Destinos del Futuro
América Latina & El Caribe

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Latin American Destinations Network Established During the First International "Destinos del Futuro" Conference

On October 26 and 27, 2022, the first international "Destinos del Futuro" conference took place in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, through the collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and TourCert. Representatives from more than 12 countries and around 200 participants gathered to attend presentations by 20 national and international speakers on topics such as governance, climate change, financing sustainability programs, and inclusion.

During this important event, Angela Giraldo, representative of TourCert, officially launched the Latin American and Caribbean network "Destinos del Futuro." The initiative is the result of a joint effort between TourCert and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) as part of the global project "The Tourism Impact Alliance," with financial support from Swiss Cooperation.

The network currently consists of several TourCert-certified destinations across six countries in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Since 2016, these destinations have participated in training programs designed to strengthen capacities for sustainable tourism development, including resilience, regeneration, competitiveness, and destination management. These programs support destinations in adapting their tourism development strategies to the challenges of the 21st century.

Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, and the Dominican Republic are the countries committed to being part of this innovative Future Destinations Network and to advancing transformation processes aligned with the UN Agenda 2030. This initiative also creates opportunities for developing new and meaningful experiences for increasingly conscious and responsible travelers.

The network is supported by several organizations currently working on a shared platform to facilitate partnerships and connections among the destinations of the future.

Tourism businesses within the destinations, local governments, communities, and all stakeholders involved in tourism and its value chain are invited to join the initiative, enabling horizontal and participatory processes.

The "Destinos del Futuro" network aims to strengthen governance processes that are open, transparent, and focused on improving residents' well-being while preserving the continent's diverse natural and cultural heritage.

At present, the Latin American network is focused on designing processes that allow for stronger integration of local and national governments into destination management. This new approach to tourism destinations seeks to promote management plans that consider the impacts of climate change, sustainable and regenerative development strategies, the protection of natural areas, and measures to advance human rights within these territories. All of this is embedded within a framework that fosters binding and committed relationships among stakeholders.

"Destinos del Futuro" is a network built on solidarity and exchange, learning and progress, supported by goodwill, collaboration, technology, and above all, a commitment to sustainable tourism activities in each participating country.

Destinations in Latin America and the Caribbean seeking further information can contact:

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About TourCert

TourCert is an international non-profit organization based in Germany that empowers companies and destinations to operate sustainably and awards the TourCert certification to those meeting high certification standards. The community of certified businesses and destinations currently includes more than 500 members.

https://tourcert.org/

About the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC®) manages the GSTC Criteria, the global standards for sustainable travel and tourism, and provides international accreditation for certification bodies in sustainable tourism.

https://www.gstcouncil.org/

Co-Founders of Destinos del Futuro – Latin America

ACOTUR – Colombia, Asociación Destino Sarapiquí Sostenible (ADESS) – Costa Rica, Asociación Destino Turístico Sarchí – Costa Rica, Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI), Asociación Galerense de Empresarios (AGE), Foro Ambiental Samaná,TourCert Ecuador (Destinations Cotopaxi, Ambato, Cuenca), TourCert Peru, REGENERA – Chile