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Session organizer:

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# Participatory planning for nature-based tourism and place-making

Nature-based tourism can increase income and wealth and improve quality of life in host communities. On the other hand, it can also cause negative impacts and create conflicts related to the environment and local communities. In this session, we will highlight participatory planning processes as an instrument to make synergies between nature-based tourism and making attractive places for both tourists and local inhabitants (place-making). Spatial planning at local and regional levels can be suitable tools for integrated development of tourism and place-making, however, a vital precondition is broad participation in such planning processes from both tourism industry actors and various stakeholders in the local communities. What are the experiences with participatory planning practices for developing tourism destinations in harmony with affected communities? How are the interaction and cooperation between planning authorities, tourism providers and members of the local communities? A significant part of nature-based tourism is related to protected areas, which often have their own legislation and management system. However, most of the infrastructure development related to tourism activities take place in areas adjacent to the protected area borders. In this respect, we also want to highlight planning practices across protected area borders. The session is organized by BIOTOUR, a Norway-based research project with the overall hypothesis that an integrated perspective of the nature-based tourism sector will provide a basis for new products and a more sustainable development. BIOTOUR has a special focus on composite adventure experiences, genuine wildlife experiences, the role of trails and events in a nature-based tourism context. For this session, we welcome presentations on spatial planning for nature-based tourism and place-making, including participation and cooperation in planning processes between tourism interests, public planning authorities and community stakeholders, and planning across protected area borders.