15 Years of the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection:
A Compilation of Good Practices
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After reaching a historic milestone in 2012 – one billion people crossing international borders in a single year – tourism continues to gain momentum against all odds. In 2013, the sector surpassed expectations with a 5% growth, reinforcing its position as one of the most resilient and fastest growing economic sectors. Tourism represents today 9% of global GDP, 30% of the world’s export services and one in every 11 jobs worldwide.

These are encouraging facts, especially in the context of a challenging global economy. But we cannot ignore that it is also a serious responsibility.

With the economic growth, job creation and development opportunities that tourism brings, comes the challenge of its possible detrimental impacts on the communities and the environment. This is particularly true for the more vulnerable groups of society such as children and youth in those cases when the industry’s facilities are used for nefarious purposes such as exploitation.

UNWTO has been working towards preventing all forms of exploitation affecting children and youth in tourism through its Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism since 1997 (since 2001, the Network for the Protection of Children in Tourism).

This open-ended platform held almost 30 international meetings, providing an indispensable forum for the exchange of research, experiences and awareness-raising on the most significant projects on child protection in tourism. We strongly encourage the collaboration with the private sector since the whole sector needs to work in synergy if we are to contribute to the elimination of all forms of child exploitation.

This publication is a testimony of some of the successful projects and good practices shared within the Network during the past decade. I trust it will serve as an encouragement for all of us to continue tackling the pressing issue of the Protection of Children in Tourism which we need to confront without any hesitation and in a collaborative manner.

Taleb Rifai
Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
The rapid expansion of international tourism over the past decades has brought with it many important positive developments which have considerably contributed to the socio-economic advancement of many countries on the world map.

However, without respect for basic principles of sustainability and a responsible behavior of all stakeholders, tourism can damage the environment, communities, and even fundamental human rights. One of the possible side-effects of the lack of accountability in tourism development is the exploitation of the most vulnerable groups of the population.

We have observed with concern that tourism infrastructures are sometimes being used for different forms of exploitation of human beings, which are especially abhorrent when involving children and adolescents. Affecting both tourism-sending and tourism-receiving nations, the issue is sadly prevalent even in the most developed countries, despite the deep-rooted and fundamentally wrong opinion that this heinous phenomenon only occurs in the developing world and emerging economies.

When the World Tourism Network on Child Protection was established towards the end of the 1990s, as the Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism, there were few tourism stakeholders to publicly recognize the real dimension of exploitation of children in the sector. However, throughout its 15 years of existence, the Network has shown continued advances in encouraging the participation and in gaining the support of governments, tourism businesses, non-governmental organizations, the media, law enforcement agencies, as well as international organizations to combat this global issue.

I hope that the selection of good practices featured in this compendium can prove that significant and tangible progress has been made, both in regards to raising awareness of child exploitation in tourism and to concrete and effective means of preventing and combatting the same.

Much still needs to be done, since the word prevention should not keep us satisfied: rather, it is the eradication of any form of abuse of children related to tourism that we should all aspire to.

Dr. Dawid de Villiers
Chairman of the Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism (1998 - 2013)
The World Tourism Network on Child Protection
Although it is widely recognised that tourism is not the cause of child exploitation, it can aggravate the problem when parts of its infrastructure, such as transport networks and accommodation facilities, are exploited by child abusers for nefarious ends. Additionally, many other factors that contribute to abuse such as poverty, social exclusion, or a lack of socio-economic opportunities are being manipulated by perpetrators, and may thus spawn lucrative markets for prostitution and other forms of exploitative labour.

The UNWTO’s stance on this issue is outlined in the Organization’s core policy document, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, a roadmap for responsible and sustainable tourism development, adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of UNWTO and acknowledged by that of United Nations in 2001. Article 2 of the Code explicitly states that “the exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual, especially when applied to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and is the negation of tourism” (Article 2.3).

However, while tourism infrastructure can be misused for illicit ends, it can also be reclaimed as a force to fight this same exploitation. Tourism’s investment in development and poverty alleviation schemes, CSR policies and strategies, the provision of decent work, the training of tourism workers and, crucially, awareness-raising among tourism professionals and tourists alike are invaluable weaponry in the battle against the exploitation of children.

The UNWTO strongly promotes this kind of initiatives through its World Tourism Network on Child Protection (hereafter referred to as “the Network”). This open-ended network constitutes a global multi-stakeholder platform gathering governments, international organisations, NGOs, tourism industry groups and media associations. From its foundation in 1997 to 2007, it was known as the Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism, focusing on what is commonly known as “child sex tourism”. From 2007 onwards, the Task Force has broadened its mission to contribute to the prevention of all forms of exploitation of children that may occur in the tourism sector, i.e. sexual exploitation, child labour and trafficking.

The Network’s meetings take place annually at ITB Berlin (until 2008 also at WTM London) and serve as a platform for key actors to exchange experiences and good practices, present awareness-raising materials and capacity-building tools, and promote the adoption of professional codes of conduct or other responsible practices in line with the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

It was a rather difficult task to prepare a short selection of best practices illustrating the most successful initiatives of child protection in tourism, given that more than 170 presentations and reports have been delivered at Networks’ meetings since 1997.

The 16 initiatives featured in the present compilation are grouped into six categories, representing different sectors, namely “Governments”, “Regional Initiatives”, “Law Enforcement”, “International Organizations”, “Non-Governmental Organizations”, and the “Private Sector”.

All these initiatives demonstrate the variety of viable strategies and actions that have been taken around the world to protect children from exploitation in tourism, and to serve as an example and a source of inspiration for many others involved in responsible tourism development.
Indonesia: A Strong Partnership Against Child Abuse

Source: Mr. Bakri, Director of the Empowerment of Tourism Destination Society, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia has taken crucial steps towards the prevention of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children within the country’s tourism sector. The country has sought to uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has passed laws on Child Protection (2002) and Trafficking (2007).

Furthermore, Indonesia’s Ministry of Social Welfare launched a National Action Plan for the Eradication of Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation (2009). More efficient and extensive policy-making is enabled by the close relationship between different ministries and departments, such as the Ministries of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, of Social Affairs, of Foreign Affairs, and the National Police.

The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy are both active participants in combatting SECT (Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism) through initiatives such as the Tourism Awareness Programme. This programme involves the circulation of information materials such as leaflets and posters to hotels, travel agencies and other stakeholders, designed for both tourists and the tourism industry.

Additional aspects of this programme include the regular organization of workshops throughout the country, the installation of prevention authorities in each province and the maintenance of close cooperation with the National Police and ECPAT.

Another influential initiative has been the “Wise While Online Campaign” brought about by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology to guard Indonesian children from online abuse. Further actions consist of a campaign against the sexual exploitation of children, the castigation of tourism businesses involved in the sexual exploitation of children, and the legal punishment of perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Finally, in 2012 several studies were carried out by the Indonesian government, ECPAT and the Indonesian Facebook Office, which served to shed light on new trends and evolutions in online and offline child sexual abuse.

In recent years Indonesia has experienced an unprecedented growth in cases of child abuse being reported, reflecting a promising increase in awareness and willingness to tackle the issue on the part of both tourists and the Indonesian population. Furthermore, the candid nature of these newspaper reports demonstrates a freedom of expression along with a readiness to discuss and address sensitive subjects.

Such efforts have resulted in a smoother collaboration between governmental and non-governmental bodies, international organizations and the private sector, establishing a stronger, more resilient partnership against SECT.
The year 2010 was marked by great progress with regards to international collaboration against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism (SECT) with the launch of a tri-national campaign entitled “Kleine Seelen, Große Gefahr” (“Little Souls, Great Danger”) spearheaded by Austria (State Secretary of Economy, Family and Youth), Germany (State Secretaries of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) and Switzerland (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs). The campaign was set in motion as a result of the First Trilateral Workshop on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel organized in Vienna in 2009 by the Division for International Tourism Affairs under the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth, and ECPAT Austria.

The campaign’s principal aim is to reinforce cooperation between partner countries in defeating and eradicating child sex tourism in tourist destinations and to raise public awareness of the problem back home. The campaign counts on the collaboration of the partner country’s public authorities, including the public government and police forces, child protection agencies, in close association with the travel industry, tourism stakeholders, and NGOs such as ECPAT, Kinderschutz, and Terre des Hommes.

Awareness-raising initiatives range from audio-visual materials (chiefly leaflets and a video entitled “Witness”), distributed and broadcast along the tourist supply chain (aircrafts, hotels, trade fairs, etc.), and in other more unconventional places (medical clinics, public transport). Moreover, these awareness-raising materials draw attention to emergency hotlines and e-mail addresses where people can report possible cases of child abuse (interpol@meldestelle.at, stopp-missbrauch@bka.de, and www.stopchildsextourism.ch). The campaign’s popularity has spread far and wide, and in 2013 France and Luxemburg were invited to add their names to the countries already involved. Furthermore, after an effective presentation of the campaign at a meeting of the Council of Europe, several other countries have shown interest in participating.

Inspiration from the formation and success of this tri-national campaign has been channelled into a new EU-project (2012-2015) coordinated by ECPAT France, which intends to raise awareness and increase reporting rates by disseminating campaign materials and launching reporting addresses in 13 European and six non-European countries: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Gambia, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, The Netherlands, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom.
ASEAN and ChildWise: Regional Solutions for a Global Problem - ASEAN and ChildWise towards the Sustainable Prevention of SECT

Source: Ms. Aarti Kapoor, Programme Manager, Project Childhood, Prevention Pillar, World Vision Australia

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Founded in 1967, ASEAN is a geo-political and economic organisation comprising of ten Southeast Asian countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, driven by the objective of accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development, as well as promoting regional peace and stability, collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest. Tourism is a fast growing sector in the region with 85 million international visitor arrivals in 2012 and a rapid growth forecast for the forthcoming years. Recognising that child sex offenders travel across national borders, ASEAN countries exhibit a positive recent history of collaboration in addressing the problem of SECT by way of putting into effect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the adoption of child protection laws, intensifying law enforcement and national and regional child-sex tourism (CST) prevention and training programmes.

In 1999, the Australian Government, through AusAID, committed to addressing the issue of child sexual exploitation in the tourism sector in South East Asia. The government appointed Child Wise, an Australian non-governmental organisation, to deliver programmes designed to address the emerging threat of CST as identified by governments and the tourism industry in a number of South East Asian countries. In 2005, the Child Wise Tourism programme received endorsement from the ASEAN Secretariat and expanded to include full support from all ten ASEAN member countries. This new phase called for partnerships with Tourism Ministries, law enforcement agencies, private sector companies, local communities and NGOs.

Thailand Tourism Police welcomed the ASEAN Regional Education Campaign as a way of drawing greater awareness to child protection.
Between 2005 and 2009, the programme successfully encouraged national governments to take the lead in establishing policies and practices to prevent child sex tourism and other forms of child sexual exploitation.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN Regional Taskforce was established involving senior government officials from key agencies. A primary function of the Taskforce was to undertake annual reporting of key data relating to child sex tourism, which was then collated and published annually in the format of an ASEAN Child Sex Tourism Review. It is worth noting that all governments backed the Child Wise Tourism Training programme which consisted of a specially designed curriculum for the tourism sector – prepared in all ASEAN languages – extending to thousands of frontline tourism staff in tourist hotspots across South East Asia. The year 2006 marked a world-first initiative with Grey Worldwide (a leading global social marketing agency) designing an ASEAN Regional Education Campaign. This campaign was embraced and disseminated by all ten countries in an effort to create greater awareness and promote public reporting of the issue of child sexual exploitation in tourism destinations.

The campaign aimed to motivate responsible travellers and local citizens to report suspicious behaviour, deter child sex offenders and establish a culture of condemnation towards child sexual exploitation by sending a clear, stern message that child sex offenders are not welcome in the region. A series of business breakfasts were held in the ASEAN region, with all services donated by Accor, to invite the private sector to contribute funds towards the running of the campaign. As a consequence of the investment from the private sector and the Australian Government, the campaign was effectively disseminated across the region in popular tourist locations including hotels, taxis, airplanes (e.g. in-flight videos), ferry terminals, tour companies, airports and tourist sites, resulting in a significant increase in reports to national hotline numbers.

In 2009, following the success of previous actions, the Australian Government announced a five year South East Asian Plan which formalised the commitment of all ten ASEAN governments. This plan served to build upon the foundation of child protection infrastructure and address critical gaps which rely on the collaboration of all committed partners. Its key aims include increasing the reach of CST prevention programmes, strengthening law enforcement and legal responses, enhancing support for children affected by CST and building better cooperation and coordination.

INTERPOL: Information Sharing and Tools to Eliminate Child Abuse through tourism

Source: Ms. Annethe Ahlenius, Project Coordinator Project Childhood (Protection Pillar), I.C.P.O INTERPOL Liaison Office, Asia and South Pacific

INTERPOL, the world’s largest international police organization, fights crimes against children on an international scale, channelling significant energy into combatting travelling child sex offenders and online child exploitation. Numerous tools have been developed to facilitate these activities. The Crimes against Children Team resides under the Trafficking in Human Beings Sub-Directorate at the INTERPOL General Secretariat (IPSG) in Lyon. They are responsible for the day-to-day running of the programmes and projects that afford capacity building, operational support and best practise advice to INTERPOL’s 190 member countries. Collectively known as the INTERPOL Specialists Group on Crimes against Children, they comprise international, multi-disciplinary teams, located across the world, devoted to preventing the abuse of children. Through research, education, shared intelligence and learning, it promotes evidence-based practice, public policy, community and law enforcement strategies that lead to the effective prosecution, assessment, treatment and management of individuals who have abused or are in danger of abusing children.

The Specialists Group has met annually since 1992 and centres its work on four focus areas: (1) Serious and Violent Crimes against Children; (2) Child Sex Offenders; (3) Victim Identification; and (4) Internet-Facilitated Crimes against Children. They have succeeded in passing a number of resolutions at the INTERPOL General Assembly encompassing victim centric management of Child Abuse Material (CAM), access-blocking of websites displaying child abusive material and the employment of green notices for sex offenders.

INTERPOL actively promotes the practice of handing green notices to sex offenders convicted of travelling with the intention of sexually abusing or exploiting a child, or who classified by a country’s laws as sexually violent predators, dangerous offenders, or as posing a serious threat to the public, to serve as a clear, visible warning to member countries.

INTERPOL additionally manages the international response to the emerging threat posed by online child exploitation. The International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (ICSE) is managed at IPSG. This tool is at the centre of a movement to establish victim identification as a core police asset which will ensure that all child (sexual) abuse material (CAM) seized by the police around the world is analysed in an effort to locate the victim and therefore the offender. INTERPOL also updates the “worst-off list” (IWOL) of web domains containing the worst possible CAM on the web. This list is made available to the INTERPOL National Central Bureau of each member country, along with industry or other suitable actors so as to allow the blocking and removal of such sites. INTERPOL is supported in this work by member countries, Europol, Cospol Internet Related Child Abuse Material Project (CIRCAMP), the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (USA) (NCMEC), InHope and the European Commission.
CEOP: Combats SECT through Training and Capacity Building

Sources: Mr. Peter Davies, Chief Executive, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP); Mr. Tim Gerrish, Head of Training and International Capacity Building

Secretariat@ceop.gsi.gov.uk; Tim.Gerrish@ceop.gsi.gov.uk

CEOP, the department of the UK Police responsible for Child Exploitation and Online Protection, works to eradicate sexual abuse of children and to track down and bring offenders to justice. CEOP has outlined four key threats that should receive maximum attention in the fight against child abuse: the proliferation of indecent images of children, online child sexual exploitation, contact child sexual abuse, and transnational child sexual abuse.

Transnational child abuse offenders consist of embedded offenders and transient offenders. Embedded overseas offenders are likely to be permanently or semi-permanently residing overseas and repeatedly perpetrate abuse against the same child or children as the result of an extended grooming process. Transient overseas offenders do not carry out an extended grooming process and are facilitated by the commercial sexual exploitation of children or by weaknesses in the country’s socio-economic condition. However, data demonstrates that no country or continent can be ruled out as a destination for transnational child sex offenders.

CEOP’s International Child Protection Network (ICPN) supports frontline child protection partners in overseas jurisdictions. The ICPN develops contacts with stakeholders to (1) build operational cooperation; (2) share and promote child protection and safeguard best practices, knowledge, and understanding; (3) learn about new threats to children; and (4) support CEOP’s in-country project activity.

CEOP developed Advisory Panels, stakeholder groups that aim to enhance intelligence flows in-country, support strategic and tactical work and endorse discourse concerning engagement. Currently, Advisory Panels exist in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, and Romania with a wider ICPN reach in Spain, Ukraine, Poland, and Bulgaria. Emerging countries for ICPN activities are Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Bangladesh. In the case of Cambodia, partnerships were set up between CEOP, Cambodian authorities, NGOs and UK Travel Industry. An agreement was signed with the authorities creating a sustainable chain of specialist training and launching a media campaign together with the Cambodian Government to serve as deterrents against child sex tourism.

During the Southeast Asia Regional Child Protection Workshops held in Bangkok in 2010, CEOP Advisory Panel members from across the region contributed to the development of a ‘Code of Practice’ to support the work of ICPN members. This Code represents the key standards that network members agree to work towards, based on international children’s rights instruments.

CEOP introduced the International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) (www.acro.police.uk/icpc) in 2012 which aims to prevent known UK child sex offenders from being able to work with children overseas. Schools and other organisations overseas who work directly with children can ask their staff from the UK to apply for an ICPC, which details an applicant’s criminal record history and consequently their suitability for working with children.
ILO-IPEC: Support Eliminating Child Labour in Tourism

Source: Ms. Yoshie Noguchi, Senior legal officer, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), International Labour Office

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a unique tripartite UN agency that brings together the member States’ governments, employers and workers organizations. ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was created in 1992 with the overriding goal of the gradual elimination of child labour and exploitation. Many children work formally or informally in and around the tourism sector. Although often invisible, many of them are engaged in “hazardous labour”, including forced labour and other illicit activities as defined in the ILO convention No. 182 (1999) on child labour, such as the drugs trade, begging, trafficking and prostitution.

ILO-IPEC as a global programme aims to record and analyse good practices and lessons learnt from its projects in order to secure their long term implementation. Good examples of ILO action include job creation projects in tourism to address the underlying poverty and vulnerabilities in the locality, as found in Kenya and Thailand. In Kenya, ILO-IPEC, in cooperation with other institutions and national and local actors, supported SOLWODI (Solidarity with Women in Distress), an NGO working on protecting children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism on the Kenyan Coast, where children have been coerced into prostitution and trafficking for sex and pornography. The ECPAT Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Tourism has been implemented and awareness-raising and training actions have been organized, targeting hotel managers and staff.

In an ethnic minority community in the north of Thailand, children were highly vulnerable to exploitation due to low income and lack of citizenship, education and skills. Understanding the need to improve family incomes and create an environment of self-esteem, the ILO’s Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women worked with a Thai NGO (the Mirror Arts Foundation) to expand its home-stay project as an income-generating venture, strengthening the livelihood skills of community members and helping villagers regain pride in their cultural identity and themselves. The project now generates a substantial income, which helps reduce the risk of trafficking, while savings are used for citizenship applications, adapted schools for ethnic minorities, etc.

Other ILO-IPEC actions include policy advice, capacity-building of national stakeholders and awareness-raising campaigns, such as the dissemination of leaflets highlighting hazardous work by young workers, targeting three different groups: teenagers, restaurants and hotel cleaning staff. In Costa Rica, the promotion of the ECPAT Code mobilized both employers’ and workers’ organizations and clarified their responsibilities. The ILO-IPEC publication “Guidelines on the design of direct action strategies to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children” contains good practices, examples and lists of “What to Do” and “What NOT to do” in the tourism sector and beyond.

In order to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation of children in tourism, ILO-IPEC insists on licensing the tourism and travel sector, providing regular inspection and sanctions, with active participation from businesses and employees. The complete and sustainable elimination of child labour can only be achieved when the measures are mainstreamed and integrated into the national or local policies, institutional systems, and maintained by the society or the community concerned.
The Japan Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF Japan) has subscribed to UNICEF’s holistic approach to child protection, addressing the root causes of violence and abuse, including discriminatory gender norms, social and economic exclusion, lack of good quality education, weak law enforcement and impunity. UNICEF Japan engages in awareness-raising campaigns and influences legislative activities by involving both the Japanese Government and private sector.

SECT is tackled through the establishment of a pressure group for the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by the Japanese Government, awareness-raising activities (seminars, public events) and follow-up meetings to the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm (1996), Yokohama (2001) and Rio de Janeiro (2008).

Furthermore, there have been signature-collection campaigns advocating the Japanese Government to establish laws against commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking, which were also strongly supported by ECPAT/STOP Japan (an organization affiliated with ECPAT International).


In response to the growing danger of child pornography on the Internet, UNICEF Japan launched the “Say no to child pornography” campaign to encourage law reforms and consequently criminalise the problem, as well as the national campaign “World without Child Pornography”, in 2010, highlighting the vital importance of prohibiting the purchase, procurement and possession of child pornography. The campaign secured the cooperation of 90 major domestic organizations and acquired 1.17 million supporting signatures.

In August 2011, UNICEF Japan submitted these signatures to the President of the House of Councillors who guaranteed the topic’s discussion in Parliament. UNICEF’s policy recommendations and firm request to prioritise children have motivated the Japanese government to take legislative initiatives to protect children from child pornography that promise to be transformed into law in the near future.

After years of negotiation between the Japanese Association of Travel Agents (JATA) and the management of the ECPAT Code of Conduct, the Code was adopted in 2005 by Japan’s major travel agencies and tour operators, thus covering 90% of Japanese outbound tourism. The number of Japanese signatories continues to increase and counts over 80 in 2013.

Sources: Mr. Yoshihisa Togo, Vice-Chair of the Japan Committee for UNICEF; Ms. Maya Saeki, Advocacy Officer Information, Advocacy Division, Japan Committee for UNICEF

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The ChildSafe Network, funded by Harvey World Travel, Friends International and the Skål Foundation, is a global child protection system managed by Friends International, an international NGO that works for marginalized urban children and youth to build their futures through education and training for employment. ChildSafe is active in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Indonesia with plans for further expansion underway.

Within the tourism industry, several business partners share the ChildSafe Traveller 7 Tips (see below) including Silk Air, Thai Airways, Lonely Planet, Le Guide Du Routard, and MTV EXIT. Locally, ChildSafe works with various organizations that train members in their area, and carry out community training and traveller campaigns.

ChildSafe aims to protect children from abuse and to encourage society to adopt positive behavioural changes so as to provide a supportive environment. The Network does so by training and supporting key members of communities, as well as by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change among both the general population and tourists.

ChildSafe provides training and certification for community members on how to identify and respond to children at risk of abuse, and addresses specifically the tourism industry via hotels, tour agencies, restaurants, community transport employees, taxi drivers and street sellers. The ChildSafe Citizens programme aims to craft a protective network for children, work with citizens in the countries of intervention to ensure that they are informed about risks their children are facing and be actively involved in their protection. The programme includes information about services available in the country (hotlines, specialized services), behaviour change information, and a supporting website. Across Asia there are now over 4,000 trained and certified ChildSafe members protecting children in their everyday activities, and consequently providing a safer environment for the children.

The ChildSafe Information and Referral Centre established in 2007 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and open 24 hours a day, is primarily a safe haven for children at risk of abuse. Additionally, it ensures that ChildSafe members receive training, materials and classes, and that travellers learn more about street children and how to protect them during their journey.

The ChildSafe Traveller 7 Tips highlight the need for behavioural advice for tourists and provide concrete recommendations to travellers on how their actions can affect the lives of children. The campaign provides 24/7 hotlines, ensuring immediate support. The tips, which can be found on the website thinkchildsafe.org are: (1) Support ChildSafe network members, (2) Think! Before buying or giving to begging children, (3) Think! How to protect children from exploitative labour, (4) Think! Children are not tourist attractions, (5) Think! Before taking a child back to your hotel room, (6) Think! When faced with a situation of potential sexual exploitation of children, and (7) Think! And keep your eyes wide open.

The campaign has already reached millions of travellers as the tips are implemented not only in the active cities of ChildSafe, but also via partnerships with corporate and tourism industry supporters around the world.
Infantia Foundation:
Awareness-raising and Training for a Safer Childhood

source: ms. rosa martha brown, director, infantia foundation
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For over ten years, the Mexican Infantia Foundation (Fundación Infantia) has targeted the sexual exploitation of children in tourism in defence of children's rights. The most successful actions include a national awareness raising campaign, the implementation of the Youth Career Initiative (YCI), and the launch of a National Code of Conduct.

The Foundation works closely with the Mexican Ministry of Tourism, and other national and international organizations, authorities, NGOs and private companies, such as ILO-IPEC, the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF), ECPAT, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare of Mexico, the Mexican hotel industry, the tourism boards of Honduras and San Salvador, and the Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ejecutivas de Empresas Turísticas (FIASEET), among others.

The national awareness-raising campaign was launched in 2002 to alert the tourism sector of the prevalence of child prostitution and pornography.

It also instigated the launch of an emergency hotline, the distribution of brochures, and the organization of workshops and training for the travel industry, universities, trade unions and employees of the private sector.

Additionally, a training manual was developed in 2005 to inform tourism professionals on the prevention and protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation.

In 2007, the foundation introduced the YCI programme (see IBLF and Marriott) in several Mexican cities. Of the first generation of young people graduated from the YCI, 52% continue to work in the tourism sector, 17% in the hospitality sector, while 29% preferred to continue their studies.

In 2011, a National Code of Conduct (www.codigodeconducta.mx) was launched in Mexico, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and important tourism associations. Based on the international ECPAT Code of Conduct, the National Code adds features to enrich its implementation, such as protocols of awareness, safe and anonymous denouncements and attention to victims.

At the start of 2012, over 500 stakeholders had signed the document, including travel agencies, tour operators, hotels and restaurants, and by the end of 2013 it is expected to have more than 1000 signatures.

The signing is backed by the Ministry of Tourism, Infantia Foundation, and CROC, the most important workers' union in Mexico.

Source: Andreas Astrup, General Manager, The Code

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism is an industry-driven initiative with the mission of providing awareness, tools and support to the tourism businesses to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

The Code of Conduct was developed by ECPAT Sweden in collaboration with Scandinavian tourism companies and UNWTO, after the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm in 1996. The document was implemented for the first time in 1998 and was later adopted by the ECPAT International network. Since 2004, the Code of Conduct has operated as an independent non-profit organization which is led by a multi-stakeholder Board of Directors with representatives from the tourism industry and NGOs.

The Code is currently funded by SECO (the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs), GIZ (the German Agency for International Cooperation) and from membership fees. Moreover, the Code of Conduct has been continuously supported by UNWTO and UNICEF as a good practice example of Child Protection in Tourism.

The Code of Conduct is one of the first initiatives to define the role and obligations of tourism companies regarding the issue of child protection and invites membership from any type of tourism businesses, both formal and informal, as long as they commit to implementing six criteria:

1. to establish a policy and procedures against sexual exploitation of children,
2. to train employees in children’s rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation and reporting suspected cases,
3. to include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero-tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children,
4. to provide information to travellers,
5. to support, collaborate and engage with stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children, and
6. to report annually.
The organization is supported by a number of Local Code Representatives (LCR), mostly ECPAT groups or other NGOs that recruit possible members, support their implementation of The Code and provide child protection expertise. This multi-stakeholder approach provides a platform for diverse input from the different sectors into the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Not only does this format allow for great exchange in ideas, but it provides realistic feedback from both the tourism professionals and NGOs.

To ease and assist member companies in implementing The Code of Conduct’s criteria efficiently, a number of cloud-based tools have been developed for tourism professionals, concretely a CRM system, a LCR portal and an e-learning system which allows online implementation, staff training, access to information and online reporting. The e-learning modules are specifically designed for the frontline staff of the tourism industry and are based on real cases of child sex tourism to teach staff how to identify and act should they suspect a possible case of child exploitation.

These tools should (1) standardize the work processes, (2) facilitate implementation, (3) meet the demand for staff training within the travel industry, (4) reach out to new companies and (5) strengthen reporting and transparency to give The Code a clear identity with attractive benefits for its members.

At present over 1200 companies from 42 countries have signed the Code of Conduct, which has become the leading tool for companies to incorporate into their responsible tourism/corporate responsibility programmes for child protection. In Costa Rica, the government plays an active role in promoting The Code of Conduct within the tourism industry, and has integrated the Code of Conduct into the Certificate of Sustainable Tourism issued by the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism. The Code of Conduct has been named as a prominent corporate social responsibility tool by the Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility, and has been granted multiple awards.
Project Childhood: A Joint Campaign of World Vision, UNODC and Interpol

Sources: Ms. Aarti Kapoor, Programme Manager, Project Childhood, Prevention Pillar; Ms. Anita Dodds, Child Protection Consultant
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Project Childhood is an initiative by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to combat the sexual exploitation of children in tourism in the Mekong sub-region. The project builds upon Australia’s long-term support for programmes that protect children and prevent their abuse, and unites World Vision, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL. The project, which commenced in November 2010 and is due to end in August 2014, operates in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Lao PDR and adopts a dual prevention and protection approach.

Prevention Pillar Priorities

World Vision takes a child safe tourism approach in working with Governments and communities to prevent children from becoming victims of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Through education, training, public campaigns, and child helplines, governments, communities, and tourism enterprises are more aware of the vulnerabilities of at-risk children to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and better equipped to build a protective environment. In the partner countries, the Prevention Pillar aims to:

1. build resilience of key target vulnerable communities,
2. enhance information, reporting and referral structures for girls and boys at risk of sexual abuse,
3. support the travelling public and tourism sector response to sexual exploitation in tourism, and
4. assist local and national governments in a sustainable response.
Protection Pillar Priorities

UNODC, in partnership with INTERPOL, is working with law enforcement agencies to protect children through strengthening law enforcement responses to sexual abuse of children by travelling child sex offenders.

Through the increased knowledge of law enforcement and stronger regional and international cooperation, governments will be better equipped to identify and combat child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

The Protection Pillar aims to boost the capacity of law enforcement officials in identifying, arresting and prosecuting travelling child sex offenders through the following measures:

1. support the review and, where appropriate, revision of relevant legislation to international standards,
2. enhance the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officials,
3. promote inter-agency cooperation within and across borders, and
4. strengthen operational teams in specialist police units.

Help protect our children –
Be a Child Safe Traveller
Accor: Child Protection as one of Accor’s Sustainable Development Priorities

Source: Ms. Elise Bonneau, Project Manager, Sustainable Development Department, ACCOR
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Since 2001, Accor has been seriously involved in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children, making it one of the 21 commitments in its Sustainable Development programme, PLANET 21. Accor stresses the urgent need to change production and consumption patterns and works to inform and train employees, raise awareness among customers and suppliers, develop relations with public authorities, and facilitate the integration of minors in the process.

Accor’s Child Protection programme counts on the participation of the ECPAT France, DCI (Direction de la Coopération Internationale, France’s international cooperation body in the area of domestic security), and OCRVP (Office Central pour la Répression des Violences aux Personnes, a part of the French central police). ECPAT is also one of the main partners in training hotel staff, mainly in South-East Asia.

A study, carried out by Accor and ECPAT France, of the experiences of the Accor division in sub-Saharan Africa prompted a global project to outline procedures for identifying cases of child sex tourism (CST). This resulted in 2010 in the publication of a Manual for the Implementation of Reporting Procedures, its overall objectives being to respond to the needs of tourism professionals involved in fighting CST and to promote better reporting of cases to the police and judicial services. The manual provides suggestions for identifying the appropriate contact when reporting a tourist suspected of abusing children, helps hotel management with the creation of procedures for reporting cases of verified or suspected child sex abuse occurring in their hotels, and explains how to react towards the abusers and the victims. Finalized in 2012 after a pilot programme in Ghana, the Dominican Republic and Thailand, the manual is being distributed more widely in 2013 in versions adapted to each destination.

Additionally, Accor has disseminated its best practices to prevent child exploitation at major events such as the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, and will do so for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil, with specific intensification of the Académie Accor online trainings in the 127 hotels located in cities hosting games. By the end of 2012, as a result of Accor’s awareness-raising and training activities, 38% of Accor hotels had pledged to protect children from abuse, and over 30,000 employees received specific training. Today, 36 Accor operating countries have signed the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.
International Tourism Partnership: Empowerment of Young People via the Youth Career Initiative

Source: Mr. Alberto Canovas, Head of Youth Career Initiative, International Tourism Partnership and Youth Career Initiative, International Business Leaders Forum

The International Tourism Partnership (ITP), a programme of Business in the Community (formerly of the International Business Leaders Forum), brings together the world’s leading international hotel companies to provide an authority on environmental and social responsibility in the industry. With a powerful membership and sharp focus on the long-term sustainability of the hotel industry, ITP has a unique leadership role within the hospitality sector worldwide. ITP believes that the hotel industry has a key role to play in increasing awareness and prevention, both directly and through the supply chain and that the private sector has an opportunity to lead by example. ITP works by highlighting good practice, delivering a range of practical products and programmes and tackling emerging sustainability issues through collaborative working groups. An example of this work is the ITP working group on human trafficking, which was created to lead the industry response to this global issue.

One of the most successful programmes of ITP is the Youth Career Initiative (YCI), which enables the hotel industry to create entry level jobs and career progression for some of the most disadvantaged members of society. This programme originated in Bangkok in 1995 as the Youth Career Development Programme, a community initiative from Pan Pacific Hotels Group, later adopted by ITP and was further developed and expanded globally under the brand “Youth Career Initiative”. YCI is a six-month education programme that provides disadvantaged young people with life and work skills. Its purpose is to empower participants to make informed career choices and realise the options available to them, thereby improving their employability and enhancing their long-term social and economic opportunities. YCI is made possible by a unique partnership with the international hotel industry, whereby participating companies provide the human, operational and training resources to deliver the programme.

Since 2010, and thanks to the support of the U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, YCI started incorporating rehabilitated survivors of human trafficking as part of the target group in selected locations. In Mexico City and Hanoi, 18 young people successfully completed the programme and have started developing careers in hospitality, as well as other business sectors such as retail. This amounts to 20% of the total number of graduates in those markets. By 2015, YCI hopes to expand the work with trafficking survivors to cover four new locations.
In line with Marriott's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) philosophy the company introduced the Principles of Responsible Business, a set of standards encompassing Marriott's business ethics, workforce, human rights, social responsibility, procurement practices and the environment.

To support children at risk, the company's Human Rights Policy, as outlined in the Human Rights Policy Statement, was amended by Marriott's Board of Directors in 2006 and is reviewed annually (For more information, see: http://www.marriott.com/Multimedia/PDF/Corporate/HumanRightsCommitment.pdf).

For over 15 years, Marriott has supported the International Tourism Partnership's Youth Career Initiative (YCI) initially with the introduction of the programme in JW Marriott Bangkok in 1997, driven by the need to tackle major issues including poverty, unemployment and youth exploitation.

Furthermore, it provides a tangible, high impact and measurable CSR initiative, offers professional development and community involvement, and grants participants knowledge and experience of the hospitality industry. The YCI has been implemented throughout Marriott hotels in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, including various branches of JW Marriott in Mexico - in cooperation with the Infantia

After completing the YCI programme, geared towards the professional development and social inclusion of youth, Eder became a chef at the Renaissance Sao Paolo Hotel in Brazil.
Foundation - and in Bucharest, Romania, where partnerships were established with World Vision Romania and the private sector.

Marriott’s participation in the International Tourism Partnership’s Human Trafficking Working Group was instrumental in the creation of an Industry Position Statement on Human Trafficking that includes a commitment to corporate policies, awareness training and sharing best practices.

The company also instigated mandatory training in “Human Rights and the Protection of Children” to all employees, even of franchise properties, covering more than 144,000 individuals. In 2012, this training was integrated into the on-boarding process for all new employees.

In 2011, Marriott hotels in Europe implemented “World of Opportunity,” a charity programme helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their full potential by providing life and vocational skills. In Continental Europe, funds raised benefited the SOS Children’s Villages Youth Programme which focuses on education, employment, housing, social skills, life skills and emotional stability. Marriott hotels in Asia and the Middle East also work with SOS Children’s Villages who are committed to meeting the needs and protecting the interests and rights of children.

The principal success factor of Marriott’s activities is the importance it places on partnerships and collaboration. Close cooperation between hotels, the public and private sector, NGOs, the YCI Global Team, governments and law enforcement has guaranteed clear, positive results. Thousands of students have graduated from YCI programmes around the world and have continued with further education or pursued careers in hospitality, banking and health care.

Moreover, Marriott actively cooperates with requests from national, state and local law enforcement agencies around the world to help deter and prevent crimes of sexual exploitation, and partners with law enforcement agencies to report and investigate alleged incidents of child sexual exploitation at Marriott properties. Marriott’s widespread and wide reaching initiatives display its commitment to supporting youth in diverse spheres.
The Sun n Sand Beach Resort, located on the north coast of Mombasa, Kenya, in conjunction with its Community Centre, has created several initiatives which demonstrate its drive to improve the quality of life of the surrounding community. These include the establishment of a health clinic, a nursery school, a place of worship, as well as a secure source of clean drinking water.

In 2006, the “Sun n Sand Trust” was formed by the resort in order to facilitate and oversee all Responsible Tourism Projects. The Resort has been working closely with the local community, trying to improve their lives through partnerships with the Government of Kenya, the Aga Khan Foundation, UNICEF, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, etc. Sun n Sand Beach has been one of the leaders in implementing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNICEF has been signed for the protection of children from abuse, child labour, and sexual exploitation, as well as to uphold their rights in travel and tourism. The agreement aims to establish an ethical policy to alert, support and train staff as well as community members against commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Training courses for employees of the resort are organized on a regular basis, and awareness-raising initiatives, such as targeting guests through the placing of posters in the resort and stickers in the rooms, are in place. Regular awareness raising training is provided to the employees of the resort as well as the stakeholders in the community such as local bus and taxi drivers, nightclub owners, school teachers, village elders and other community groups. A particular success story is a local village Primary School which, through funding received from guests, friends and NGOs, has benefited from the building of an IT lab, 15 classrooms, a kitchen, a nursery school, a playground, washrooms, water tanks, etc.

Education is considered a strong tool to combat SECT, therefore Sun n Sand Beach Resort encourages ‘Children of Kikambala Village’ to attend secondary school or tertiary college. This is achieved through a sponsorship programme run by the Trust, whereby 100% of the funding received goes directly to the cause. As such, an important focus is on educating students about their rights and providing them with valuable life skills for the future. The Resort has built a Counselling Centre at the school enabling students to seek professional advice for their personal issues. The Resort also explicitly includes a clause in its contracts with suppliers stating the resolute repudiation of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
DER Touristik Hotels: Training staff through the train-the-trainer strategy

Source: Ms. Miriam Landhofer. Program Officer, Department for Child Protection and Ethics, DER Touristik Group

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DER Touristik (previously REWE Touristik) is a leading trading, travel and tourism company in Germany committed to the issue of sustainability and social responsibility, in particular regarding the protection of children in travel and tourism. DER implemented the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Tourism by association as a member of DRV (the German Travel Association which signed The Code on behalf of all its members). Furthermore, it signed the Commitment to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and recently developed several concrete initiatives which were presented at ITB Berlin in 2013. Important partners of DER Touristik are DRV, ECPAT, the German Police and The Code organization.

DER actively participates in the campaign “Kleine Seelen, Große Gefahr” (see above: Three-national campaign), providing information on their web page and distributing flyers and information brochures to tour operators and hotels.

DER Touristik Hotels (comprising of Club Calimera, Lti Hotels and PrimaSol), developed a training programme for hotel staff, in order for every staff member to adopt a clear strategy of how to proceed in case of any suspicion of child abuse. Following the “train-the-trainer” principle, workshops are organized for hotel management to instruct all employees on how to utilise the material and knowledge provided. Workshops include discussions about national and international laws concerning sex with minors, the role of the tourism industry and the role of each employee preventing Child Sex Abuse. During the workshops different methods are employed, such as presentations, role plays and working groups.

Destination-specific programmes have been developed to handle local problems and react in a manner fitting the local situation and mentality. This destination-based approach has proved to be very effective and one of the real successes of the programme. All workshops are to be repeated every one to three years, and DER's aim for 2013 is to cover all its destinations.
Acronyms

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID Australian Agency for International Development
CAM Child Abuse Material
CEOP Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre
CIRCAMP Cospol Internet Related Child Abuse Material Project
COSPOL Comprehensive Operational Strategic Planning for the Police
CRM Customer Relationship Membership
CROC Confederación Revolucionaria de Obreros y Campesinos (Mexico)
CSR Corporate Social Responsibility
CST Child Sex Tourism
DCI Direction de la Coopération Internationale
ECPAT End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes
FIASEET Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ejecutivas de Empresas Turísticas
FIFA International Federation of Association Football
GIZ German Agency for International Cooperation
IBLF International Business Leaders Forum
ICPN CEOP’s International Child Protection Network
ICSE International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database
ILO International Labour Organization
IPEC ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IPSG INTERPOL General Secretariat
ITP International Tourism Partnership
JATA Japanese Association of Travel Agents
LCR Local Code Representative
NCMEC National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (USA)
OCRVP Office Central pour la Répression des Violences aux Personnes
SECO Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SECT Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism
SOLWODI Solidarity with Women in Distress (a Kenyan NGO)
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
YCI Youth Career Initiative
Useful Links


ASEAN and ChildWise: http://www.childwise.net/page/13/child-wise-tourism-program;
http://www.childwise.net/page/37/online-publications

CEOP: http://www.ceop.police.uk/International-Child-Protection-Network/

ChildSafe Network: http://www.thinkchildsafe.org

DER Touristik: http://www.dertouristik.com/de/


Indonesia: http://www.parakraf.go.id/asp/index.asp

Infantia Foundation: http://www.infantia.org; http://www.codigodeconducta.mx

org/what-we-do/products-programmes/youth-career-initiative; http://www.youthcareerinitiative.org


southeastasiaandpacific/en/Projects/2010_08/project_childhood.html

Sun n Sand Beach Resort: http://sunnsand.info/our-trust/

The Code: http://www.thecode.org

Tri-national campaign Austria, Germany, Switzerland: http://www.ecpat.de/uploads/
media/Flyer_Kleine_Seelen.pdf


UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection: http://ethics.unwto.org/content/
world-tourism-network-child-protection

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