



Context

Some development activities and growing coastal tourism are threatening the coastal and marine ecosystems along the 48,000 km long sub-Saharan African coastline. Already in 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the thematic group of the New Partnership for Africa's Development on coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems urged the international community to support Africa's efforts in attaining sustainable tourism.

Strategy

Together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), UNIDO initiated the Collaborative Actions for Sustainable Tourism (COAST) Project with funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The aim of the project is to reduce the degradation of coastal and marine environments and to enhance sustainability. Currently, the project is being implemented in Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania.

So far, key priority areas and best practices from all over the world have been identified. The resulting review document has been published to inform and assist national counterparts in selecting the most suitable options. In addition, an initial needs assessment has been conducted in eleven demonstration sites.

Expected results

- Identification of best practices and technologies for pollution reduction and investments in sustainable collaborative tourism
- Development of mechanisms for sustainable governance and management, which reduce degradation of coastal ecosystems from land-based tourism

- Development of information and knowledge-sharing material
- Implementation of training and capacity-building activities that emphasize an integrated approach to sustainable reduction in coastal ecosystems and environmental degradation within the tourism sector

Impact/Outlook

To date, the COAST stakeholders are prepared to start implementing activities that will have a direct impact on the sustainability of the tourism sector and on the protection of the environment. In addition, the project's ownership needs to be enlarged to include other actors, especially the private sector and the donor community. Within the next five years, UNIDO will develop follow-up interventions to reinforce the environmental sustainability as well as the poverty reduction potential of the tourism sector in the aforementioned partner countries.

For more information on this project: L.Bernaudat@unido.org

For more information about UNIDO: communications@unido.org

At a glance:

- Goal:** Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa
- MDG:** 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Thematic area:** Environment and Energy
- Donors:** Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNIDO
- Partners:** UNEP, UNWTO, Ministry of Tourism (Cameroon), The National Environment Agency (Gambia), Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC-Ghana), Resource and Environment Development Organisation (REDO), Ricerca e Cooperazione (Ghana), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA-Kenya), Ministry of Tourism (Mozambique), Ministry of Environment (Nigeria), Ministry of Tourism (Senegal), Ministry of Environment (Seychelles), Ministry of Tourism (Tanzania)
- Budget:** EUR 6,000,000
- Status:** ongoing
- Duration:** November 2008 – November 2013