, India

L. Antonyasamy, EQUATIONS, India

Benny Kuruvilla, EQUATIONS, India

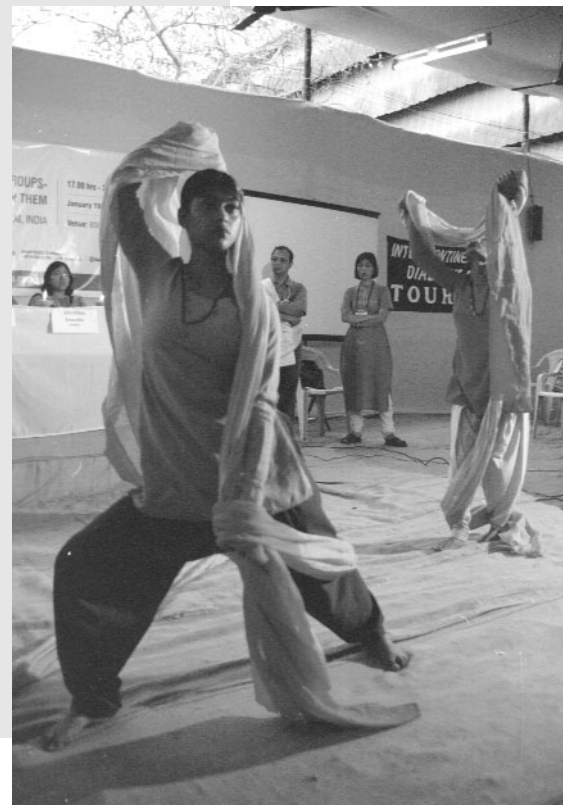
Paul Gonsalves, EQUATIONS, India

Alka Sabarwa, ICIMOD, Nepal

Joyatri Ray, EQUATIONS, India

Saroop Roy, EQUATIONS, India

K. T. Suresh, EQUATIONS, India



# ADDRESSES/LINKS/PARTICIPANTS

## Part I: Fortaleza, First Conference on Sustainable Tourism

### TOURISM - COASTAL COMMUNITIES

[www.soszonacosteira.hpg.com.br](http://www.soszonacosteira.hpg.com.br)

[www.geocities.com/novatatajuba/](http://www.geocities.com/novatatajuba/) (Tatajuba-Camocim)

<http://geocities.yahoo.com.br/praiadobatoque> (Praia do Batoque)

<http://planeta.terra.com.br/turismo/sosjeri/> (Jericoacoara)

[www.sosdunas.hpg.com.br](http://www.sosdunas.hpg.com.br) (Iparana-Caucaia)

### PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

[www.prainhadocantoverde.org](http://www.prainhadocantoverde.org) (Prainha do Canto Verde/CE)

[www.viverde.com.br](http://www.viverde.com.br) (Aldeia dos Lagos, Silves/AM)

[www.pop-tefe.rnp.br](http://www.pop-tefe.rnp.br)

[www.mamiraua.org.br](http://www.mamiraua.org.br) (Mamirauá/AM)

[www.pedrasnegras.com](http://www.pedrasnegras.com)

[www.osro.cjb.net](http://www.osro.cjb.net) (Valé do Guaporé/RO)

### FOREIGN ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EVENT

[www.akte.ch](http://www.akte.ch) (Working Group Tourism and Development/Switzerland)

[www.ecpat.nl](http://www.ecpat.nl) (Netherlands)

[www.equitabletourism.org](http://www.equitabletourism.org) (Equations/India)

[www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org) (International Labor Office- ONU)

[www.kate-stuttgart.org](http://www.kate-stuttgart.org) (Kate Turismo Vision/Germany)

[www.mlal.org](http://www.mlal.org) (Lay Movement for Latin America)

[www.redturs.org](http://www.redturs.org) (Sustainable Tourism Network in Latin America)

[www.retour.net](http://www.retour.net) (Retour Foundation/Netherlands)

[www.turismoresponsabile-air.it](http://www.turismoresponsabile-air.it) (Italy)

[www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org) (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

### MAIN SPONSORS

[www.fortalnet.com.br/~fishnet](http://www.fortalnet.com.br/~fishnet) (Instituto Terramar and Amigos da Prainha do Canto Verde)

[www.sst-foundation.com](http://www.sst-foundation.com) (Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism)

[www.wwf.org.br](http://www.wwf.org.br) (World Wildlife Fund, Brazil)

### OTHER RELATED LINKS

[www.agreco.com.br/agroturismo.htm](http://www.agreco.com.br/agroturismo.htm) (community-based tourism project)

[www.cbts.org.br](http://www.cbts.org.br) (Brazilian Council on Sustainable Tourism)

[www.ecobrasil.org.br/](http://www.ecobrasil.org.br/)

[www.embratur.gov.br/](http://www.embratur.gov.br/) (Brazilian tourism authority)

[www.gci.cttmar.univali.br/](http://www.gci.cttmar.univali.br/)

[www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org) (Inter-American Development Bank)

[www.met.gov.br/programas\\_turismo/turismo.htm](http://www.met.gov.br/programas_turismo/turismo.htm) (Brazilian Government)

[www.parqueregionaldopantanal.org.br/](http://www.parqueregionaldopantanal.org.br/)  
[www.studienkreis.org](http://www.studienkreis.org) (Study Group Tourism and Development/Germany)  
[www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk) (Tourism Concern, England)  
[www.turismocomunitario.org.br/](http://www.turismocomunitario.org.br/) (Community Based Tourism Network -WWF)  
[www.turismosustentavel.org.br](http://www.turismosustentavel.org.br)  
[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org) (United Nations Environment Program)  
[www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org) (WTO - World Tourism Organisation)

**contact: Instituto Terramar**

Rua Pinho Pessoa, 86 - Joaquim Távora  
 CEP 60135-170 - Fortaleza - Ceará - Brazil  
 Phone/fax: 0\_\_ (85) 226.2476/226.4154

[terramar@fortalnet.com.br](mailto:terramar@fortalnet.com.br)  
[www.terramar.org.br](http://www.terramar.org.br)

**Part II: Hanover, DANTE International Seminar**

**List of Participants**

**Adama Bah**

Gambia Tourism Concern  
[bahs@qanet.gm](mailto:bahs@qanet.gm)  
[www.subrosa.uk.com/tourism/](http://www.subrosa.uk.com/tourism/)

**Agatha "Gay" N. Miclat - Gatbonton**

Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement  
[gay@csi.com.ph](mailto:gay@csi.com.ph) / [agatbonton@prrrm.org](mailto:agatbonton@prrrm.org)

**Angela Giraldo**

KATE  
[angela.giraldo@kate-stuttgart.org](mailto:angela.giraldo@kate-stuttgart.org)  
[www.kate-stuttgart.org](http://www.kate-stuttgart.org)

**Anita Pleumarom**

t.i.m.-t.e.a.m.  
[tim-team@anet.net.th](mailto:tim-team@anet.net.th)  
[www.twinside.org.sg/tour.htm](http://www.twinside.org.sg/tour.htm)

**Anke Biedenkapp**

Statterreisen Hannover  
[info@reisepavillon-online.de](mailto:info@reisepavillon-online.de)  
[www.reisepavillon.-online.de](http://www.reisepavillon.-online.de)

**Ashraf El Sayad**

Chef on Tourist Boat  
 mobile number 0020123763020

**Bishnu Khadka**

Eco Himal - Society for Ecological Cooperation  
[office.ktm@ecohimal.or.at](mailto:office.ktm@ecohimal.or.at)  
[www.ecohimal.or.at](http://www.ecohimal.or.at)

**Camelia Tepelus**

ECPAT - Secretariat Code of Conduct  
[codesecretariat@world-tourism.org](mailto:codesecretariat@world-tourism.org)  
[www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)

**Carlos Maldonado**

ILO - Enterprise Development IFP/SEED  
[maldonado@ilo.org](mailto:maldonado@ilo.org) / [www.redturs.org](http://www.redturs.org)

**Christine Beddoe**

Tourism Concern  
[info@tourismconcern.org.uk](mailto:info@tourismconcern.org.uk)  
[www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)

**Christine Plüss**

akte - Arbeitskreis Tourismus & Entwicklung  
[christine.pluess@akte.ch](mailto:christine.pluess@akte.ch) / [www.akte.ch](http://www.akte.ch)

**David Ugarte Vega-Centeno**

Director del Instituto de Estudios y Desarrollo de  
 la Amazonia Regional  
[luzicha@hotmail.com](mailto:luzicha@hotmail.com)

**Deborah McLaren**

Tourism Rights International  
[Deborah@tourismrights.org](mailto:Deborah@tourismrights.org)  
[www.tourismrights.org](http://www.tourismrights.org)

**Dilys Roe**

IIED International Institute for Environment  
 and Development  
[dilys.roe@iied.org](mailto:dilys.roe@iied.org)  
[www.propoortourism.org.uk](http://www.propoortourism.org.uk)

**Esther Neuhaus**

Instituto Terramar, Fortaleza - Ceará  
 Brazilterramar@fortalnet.com.br  
 Esther.Neuhaus@gmx.net

**Gianni Cappellotto**

MLAL - Movimento Laico para America Latina  
 turismo@mlal.org

**Heinz Fuchs**

EED - Tourism Watch  
 tourism-watch@eed.de  
 www.tourism-watch.de

**Ida Ayu Agung Mas**

SUABALI  
 suabali@indosat.net.id / www.suabali.co.id

**K.T. Suresh**

Equations  
 suresh@equitabletourism.org  
 www.equitabletourism.org

**Larisa Batotsyrenova**

"Firn"  
 office@firnclub.ru / larisa@firnclub.ru  
 http://firn.buryatia.ru

**Maria Jaqueline de Souza Leite**

CHAME  
 cchame@hotmail.com  
 ong@chame.org.br

**Maria del Rocío Martínez Montero**

PAPHOEA  
 paphoea@ict.go.cr  
 www.centralamerica-smallhotels.com

**Marianne Hochuli**

Erklärung von Bern (EvB)  
 trade@evb.ch / www.evb.ch

**Mark Schmid**

cataliza gmbh  
 cataliza@bluewin.ch

**Marta di Cesare**

Associazione RAM  
 martadic@hotmail.com

**Mechtild Maurer**

ECPAT  
 info@ecpat.de  
 www.ecpat.de

**Patricia Barnett**

Tourism Concern  
 info@tourismconcern.org.uk  
 www.tourismconcern.org.uk

**Patrick Dalban Moreynas**

IUF - UITA - IUL  
 iuf@iuf.org / www.iuf.org

**P. Krishnamoorthy**

Equations  
 krish@equitabletourism.org  
 www.equitabletourism.org

**Raphael Mauri**

ACSUD  
 direccio.acsud@telefonica.net

**René Schärer**

Instituto Terramar  
 fishnet@uol.com.br

**Renzo Garrone**

Associazione RAM  
 ramcatrg@rapallo.newnetworks.it

**Rodrigo Ruiz Rubio**

Asociacion para la Defensa y  
 Desarrollo de Kuelap  
 kuelap\_99@yahoo.es  
 www.descubrekuelp.com

**Shirley Susan**

Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT)  
 contours@cca.org.hk  
 www.pacific.net.hk/contours

**Tan Chi Kiong**

ECOT - Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism  
 contours@cca.org.hk

**Thomas Olesikar**

Cultural Tourism Programme, Arusha  
 tom@tourismtanzania.org  
 t\_olesikar@yahoo.com

**contact: Steffen Schuelein / Martina Backes**

**FernWeh - Tourism Review**

Postfach 5328  
 D - 79020 FREIBURG  
 Tel. +49 - 761 - 7075125  
 www.iz3w.org  
 fernweh@iz3w.org

## Part III: Mumbai: Tourism Interventions at World Social Forum

### Delegates of the tourism interventions

**Adama Bah** is the Coordinator of Gambia Tourism Concern (GTC) in Gambia. GTC aims to raise awareness of both negative and positive impacts of tourism development in the Gambia and to promote initiatives that will involve consultation and input from local people, working together to improve their position and competitiveness within the industry.

**Albertina Almeida** is an activist and a practicing lawyer. She is an active member of Bailancho Saad (Women's Collective in Konkani), a Goa based movement, which work on issues such as rape, domestic violence, woman-teasing, discrimination at the workplace and other forms of gender injustice.

**Alka Sabharwal** coordinates the mountain tourism programme at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal. She is trained as a social anthropologist and has been involved with various grass-root organisations / local communities on livelihood issues.

**Ashok Bharati** is the National Coordinator of the National Conference of Dalit Organisations and the founder of the World Dignity Forum. He is also the founding chairperson of the Centre for Alternative Dalit Media.

**Ashok Rao**, trade unionist and Secretary General of the National Confederation of Officers Association for Central Public Sector Enterprises in New Delhi, India. He is a member of the Indian Peoples Campaign against the WTO.

**L. Antonysamy** is the Coordinator of the Tamil Nadu Environment Council and Convenor of the Social Action Movement, an umbrella organisation of over 600 NGOs and Peoples Movements working towards social change. He has been at the forefront of struggles for environmental rights and social justice in Tamil Nadu, India.

**Charm Tong** is a member of the Shan Womens' Action Network (SWAN). SWAN is also a founding member of the Womens' League of Burma. She has been involved in the Boycott Burma Campaign which has brought to light how foreign exchange generated by tourism ensured that the dictatorial regime continued in power.

**Christine Pluss** is the coordinator of AKTE Arbeitskreis Tourismus & Entwicklung (Working Group on Tourism and Development) since 2000. In AKTE she has been a researcher and campaigner since 1988, advocating critical examination of the many facets of international tourism.

**Ely Fernandez** de Lima is from the fishing village Prainha do Canto Verde in the North East of Brazil where she is a member of the village association. She is also a tourist guide and a teacher for the children's choir.

**Esther Neuhaus** is a geographer and a journalist dealing with development issues. She is working as a coordinator for community-based tourism in the Instituto Terramar, a NGO created in 1993, in Fortaleza-Brazil. The organisation works for sustainable development for fisher communities in the North East of Brazil.

**Heinz Fuchs** is a staff member of the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst/Church Development Service (EED) in Germany and has been managing the special desk "Tourism Watch" for five years where awareness raising and lobby activities for social responsibility in tourism are the main tasks.

**Jose David Ugarte Vega Centeno** is an anthropologist by training and is presently the Regional Director of the National Institute of Culture in Cusco, Peru. He was previously Mayor of the Provincial Municipality of Cusco.

**Joy Dasgupta** is Research Fellow at the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences at Kolkata, India.

**Joyatri Ray** is with EQUATIONS, India. She specialises on issues ranging from child trafficking, child labour, sexual exploitation of children and women's empowerment in the context of tourism development.

**K. T. Suresh** is the Coordinator of EQUATIONS. He has been working on issues related to tourism for the past 18 years. He specialises in tourism policy analysis on issues ranging from community led tourism initiatives, environmental impacts of tourism to the implications of international trade negotiations on sustainable tourism initiatives.

**Luc Ferran** is the Tourism Coordinator at the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT International) Secretariat in Bangkok. He represents ECPAT International on the World Tourism Organisation Task Force.

**Marina B. Durano** is the Research Coordinator of International Gender and Trade Network Asia and is currently finishing her PhD dissertation in Economics at Manchester University.

**Nelisa Peralta** is a specialist on regional development planning. She has worked for five years as the ecotourism coordinator at the Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development in Amazon (Brazil). This NGO manages the protected area where she helps seven local villages to implement an ecotourism project.

**Paul Gonsalves** is a General Body member as well as a founder member of EQUATIONS. He is presently based in Kolkata and is an independent consultant on development issues.

**Prof. Nina Rao** is a General Body member of EQUATIONS. She is presently in her second term as the Southern Co-Chair of the Tourism Caucus in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

**P. G. Padmanabhan** is presently member of the Kumarakom Grama Panchayat (local government) one of the most prominent tourism destinations in the southern Indian state of Kerala. He is a lawyer by profession, and a well-known activist of the Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad.

**Pankaj Sekhsaria** is with Kalpavriish an Environmental NGO in Pune, India and is author of the book 'Troubled Islands - Writings on the indigenous peoples and environment of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands'.

**Patricia Barnett** is presently Director of Tourism Concern in the UK. Tourism Concern is today an advocate for hundreds of groups and individuals in the South who argue that tourism impacts negatively on their cultures, societies, economies, and the environment.

**PKrishnamoorthy** coordinates the networking programme in EQUATIONS; His specialisation areas include local government, community decision-making and tourism and he is involved in networking of groups concerned on tourism developmental issues.

**Ramesh Jangid** is engaged with a small tourism initiative called Apni Dhani in Rajasthan, India and runs the Ecolodge with the concept of sharing the benefits to communities. He also conducts tours and facilitates NGO action within the communities.

**Rodrigo Rubio Ruiz** represents the Asociacion Para la Defensa y Desarrollo de Kuleap, Peru. He is involved in the struggles against the privatisation of the Fort Kuleap and displacement of communities.

**Roland Martins** is with the Goa Documentation Education Solidarity Collective in the state of Goa in India. He has also been associated with the Jagrut Goenkaranchi Fauz a tourism activist group.

**Rosemery** from Movimento Sem Terra (MST) is a campaigner in landless people's struggles in Brazil. She actively conducts Solidarity tours in Brazil and fosters cultural interaction between the people.

**Sameer Mehta** is with Bombay Environment Action Group (BEAG). The BEAG works on issues related to town and country planning, policy framing, legislation and litigation on environmental and rights issues.

**M. A. Sekar** is a well-known activist on coastal issues from Tamil Nadu, India. He is the founder member of the East Coast Forum for Development Action and has been involved in mobilising fisher-women and self-help groups in the coastal areas of North Tamil Nadu.

**Sheelu Francis** is president of the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective, which has a membership base of 75000 women in 20 districts in Tamilnadu. She is the Regional Coordinator of Asia Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty.

**T. T. Sreekumar** teaches social sciences at the Hong Kong University of Sciences and Technology, China. He is also a General Body member of EQUATIONS. He has written extensively on the impacts of tourism investment, on the environment and communities.

**Steffen Schuelein** from FernWeh - Tourism Review, Germany, is a social economist. FernWeh is a project committed to raise awareness in Germany on critical tourism issues focussing on social hierarchies, intercultural encounters, cultural stereotypes, and racism.

**Sunita Dubey** is Associate Director of the Environment Justice Initiative based in New Delhi, India. The EJI aims to bridge the gap between the human rights movement and the Environmental Movement.

**Ushakumari A.G.** is President of Kumarakom Grama Panchayat (Local Government), Kerala, India. She was instrumental in evolving a People's Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Kumarakom with people's participation.

**Ziaul-Hoque Mukta** is with Action Aid Bangladesh and works on their programme on the WTO and International Financial Institutions.

### **ORGANISERS: TOURISM INTERVENTIONS AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM AND ACTIVIST'S STRATEGY MEETING**

#### **EQUATIONS**

23-25, 8th Cross, Vignan Nagar, New Thippasandra P. O.

Bangalore-560075, INDIA

Ph: +91.80.25244988 or 25344149, Fax: ext 41

E-mail: admin@equitabletourism.org

www.equitabletourism.org

#### **EED TOURISM WATCH**

Ulrich-von-Hassell-Straße 76

53123 Bonn, Germany

Tel: +49-(0)228-8101-2302

Fax: +49-(0)228-8101-150

tourism-watch@eed.de / www.tourism-watch.de

#### **Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT)**

96 Pak Tin Village Area 2, Mei Tin Road

Shatin, NT, Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2602-3669

Fax: (852) 2602-3649

contours@cca.org.hk

http://is6.pacific.net.hk/~contours/

#### **Arbeitskreis Tourismus & Entwicklung (akte)**

Missionsstr. 21, CH-4003 Basel

T +41 61 261 47 42 / F +41 61 261 47 22

info@akte.ch / http://www.akte.ch



## ***DANTE - THE NETWORK***

### ***FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT***

DANTE is a network of 15 initiatives and non-governmental organisations from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, specialised in tourism, environment and development. DANTE is a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience as well as co-operation for sustainable tourism development.

#### ***THE MEMBERS OF DANTE***

share the vision of and strive for responsible forms of tourism which are considerate of the culture and life styles of the people, which create income, ensure the equal participation of all those affected, protect nature and generally promote the sustainable development of tourist destinations. DANTE actively and critically accompanies political processes in tourism at international, European and national levels. This includes the question of how and under which conditions tourism can contribute to sustainable development and what political framework is required.

The members of DANTE carry out analyses, provide special reports and co-operate in various contexts and with different emphases particularly in the fields of information and education, lobbying and campaigning. DANTE as a network is open to dialogue with the different stakeholders in tourism and provides competent advice, stimulus and practical guidance for the implementation of measures that contribute to sustainable development.

#### ***DANTE - CONTACT:***

c/o TOURISM WATCH - EED  
Ulrich-von-Hassel-Straße 76  
D-53123 Bonn  
Telephone: +49 (0)2 28 - 81 01 23 02  
E-mail: [tourism-watch@eed.de](mailto:tourism-watch@eed.de)

**[www.dante-tourismus.org](http://www.dante-tourismus.org)**

# WHO REALLY BENEFITS FROM TOURISM?

## **The Process Documentation on Tourism Interventions**

is available on

- ... [www.dante-tourismus.org](http://www.dante-tourismus.org)

It can also be ordered as pdf-file or  
brochure from the following addresses:

- ... **EQUATIONS**

23-25, 8th Cross, Vignan Nagar,  
New Thippasandra, P.O.  
BANGALORE - 560075, India  
Phone: +91.80.25244988, 25344149  
Fax: ext 41  
[admin@equitabletourism.org](mailto:admin@equitabletourism.org)  
[www.equitabletourism.org](http://www.equitabletourism.org)

- ... **FernWeh – Tourism Review**

Postfach 5328  
D - 79020 FREIBURG, Germany  
Phone: +49.761.7075125  
[fernweh@iz3w.org](mailto:fernweh@iz3w.org)  
[www.iz3w.org](http://www.iz3w.org)

- ... **Instituto Terramar**

Rua Pinho Pessoa, 86 - Joaquim Távora  
CEP 60135-170 - Fortaleza - Ceará - Brazil  
Phone/Fax: 0 (85) 226.2476/226.4154  
[terramar@fortalnet.com.br](mailto:terramar@fortalnet.com.br)  
[www.terramar.org.br](http://www.terramar.org.br)



# DEMOCRATISE TOURISM