

## **Special Session Proposal**

## Global South Eco-Journeys: Towards a Sustainable Future in Tourism

## Organisers:

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## **Abstract**

Towards a Sustainable Future in Tourism aims to investigate sustainable tourism techniques that aim to reshape travel in developing regions. In a time when the environmental, sociocultural, and economic effects of tourism are being closely examined, this change in thinking aims to guide travel in a more mindful and environmentally responsible way. The Global South, which includes a variety of countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania, has become a central area for sustainable tourism efforts due to the presence of delicate ecosystems, distinctive cultural heritage, and economically disadvantaged communities in these regions. Global South Eco-Journeys aims to fundamentally rethink the conventional perception of tourism, presenting it not just as an economic sector, but as a driving force for constructive transformation and reciprocal advancement. The eco-journey concept, based on responsible travel, focuses on generating immersive and genuine experiences that establish significant links between travelers and host communities. This concept aims to develop a knowledge of local cultures, customs, and environmental issues. Global South Eco-Journeys promotes sustainable methods that prioritize the conservation of these areas while minimizing the ecological impact of tourism activities. Efforts encompass a wide range of activities, including the advocacy for environmentally friendly lodging and transportation options, the creation of protected zones, and the implementation of appropriate procedures for observing animals. The narrative aims to resolve the conflict between the economic advantages of tourism and the need to protect the environment for future generations by promoting responsible tourism. Cultural heritage plays a crucial role in the sustainable tourism narrative in the Global South. Several of these areas possess extensive historical backgrounds, varied customs, and lively societies whose cultural essence is closely intertwined with the territory they occupy. Nevertheless, unregulated tourism frequently results in the degradation of indigenous cultures due to

commercialization and shallow portrayals. Global South Eco-Journeys supports a considerate and comprehensive approach, encouraging community involvement, cultural interchange, and the empowerment of local communities. Travelers play a crucial role in safeguarding cultural history and fostering cultural variety by showing respect for cultural nuances, providing support to local craftspeople, and participating in genuine experiences. The pursuit of a sustainable future in tourism in the Global South is accompanied by various obstacles. Achieving a harmonious balance between the need for economic progress and the protection of the environment and cultural heritage necessitates a careful and subtle approach. Global South Eco-Journeys recognizes the intricacies of this endeavor and advocates for a collaborative strategy that includes governments, commercial sector organizations, local communities, and travelers themselves. This emphasizes the significance of governmental frameworks that provide incentives for sustainable practices, industry standards that encourage responsible tourism, and educational activities that enhance understanding among both tourists and hosts. Global South Eco-Journeys paves the way for a sustainable future in tourism that goes beyond traditional travel paradigms.. The unfolding story extends an invitation to travelers, industry stakeholders, and governments to collaborate in crafting a new trajectory. This trajectory aims to transform tourism into a driver for global sustainability and shared prosperity.

The urgent necessity to comprehend the mechanisms and tackle the obstacles faced by the political economy may give rise to the following topics:

- Issues and challenges of Eco-friendly Transportation Initiatives
- Issues and challenges of Carbon Neutrality and Offset Programs
- Studies on Local Gastronomy and Sustainable Food Practices and Tourism
- Studies on Plastic-Free Tourism
- Issues and challenges of Renewable Energy Integration in Tourism Facilities
- Crisis Preparedness and Sustainable Tourism Resilience
- Cultural Sensitivity and Responsible Tourism Marketing
- Necessity of technology in sustainable tourism management.