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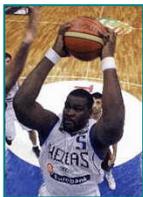
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EUGENIO YUNIS: Tourists are becoming more and more sensitive to the quality and conservation of environmental and cultural resources - *Interview on page 6*

Director's Cut: Tourism: the peaceful "ism". But it needs open borders!

Of all the "isms", one of the most benevolent is Tourism. Why? Because it is probably the only "ism" which is neither a theory of worldwide domination, nor a one-size-fits-all, messianic dogma, but something real and ageless, of course with its good and bad sides. Because it unites rather than divides people, across and within borders. Because it is peaceful. Because it can coexist with all systems and respects diversity. Even in its current, imperfect form, Tourism shows the direction to a totally mixed world without borders, barbed wires and border controls, but also without ghettos. Right in the face of fascists of all persuasions. Can anyone think of a better way to finally avoid wars than total mixing through travel, tourism & migration? For the same reason, this newspaper is *against* travel boycotts and against the even sillier boycotts against those who publish guidebooks or facilitate travel to 'boycotted' countries. Of course we need a better Tourism, a tourism for all, not just for the affluent, nor just for the northerners or the 'beautiful people' lying next to swimming pools, an affordable, quality tourism for the masses. And a mass tourism that does not destroy the environment, but which generates massive funds to preserve it. A tourism that makes the poor richer, rather than the rich richer. A tourism that educates rather than infatuates. One that is organically linked to local communities, not confined to golf resorts and all-inclusive ghettos. A tourism that encourages the higher instincts, rather the lower ones. This better tourism, rather than any segment or niche, we at ECOCLUB call genuine Ecotourism! It may still be largely elusive, but not as elusive as some would like you think.



How wonderful was it to see the multiethnic composition of most national teams in the recent world basketball championships in Tokyo, including Sophocles 'Baby Shaq' playing for Greece! And how sad it is to hear of (most we never even hear about) the endless, quiet, daily deportations of migrants and war refugees, from the blue Aegean sea, from the US/Mexico border, from the Spanish enclaves of North Africa, and the Atlantic: just this past weekend over 1,300 Africans made it to the Canaries, for their fully legal right to a better life. While US & EU officials prepare to spend billions in the highest technology to deter immigrants, would they please take two hours off their fortress-building to watch the "[Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada](#)" and think that maybe the funds would be better spend to make life for immigrants easier rather than difficult? While us, working for Ecotourism should try harder to make life easier for those who stay behind and encourage those 'northerners' who have decided to bring their capital and know-how to the south.

In this issue we have the great honour to interview someone who for three decades has been at the forefront of making World Tourism a better one: Mr Eugenio Yunis, currently Head of Sustainable Tourism at the World Tourism Organisation. It is not easy for any person or organisation to steer a giant industry, actually the world's largest, to a specific direction, but Mr Yunis, with all his vast experience, is optimistic. This can only make all of us optimistic too, and we should heed his call for cooperation in promoting sustainability in Tourism. Beyond organisations and systems, individuals, at the right place at the right time, can make all the difference.

Talking of cooperation, ECOCLUB proudly announces its cooperation with an important tourism event taking place for the first time in Sydney: the [Adventures in Travel Expo](#) (24-26 November 2006, Web: www.adventuresintravel.com.au). Our Members and readers living in or visiting Australia, are strongly encouraged to attend and exhibit and make the voice of Ecotourism be heard!

Antonis B. Petropoulos
[More Director's cut](#)

ECOCLUB Members receive a 30% off the ticket price to attend, and an exhibiting discount as follows: 15% Discount on a Premium Stand Package, 9% Discount on the Standard Package and 3% Discount for the Value Package.

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ECOCLUB ECOLOGE NEWS

Luang Namtha, LAOS: Bill Tuffin ([The Boat Landing](#)) reports on a recent big flood aggravated by rubber tree plantations:

In the six years that the guest house has been open, the Nam Tha overflowed only for a few hours on 31 August 2000 but was only ankle deep.

In early August the Typhoon Prapiroon (named after the Tai rain god) moved across Hong Kong, southern China and northern Vietnam bringing high winds and driving rains. For days the tails of the typhoon lashed northern Laos with heavy saturating rain. On the night of 6 August the remnant of the main body of the storm moved over Luang Namtha bringing torrential rainstorms to every watershed of the upper Nam Tha. Long lengths of these watersheds had been cleared during the last dry season for the planting of rubber. Inadequate forest cover was left to sufficiently retain and slow down the rain water runoff.

Around midday of 7 August the five rivers of the valley, the Nam Thoung, Nam Hoi, Nam Leu, Nam Ngaen and the Nam Tha, began to rise quickly. The dam was once again shortly overwhelmed with debris and was unable to contain the flood waters. As the waters converged Route 3, the new China to Thailand highway, became a partial dam funnelling the flood waters through the narrow channel under the bridge. Before the building of the road flood waters of the Tha River were able to broaden out and flow unhindered over adjacent rice paddies. On 7 August the waters backed up behind the bridge flooding homes in over ten villages in the valley. By early evening villagers were evacuating their homes for higher ground as were the guests of the Boat Landing Guest House.

At the Luang Namtha boat landing, the flood waters reached 1.75m in depth. The water reached it highest level in the early morning hours of 8 August and the river finally returned to its banks by midday on 9 August. The area was submerged for over 36 hours. In the memory of area residents the last flood of similar magnitude was in 1964. A log jam formed in rock outcroppings in the river across the narrow southern end of the valley damming the Nam Tha, near to where the new bridge is now located. After the flood water receded the rocks were blasted out of the river preventing flooding for the next 46 years.

On the 24th of August, once again The Boat Landing Guest House was again evacuated due to the rising waters of the Tha River. Several days of continuous rain on a landscape already saturated with water filled the river to the edge of its banks. This time the local population worked quickly to prepare for a flood. But this time the river stayed just within its banks. The rainy season of 2006 is not over. In the coming weeks, the people of the Luang Namtha valley wonder if they will yet again have to leave their homes for the safety of higher ground. Even at this writing the river runs full with little room to spare.

The tropical depression which settled over north-western Laos in the days leading up to the flood of 7 August 2006 is to blame for the flood. However, three activities done by man in the name of progress in the past years contributed heavily to the severity of the flood. The first was the building of the Nam Tha dam which does not have sufficient capacity to retain flood waters and must release them to avoid comprising the structural integrity of the dam. The second was the widespread clearing of forest for rubber tree plantations in all of the major watersheds of the upper Nam Tha. This destruction of the forest leaves rain waters unhindered to gush down barren slopes. The third was the building of the road across the southern, downstream, end of the valley and the filling in of the flood plain without any culverts or water outlets resulting in the funnelling of flood waters under the bridge.

The questions that remain are: Are the aggravating factors of the flood well understood and recognized? Will anything be done to protect the remaining forest in the watersheds? Will anything be done to prevent future flooding as was done in the past?

► <http://ecoclub.com/theboatlanding>



*Flood Waters at The Boat Landing Guest House
8 August 2006*

Chugchilán, ECUADOR: Michelle Kirby & Andres Hammerman ([Black Sheep Inn](#)) report on the implementation of their 2006 ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Award Winning project, 1st prize:

Some things have been moving along very well with the project and other things have gone slowly. We recalculated exactly how many adobe bricks we would need and it came to approximately 800, this is because we are using several windows from the old market building. We made a contract with a neighbour to make 1000 bricks for \$100. We also had to pay a different neighbour \$10 for the clay used in the bricks. In the end we paid \$10 extra for the contract to cover some of his food expenses. The transport of the bricks to the site cost \$40 plus \$5 for a lunch for the people moving the blocks. In total the adobe blocks cost us \$0.16 ½ each to make and deliver (\$165).



ADOBES: for the Chugchilán Recycling Centre. Mining clay along the road to hand mix with straw and water.

The best part of making the adobes was seeing how the ECOCLUB Award moneys have immediately given paid work to our local community. Over the years local people have been losing the tradition of building with clay and adobe. We have seen many old houses being replaced with cement blockhouses. But now when other community members saw that we were making adobes, they hired the same guy for 2 or 3 more contracts of 1000 adobes each. The copycat mentality has brought a return to traditional building methods!

Other good news is that the Italian Missionaries have volunteered to install a waterline to the recycling property. They also lent us a backhoe excavator to level the building site and to dig a 4-meter deep by 2.5-meter wide by 15-meter long trench. This will be enough landfill space for several years. The local president of the town council has organized 3 volunteer workdays for collecting rock and he also has asked the county mayor to send a dump truck to move the rocks down to the building site. We need rocks for the foundation. The property of the recycling centre has plenty of sand for mixing with the cement.

We had a guest who was a talented artist paint images on the signs above the three collection areas in the village. We have added more worms to the ever-expanding compost bins. We have done a complete inventory of salvaged structural and roofing materials from a torn down town market building and have designed the new recycling centre. The building will be approximately 11 meters by 5 meters; one third of it will be a roofed outdoor patio. We are purchasing structural rebar for the foundation this week. We have also purchased 4 more garbage separation barrels, which will soon be painted. We are adding 2 more barrels to one of the village's collection locations that receives the vast majority of waste. We also want to put 2 barrels inside the schoolyard for when elementary school resumes in September.

Once all the materials have been brought to the site the president of the town council will negotiate a contract to build the building; then we will purchase the cement, so that it does not go bad waiting for construction to begin. The president of the town council has been the main organizer that we are working with using the award money when needed. We will send an excel chart of all the spending.

Typically we move very fast on the projects that we are doing. But this time we want the community to have ownership of this project, so we have to step back and let people collaborate, even if it means waiting several weeks for something to be completed. Our gringo enthusiasm has met the realities of taking on a community project. Everything is actually going very well and we anticipate completing the project on time with many added flourishes!

► <http://ecoclub.com/BlackSheepInn>

San Juan La Laguna, GUATEMALA: Francisco Sandoval ([Eco Hotel Uxlabil Atitlán](#)) reports on the completion of their 2006 ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Award Winning project, 2nd prize:

This is a report from the project *Rescue of fishermen cayucos of San Juan La Laguna, in Lake Atitlán, Guatemala*. As you know, this project was the second place winner in the ECOCLUB 2006 contest and we received 650 Euros, or the equivalent US \$810. We have accomplished the project in record time and complementary to this report we will provide photocopies of the bills of purchases made.

1. The activity was discussed and organized with the fishermen association *Chajil Chupup* in Maya Tzutuhil, *Reed Guardians* in English. They, a poor and deprived sector of the community, had never received an stimuli from any sector. The Manager of Uxlabil expressed that if the project was going to be voted by ECOCLUB Members it should be "their project, not a hotel project". The idea was discussed in a general assembly and approved by unanimity.

2. The concrete activities of repairing and painting cayucos were carried out in two days, Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20, in the fields of Eco hotel Uxlabil Atitlán. Three days earlier, 21 cayucos were brought to this place to become dry, out of

water. The initial step consisted of repairing old and used Cayucos, taping holes and destroyed pieces of wood. Some of them were as old as 30 years, made out of one piece of wood. Then came the application of especial oil and chemical fiver.

3. In a solidarity effort inspired by Eco hotel Uxlabil, painters from the community joined the effort and put their master hands painting each of the Cayucos. Each fisherman decided the colour of his cayuco. Some liked the Brazilian flag, green and yellow, others Guatemalan blue sky colour, other reed green. One asked that he wanted his cayuco to appear like a serpent.

4. When darkness was total, at 8.00 p.m activities were suspended. Next day, at 2.00 p.m. activities were finalized. A touching moment of becoming together was asked by the fishermen. But their smile and satisfaction spoke by itself. A wood carved crab was offered as a gift to the Uxlabil Manager. Some minutes later the now colourful cayucos returned to its habitat, Lake Atitlán. A farewell picture took place.



Farewell Picture – Cayucos Ready to sail!

5. The physical activity has been completed, but we are not going to consider our project complete until a joint reflection takes place on Saturday 2 September. In such occasion each participant will answer two questions already presented to them: What did I learn? What else can we do?

6. Since Hotel Uxlabil was clear and transparent in saying that resources came from ECOCLUB headquarters in Greece, the fishermen asked me to convey their gratitude to you, something to which I adhere.

I am also pleased to report that on August 22nd, we received another Award, our third this year! For the first time in Guatemala there were six public awards given to Socially Responsible Enterprises, in six different categories. In the category of Opportunities to Reduce Poverty the winner was Banco del Café; the second place award in this category was given to Eco hotel Uxlabil. The next day both

enterprises shared their experiences and the specific manner in which their work has benefited families and local communities. Two Cabinet Ministries participated in the evaluation of these productive community projects: Planning and Hunger and Poverty Combat.

► <http://ecoclub.com/uxlabil>

Sabah, MALAYSIA: Jason Kerschner ([Sukau Rainforest Lodge](#)) reports on the implementation of their 2006 ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Award Winning project, 3rd prize.

Sukau Rainforest Lodge Sdn Bhd is proud to be winner, third place, of the 2006 ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Awards, 3rd place. The award funds (Euros 500) will be used will be used to plant trees on 64 acres of adopted land at Tenegang in Sukau, Sabah, Malaysia. The project will be implemented by Borneo Ecotourism Solutions and Technologies (BEST) our non-profit division that carries out various environmental and community projects in Borneo.

The tree species that we are planning on planting are those fruit bearing trees especially liked by wildlife. These include Nauclea subdita (Bangkal Kuning), Octomeles sumatrana (Binuang), Ficus racemsa (Tangkol), Neolamarkia cadambra (Laran), Terminalia copelandii (Talisai paya) and Litsea garciae (Pengolaban).



Landrito M. Lerado

In a separate development, Mr Landrito M. Lerado has become the new Lodge Manager at Sukau Rainforest Lodge. Having mustered vast experience through his more than one decade of service in the related field, Mr Lerado has high hopes of taking Sukau Rainforest Lodge to a higher notch. His other mission is to create conservation awareness and to further promote the practice of ecotourism to the local community. Mr Lerado, who is also a licensed tour guide with deep love and understanding of nature, has established himself as a great manager at various other Lodges before taking up the challenge to join Sukau Rainforest Lodge.

► <http://ecoclub.com/sukau>

Dominica: Jem Winston ([3 Rivers Dominica](#)) reports on a presentation he made in a Certification Conference in Tobago:

Last week, at the request of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, I went to Tobago to speak at a one day conference aimed at encouraging hotels and other tourism business to apply for Green Globe certification.

My presentation was split into 3 sections:

- A brief 3 minute movie made by American express when we won the Green Hotel of the Year award, showing the environmental equipment in use here at 3 rivers.
- A PowerPoint presentation showing our environmental and community work, and explaining in detail the relative simplicity of keeping the necessary paperwork in order to attain certification, and the resulting benefits of being fully certified.
- A film shown on BBC world recently, highlighting our education work, with the aim of showing participants the benefits of certification and eco awards, as this film would never have been shown on worldwide television if we were not a certified award winning lodge.

As a Green Globe certified, multiple award winning, accommodation, 3 Rivers Eco Lodge & Sustainable Living Centre in Dominica is focused on promoting sustainability, in the hope that more tourism operators and more people will follow suit, in order to preserve our natural environment and cultural heritage for future generations of inhabitants and tourists alike.

To this end; our property is run solely on renewable energy, our gardens are 100% organic, all cleaning products are biodegradable, and we run regular renewable energy workshops and educational tours of our property. We are now in our 3rd year of being Green Globe 'Benchmarked', and our second 'certified' year. By striving for recognition, and making full use of the eco label, we have realized two primary benefits: (a) we fill more beds as a direct result of the FREE publicity in numerous newspapers and magazines around the world; (b) other hotels see first hand the positive response to the recognition and, in many cases, they try to follow this green example in the hope of deriving similar benefits for their own establishments, which in turn preserves our planet.

As an environmental education centre as well as a hotel, we have been trying to attract overseas student groups to our centre to participate in our workshops, which help to fund the free classes which we offer to the local community.

Prior to being certified, we found it difficult to attract much interest, as universities and schools did not know enough about our capabilities. Our certification, together with our growing list of eco achievement, has given us credibility. We now have contracts with a number of overseas universities and groups, and I firmly believe that the certification and awards we have under our belt, are seen as serious credentials, and have led to the professors and group leaders taking our work seriously.

The increased number of visitors has led me to be able to employ 12 full time staff, as opposed to only 5 in the previous year, and 86% of our guests state when booking that our certification influenced their decision to choose 3 Rivers. In addition to the obvious financial and environmental benefits of certification, we have also discovered a valuable hidden benefit: In order to remain certified and win the awards, one must do the work. The process involves filling in forms, which asks for detailed descriptions of all aspects of one's environmental and social practices. This process has helped us enormously to structure our work and has often helped us find gaps or allowed us to generate new ideas for forward work planning.

I would urge all tourism enterprises to participate in environmental certification schemes, as it clearly has a direct positive impact on us all.

► <http://ecoclub.com/3rivers>

THE ECOCLUB INTERVIEW

EUGENIO YUNIS

*Head, Sustainable Development of Tourism,
United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)*



Eugenio Yunis is Mr. Eugenio Yunis is a Civil Engineer (University of Chile), with post-graduate studies in Development Economics (University of Grenoble, France), who has been involved with international tourism development and management issues for the last twenty years, always from a public perspective.



He worked during several years as a consultant, undertaking technical assistance projects in developing countries throughout the world. He joined the World Tourism Organization in 1982 and was Chief for the Americas and Europe at the Organisation, and Joint Chief of Technical Co-operation until 1989. From 1990 to 1994 he was Director General of the National Tourism Department in Chile, his home country, period during which an impressive growth of the Chilean tourism industry took place, doubling the number of international tourist arrivals. During his term in office, he stimulated joint public-private sector initiatives in tourism development and marketing.

Upon completion of his four-year term in Government, he continued as an advisor to the tourism industry and government in Chile and other countries in Latin America. In 1996 he published a major study on "Prospects of Tourism in South America" (The Economist, London). He has written a number of articles on the relationships between tourism and environment, tourism and culture, and tourism and poverty alleviation, published in journals throughout the world. Since 1997 he is back at the World Tourism Organisation in Madrid, where he heads the Sustainable Development of Tourism Department. In this capacity, he is responsible for the areas of Tourism Sustainability, Ecotourism Development, Conservation of Natural and Cultural Assets through Tourism, and Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Tourism. He represents UNWTO at the UN bodies dealing with sustainable development.

The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO/OMT), a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the leading international organization in the field of tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and practical source of tourism know-how. With its headquarters in Madrid, Spain, the UNWTO plays a central and decisive role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, with the aim of contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. In pursuing this aim, the Organization pays particular attention to the interests of developing countries in the field of tourism.

The UNWTO plays a catalytic role in promoting technology transfers and international cooperation, in stimulating and developing public-private sector partnerships and in encouraging the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, with a view to ensuring that member countries, tourist destinations and businesses maximize the positive economic, social and cultural effects of tourism and fully reap its benefits, while minimizing its negative social and environmental impacts.

The Interview follows:

☀️ You were instrumental in organising and managing the first International Year of Ecotourism. Four years after, what is your verdict about the usefulness or impact of that year, and should it be repeated?

Indeed, in preparation for the International Year of Ecotourism and during it, in 2002, UNWTO jointly with UNEP and other organizations undertook a wide range of research, capacity building and technical assistance activities and organized a number of regional and international conferences to provide a wide forum for all stakeholders, to raise issues and exchange experiences. In 2003 we conducted a survey to evaluate the impacts of IYE 2002, and the results were very encouraging: for example, half of the responding 93 countries had already established specific ecotourism policies, and had set up national ecotourism committees involving all the key sectors; many countries had organized a wide range of activities, such as awareness raising programmes, private sector support and community development initiatives, and specific projects related to protected areas. 2002 effectively marked a special focus on ecotourism, and while this segment of the tourism industry continues to be a key field with a broad range of follow-up activities, we must also look carefully and devote efforts to other emerging issues and complex fields, such as poverty reduction through sustainable tourism, or climate change and tourism.

☀️ Many apportion blame to Tourism - an easy, impersonal target - for all sorts of evils according to their world view, religion and ideology. However, how would you evaluate the overall environmental and social record of Tourism compared to other, sometimes competing sectors such as mining, plantations or forestry?

Tourism, if properly planned and controlled can provide comparative advantages in terms of the use of natural resources. Pristine environment and intact ecosystems are the sole foundation of any tourism activity, it being a beach holiday or a specialized nature trip, thus tourism can provide an economic value for these natural assets and generate income to support their preservation, and in this way it provides viable alternatives to other land use and resource exploitation forms. It has to be underlined, however, that if tourism development happens in a disorderly manner, as it unfortunately still does in some countries, it can generate mayor environmental impacts, especially caused by the development of tourism-related infrastructure. Tourism has various comparative advantages to other sectors considering business and employment opportunities: the entry costs are relatively lower for tourism businesses; tourism provides both skilled and unskilled labour, labour for women and youth and for other disadvantaged parts of society. Through the multiplier effects, tourism can stimulate the development of related sectors like agriculture, transportation, construction, handicrafts.

☀️ Over the last decade most governments have come to recognise - or at least pay lip service to - the need for a sustainable tourism. However, do you feel there is also a commensurate rise in sensitivity among tourists, or is sustainable tourism still the domain of politicians, academics and consultants?

First of all, I would like to stress that governments are increasingly recognizing the need for a sustainable development of tourism, which is manifested in tourism policies increasingly embracing sustainability principles, or tourism increasingly being integrated in national sustainable development strategies. A policy report prepared by UNWTO for the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 provides a good evidence for this. Tourists are becoming more and more sensitive to the quality and conservation of environmental and cultural resources, and these represent increasingly important factors in travel decision making, as the series of UNWTO studies in ecotourism generating markets also demonstrated these trends.

☀️ Your department, the UN WTO's Sustainable Development of Tourism Section, could be considered as the vanguard, with many noble and ambitious goals regarding what could be described as 'a tourism with a human face'. But how do you measure your performance and impact? What do you consider the milestones in the decade you head this all important section within UNWTO?

Thanks for this consideration, I must agree that our goals are ambitious, but we have a solid programme of work that addresses very practical fields of application. Positive impacts occur at many levels as a result of our activities, but it is very difficult to analyse and evaluate all of them. Once again, the survey of the impacts of the IYE 2002 is a good example of the results of our activities in a specific field.

In the international scene UNWTO's work has been instrumental over the last eight years or so to encourage a wide recognition of tourism as an important factor in the global sustainability agenda. Key events have been the inclusion of a specific chapter on sustainable tourism in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, or the Declaration on "Harnessing Tourism for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" <http://www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/doc/decla-ny-mdg-en.pdf> that was adopted in September 2005 by a representative group of governments, industry leaders, UN specialized agencies and civil society leaders, on the eve of the United Nations Special Summit to review the implementation of the MDGs, in New York. In our Sustainable Tourism - Eliminating Poverty initiative (ST-EP), also launched in Johannesburg, we have a growing portfolio of projects injecting direct technical assistance and support to local communities to produce tangible impacts on the ground.

We modestly feel that we have generated an almost unanimous awareness among the National Tourism Administrations of our 150 Member States about the need to adopt sustainable tourism policies, to establish planning and development guidelines that ensure the sustainability of the sector and that it contributes to the overall sustainable development of societies, and that the tourism industry needs continuous monitoring of its impacts. Furthermore, most governments and the private tourism have now at their disposal a substantive body of knowledge and specific techniques or methodologies generated by UNWTO to put these principles into practice.

☀️ WTO became a specialised agency of the UN, at a difficult time for the UN, when some thought it was being side-stepped through unilateralism. Can UNWTO enforce its decisions so that they are not politely ignored by national governments, indeed when not all major powers are members of UNWTO?

UNWTO is a membership organization, with 150 Member States and some 350 Affiliate Members from the private and academic sectors. The Organization is a global forum for tourism policy issues and we assist our members in their tourism development efforts, but they are the principal decision-makers in their respective countries, companies and jurisdictions; in other words, national and local governments as well as the tourism private sector are eventually responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability of this important socio-economic activity.

It is difficult if not impossible for UNWTO to ensure that all countries and all tourism stakeholders follow the guidelines we produce. Regretfully, it is not among UNWTO's mandate to "enforce" decisions, but we are advocating and providing as much advice as we can to ensure that countries do implement such decisions and the policies that we recommend.

☀️ Some worry about the fact that UNWTO is the only UN Agency with private companies, indeed the tourism industry's most powerful, as Members. Do you feel this will continue to be so, do to the dominant role that the private

sector plays in tourism, will other UN Agencies even copy the UNWTO's hybrid structure? Or will UNWTO gradually come closer to the structure of the rest of the UN, with more civil society organisations, NGOs and trade unions acquiring observer status, or even Membership?

Through its "hybrid structure" UNWTO is open to all the sectors involved in tourism, among our Affiliate Members there are also NGOs, academic institutions, local and regional authorities, and we have the Business, Education and Destination Councils with specific programme of work catering for their needs. Within the UN family we strive to play a coordinating role on tourism issues, given that a range of other UN agencies have tourism-related activities. These efforts are addressed through the UN Tourism Exchange Network, currently being established, and through a number of agreements and joint projects with other UN organizations (e.g. with UNEP for environmental protection issues, UNESCO for cultural heritage conservation through tourism, ILO for labour issues in tourism, UNICEF for the protection of children against sexual exploitation, etc).

☀️ The eradication of extreme Poverty is at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals. You have just launched an initiative, the ST-EP Foundation which focuses on precisely that. Was this foundation a result of the need for better cooperation, communication and flexibility amidst the sometimes bureaucratic/chaotic international sustainability discourse, or does this foundation also bring some new ideas in the fight against extreme poverty?

I believe that the ST-EP initiative, which is an umbrella programme of UNWTO, has all the aims you mention. The ST-EP Foundation itself is a key mechanism within this initiative to raise funds from a diversity of sources and to deliver technical assistance to poor countries and communities for poverty-related tourism projects. Besides the activities financed through this Foundation we have also produced a series of technical publications to formulate practical recommendations on how tourism potentials can be maximized for poverty reduction purposes; we have organized a series of capacity building seminars -nine so far- to train national and local officials in poor countries, as well as local NGOs and community associations in order to enable them to set up micro-tourism enterprises, or to raise the proportion of benefits of traditional forms of tourism that go to the poor. Since we started this series in 2004, more than 700 people in developing countries have been trained to these purposes.

☀️ Besides fighting extreme poverty in the developing world, labour rights, social insurance / the pensions question in the developed world, must also be part of Sustainable Tourism, at a time when we are witnessing labour unrest in major European countries. Is the UNWTO contemplating any initiatives to avoid labour unrest in the tourism sector, a sector sometimes criticised for its seasonality and the unofficial / uninsured status of many of its employees, many of whom, thanks to the labour-intensive and relatively low-skill nature of Tourism, are actually immigrants from the developing world?

Yes, there are various initiatives addressing these issues, such as the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (approved by the UN General Assembly) which has a specific article on the "Rights of the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry", collaborations with the International Labour Organization, or studies on policy tools and good practices on how to reduce the seasonality of the sector and diversify its activities, which are also key aims of our technical cooperation projects.

☀️ Sex tourism: a taboo topic, with well-known, permanent sex tourism destinations around the world, but also temporary ones, through the hosting of major sport events. This summer, the World Cup took place in Germany, and a major petition among European MPs tried to prevent the usual rise in sexual tourism and trafficking. Does / should the UNWTO play a role in this sensitive issue, or is it really up to what national governments and local societies wish to tolerate?

I do not think sex tourism should be a taboo topic, it is an unfortunate reality and UNWTO is openly addressing this issue, for example through the International Campaign Against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism and our cooperation with UNICEF and other bodies.

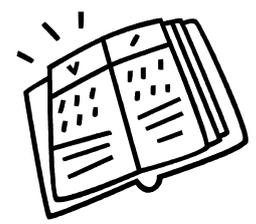
☀️ And finally, since we brought up football, do you see UNWTO as a referee, a star player, or as the organising body?

Football is a team sport, and in tourism there are many teams needed at the international, national and local levels to strengthen partnerships that make tourism work for the sustainable development objectives. UNWTO, as the UN Agency specialised in tourism, has a fair share in the 3 roles you mention: principally as an organizer and coordinator, but also as a team player, in partnership with other UN Agencies and partner organizations, as well as a generator of information and analyses of international tourism trends that provide information and guidance to the many players of the tourism sector. In a stricter sense, we would prefer that our member governments, local authorities, the tourism private sector and civil society organizations be the real players, and we assist them to make tourism happen in a sustainable and successful way. And finally, I would say, let the host communities and the tourists be the referees in order to see whether tourism indeed contributes to their wellbeing by providing job and business opportunities while preserving natural and cultural resources, and also a high quality and meaningful tourist experience that increases mutual understanding of cultures and appreciation of local values. Thanks for this interview.

☀️ ECOCLUB: Thank you very much.

UPCOMING EVENTS – September 2006

Members, plan ahead by checking the full listings at <http://www.ecoclub.com/events>



6 – 8 September, Italy: 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Tourism
 Organiser: Wessex Institute of Technology, UK & The Complutense University, Spain
 Venue: Royal Carlton Hotel, Bologna, Italy
 ► Web: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/tourism06/index.html>

10-13 September, UK: The Global Importance of the Boreal Forest
 Organiser: Taiga Rescue Network / RSPB and others
 Venue: Clare College, Cambridge, UK
 ► Web: <http://www.taigarecue.org/conference2006>

13-17 September, Switzerland: 3rd Int. Conference on Monitoring & Management of Visitor Flows in Recreational & Protected Areas
 Organiser: University of Applied Sciences in Rapperswil, Switzerland
 Venue: as above
 ► Web: <http://www.wsl.ch/mmv-3/>

18-19 September, Poland: 11th Conference EURO-ECO 2006
 Organiser: Centre of Japanese Culture and Technology in Krakow / Terre de Rivieres (France)

Venue: AGH University of Science & Technology, Krakow, Poland
 ► Web: <http://home.agh.edu.pl/~euroeco/>

20-22 September, Poland: The transformation of Tourism spaces
 Type: Annual Academic Conference
 Organiser: University of Lodz / ATLAS
 Venue: University of Lodz, Poland
 ► Web: <http://www.atlas-euro.org/pages/content/pglodz.htm>

20-24 September, UK: Living Working Landscapes
 Type: Annual Conference
 Organiser: EUROPARC
 Venue: Oxford University, UK
 ► Web: <http://www.tcp-events.co.uk/europarc2006/>

27 September – 1 October 2006, Bermuda: African Diaspora Heritage Trail
 Organiser: African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT) & Bermuda Dept of Tourism.
 Venue: The Hamilton Princess Hotel, Hamilton, Bermuda
 ► Web: <http://www.adht.net>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

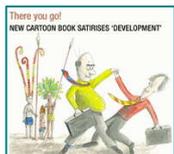
New Journal: Journal of Heritage Tourism by Channel View Publications



The first issue of the Journal of Heritage Tourism (JHT) edited by Dallen J. Timothy (Arizona State University) with a host of leading academics in its editorial board. An international, peer-reviewed journal which aims to focus on exploring a form of tourism which is - by definition – one of the oldest. The editors promise to cover potentially controversial topics such as commodification, religion, patriotism, colonial heritage and contested heritage, which will assist this journal secure a place in the increasingly crowded band of tourism journals. Indeed one of the book reviews is about Thanatourism! As for the actual articles in the first volume they are refreshingly diverse ranging from a Case Study of Pilgrimage tourism in Haifa's Baha'I Gardens to European Viking Themed Festivals, a growing phenomenon in northern Europe. Free access is offered to institutional subscribers in countries of "low human development", as defined by the Human Development Index.

► For more information visit website www.channelviewpublications.com or email info@channelviewpublications.com

'There you go!' by Oren Ginzburg & Survival International



If you dislike soulless and shallow development-speak/bureaucratese, this, seriously-funny comic book is for you. A short but delightful book which you can view as an online slideshow at <http://www.survival-international.org/thereyougo!> Or, if you prefer, and so that you support Survival International's efforts on behalf of the world's indigenous people, you can purchase 'There you go!' at <http://www.survival-international.org/books.php> for just GBP 4.

Do you have a new publication? See <http://ecoclub.com/news/information.html#Review>

ECO – JOBS

A selection of ecotourism –related vacancies with September deadlines, available to our [Members](#)

Deadline	Country	Job Title
Sep 5	Lao PDR	Conservation Body Program Coordinator
Sep 5	UK/Belgium	Biodiversity/Nature Conservation Research Fellow
Sep 5	UK	Biodiversity Partnership Coordinator
Sep 5	USA	Slow Food Program Intern
Sep 7	USA	Sustainable Tourism Intern
Sep 8	Cambodia	Ecotourism Officer
Sep 8	Canada	Tourism Magazine Associate Editor
Sep 8	UK	Ecology Research Grants
Sep 10	Latin America	Community Conservation Project Manager
Sep 11	Australia	NP Interpretation Officer
Sep 11	Canada	Environmental Officer
Sep 11	UK/Sierra Leone	Project Leader Rainforest Conservation
Sep 12	China	Development Partnerships Coordinator incl. Tourism
Sep 13	UK	Grasslands Restoration Officer
Sep 15	Australia	NP Tour Guide
Sep 15	Cameroon	Project Coordinator incl. Sustainable Tourism
Sep 15	France	Biodiversity Science Officer
Sep 15	Marshall Islands	Environmental Advisor
Sep 15	Netherlands	Environment Programme Coordinator
Sep 15	UK	Sustainable Business Team Administrator
Sep 15	UK	Overseas Conservation Officer
Sep 15	UK	Reserves Manager
Sep 15	UK	Conservation Officer
Sep 15	UK	Wildlife Reserve Management Training
Sep 15	USA	Sustainable Development Director
Sep 15	USA	Ecotourism Web Design Advisor (Volunteer)
Sep 15	Worldwide	Post Graduate Research Opportunity (volunteer)
Sep 17	Italy	Program Officer Environment
Sep 18	Cambodia	Expedition Company Country Co-ordinator
Sep 18	UK	Wildlife Consultancy Contracts Officer
Sep 20	FYROM	Chief of Party (incl Tourism)
Sep 20	Nigeria	Volunteer Tourism Advisor
Sep 20	USA	Ecosystem Research Assistant
Sep 22	USA	Winter Naturalist (Ecological Interpretation)
Sep 24	UK/Various	Expedition Leaders
Sep 25	Brazil	Conservation Program Coordinator
Sep 29	Andes	Conservation Development Specialist
Sep 29	Australia	Tourism Scholarships
Sep 29	UK	Marketing Manager Ecotour Company
Sep 30	Africa	Biodiversity Conservation Coordinator
Sep 30	Lesotho	Ecotourism Development Specialist
Sep 30	USA	Communications Manager Expedition Company
Sep 30	USA	Internship Nature Centre

ECO – PROJECTS

A selection of ecotourism-related consultancy and other opportunities with September deadlines, available to our [Business Members](#)

Deadline	Country	Description
CONSULTANCY/ BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES		
Sep 5	USA	Evaluation Ecologist / Wildlife Biologist
Sep 7	Southern Mediterranean	Tourism Experts Development Programme, Team Leader Expert Tourism Planning,
Sep 8	Netherlands	Best Practices Manual, Wetlands Conservation
Sep 16	Kyrgyzstan	Protected Area Management Experts
Sep 18 & Sep 20	Honduras	Sustainable Tourism Consultancy
Sep 18	Romania	Environmental GIS Maps
Sep 22	UK	Sustainable Tourism Consultancy
Sep 29	UK	National Parks Strategic Framework Consultancies

ECOTOURISM FUNDING AVAILABLE		
Sep 5-27	Greece	Agrotourism Grants
Sep 11	Bulgaria	Cultural/Nature Tourism Promotion Grants
Sep 11	USA	Agrotourism Grants
Sep 17	Egypt	Sustainable Tourism Grants
Sep 18	Bulgaria/Greece	Sustainable Development Nature Protection Grants
Sep 28	China	Biodiversity Programme Grants
Sep 30	UK	Heritage/Tourism Grants
Sep 30	Worldwide	Environmental Award

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