



The **International Ecotourism Society (TIES)**, **Ecotourism Norway**, and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, as the Co-Organizers of the **Global Ecotourism Conference 2007**, to be held in Oslo, Norway (May 14-16, 2007), agree to collaborate in achieving the following objectives:

I. To build strong global networks among ecotourism professionals and practitioners. The conference will bring together ecotourism professionals and practitioners (i.e. those who in a variety of ways are involved, either full time or as part of their work, in ecotourism) from around the world in order to strengthen the collective voice of the ecotourism community. With the aim of enhancing the capacity of ecotourism stakeholders to plan and manage their operations in a more sustainable manner, workshops and plenary sessions will cover practical issues relevant to a wide range of stakeholder categories, including lodge and tour company owners, NGOs, parks and protected area officials, academics, host communities, and indigenous peoples groups.

II. To bring together national and regional ecotourism associations and networks from around the world to examine common issues and build a stronger global movement for ecotourism. The conference workshops will include topics pertinent to existing associations and to those wishing to establish new associations. Before the conference officially opens, there will be a special interest meeting for these ecotourism associations.

III. To assess the achievements and challenges in the field of ecotourism since 2002. Marking the fifth anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of Ecotourism, the conference will highlight, on the basis of the outcomes of the World Ecotourism Summit in 2002, projects that have contributed to the achievement of the Summit's recommendations, examine critical issues in ecotourism today, and discuss the way forward for the ecotourism community.

IV. To develop action plans to reinforce and expand the process of fostering joint policies and approaches on key issues including biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, and tourism industry reforms with various intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, international NGOs, governments, and national and regional ecotourism associations. The conference will produce, as one of the main outcomes, the Oslo Statement on Ecotourism, which will list key questions and challenges addressed at the conference and spell out the commitment of the ecotourism community to continuously strive to improve our practices.

Conference website: www.ecotourismglobalconference.org

