

ESUG/SUME Regional Meeting for Europe

Opportunities to fund conservation networking through tourism

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The objective of the session

The objective is to examine whether a network (www), linked to naturalliance.org, can:

- be used globally as a resource for nature-based tourism (or eco-tourism)
 - help fund our activities in this area,
 - encourage use of sites down to local levels, at first for local administrations,
 - encourage people to improve their nature, heritage and hospitality facilities really widely.
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Major issues and questions (1)

- How ESUG/SUME should work to assist tourism to be sustainable?
- What is to be the subject (contents) of networking - biodiversity issues or also development challenges, especially poverty and inequality?
- Can linking conservation of biodiversity protection with cultural aspects of tourism increase the networking impact on sustainability of tourism?
- What are to be the tools used – information resources (best practice), toolkits, guidelines, certifications and standards, training materials?

Major issues and questions (2)

- What stages of nature-based tourism development we are going to focus on - planning, design, implementation, evaluation?
- What is the current status of the networking – global, regional, national and what could be the networking niche?
- Are there institutions and organizations providing tools and guidance to support nature-based tourism?
- What can ESUG/SUME offer tourism stakeholders and which ones to assist?

Major issues and questions (3)

- What stages of nature-based tourism development we are going to focus on - planning, design, implementation, evaluation?
- What are the nature-based tourism topics, the network will address - e.g. enabling policy environment, governance, infrastructure, visitor management, human resources, sustainable tourism, impacts of tourism, monitoring & evaluation?
- Whom we are going to support by networking – tour operators, national authorities, local authorities and community self-governments, local enterprises and NGOs?



Major issues and questions (4)

- How the networking with a system like that of naturalliance.org (including local sites in the SYCL) can benefit such objectives?
 - What networking “engine” is to be employed - e.g. a huge network of local community sites?
 - Has ESUG sufficient human and financial resources to engage?
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Refreshment





Recommendations

- Create a multilingual networking system like that of naturalliance.org, structured down to national level, i.e. adapted to needs of major stakeholders.
 - The networking system aimed at best practice sharing, adapted to needs of major stakeholders, with a focus on **K**nowledge, **E**mpowerment, **G**overnance and **O**rganization (KEGO).
 - Funding would result from advertisements from the big commercial companies like Thomas Cook and Tui.
 - Funding would also result from national authorities and development agencies.
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Thank you for attention!