

**WORLD ECOTOURISM SUMMIT STATEMENT**  
**Andean South America Regional Meeting**  
Lima, Peru  
5-7 February 2002

**LIMA DECLARATION**

*The participants of the Andean Regional Conference for Ecotourism, met in the city of Lima, Peru, February 5-7, 2002, as part of the regional preparatory conferences being held worldwide to discuss specific themes for the regions, relating to development of ecotourism. The results, conclusions and recommendations will be presented at the World Ecotourism Summit to take place in Quebec, Canada, May 19-22, 2002.*

Hereby acknowledging the framework of the Declaration of Otavalo, which reviewed sustainable tourism, competition, community and identity, and the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in which five presidents pointed out the immense challenge faced by Andean countries when implementing the concept of sustainable development.

Informed as well by the 14th Meeting of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), recognizing that ecotourism is one of the key instruments of sustainable development.

Recognizing that the United Nations has proclaimed the celebration of the International Year of Ecotourism for the year 2002.

Affirming the strategic importance that ecotourism has in Andean countries, such as its role in development, and as a generator of employment and profits, and for its multiplier effects in rural areas, and as a tool for conservation, and as an ally in the fight against poverty.

Pointing out the immense value of the biodiversity found in the tropical Andes for the development of its populations, such as the necessity to conserve our natural resources, which has been expressed as an Andean and global concern.

Recognizing the legitimate rights of the communities and villages of the Andean countries and the necessity to watch over our multiethnic cultural heritage.

Confirming the absence and weakness of policies, laws, regulations related to protected areas, and the lack of implementation of existing laws for protection.

Reaffirming the contemplation of an Action Plan established in the First Iberoamerican Meeting of Ministers of Tourism realized in Cuzco, Peru in September, 2001, in relation to the adoption of principles and parameters for standards of measurement of sustainability for ecotourism activities.

We agree to make the following recommendations to governments, agencies of international cooperation, private sector, academic institutions, Non Governmental Organization (NGOs), and local communities of the Andean countries:

**1. Definition**

We adopt the following definition: Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, values culture, and supports sustainable development of local people, generating the minimum negative impacts.

## **2. Ecotourism in Protected Areas**

- 2.1 Elevate a range of standard laws for Protected Areas and others, in themes relating to ecotourism.
- 2.2 Elevate the range of governmental institutions with competency and jurisdiction in Protected Areas and ecotourism.
- 2.3 Reinforce the planning, delimitation, and zoning of protected areas, to appropriately permit ecotourism using management plans.
- 2.4 Promote institutionalized processes of participation and decision making with communities and local governments, as well as other key actors in the planning of ecotourism in protected areas.
- 2.5 Assure that revenues generated for ecotourism products are reinvested in natural areas.
- 2.6 Ensure that land rights and titles have been effectively clarified and fairly managed as part of the planning of natural areas.
- 2.7 Promote the public, private, and communal management of protected areas, at the national, regional and local levels in a decentralized manner.
- 2.8 Foster the elaboration of studies that will identify zones for ecotourism.
- 2.9 Establish mechanisms for monitoring the economic, social and environmental impacts of ecotourism.
- 2.10 Generate and utilize relevant information on ecosystems, bioregions, landscapes and flora and fauna.

## **3. Local and Indigenous Communities and Ecotourism**

- 3.1 Encourage local and indigenous communities to voluntarily become primary actors in ecotourism.
- 3.2 Articulate distinct plans for ecotourism development with communities and local governments.
- 3.3 Reinforce the capacity and participation of communities in the planning and development of ecotourism through training programs.
- 3.4 Evaluate the economic, social and environmental viability of community ecotourism initiatives.
- 3.5 Promote the design and implementation of programs of awareness and training of ecotourism.
- 3.6 Stimulate, via participative processes in management, the diversification of activities that complement tourism to avoid economic dependency.
- 3.7 Evaluate and uncover the range, limits and risks of ecotourism, with community participation
- 3.8 Support the participation of communities in the monitoring of impacts.
- 3.9 Seek to meet the goals in the Agreement 169 of the International Labor Organization, referring to social, economic, cultural, and environmental rights of indigenous communities, inserting them in planning, development, and evaluation instruments for ecotourism.
- 3.10 Support existing community ecotourism business initiatives.

## **4. Ecotourism and Private Business**

- 4.1 Promote the incorporation of environmental and social policies in the management of business.
- 4.2 Stimulate the retraining of tourism business in the field of sustainability.
- 4.3 Encourage the participative design and implementation of a voluntary system of certification of sustainability of ecotourism activities.

- 4.4 Develop codes of ethics for tour operators, local communities and tourists.
- 4.5 Promote strategic alliances as a mark of mutual respect and in support of the equitable sharing of benefits between private business and local communities.

## **5. Regional Policies for the Development of Ecotourism**

- 5.1 Incorporate ecotourism into policies of national governments.
- 5.2 Promote planned, participative strategies locally, regionally, and nationally.
- 5.3 Encourage the establishment of inventories of ecotourism attractions that serve as a base for the development of new tourism centers.
- 5.4 Establish mechanisms for the promotion and commercialization of ecotourism products at the national, regional, and international level.
- 5.5 Promote the design and implementation of economic instruments that provide incentive for the development of ecotourism.
- 5.6 Involve the Ministries of Finance in all aspects of the environment and ecotourism.
- 5.7 Incorporate ecotourism in all levels of national education.
- 5.8 Promote alliances between institutions of superior education and the private sector, particularly in research.
- 5.9 Support the creation of codes of conduct which regulate the actions of NGOs and Donor Agencies such as the World Bank.
- 5.10 Promote the application of statistics that allow the measurement of economic and social impacts of ecotourism.
- 5.11 Stimulate the competitiveness of Andean ecotourism product.
- 5.12 Improve systems of international control, with active participation from local communities, to avoid the trafficking of Andean flora and fauna.
- 5.13 Develop systems to exchange debt for sustainable development and conservation.

## **6. Implementation and Follow-up**

- 6.1 Distribute the Lima Declaration in national, regional and global conferences for the International Year of Ecotourism and in coming years.
- 6.2 Establish an Andean Ecotourism Committee that designs and implements an agenda intended to put in place the recommendations from the Lima Declaration.
- 6.3 Develop sources of finance for the activities referenced in this agenda.
- 6.4 Support the creation of associations of ecotourism in Andean countries and support their existence.

*Lima, February 7, 2002*