



## Tourism in developing countries: responding to the climate challenge



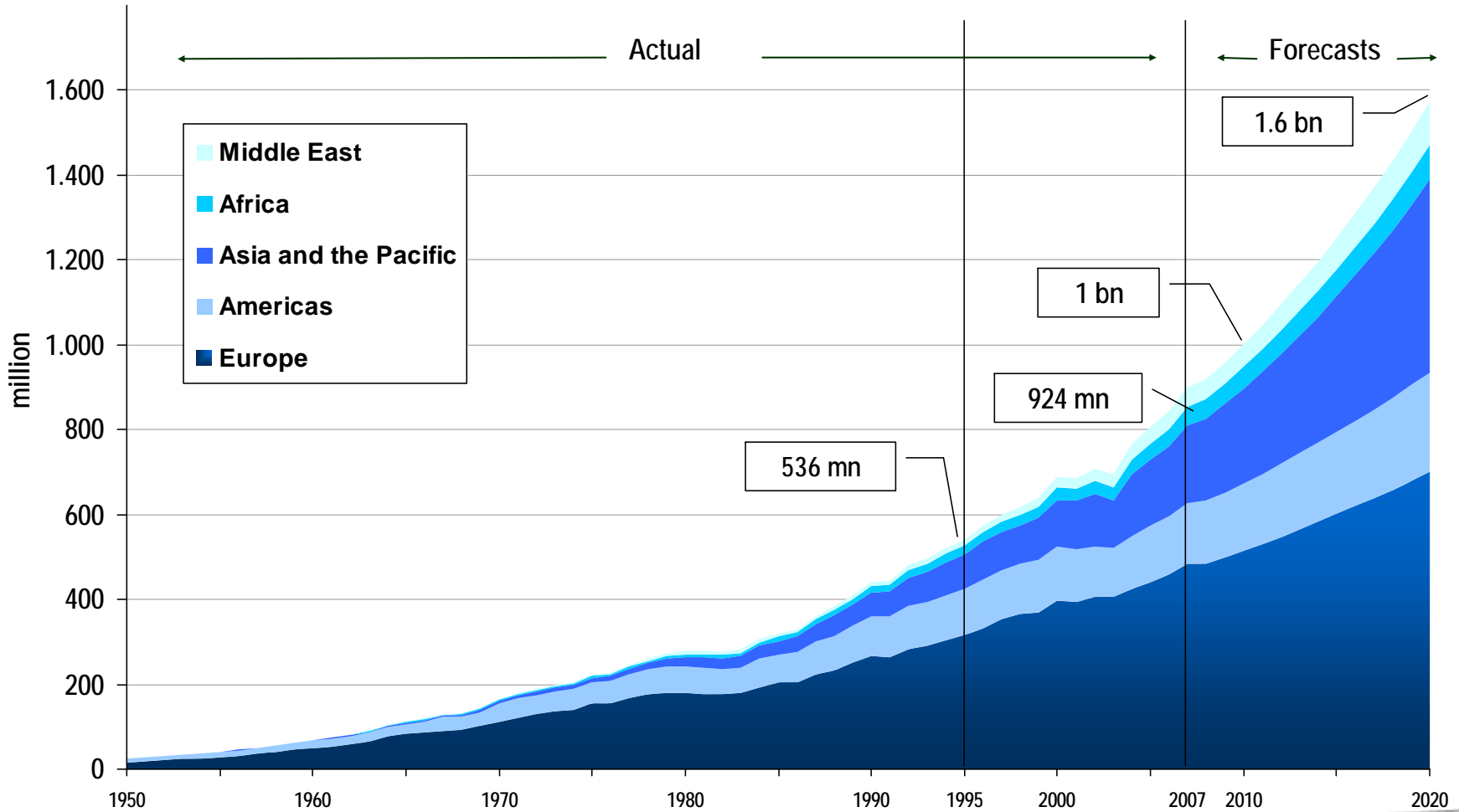
Poverty reduction and adaptation to climate change: risk and opportunities  
Seminar in preparation of the World Conference on Climate 3  
*Geneva, Switzerland, 26 May 2009*

Luigi Cabrini  
Director of Sustainable Development  
World Tourism Organization



# International Tourist Arrivals, 1950-2020

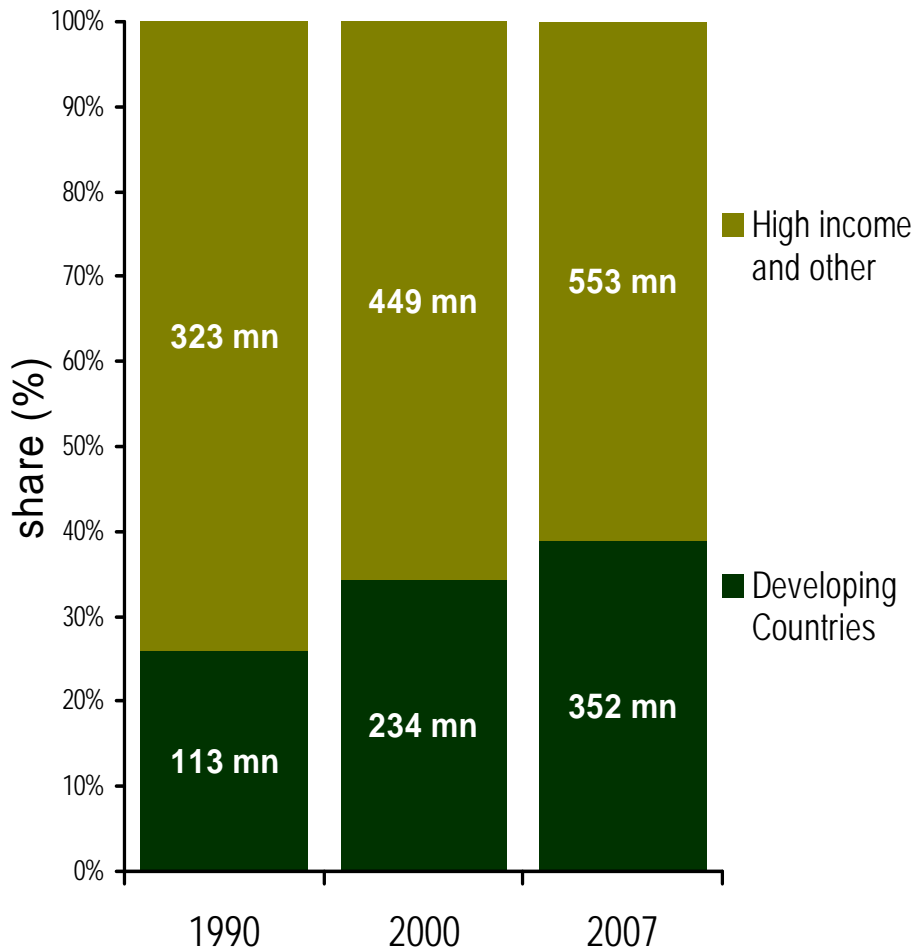
*Current situation and forecasts UNWTO Tourism 2020 Vision*



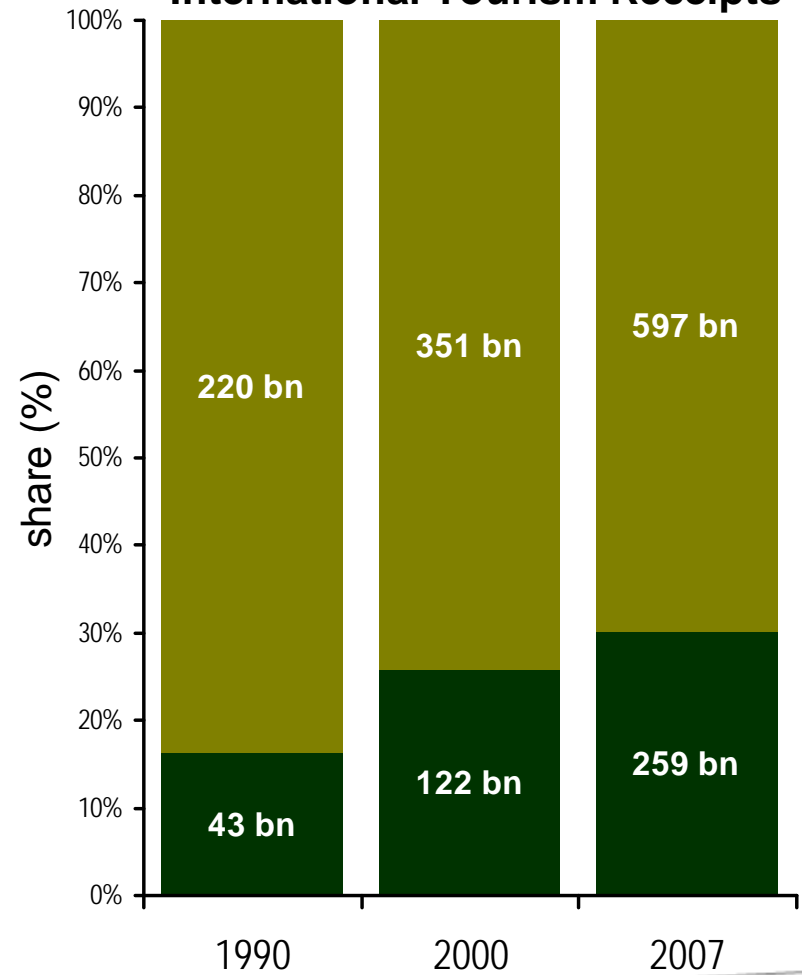


# Developing countries vs. high income countries

## International Tourist Arrivals



## International Tourism Receipts





## Importance tourism in developing countries

*International Tourism Receipts (in billion US\$)*

	1990	2000	2007	Growth rate
<b>World</b>	264	474	856	224 %
<b>High Income Countries</b>	221	352	597	170 %
<b>Developing Countries</b>	43	122	259	506 %

- In 2007, international tourism receipts in developing countries grew to 30% of the world total
- Principal export sector in one third of the developing countries
- First source of foreign exchange earnings in most of the 49 LDC's (excluding oil)





# Tourism and its potential for poverty alleviation

## *3 main considerations*

1. Tourism is one of the most dynamic economic sectors in many developing countries
2. Tourist movements towards developing and least developed countries are growing faster than in the developed world
3. Tourism in many developing and least developed countries is one of the principal or the main source of foreign exchange earnings

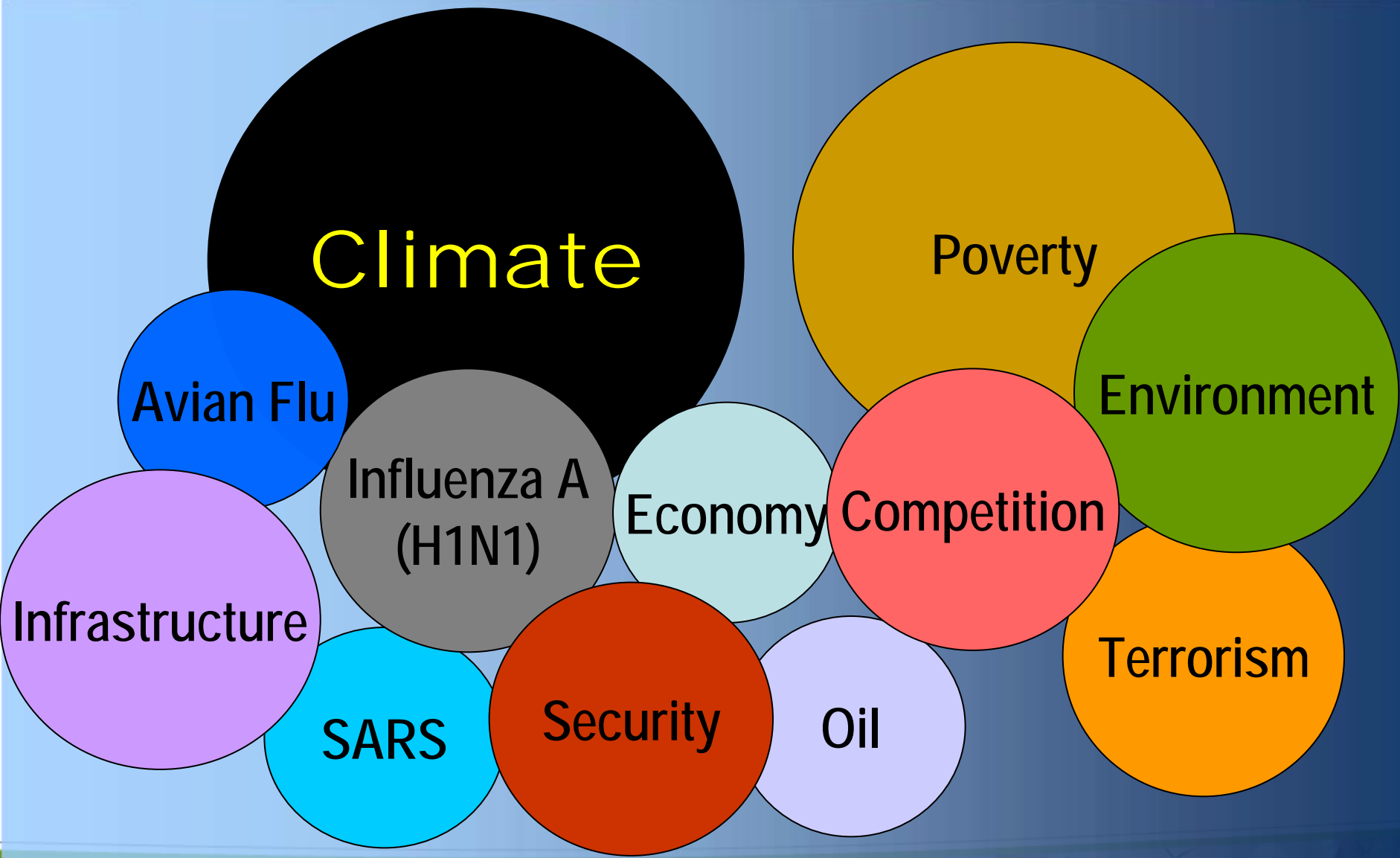




## Why sustainable tourism can contribute to poverty reduction?

- Developing countries have valuable tourism resources and the tourism activity has a strong potential of geographical expansion including in remote areas.
- The tourism supply chain has a high capacity to support and complement other economic activities, such as traditional agriculture, transport, handicraft.
- Tourism is a labour intensive sector creating many opportunities for youth and women.
- Tourism is a sector where entry barriers for SME's can be quite low, and that can contribute to development in poor areas.
- Tourism can also have non material benefits like making communities proud of their local culture, and appreciate their natural environment.





Climate

Poverty

Environment

Avian Flu

Influenza A  
(H1N1)

Economy

Competition

Infrastructure

Terrorism

SARS

Security

Oil



# Tourism Climate change

- With its close connections to the environment and climate itself, tourism is considered to be a **highly climate-sensitive** economic sector similar to agriculture, insurance, energy, and transportation.
- Climate change is **not a remote future event** for tourism, as the varied impacts are becoming evident at destinations.
- Changing climate patterns might **alter major tourism flows** where climate is of paramount importance, such as the Mediterranean.
- **Least developed countries** and **small island developing states** might be particularly affected.
- Impacts of climate change on the tourism sector are expected to steadily **intensify**.
- At the same time, the tourism sector is a **non-negligible contributor** to climate change; GHG emissions from transport and accommodation.







# Report on “Climate Change and Tourism Responding to Global Challenges”

## Impacts & Adaptations at Tourism Destinations

- *Mountain regions*
- *Coastal regions and islands*
- *Natural and cultural heritage*

## Implications for Tourism Demand

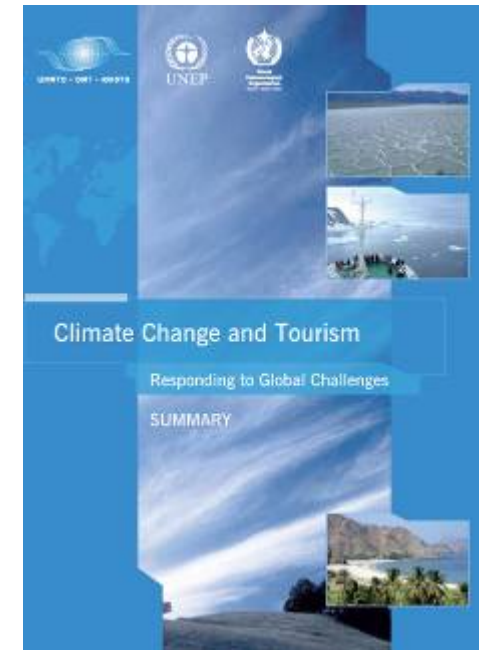
- *Geographic and seasonal shifts*
- *Perceptions and media influence*

## Emissions from Tourism: Status & Projections

- *Results for 2005 baseline and 2035 projection*

## Mitigation Measures in Tourism

- *Mitigation potential for 2035*



*Released on the occasion of the WED 5 June 2008*





# Climate Change Impacts at Tourism Destinations





## Categories of climate change impacts that will affect tourism destinations

### 1. Direct climatic impacts

- Warmer Summer
- Warmer winters
- Precipitation change (water supply)
- Increased extreme events

### 2. Indirect environmental change impacts

- Biodiversity loss (terrestrial and marine)
- Sea Level Rise
- Disease

### 3. Impact of mitigation policies on tourist mobility

- Travel costs and destination choice (less long haul?/less plane?)

### 4. Indirect societal change impacts

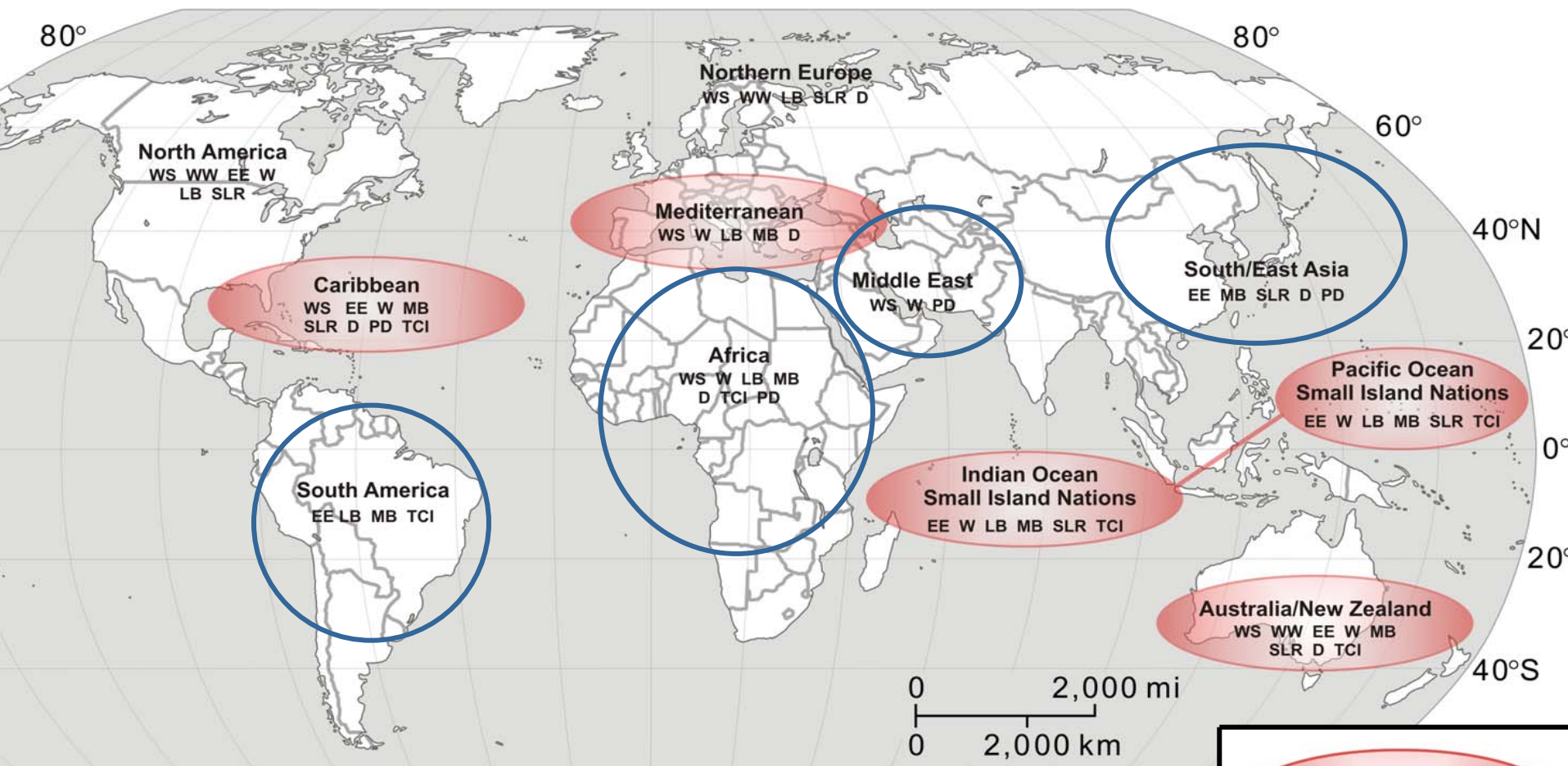
- Global/regional economic impacts
- Increase security risks (social/governance disruption)

- Changes in tourism demand patterns
- Water shortage and diminished quality
- Damage to tourism infrastructure and tourism use areas (e.g. beaches)
- Loss of attractiveness of natural areas and tourism sites
- Health risks for tourists and locals
- Secondary and knock-off effects in tourism-related sectors





## Tourism Vulnerability 'Hotspots'



WS = warmer summers

WW = warmer winters

EE = increase in extreme events

SLR = sea level rise

LB = land biodiversity loss

MB = marine biodiversity loss

W = water scarcity

PD = political destabilization

D = increase in disease outbreaks

TCI = travel cost increase from mitigation policy

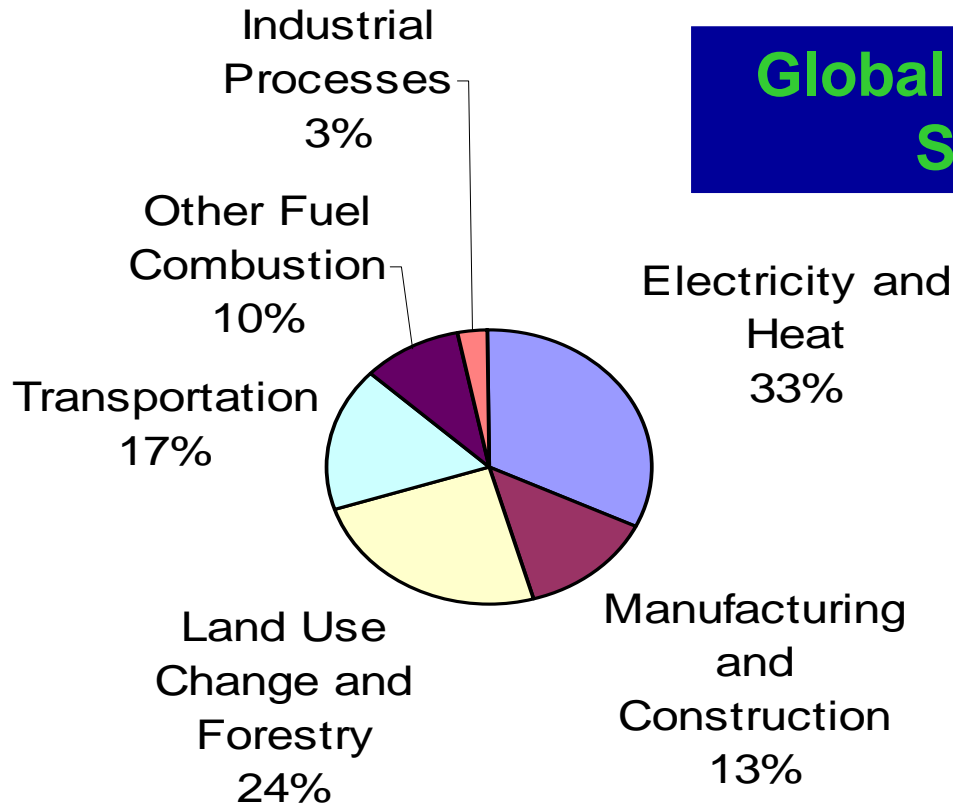
Hotspot

Regional Knowledge Gaps



# Global Tourism Emissions Compared with Other Major Economic Sectors

## Global Emissions CO<sub>2</sub> by Sector (2000)\*



**Tourism (2005)  
= 5%**

\* World Resources Institute





## Global Tourism Emissions in 2005: CO<sub>2</sub> Only

<b><u>Sub-Sectors</u></b>		
Air transport *	515	40%
Car transport	420	32%
Other transport	45	3%
Accommodation	274	21%
Activities	48	4%
<b>Total World (IPCC 2007)</b>	<b>26,400</b>	
<b>Tourism Contribution</b>	<b>5%</b>	

} Transportation  
of Tourists = 75%  
of Sector Emissions

\* - does not include  
non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
and impact on climate





## Davos Declaration

- Climate is a key tourism resource but tourism is also a contributor to climate change (5%)
- Tourism is a vital economic factor and contributor to the MGD
- Adopt urgent policies to encourage sustainable development: economic, social, environmental and climate change responsiveness
- How to do it?
  - *Mitigate emissions (transport and accommodation)*
  - *Adapt businesses and destinations to changing climate conditions*
  - *New technology*
  - *Help poorer regions adapting*





## London and Cartagena Conclusions

- Identification of consensus measures to address climate change without losing sight of other priorities, such as the MDGs
- No discrimination against developing countries, especially long-haul destinations, by creating obstacles to their economic development
- Special consideration should be given to Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States by providing financial, technical and training support
- Policy responses should be balanced and comprehensive and focus on measures which are economically efficient
- Tourism industry must play a strong role as a part of a broader response to climate change, but it should not be disadvantaged through the imposition of a disproportionate burden

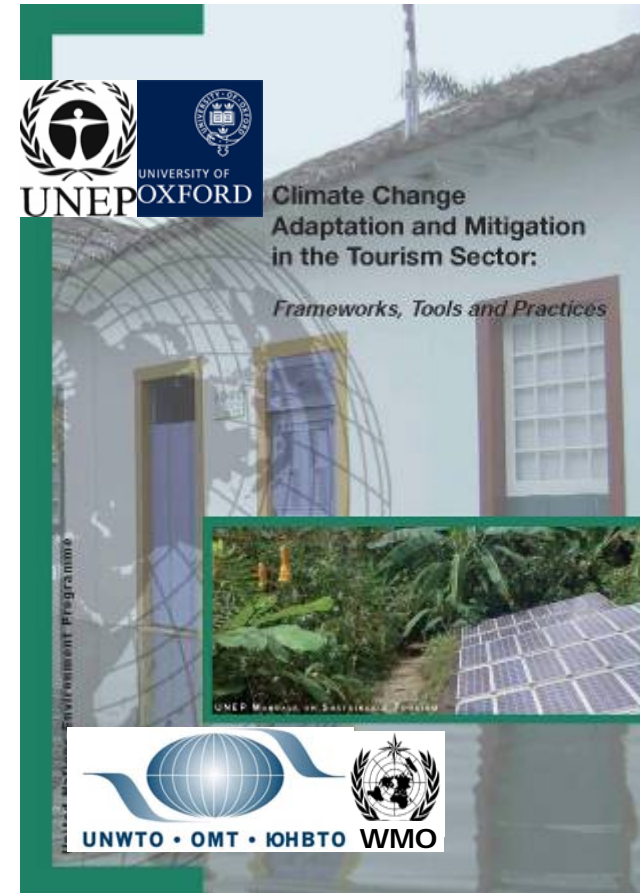






# Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Frameworks, Tools and Practices

- International seminar, Oxford, United Kingdom, 7-10 April 2008
- Capacity building and pragmatic adaptation and mitigation techniques and methods for developing countries and small island states
- Organised and coordinated by UNEP, Oxford University (OUCE), UNWTO and WMO
- Some 30 high level tourism and environment officials from developing countries and Small Island developing states participated in the Seminar.
- This Report provides frameworks, tools and best practices for the tourism sector





## Pilot projects on adaptation in the tourism sector of SIDS

- High dependency on tourism for their economy
- High vulnerability couples with low adaptation capacity
- High value demonstration effect and replicability
- Financed through GEF, in collaboration with UNEP and UNDP, UWTO as executing agency:
  - **Fiji:** Full project proposal awaiting GEF approval (aiming at a 2-3 years period)
  - **Maldives:** project development phase on-going, full project proposal to be submitted in November





**2003**

- First International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism in Djerba

**2007**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference in Davos
- Ministerial Summit in London
- UNWTO General Assembly in Cartagena
- UN Climate Change Summit Bali

**2008**

- Seminar in Oxford
- Ministerial Meeting in London
- Conference in Egypt
- Workshop in Colombia
- UN Climate Conference in Poznan

**2009**

- World Climate Conference-3 in Geneva
- UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen
- Capacity building events

**2015**

- Millennium Development Goals





## The Way Forward

- Awareness raising and information for the tourism sector on the impacts of climate change.
- Capacity building for adaptation at destinations.
- Analyse and apply mitigation measures along the supply chain of the tourism sector.
- Contribute to reach the objectives of reducing GHG emissions generated by the sector, in the framework of the collaborative action of the United Nations.
- Continue the investigation on impacts, adaptation and mitigation aiming to improve the specific knowledge and develop methods to tackle the complex challenges related to climate change.





**Thank you!**  
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