

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Organization: United Nations Environment Programme

Title: Transforming tourism values chains for low carbon and resource efficiency

Description of the action:

In order to support the transformation of tourism value chains for low carbon and resource efficient operations, it is crucial that policy makers and businesses have the relevant tools, resources, and knowledge to be able to base their decision-making processes and policies on science-based approaches that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building upon the work developed by two projects - Transforming Tourism Value Chains in Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to Accelerate More Resource-Efficient, Low-Carbon Development (TTVC) and the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs), which are part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) - and with available resources, UNEP will advance the transition towards sustainable tourism and the integration of the sector with sustainable consumption and production patterns and circular economy principles, through its support to Member States and members of specialized agencies on sustainable tourism by:

- supporting member countries to develop national sustainable tourism roadmaps and strengthen policy coherence;
- supporting innovative investment and finance for sustainable tourism, including sustainable mobility, and local governance;
- supporting SMEs to improve sustainability and circularity in tourism value chains;
- working with Member States and the United Nations system through existing platforms, and with other international partners, to support long-term sharing of experiences, peer-to-peer learning, technical assistance, capacity-building and training on sustainable tourism;
- establishing monitoring frameworks and systems to measure the sector's general progress towards sustainability, climate, biodiversity and nature conservation.

As for the pan-European region, UNEP commits to provide following support to the countries to transition their tourism sector:

- adapting and tailoring TTVC and GO4SDGs project tools to the Pan-European context to help countries analyze tourism value chains, identify environmental and social hotspots which require intervention, prepare policy recommendations, develop capacity of organizations and tourism operators (including women's organizations) and develop action plans that will help reduce emissions, increase circularity in tourism operations and improve resource efficiency of tourism businesses;

- conducting plastic hotspot analysis using 'UNEP/IUCN National Guidance for plastic pollution hotspotting and shaping action' methodology which will help identify policy actions to reduce plastic pollution nation-wide and tourism areas.

Time frame/milestones, for action, as appropriate: Until end of 2025

Type of action: Information, education-based, data collection, capacity-building and voluntary instruments

Economic sectors: Tourism sector but effects are economy-wide

Reference instruments and sources as appropriate:

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/value-chains/transforming-tourism>

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/value-chains/transforming-tourism/roadmaps>

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/value-chains/transforming-tourism/tools>

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/value-chains/transforming-tourism/resources>

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-tourism/global-tourism-plastics-initiative>

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

Positive socio-economic results can include poverty reduction, and improved equity and gender equality, whilst promoting economic development of tourism destinations, investment in nature, supporting local communities, generating green jobs, and promoting innovation.

The knowledge products and key resources of the TTVC and GO4SDGs project can benefit the Pan-European region as they can be easily tailored and adapted to the local context. For instance, the Resource Efficiency tool will be transformed into an online tool that can be regularly updated by Pan-European businesses to annually track their emission reductions. All project tools are designed to address the SDGs in order to align individual actions by businesses to wider national targets regarding climate action, pollution reduction, and biodiversity conservation.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 17

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as applicable: not applicable

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: To be derived from the relevant SDG indicators

Partners: UN Country Teams, UN System partners, Member State Governments, civil society, academia,

WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme), the Travel Foundation, Equality in Tourism, the World Tourism Organization, World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), Airbnb,

International Olympic Committee, Occitanie Region, Pays de la Loire Region, Regional offices and coordinators; One Planet Network Sustainable Tourism Programme, Travalyst, Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, OECD, and UNRCOs of Pan European countries.

Contact point:

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Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Organization: United Nations Environment Programme

Title: Supporting Pan-European countries in developing sustainable and resilient infrastructure
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Description of the action:

During the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi last March, Member States adopted a resolution on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure (UNEA/E.A.5/Res.9). This new resolution builds on a 2019 UNEA resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.5) by encouraging Member States to implement the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure, published last year through the UNEP-led Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership and endorsed by the United Nations Environment Management Group; promote investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions; cooperate internationally to strengthen frameworks, including for financing; and provide opportunities for engaging relevant stakeholders.

Under this mandate, and within available resources, UNEP will help advance the transition towards inclusive green economy in the Pan-European region through its support to Member States on sustainable and resilient infrastructure by:

- promoting the implementation of existing tools, and further developing knowledge on sustainable and resilient infrastructure, economy-wide and by sector;
- working with Member States and the United Nations system through existing platforms, and with other international partners, to support long-term sharing of experiences, peer-to-peer learning, technical assistance, capacity-building and training on sustainable infrastructure;
- offering capacity support to plan and deliver sustainable infrastructure investment that will drive an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development;
- facilitating private-sector engagement in planning and developing, and mobilizing finance for sustainable and resilient infrastructure by engaging businesses, practitioners, investors and other private-sector stakeholders;
- collaborating with the International Resource Panel to advance efforts for connecting science and policy for sustainable infrastructure in order to provide expert, policy-relevant and science-based options on the matter;
- providing technical assistance on the implementation of the international good practice principles, as appropriate and upon the request of a Member State, for application to specific subsystems of infrastructure and for the private sector and other stakeholder groups;
- continuing to collect and share best practices, tools and experiences for improving the sustainability of infrastructure systems.

Time frame/milestones, for action, as appropriate: Until end of 2025

Type of action: information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments

Economic sectors: Economy-wide, as well as targeted sectors.

Reference instruments and sources as appropriate:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39852/SUSTAINABLE%20AND%20RESILIENT%20INFRASTRUCTURE.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

https://content.unops.org/publications/Infrastructure_underpinning_sustainable_development_EN.pdf

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

Infrastructure underpins the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it cuts across the 17 Goals and influences [92%](#) of the 169 individual SDG targets, while also advance world efforts to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and meet the objectives of the Paris climate agreement. Through integrating sustainability into infrastructure plans, governments can ensure that 21st century infrastructure promotes environmental, social and economic sustainability and resilience. Positive social results can include poverty reduction, promote equity and advance gender equality, whilst promoting economic development and investment in nature, supporting local communities, generating green jobs, and promoting innovation.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 92% of targets across all 17 SDGs.

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as applicable: not applicable

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: To be derived from the relevant SDG indicators.

Partners: UN Country Teams, UN System partners, Member State Governments, civil society, academia, international financial institutions, national and local authorities, academia, as represented in relevant networks such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, One Planet Network, International Resources Panel, and other relevant sectoral, global, and regional initiatives and platforms.

Contact point:

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15, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Email: roe@unep.org

Templateⁱ for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization:** 10YFP Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)ⁱⁱ that the initiative will contribute to):**

Support Pan-European countries with the implementation of circular economy of plastics in the tourism sector

3. **Description of the action:**

The One Planet Network is a global community of practitioners, policymakers and experts, including governments, businesses, civil society, academia and international organizations that implements the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). In December 2021, the UN General Assembly in resolution A/RES/76/202 extended the mandate of the 10YFP to 2030 and encouraged its implementation, recognizing that unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are key drivers of natural resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and malnutrition, and recommitted to making fundamental changes in the way that societies produce and consume goods and services. Within this framework, the One Planet network's Sustainable Tourism Programme has the mandate to support tourism destinations and businesses in transition toward more circular and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

One Planet network Sustainable Tourism Programme will provide support to Pan-European tourism policy makers, companies, and other relevant stakeholders with regards to the implementation of circular economy of plastics in the tourism sector.

More specifically, the Programme will provide support through its Global Tourism Plastics Initiative with:

- capacity building activities targeting policy makers and tourism businesses
- establishment of coordination mechanisms on destination level
- establishment of measurement and monitoring frameworks.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF).

The Initiative works across the tourism value chain with relevant stakeholders including suppliers and waste management platforms, accommodation (large multinational companies and SMEs), tour operators, cruise lines, online booking platforms and of course, tourism destinations (national and local governments) to take up the challenge of plastic pollution. The GTPI is aligned with the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment where it operates as tourism sector interface.

Almost 50% of GTPI stakeholders are based in Pan-European countries¹, which demonstrates that the GTPI is well positioned in the region in order to support UNECE member states in scaling up their efforts towards transition to more circular patterns in the tourism sector.

¹ Since the beginning of the initiative, 61 organizations (15 accommodation providers, 29 supporting organizations, 1 supplier, 1 destination, 14 tour operators, travel agents and platforms, 1 cruise line) from UNECE countries have joined GTPI, among which large tourism companies with Headquarters in Europe such as Accor, TUI Group, ClubMed, Ponnant, Booking.com

Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate: by 2025

4. **Type of actionⁱⁱⁱ:** voluntary commitments, policy development support, knowledge management (development of tools, methodologies, and provision of trainings); destination-level coordination
5. **Economic sectors^{iv}:** Tourism (accommodation, cruise lines, tour operators, online booking platforms); producers of amenities; waste management
6. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**

Guidance on how to become signatory: [here](#)

More information about the initiative: [here](#)

Latest resources:

[Recommendations for the tourism sector to continue taking action on plastic pollution during COVID-19 recovery](#) - GTPI, 2020

[Addressing pollution from single-use plastic products: A Life Cycle Approach – Key messages for tourism businesses](#) – GTPI, 2021,

[Rethinking Single Use Plastic Products in Tourism: Impacts, Management Practices and Recommendations](#) - UNEP and WTTC, 2021

During UNECE ministerial conference in Nicosia, on 5th of October, UNEP, UNWTO and France will jointly announce launch of 2 new GTPI publications on CE of plastics in tourism on procurement and measurement of plastics in operations of accommodation companies:

GTPI Plastics Measurement Methodology for Accommodation Providers and Recommendations

The methodology sets a common approach for the identification and measurement of weight of plastic packaging and items. It provides calculation tools to gather data on the level of a property and aggregate it on a company level.

Guidance on Addressing Plastic Pollution through Sustainable Procurement

The guidance provides practical support for procurement practitioners on the procurement of plastic items and packaging (and its alternatives).

7. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Reduction of plastic pollution induced by operations of tourism stakeholders; introduction of circular solutions (including promotion of reuse models) in tourism operations; improved coordination among tourism stakeholders, suppliers, waste management platforms and public authorities on destination and value chain levels. The Initiative also supports capacity building of tourism sector stakeholders by providing guidance, tools, and online trainings.
8. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG12, 12.b, and SDG 14**
9. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** not applicable
10. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:**

Tourism sector stakeholders across tourism value chains are committing to ambitious and actionable targets in line with CE principles to be implemented by 2025 latest. To ensure effective implementation of the targets, tourism stakeholders and companies, are also committing to an annual (and mandatory) reporting.

The Initiative uses following indicators of success:

number of destinations, companies and other stakeholders that committed to ambitious targets on CE of plastics and are annually reporting on their

implementations; weight of plastics in operations of tourism accommodation providers and cruise lines (annual reporting for GTPI signatories that are part of the category “large companies”).

- 11. Partners:** UNWTO, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Ministry of Environment of France. Since the beginning of the initiative, 61 organizations (15 accommodation providers, 29 supporting organizations, 1 supplier, 1 destination, 14 tour operators, travel agents and platforms, 1 cruise line) from UNECE countries have joined GTPI, among which large tourism companies with Headquarters in Europe such as Accor, TUI Group, ClubMed, Ponnant, Booking.com All 124 GTPI signatories can be consulted [here](#).
- 12. Contact points:** Svitlana Mikhalyeva, 10YFP Secretariat, UNEP (svitlana.mikhalyeva@un.org)

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?** (NO)
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure^v” does the action contribute:*
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** (YES)

ⁱ Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

ⁱⁱ Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

ⁱⁱⁱ In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

^{iv} In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

^v The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>