

Research needs expressed in the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Cross-Cutting Issue: Biological Diversity and Tourism

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries as well as the major source of foreign exchange earning and employment for many developing countries, and it is increasingly focusing on natural environments. However, tourism is a double-edged activity. It has the potential to contribute in a positive manner to socio-economic achievements but, at the same time, its fast and sometimes uncontrolled growth can be the major cause of degradation of the environment and loss of local identity and traditional cultures. Biological and physical resources are in fact the assets that attract tourists (<http://www.cbd.int/tourism/intro.shtml>).

Cited Decisions that express research needs are VII/14, XII/11 and XIII/3.

Direct research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source http://www.cbd.int/decisions/
VII/14	Annex I Para 14	Guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development.	Baseline information should take into consideration all sources of knowledge. The adequacy of the baseline information available will need to be reviewed, and where necessary, further research and information-gathering can be undertaken to fill gaps that may be identified.	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7751
VII/14	Annex I Para 69		Indicators to cover aspects of management of biodiversity and sustainable tourism, including socio-economic and cultural aspects, should be identified and monitored at global, national, and local levels,	
XII/11	Para 3	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites</i> relevant research bodies to undertake studies of the cumulative impact of tourism on sensitive ecosystems and of the consequences for biodiversity of sustainable livelihood initiatives including tourism, in collaboration with appropriate national agencies, and to disseminate their results as a further means to build the capacity of Parties;	doc/?meeting=cop-12

Indirect research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau /	Text	Source
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		Heading		http://www.cbd.int/decisions/
VII/14	Annex I Para 13	For tourism and biodiversity, the baseline information should include information, as appropriate, on:	<p>Current economic, social and environmental conditions at national and local level, including current and planned tourism development and activities and their overall positive and negative impacts, as well as development and activities in other sectors;</p> <p>Structure and trends within the tourism sector, tourism policy and tourism markets and trends, at national, regional and international level, including information based on market research as necessary;</p> <p>Environmental and biodiversity resources and processes, including any special features and sites of particular importance and protected areas, and identifying those resources that may be off bounds to development due to their particular fragility and those resources identified by existing analysis of threats;</p> <p>Culturally sensitive areas;</p> <p>Benefits from, and costs of, tourism to indigenous and local communities;</p> <p>Information on damage done to the environment in the past.</p>	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7751
VII/14	Annex I Para 18	Guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development.	Baseline information should include maps, geographical information systems and other visual tools, including already identified zoning schemes.	
VII/14	Annex I Para 20 b	To enable impact assessment and decision making, the basic information required includes:	<p><i>Ecological aspects:</i></p> <p>Detailed indication of the protected and biodiversity significant areas;</p> <p>Specifications on the ecosystems, habitats, species;</p> <p>Quantitative and qualitative information on the loss of habitats and species (main reasons, trends);</p> <p>Indexing of species;</p> <p>Identified threats;</p> <p>Existing zones, ecological zones and existing tourism zones within the ecological zones;</p> <p>Ecologically sensitive zones and zones where ecological disasters have or will most likely take place.</p>	cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&id=7751
VII/14	Annex I Para 78	Guidelines on biodiversity and	In addition, adaptive management learning portfolios should be developed between different sites so that comparison can be made	

		tourism development.	and lessons learned.	
VII/14	Annex I Para 84	Information to be provided as part of the notification could include:	<p>Any flora, fauna and ecosystems that could be affected by the tourism development or activities, including keystone, rare, endangered or endemic species;</p> <p>Ecological aspects of the site and its surroundings, including indication of any protected areas; specifications on the ecosystems, habitats, and species; quantitative and qualitative information on the loss of habitats and species (main reasons, trends), and indexing of species;</p> <p>Likelihood of impacts beyond the immediate area of the tourism development or activities, including transboundary impacts and effects on migratory species.</p>	
XII/11	Para 1	The Conference of the Parties	<p><i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments, with the support of relevant organizations</p> <p>b) To identify areas where there is both significant biodiversity and significant pressure or potential pressure from tourism, and to develop and support projects in these “tourism and conservation hotspots”, including at regional level, with the objective of demonstrating how to reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts from tourism;</p> <p>c) To monitor and review recreation, visitation and other tourism activities in protected areas, as well as impacts and relevant management processes in ecologically sensitive areas;</p>	doc/?meeting=cop-12
XIII/3	Para 81	The Conference of the Parties	<p><i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments</p> <p>b) To generate, integrate and use information on the positive and negative impacts on biodiversity of tourism for decision-making on the planning, operation and management of the sector, including with respect to investments, development of infrastructure, job creation, and in considering mechanisms for the reinvestment of parts of tourism revenues on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration at the local or community level;</p>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-13