



Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-DTIE) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) co-operate on sustainable tourism in Latin America & the Caribbean

### **Sustainable All-Inclusive?**

*(Nachhaltig All-Inclusive?)*

**ITB 2003 Palais am Funkturm Westseite**

**Monday, March 10, 10.30 – 12.00 am**

Sustainable Tourism and All-Inclusive Resorts seems to be a contradiction per se. All inclusive resorts are often highly criticized as islands of affluence within the country, isolated from the rest of the population. It is said that they do not contribute much to the local economy but instead threaten the local environment and socio-cultural structure of the neighbouring communities.

#### **Is that the whole truth?**

What about the salaries carried home by 200 Nicaraguans working in the first All-Inclusive in that very poor country? What about local suppliers of food, drinks and handicraft purchased by that resort for thousands of US\$ a week?

A first approach to bridge the gap between beach tourism and the local economy by the British cooperation has shown interesting results in Gambia: the mainly informal suppliers such as fruit or handicraft sellers managed to increase their weekly earnings from resort guests by 50-200%.

Such first evidence has lead GTZ to start this "Sustainable All-Inclusive Resorts?" initiative. It aims at identifying resorts' contribution to the local economy and the environment, and to find out how to improve it for mutual benefit. A first study will be carried out in a partnership with two resorts in Central America & the Caribbean.

#### **What is the role of Tour Operators?**

Tour operators are often the main intermediaries between resorts and the consumers. This position allows them to influence the performance of suppliers as well as to direct the choice of consumers towards more sustainable products and services. The Tour Operators' Initiative (TOI) members have committed to integrate 'sustainability principles' in their business relations with their suppliers. Jointly they have developed a common framework and as a first step, they will disseminate to more than 10.000 contracted hotels a booklet on best environmental and social practices, produced in co-operation with Conservation International/CELB.

#### **Speakers include:**

**Klaus Lengefeld**, *GTZ coordination Latin America & Caribbean*, Opening remarks the Sustainable All-Inclusives initiative and the role of the tour operators.

**Dr. Harold Goodwin**, *International Centre for Responsible Tourism and University of Greenwich, UK*, on recent findings from Africa;

**Dr. Theo Eberhard**, *Munich University of Applied Sciences (to be reconfirmed)*, on the interaction of resorts with local agriculture.

**Giulia Carbone**, *UNEP*, on the Tour Operators Initiative

**Jamie Sweeting**, *Conservation International/CELB*, on the "Guide for hotels on environmental and social best practices".

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