

EIVISSA DECLARATION  
May 2008

The International Congress “World **Heritage, Tourism and Climate Change**” was held in Eivissa, Spain, from 21 to 23 May 2008 and was attended by 215 participants from 10 different countries.

The participants of the International Congress “World Heritage, Tourism and Climate Change” express their appraisal for the efforts made by the Government of Spain as well as the Autonomic Government of the Balearic Islands and the Municipality of Eivissa led by the Tourist Excellence Plan, and the international organizations that supported the Conference, such as the UNESCO and The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), for organizing this successful Conference, and wish to express their appreciation for the initiative designed by the organizers in order to balance the effect of the carbon emitted from the participant’s air travel by supporting the local project, that is, planting several trees on the city to mitigate the impact of the Conference.

Participants acknowledge:

That global warming and climate change are facts clearly impacting our environment and hence our quality of life now and in the future.

That this global phenomenon can only be tackled with sensitized and informed citizens at a global level.

That tourism as a result and expression of mobility, suffers their consequences and at the same time contributes to the increase of climate change and acknowledges the importance of the participation of the tourist sector in the search for solutions.<sup>1</sup>

That World Heritage Sites – due to their outstanding biological and cultural diversity – are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and adverse impacts of irresponsible tourism.

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<sup>1</sup> See Davos Declaration of October 2007.

Express their concern about:

The tangible impacts of climate change and all forms of exploitation that World Heritage sites are experiencing worldwide, putting at risk their outstanding universal value and sustainable development.

The acceleration of environmental changes observed at heritage sites over the last decade.

Recent campaigns using environmental disasters as tourism promotion.

The participants therefore call upon:

All countries (States Parties) to adopt and implement sustainable development policies involving all levels of administrations and all sectors, such as tourism, economy, culture, environment, agriculture etc.

All countries to ensure (financial) support of research and integrated management of World Heritage Sites.

All countries to ensure (financial) support of research on the links between tourism and climate change.

All countries to ensure, as much as possible, the protection of the diversity of both cultural and natural heritage, particularly endemic species and sites representing traditional systems of knowledge.

All countries to ratify all international legal instruments that address the issues of environmental protection and climate change.

All international organizations to coordinate more than ever their activities in support of research, education and information about climate change impacts and possible adaptive and corrective measures at site level, mitigation and correction in World Heritage Sites.

The UNESCO and UNWTO to continue to pursue its involvement in awareness-raising and policy-making on World Heritage, tourism and climate change.

All local authorities responsible for managing World Heritage Sites to develop integrated approaches to heritage management, involving and informing the local communities and all other stakeholders.

All local authorities responsible of managing World Heritage Sites to develop integrated management mechanisms that take into account risk preparedness, preventive, adaptive and corrective measures as well as mitigation measures of the impacts of climate change.

All local authorities responsible of managing World Heritage Sites to develop projects aiming at the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice, especially among sites in developed and developing countries.

All local authorities responsible for managing World Heritage Sites, that these sites should be promoters and/or engines of information, education and participation among local communities.

All local authorities responsible of managing World Heritage Sites to insist in education and awareness-raising activities particularly addressed to children and young people.

All responsible actors of tourist sectors where World Heritage Sites are placed, in order to develop the systems of integrated management that list the possible risks of preparation, prevention, adaptation and corrective measures, as well as mitigation measures of the impacts of climate change, for only so an integrated focus shall be achieved.

Eivissa, may 2008