

# The 'Tourism for Development Fund' for LDCs

The TUI Care Foundation and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) announce their plan to put Least Development Countries (LDCs) at the heart of sustainable tourism development. The TUI Care Foundation will invest a minimum of €10 million by 2030 to support projects in LDCs.

## What are LDCs?

LDCs are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments, which are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental challenges and have low levels of human assets. To be classified as 'least developed', a country must meet the following criteria:



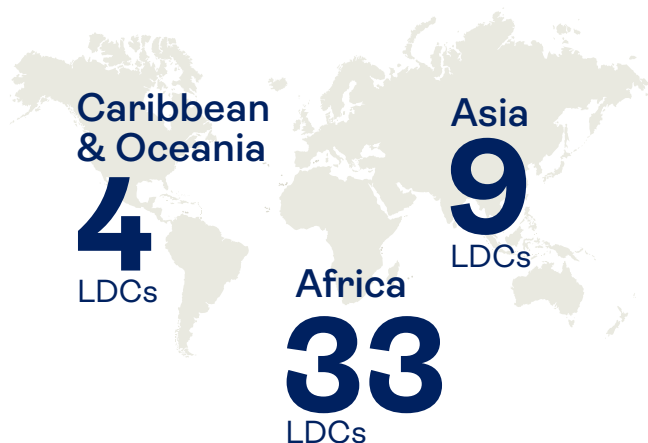
**Income:** Countries with an average per capita income of below USD\$1,018 for inclusion, and above USD\$1,222 for graduation.



**Human Assets:** Low score on the Human Assets Index, which measures aspects of health and education outcomes, like under-five mortality rate or maternal mortality.



**Economic & environmental vulnerability:** High score on the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index, which measures remoteness or dependence on agriculture.



“Least Developed Countries have an enormous untapped tourism potential which is an important opportunity for their economic and social development. We want to put destinations in LDCs on the global tourism radar.”

**Thomas Ellerbeck**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the TUI Care Foundation

## Tourism and LDCs

According to the United Nations, sustainable tourism has the potential to be a key driver of development in many LDCs.

### Tourism is ...

- ... **a central driver for LDC graduation:** Throughout the past, tourism has been one of the most important factors for this, especially for small island LDCs like Cabo Verde or Mauritius.
- ... **a steadily growing economic sector:** In pre-pandemic times, tourism accounted for 1 in 4 of all new jobs created worldwide and 10.3% of global GDP (US\$9.6 trillion).
- ... **important for the development potential in many LDCs:** The sector, with its extensive linkages to a myriad of stakeholders and activities, contributes to economic growth, community development, intercultural dialogue, environmental conservation.
- ... **an effective form of development cooperation:** From 2010 to 2019, tourism spending in emerging and developing countries increased by 60% – from 336 to US\$536 billion compared to US\$153 billion official development aid in 2019.
- ... **a driver of gender equality:** Women account for 60 to 70% of total tourism employment worldwide and are increasingly setting up own successful businesses.
- ... **supporting environmental conservation:** Tourism is one of the few market-based approaches to environmental and species conservation that is essential for the survival of national parks and nature reserves in developing countries.

### About TUI Care Foundation

Building on the potential of tourism as a force for good, the TUI Care Foundation supports and initiates projects, which contribute to thriving communities in destinations worldwide. Since it was initiated in 2016 by TUI Group, the Foundation has supported over 100 projects in 30 countries.

### About World Tourism Organization

The UNWTO is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. It promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability.