

**Guidance documents in support of the framework for the
International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027**

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Thematic Areas and Rationale**I. Inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth and local value creation**

Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment, particularly at the local level. Strengthening the sustainability and inclusiveness of tourism value chains enhances their capacity to withstand shocks, adapt to change and sustain long-term development outcomes.

This thematic area highlights tourism's role in fostering diversified, locally anchored and resilient economic activity, with particular attention to Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), domestic tourism and diversified products and markets. By reducing over-dependence on single markets, seasons or activities, and by promoting fair participation and shared benefits along the value chain, tourism can contribute to economic stability, inclusive growth and local value creation while reinforcing resilience across destinations.

II. Social inclusion, decent work, poverty reduction and community resilience

Inclusive tourism development is a fundamental condition for resilience. When tourism benefits are widely shared and access to opportunities is ensured, communities are better able to absorb, respond to and recover from economic, environmental and social shocks.

This thematic area emphasizes tourism's contribution to decent work, poverty reduction and the economic empowerment of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It underscores the importance of community participation in tourism planning and decision-making, universal accessibility and social protection, strengthening social cohesion, local ownership and human capital as pillars of resilient tourism systems.

In this context, approaches that go beyond minimizing negative impacts and actively seek to strengthen communities, livelihoods and local capacities, including approaches often described as regenerative, can contribute to more durable, inclusive and self-sustaining development outcomes.

III. Environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, resource efficiency and climate action

Tourism depends directly on healthy ecosystems and natural resources, while at the same time exerting pressure on the environment. Strengthening environmental protection is therefore a prerequisite for sustainable and resilient tourism development.

In line with General Assembly resolution 78/260, this thematic area emphasizes environmental protection and biodiversity conservation as central pillars of sustainable and resilient tourism, while promoting resource efficiency and advancing climate action through mitigation and adaptation measures. By integrating environmental considerations into tourism policy, planning, investment and operations, including through the engagement of workers, communities and local stakeholders, destinations can reduce environmental degradation, lower vulnerability to climate-related risks and safeguard the natural foundations upon which tourism, livelihoods and community wellbeing depend.

In this regard, practices that aim not only to reduce environmental harm but also to restore and enhance ecosystems and natural capital, including regenerative approaches, may further strengthen the contribution of tourism to long-term resilience and sustainability.

IV. Cultural values, diversity, living heritage and destination identity

Cultural heritage and diversity are core assets of tourism and central to destination identity, social cohesion and community resilience. When cultural resources are safeguarded and communities are empowered as custodians of their heritage and active participants in tourism development, tourism can reinforce continuity, pride and intergenerational knowledge.

This thematic area highlights tourism's role in protecting and promoting tangible and intangible cultural heritage, supporting creative industries and fostering place-based development. Emphasis is placed on living heritage and locally rooted narratives that strengthen destination identity, while ensuring that cultural tourism development remains inclusive, respectful and resilient to external pressures.

V. Mutual understanding, peace, security and crisis preparedness

Tourism fosters dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful interaction among peoples, while also being highly sensitive to crises, insecurity and disruptions. Strengthening preparedness and trust is therefore essential for resilient tourism development.

This thematic area underscores tourism's contribution to peace, social stability and international understanding, while highlighting the importance of risk-informed governance, crisis preparedness and coordinated response mechanisms, including cooperation across institutions, communities and sectors. It includes the protection of tourists, effective communication, cross-border and cross-sector cooperation, and the integration of tourism into broader emergency, health and security frameworks to support faster recovery and sustained confidence.