



Annual Report 2018

Linking Tourism and Conservation (LT&C)

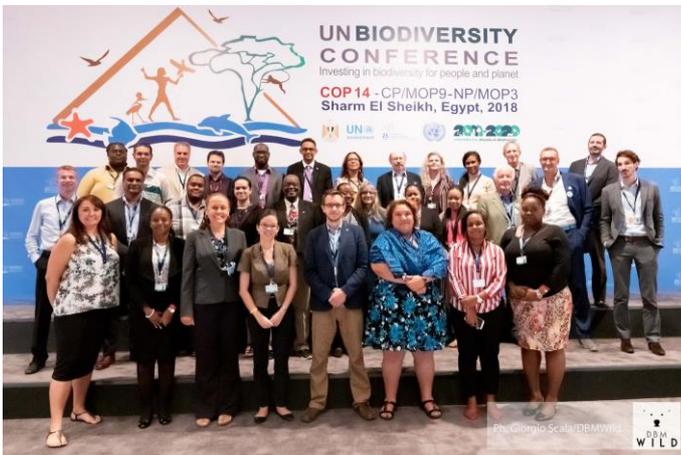
Report by the Board of Directors

Short Summary of Achievements in 2018

2018 was the fifth year of operating Linking Tourism and Conservation (LT&C) as a Norwegian-registered but globally operating NGO. We continued to do this with no paid staff and a very lean administration. We are, therefore, proud to have achieved to raise the number of profiled LT&C-Examples to 30. These are outstanding examples, where tourism is supporting the establishment or development of national parks or other types of protected areas and have been identified and described by our members and partners. The voluntary, competent and enthusiastic activities of our members allow us to be seen as a true global player. Over the time of 5 years



about 300 members (penguins) have been registered and active with LT&C. They are well distributed over all continents, and represent both realms, conservation and tourism, as well as different society levels and cultures. Profiling LT&C-Examples for replication, and in this context linking and identifying synergy among our members and partners, is our core business.



LT&C understands itself as a support organisation of the “Aichi target 11” of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14.5 and 15.1 to reach by 2020 a complete, representative and well-managed global protected area network, 17% on the land and 10% of the coasts and oceans. We believe that tourism can and must play an important role to reach this goal. In this respect we attended COP 14 of the CBD, where we run a well-

recognised side event for the Seychelles, Palau and the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) on “Tourism supporting Biodiversity: the case of Island States”.

The central case presented here was the LT&C-Example “Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation (SSTF)”. The event may have triggered other Small Island Development States (SIDS) to come up in the future with their own LT&C-Examples. Certainly Palau with its impressive establishments of new MPAs is a candidate.

Beside the [# Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation \(SSTF\)](#), 3 other LT&C-Examples have been studied and published in 2018:



[# Tmatboey Community Protected Area Ecotourism Project, Cambodia](#) (project of the [Wildlife Conservation Society, WCS](#))

[# Spirit Bear Lodge - Community-based tourism in the Great Bear Rainforest, Canada](#) (published by Royal Penguin member [Mike Robins](#))

[# Costa Rica: The Government's successful decision to increase protected areas and forest cover,](#)

[in line with and support of eco-tourism.](#) (well studied by our Rockhopper Penguin [Gabriella Bancheri](#) from Stockton University, New Jersey, supervised by Christina Cavaliere)

A number of LT&C-Examples have been awarded this year as TOP100 Sustainable Destinations by our partner Green Destinations. At the ITB in Berlin the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, represented by LT&C-member [Greg Bakunzi](#) (see his [recent interview](#)), has been [awarded as the "Best of Africa"](#).

Significant progress in establishing new protected areas with involvement of LT&C-members has been made in particular in two cases:

1) In the [agreement of the parties forming the Icelandic Government](#) it says, "Environmental issues and natural resources: A national park will be established in the central highland region of the country; this will be done in consultation with a committee composed of members of all political parties, the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, the local authorities, nature-conservation and outdoor-life associations and other players. The possibility of establishing national parks in other regions will also be examined." This decision, which should be implemented by 2020 can be seen as a follow up of our [workshop in 2017 in Iceland](#).

2) The work of our member Olaf Grell for [establishing a marine protected area \(MPA\) at Grand Béreby in Côte d'Ivoire](#) may become a blueprint for a series of MPAs in this West-African country.

Work focus:



LT&C focuses on developing methods, tools and incentives for upgrading and replicating the world's best examples of tourism supporting the establishment, development or safeguarding of national parks and other protected areas by

- Profiling and raising global awareness about best practice cases (LT&C-Examples) and different forms of tourism supporting national parks and other types of protected areas;*
- Acting as a support for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its target of a globally complete network of protected areas (Aichi 2020 target 11);*
- Operating as an international support within the most relevant global frames of sustainable or biodiversity related tourism, such as the Sustainable Tourism Program of the UN Ten Year Framework Program on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), or the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC);*
- Seeking cooperation, partnerships and synergy with, and supplying support to any other organisations or stakeholders that has overlapping interests and activities.*

An important LT&C's mission is to support the global [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), in particular **SDGs 14 and 15**. LT&C regularly communicates on the importance of these common global goals. We use any opportunity to highlight the importance and incredible opportunity that 193 nations have agreed on 17 comprehensive goals and the 169 concrete and measurable targets. We will live in a much better world, if these goals are achieved by 2030.

LT&C, acting as a support NGO for the Aichi 2020 target 11 (a globally complete network of well-managed protected areas) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), relates to different biodiversity and sustainable tourism programmes and organisations of the United Nations. LT&C strives to contribute to the [Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15](#) (indirectly also to 12 and 13), and the following specific targets of the SDGs:



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

14.2 & 14.5: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts to achieve healthy and productive oceans; and conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas.



14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources.



Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

15.1, 15.2 & 15.5: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services; promote the

implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests and reforestation; and take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

15.10: Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.1: Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing

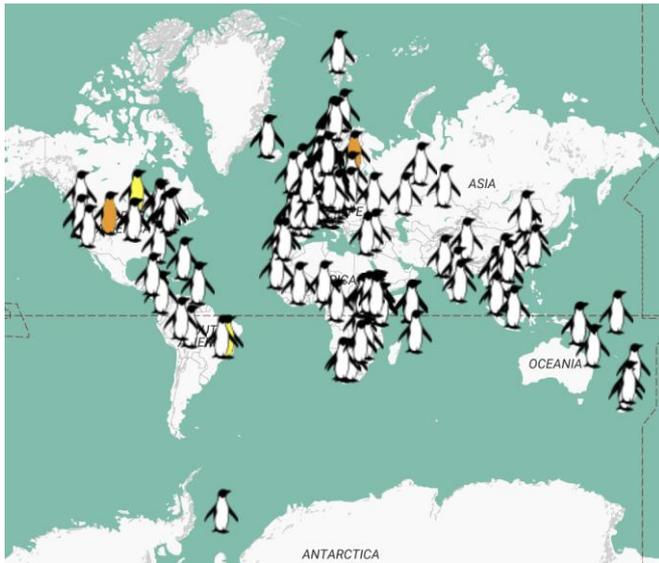
countries.

12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning



Membership and Partners:

LT&C strives to implement its work by the joint activities and competences of our members and partners. Therefore, it is of particular value that we were able to build up a highly competent and respected [global membership](#) and [partnership](#) base within the first five years. Over the years more than 300 individuals, institutions and companies have signed up for membership.

LT&C has four different levels of membership. In 2018, 31 Rockhopper Penguins (non-paying

students to engage their university studies in topics and activities that are related to the LT&C-mission), 145 Royal Penguins (basic members), 18 King Penguins (members with voting rights) and 14 Emperor Penguins (founding members and major life-long supporters) were active. The [members are from all five continents of the world](#), with a higher concentration in Europe, particularly in Norway and Germany. They comprise of tour companies, conservation organisations, and individuals who are experts or interested in tourism, environment or sustainable development.

LT&C Partnerships have been established with the following: [Sustainable Tourism Program](#) of the [UN-Ten Year Framework Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns \(10YFP\)](#), the [IUCN Tourism and Protected Area Specialist Group \(TAPAS\)](#), the [European Wilderness Society](#), [Mission Blue](#), [The Long Run/Zeitz Foundation](#), [The WILD Foundation](#), [European Organisation for Sustainable Development \(EOSD\)](#), [Blue Solutions](#), [Common Wadden Sea Secretariat \(CWSS\)](#), [IUCN-Panorama](#), [Ramsar Convention](#), [The Kesho Trust](#), [SEVENSEAS](#) and [Zapovednik Centre](#).

LT&C-Examples and Project Initiatives:

The core of LT&C activities is to identify and profile, as concretely as possible, exemplary cases in the world, where tourism is supporting protected areas in order to inspire others to learn from and ideally replicate them. As of December 31 2018, our



members have authorised 30 of such [LT&C-Examples](#) and profiled them on our website and various presentations.

LT&C presently promotes the following [projects and initiatives](#) of its members:



- ❖ [“Protect the entire Icelandic Highlands as National Park!”](#)
- ❖ [“Linking Tourism & Conservation in Myanmar – a Project Initiative for a Country in Transition”](#)
- ❖ [“Taimyr national park initiative”](#)
- ❖ [“Support Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean”](#)
- ❖ [“Conservation of Marine Species in Côte d’Ivoire”](#)

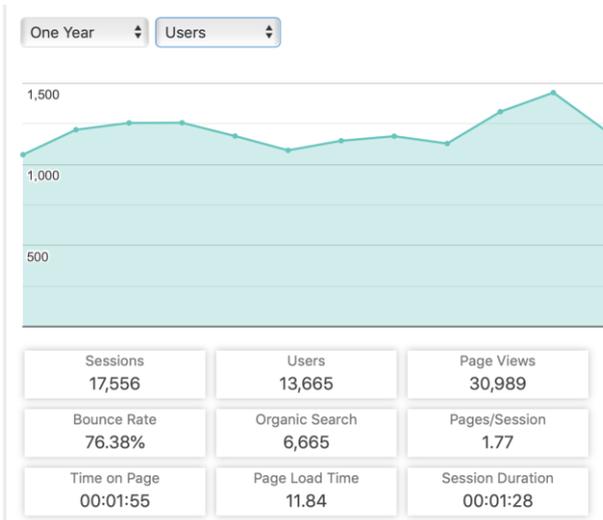


Communication:

The LT&C [website](#) has been continually updated. The latest news is being shared every month in the LT&C- Newsletter, which automatically is distributed to our members and subscribers. The website, which is the central communication platform of LT&C, has been further developed in 2018 to provide a rich source of information with many links to other organisations and important news and facts. Monitoring the visits to our website provided the following results:



- Within one year 2018 13,665 users in 17,556 sessions visited on average 1,77 pages/session (average 48 visits/day).



- Visitors to our website came from more than 180 countries in the world (see map with top 10).

LT&C has increasingly been active on social media sites, such as [Facebook](#) (including a [group for members only](#)), [Twitter](#) (approximately 400 Tweets and 575 Followers) and LinkedIn.

The LT&C Newsletter appeared on the 20th of every month.

Activities, Conferences and other Events

In 2018 LT&C actively participated or were involved in the following events:

- 1) *January 16: Meeting in Arendal on LT&C's involvement in the local Raet national park (Peter Prokosch participated)*
- 2) *January 23-25: idélaben "Fremtidens reiseliv: bærekraftig og lønnsomt", organised by the Norwegian Research Council in Skjetten (Peter Prokosch participated)*
- 3) *February 1: Peter Prokosch presentated LT&C at Folkehøyskole Kristiansand .*



4) February 16: LT&C-Study Tour Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica (lead by Sergio Chiaramdini)



5) March 5: Annual LT&C-German Members Meeting in Kiel (our member [oceanBASIS](#) hosted the meeting in their offices)

6) March 7-9: ITB, Berlin. Various meetings and events; among other [Best of TOP100 Green Destinations award](#) (March 7)

7) March 16: Peter Prokosch participated in workshop om økt lønnsomhet og flere gjester til Raet Nasjonalpark, Arendal

8) April 15: Annual Meeting of Birdlife Norway, Skien (Peter Prokosch participated)

9) April 18: PANORAMA webinar: Solutions from natural World Heritage sites (Peter Prokosch participated)

10) April 19-22: LT&C Study Tour "Birdwatching in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park" (a number of South Norwegian LT&C members joined Peter Prokosch)

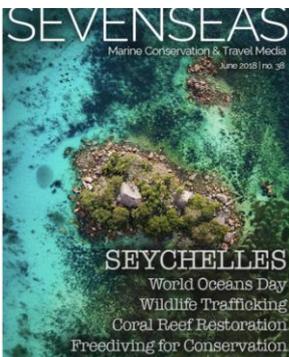
11) April 26/27: Peter Prokosch visited Naturschutzgeschichte Museum, Siebengebirge near Bonn and the Eifel national park



12) May 24: Webinar Solutions from European Protected Areas (Peter Prokosch participated)



13) May 26-31: [Annual General Meeting \(AGM\) of LT&C, workshop and excursion, Majella National Park, Abruzzo, Italy](#). Davide Palumbo from [Biosfera Itinerary](#) hosted the meetings and provided excellent insight in what can be learned from professional national park- and wolf-management, with tourism both benefiting and supporting.



14) June 11: [The marine conservation and travel magazine SEVENSEAS featured in its June edition the LT&C-Example Seychelles](#)

15) June 15-22: LT&C-Study Tour North Spitsbergen

16) June 30-July 4: Peter Prokosch served as guide on Svalbard study tour with Allianz Group from Austria

17) August 13-18: [Arendalsuka](#); among other we tested and demonstrated a solar-driven boat from our member [SOLLINER Norway](#)



18) August 19: Meeting with Norwegian LT&C members at Utnes, Arendal, hosted by [Elise Sijthoff](#)

19) August 29-September 5: [LT&C Study Tour North Spitsbergen](#) (lead by Peter Prokosch)

20) September : [The German magazine "Nationalpark" publishes LT&C article about](#)

[Raet national park](#)



- 21) September 3-10: East Africa Study Tour – Mountain- and Eastern Lowland Gorillas (lead by [Sergio Chiarandini](#) in cooperation with [Greg Bakunzi](#))
- 22) September 25: Presentation by Peter Prokosch about Wadden Sea protected area history at Deutscher Naturschutztag in Kiel, Arbeitskreis Naturschutzgeschichte des Bundesverbandes Beruflicher Naturschutz e.V. (BBN)
- 23) September 27/28: [Green Destination Days, Nijmegen](#), The Netherlands
- 24) October 1-4: Sergio Chiarandini participated and presented at Annual Meeting of The Long Run, Wanås, Sweden
- 25) October 17-20: 3 LT&C presentations at conference “[Sustainable Tourism: Global Challenges and Discovering Russia](#)”, Sochi, Russia (Peter Prokosch)
- 26) October 22-24: [CEETO Conference on Protected Areas and Sustainable Tourism in the Adria region](#), Opatija, Croatia (Peter Prokosch presented)
- 27) October 30/31: Workshop about preparing stronger involvement of Russia in Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, Bonn, Germany (Peter Prokosch participated)



- 28) November 8-20: LT&C participates at [workshop in North-East Portugal with young people developing ideas for rural tourism](#) organised by our member [AEPGA](#) (our members [Beata Mordawska](#), [Carina Johannesson](#) and Peter Prokosch participated)



- 29) November 19-24: [COP14 CBD in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt](#), where LT&C organised a side event on “[Examples from Island States of Tourism supporting Conservation of Biodiversity](#)” (November 22). Diana Körner and [Daniella Payet from the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation](#) had done great work to prepare the side event



30) November 25-December 5: LT&C Study Tour Seychelles (lead by Sergion Chiarandini, Diana Körner and Daniella Payet from the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation)

31) December 2-11: “Linking” mission to Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, for establishing marine protected areas (Peter Prokosch joined our member active in this project, Olaf Grell).

Board and other bodies of LT&C:

The LT&C Annual General Meeting took place May 28 on invitation of Biosfera Itinerari in the Majella National Park, Abruzzo, Italy. By unanimous vote, the existing Board was re-elected and includes: Peter Prokosch (Chair) and Ottar Nakken (Vice-Chair; Finances), Denise Landau, Diana Körber and Sergio Chiarandini. The Board held regular meetings on a monthly basis by Skype.

LT&C has no paid employees and its activities are entirely based on the voluntary work and activities of its members.

LT&C had in 2018 two active Working Groups:

- 1) “Training and Education Working Group”, coordinated by Sven Åke Bjørke. 31 students (Rockhopper Penguins) are natural members.
- 2) “Communication Working Group”, coordinated by Leigh Ann Hurt. Other members are Laura Cooper, Lee Langstaff, Denis Landau, Anja Szczesinski, and Anne Franze Jordanov.



Kariba REDD+ forest protection, Zimbabwe
Project benefits



* For a definition of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and more information please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
* Some project benefits might have been allocated to several of the various Sustainable Development Goals. To avoid double counting, the individual benefits cannot be added up into a total final valuation number to represent the project's entire ecosystem services.
* Start of project monitoring: 2011.

Compensating the Climate Footprint

The carbon footprint of all travels, which the Chair of LT&C did for the organisation have been compensated for 2018. This was partly done through the [Kariba REDD+ project](#), which is also an LT&C-

Example. LT&C recommends to its members to follow this example and compensate their footprint through this forestry project in Zimbabwe that provides outstanding social and environmental co-benefits.

All of the above examples demonstrate the strength and potential of LT&C to affect real change for conservation, both in the ground through LT&C Examples and through our many partnerships. In the coming year, we will continue to explore ways to broaden our membership base and support, as well as enhance our strategic alliances and impact by linking tourism and conservation.

