



2017
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
FOR DEVELOPMENT

World Tourism Organization

UNWTONNEWS

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[Prime Minister of Samoa appointed Special Ambassador of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development by UNWTO during the Ocean Conference](#)

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has appointed the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, as Special Ambassador of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism 2017. The ceremony took place in New York on 7 June on the side-lines of the UN Ocean Conference, where among other activities the Prime Minister addressed participants on the value of tourism to sustainably advance the blue economy.

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[Moldova hosts the 61st Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Europe](#)

Over 30 countries and Affiliate Members of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) gathered last week in Chisinau, the capital city of the Republic of Moldova, for the 61st Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Europe. Participants discussed the priority areas for the Organization as well as strategies to position the tourism sector as a key driver of sustainable development in Europe (6 June 2017).

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[61st meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for the Americas addresses application of technology to tourism](#)

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), together with the Ministry of Tourism of El Salvador and the Honduran Institute of Tourism, jointly held the 61st Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for the Americas. The meeting, which took place in San Salvador and Roatán on 30 and 31 May 2017, respectively, culminated in an international seminar on new technologies applied to tourism on 1 June 2017.

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[UNWTO and WTTC present Open Letter to Malta Prime Minister](#)

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) presented the Open Letter on Travel and Tourism to the Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat. The Open Letter outlines tourism's value as one of the world's largest generators of jobs and a powerful driver of socio-economic growth and sustainable development. To date, the Open Letter has been received by 89 Heads of State and Government.

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[On the international Day for Biological Diversity UNWTO announces a training on tourism and biodiversity in West and Central Africa](#)

The Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations has chosen 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism' as the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated today 22 May 2017. On this occasion, UNWTO is launching a capacity building programme on sustainable tourism and biodiversity protection, to be implemented in West and Central Africa.

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[Strengthening Tourism Statistics in the Gulf Cooperation Council Member States](#)

The new vision of the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT) aims to prepare Strategic Planning and Roadmaps for Development to 2020 for eleven economic sectors including tourism. In doing so, and taking into account the experience of UNWTO in developing the internationally recognized methodologies for setting up national tourism statistical systems and the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), GCC-STAT requested UNWTO's technical assistance in the preparation of the road map for the harmonization of the collection and analysis of tourism statistics and related economic data.

Given that UNWTO has, or is currently, providing technical assistance in tourism statistics to Oman, Qatar and the UAE, it was agreed that UNWTO would undertake assessment missions to Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as a first step, to analyse the current status of their respective tourism statistical systems and areas for improvement. The GCC Member States comprise Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

[Read more +](#)



[World Conference on “Tourism and Future Energy: Unlocking low-carbon growth opportunities” \(26-27 June 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan\)](#)

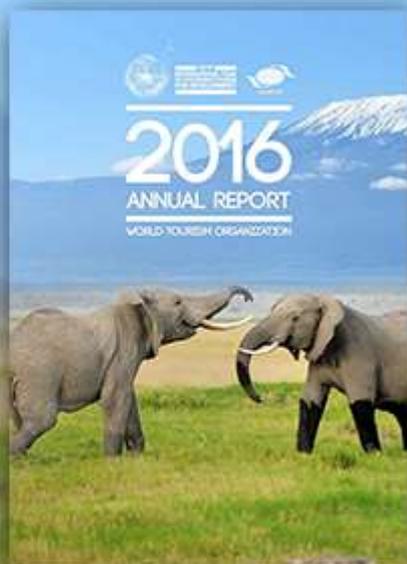
[2nd International Western Silk Road Workshop \(27-28 June, Sofia, Bulgaria\)](#)

[Conference on Sustainable Tourism in the Danube Region: New Perspectives \(29-30 June 2017, Belgrade, Serbia\)](#)

[UNWTO Asia-Pacific Tourism Marketing Evaluation Workshop \(6-7 July 2017, Changshu, China\)](#)

[UNWTO Practicum on “Crisis Communications in Tourism” - Edition in Spanish and French \(9-16 July 2017, Madrid, Spain and Escaldes-Engordany, Andorra\)](#)

[The Second International Rural Tourism Conference \(16 July 2017, Anji County, Huzhou, China\)](#)



[Annual Report 2016](#)

2016 proved to be another excellent year for international tourism despite many challenges. International tourist arrivals grew for the seventh consecutive year to reach 1.2 billion, a sequence of uninterrupted growth not recorded since the 1960s. The strongest growth was recorded in Africa and in the Asia and the Pacific region.

2016 was also a key year for UNWTO as we embrace the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into all our activities. Want to know more?

[Download the report](#)



[World Conference on “Tourism and Future Energy: Unlocking low-carbon growth opportunities”](#)

Today, tourism represents 10% of the world’s GDP, 7% of global exports, and 1 in every 10 jobs worldwide. In 2015, tourism was the third export-earning category after fuels and chemicals. Yet, with growth comes responsibility. Tourism is estimated to account for 5% of global CO2 emissions, of which 40% derive from air transport and 20% from hotels and other types of accommodation. The remaining 40% of those emissions are related to other types of transport segments (cruises, cars, railway, etc.) and tourism’s recreational services. The “greening” and “decarbonizing” of the tourism sector is crucial for building a more sustainable and competitive sector. This requires vision, innovation, sound planning, good management, and monitoring by all players. The Tourism and Future Energy World Conference aims to stimulate discussion among industry leaders, entrepreneurs, financiers and policy makers. It shall explore new opportunities and innovative solutions for future energy in the global tourism sector to contribute to low carbon growth.

[Read more +](#)

The [World Tourism Organization \(UNWTO\)](#), a United Nations specialized agency, is the leading international organization with the decisive and central role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism know-how. Its membership includes 156 countries, 6 territories, 2 permanent observers and over 500 Affiliate Members. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Flickr](#).



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