

Appendix 2: Definitions of Key Concepts and Terms¹

<p>Atmospheric Pollution: Atmospheric pollution is caused when pollutants released into the atmosphere disturb the natural balance of atmospheric systems in various ways. These disturbances include ozone depletion, acid rain and climate change. Atmospheric pollution causes imbalances in the atmosphere. Whilst the atmosphere seems to have the capacity for managing these imbalances, it is not known how long this capacity will last.</p>
<p>Biodegradable: Biodegradable substances are those that are easily broken down by living organisms like microbes and bacteria, and are then absorbed into the environment. Waste products that are biodegradable cause less harm in the environment since, after having been bio-degraded, their constituent parts are used by other organisms and processes in nature. Substances that are not biodegradable should be recycled or re-used to promote sustainability.</p>
<p>Biodiversity: Biodiversity, or biological diversity, describes the extraordinary diversity of plant, animal and insect species that exist on earth, the genes they contain, their evolutionary history and the potential they encompass and the ecosystems, ecological processes and landscapes of which they are integral parts. Each grouping of species has a different genetic make-up to cope with a specific range of circumstances such as climate, food supply, habitat, defence and movement.</p>
<p>Bioremediation: Bioremediation is the method of using living organisms as a means of cleaning up or removing pollution from soil or water. Usually this is done using special types of microorganisms, for instance natural or bio-engineered bacteria, which convert the pollution or hazardous waste into harmless substances.</p>
<p>Communities: The term 'communities' is used to describe two types of situations, one relating to humanity and the other to the natural environment. Communities in the context of humanity are defined as groups of people living, working and interacting together in a manner that may result in organised activities, views and opinions. In the context of nature, the term is used mainly to describe groups of plant and animal species that live together and interact with each other in the same geographical area.</p>
<p>Ecological Footprint: This term is used to describe the ecological impact a company or group of people have on the earth. The bigger the footprint, the worse the impact. The ecological footprint is a complicated measurement, which includes information such as population numbers, technology used, energy consumed, water used, use of natural resources, etc. The principles of sustainable development require us to make our individual and collective ecological footprints as small as possible.</p>
<p>Ecotourism: Environmentally and culturally responsible tourism that promotes environmental understanding and appreciation; facilitates conservation; and sustains the ecology, culture and well being of local communities and adjacent lands.</p>
<p>Endemics: Endemics are plant or animal species that occur only in one very specific geographical area and nowhere else on earth.</p>
<p>Environment: Surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelationships.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact: Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's activities, products or services.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): EIA is a process that produces a research report that examines the environmental impact (positive and negative) of a project or development on a particular area. It looks at different alternatives to a project to assist the decision-makers to decide which type of project will best suit an area or particular environment while having the least negative environmental impact. The EIA is a planning tool and can only provide guidance to decision-makers. The EIA will present a set of alternatives indicating the benefits and drawbacks of each alternative. This will then assist the decision-makers to decide whether the project may go ahead and in what form and under which conditions it should go ahead.</p>

¹ The definitions contained in this Appendix rely on: Qualitour (2001) Heritage Environmental Rating programme, (www.qualitour.co.za); and J. Seif (2002), A User's Guide to the FTTSA Trademark (www.fairtourism.org.za).

<p>Environmental Management System (EMS): The part of the overall management system that includes organisational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining an environmental policy.</p>
<p>Environmental Policy: Statement by the organisation of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance, which provides a framework for action and for setting of its environmental objectives and targets.</p>
<p>Fair Trade: Fair Trade is a global movement for social change that started in the 1960s in Northern Europe, in an attempt to address unequal terms of trade between "North" and "South". Fair Trade is an alternative to 'free trade' that seeks to address these inequalities through fair trade labelling, ethical trading initiatives and partnerships. Fair Trade is demand driven: consumers are often willing to pay a higher price for Fair Trade labelled commodities to guarantee fair wages and working conditions for small-scale producers in developing countries.</p>
<p>Fair Trade in Tourism: Fair Trade in Tourism is a market intervention that draws upon the global "Fair Trade" movement, to create a useful model for maximising the benefits of tourism for people living in the host area. Since 1999, Tourism Concern in London has hosted an international network on Fair Trade in Tourism (www.tourismconcern.org.uk).</p>
<p>Indigenous: Naturally occurring in a defined area. The opposite of indigenous is alien, invasive and/or exotic.</p>
<p>Landfill: Landfill is a method of waste disposal where waste is dumped into a hole, a depression or a valley. The waste is then compacted and covered with soil or material, for instance building rubble, to keep flies away and prevent diseases from developing. Landfill sites must be carefully researched, planned and developed to prevent liquid wastes from leaching through the site down to the base of the landfill and polluting groundwater resources. Landfill is not a satisfactory method of disposal, but has been traditionally used for many years. Once full, landfill sites cannot be built on and can only be used as parks or sports fields.</p>
<p>Local Community: Includes both the host group who are responsible for the tourist's experience and the people living within and around the tourism destination. NOTE: Defining 'local' falls upon individual business managers. Although the definition above provides more clarification, the term is very business-specific. It is therefore the enterprise's responsibility to ensure that the decided upon definition is well known within the business, and that it encompasses all relevant parties.</p>
<p>Historically Disadvantaged Individuals and Groups (HDI/HDG) are described as individuals who are citizens of the Republic of South Africa and who, according to apartheid era racial classification, did not have the right to vote or had restricted voting rights immediately prior to the 1994 democratic elections.</p>
<p>Stakeholders: Parties who have an interest in the functioning of the organisation or enterprise, including: local population/s; the private sector; NGOs; national, regional and local government departments; employees; suppliers; and customers.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development: Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p>
<p>Waste: Any undesirable or superfluous by-product, emission, residue or remainder of any process or activity, any matter - gaseous, liquid or solid - or any other combination thereof, originating from any residential, commercial or industrial area & is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discarded by any person • Is accumulating and stored with the purpose of eventually discarding it with or without prior treatment • Is stored with the purpose of recycling, reusing or extracting a usable product.