



# GEC07 Newsletter

TIES

UNEP

Ecotourism Norway

May 29, 2007



Organizers and Keynote Speakers - From left: Madelien McGAnn, Judy Kepher-Gona, Ayako Ezaki, Peter Prokosch, Martha Honey, Carlos Benavides, Stefanos Fotiou, David Sollitt, and Lone Lamark

Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the International Ecotourism Society (TIES) and our partners, I am proud to report to you that the *Global Ecotourism Conference 2007* (GEC07), held in Oslo, Norway, May 14-16, was a great success, attended by over 460 participants representing around 70 countries, and produced many positive outcomes.

I would like to thank all those who have helped make this important event possible: our partners and sponsors that have provided invaluable support for the conference, our members and friends who have helped at various stages of the conference planning, and all the participants from around the globe who gathered in Oslo and actively participated in GEC07, making it a very productive and enjoyable conference.

We have received a number of comments from the participants and others interested in the conference about the content of the event, TIES' roles in ecotourism, critical issues and challenges in travel & tourism, and our projects and services. We value your input, and will continue to improve our organization to better address the needs of the ecotourism community. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all the GEC07 participants to provide their comments and feedback by filling out our online evaluation form, so that we can take our lessons learned from this conference to make the next Global Ecotourism Conference an even better event.

We encourage you all to continue discussing topics addressed at GEC07 and questions raised through the workshops in Oslo, in order to ensure that the global ecotourism community continue to strengthen its voice and remain a viable force in transforming travel and tourism. Please join us on our GEC07 Online Forum today and contribute to the continued discussions on key issues around ecotourism and challenges facing our global ecotourism community.

You will find the draft Oslo Statement on Ecotourism, one of the key documents to be produced as a result of GEC07, on our conference website. Based on the results of the conference workshops and your feedback, the Statement will be revised, and the final Statement will be officially announced in late June. Please send us your comments, suggestions and questions about the Statement by June 8, 2007.

Thank you again for being part of GEC07, and I hope to see many of you at our future events.

**Ayako Ezaki**  
*TIES GEC07 Coordinator*

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## **Oslo Statement on Ecotourism**

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As one of the main outcomes of GEC07, the Oslo Statement on Ecotourism 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.

>> Download: [Draft Oslo Statement on Ecotourism](#)

We encourage you to submit your comments and suggestions by filling out the GEC07 evaluation form (conference participants only) or writing to us at: [gec07@ecotourism.org](mailto:gec07@ecotourism.org).

Along with the feedback from the workshop moderators, conference participants and others, the final Statement will also reflect the results of the two special meetings that took place during GEC07.



[Special Interest Meeting for National and Regional Ecotourism Associations](#)



[Indigenous Ecotourism Workshop](#)

TIES is grateful for the participants of these meetings, and believes that their valuable input will help make the Statement a stronger document.

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## GEC07 Online Forum

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As an international association, TIES is committed to providing resources and up-to-date information widely to the global ecotourism community. To this goal, we strive to improve our online communication tools to provide more effective and useful platforms for discussion and networking.

>> [Online Forum](#)

We have created an online forum to provide a place for all ecotourism stakeholders to discuss key issues and challenges in ecotourism, and to continue various dialogues started around GEC07.

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## Conference Proceedings

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Thanks to our speakers' contributions, which have made the conference a valuable experience for all, the presentations delivered at GEC07 and manuscripts will be available through our conference website along with our reports and photos.

>> Download [Presentations & Manuscripts](#)

The conference organizers would like to thank our speakers and moderators once again for dedicating their time and efforts to participate in the conference and to share their

knowledge and expertise.

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## Thank You

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It goes without saying that an event like this would not have been possible without the support of our partners and sponsors. We are grateful for their commitment to ecotourism, and for all the 'time, talent and treasure' they have generously contributed to help us organize a successful conference. Thank you very much!

>> GEC07 [Partners and Sponsors](#)

TIES is the largest and oldest ecotourism association in the world, and it is thanks to our members that our achievements in the past 17 fruitful years have been possible. We thank all our members for their continued support, and hope that you will continue to 'help us help you' by letting us know how we are doing, and what we can do better.

>> More information: [TIES Membership](#)

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