



Transforming Tourism – Sustainable Future for Coastal Fishing Communities in the Era of Tourism Development

Date: 08 June, 2017 11:00 – 12:30 AM

Venue: German Mission to the UN (871 United Nations Plaza, just outside the UN headquarter)

Organized by: Bread for the World, Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), Instituto Terramar, Fair Oceans, Kabani - the other direction, National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Tourism Watch

This event is official part of the side events programme of the UN Oceans Conference. It is open to the public and free of charge. Advanced registration is not required. For further information please contact: antje.monshausen@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

Tourism is one of the largest and fastest growing economic sectors worldwide: 80 per cent of global tourism takes place in coastal areas. It is thus not by coincidence that tourism is mentioned in SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Tourism grows intensively in absolute numbers and also reaches more and more places around the globe, including ecologically and culturally sensitive areas. As tourism is growing, pressure is increasing on resources and land. Numerous cases of ocean grabbing are associated with tourism causing land rights infringements and violation of human rights all over the world. One driving force for ocean grabbing closely linked to tourism is the declaration of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Too often local fishing communities are excluded from MPAs, while tourism is introduced in the same areas as a mean for alternative income, without an assessment of its environmental and social impacts. In many cases construction of tourism and related infrastructure as well as current tourism trends are increasing the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change effects and other natural disasters by destroying natural barriers such as mangroves, coral reefs and sand dunes. Last but not least, there are yet too little efforts made to involve local small-scale fishers in tourism planning, decision making and into the supply chains.

There is an urgent need to assess the effects of tourism on coastal communities and natural resources before its further promotion. Due to a lack of proper guidelines and monitoring mechanisms for responsible tourism, economic benefits are largely over-estimated, while risks for people and the environment remain unobserved. A fundamental transformation of the current tourism model is essential to enhance opportunities for and transfer benefits to local communities.

This side event will illustrate different case studies on tourism in coastal communities and shows strategies on how to develop tourism in coastal areas that is sustainable and empowers local fishing communities.

Speakers:

Martha Honey, Executive Director, Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) – USA

Kai Kaschinski, Director, Fair Oceans - Germany

Herman Kumara, National Convener, National Fisheries Solidarity Movement - Sri Lanka

Antje Monshausen, Director, Tourism Watch at Bread for the World – Germany

Moderated by:

Thea Gelbspan, Membership and Solidarity Director, ESCR-Net - International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights