

GUIDANCE NOTE
SIDS GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK (SIDS-GBN) PRIVATE SECTOR
PARTNERSHIP FORUM
21-22 MAY 2018, MAURITIUS

SESSION 1: TOURISM AS A DRIVER OF SDGS

Background

The tourism sector can be a powerful vehicle to promote and reach the milestones enshrined in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encompassing the ambitious 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Tourism explicitly features as a target in Goals 8, 12 and 14 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources, respectively.

According to information provided in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of 2016 and 2017, 41 VNRs (or 64 per cent), make one or more direct references to tourism, – identifying tourism as a high-impact sector with potential to advance all SDGs. This link is even stronger for SIDS, where tourism is one of the main economic drivers and accounts for over one quarter of the GDP in at least seven SIDS.

Given the significance of the tourism sector to the economies of many SIDS, tourism can strongly contribute, both directly and indirectly to all the 17 SDGs and the realisation of the priorities outlined in the SAMOA Pathway – the global programme for sustainable development of SIDS.

Key objectives:

1. Share country experiences and exchange of views on how to implement the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway through the tourism sector.
2. Explore how existing frameworks can help integrate sustainable tourism to increase the economic benefits to SIDS and at the same time contribute to the of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national and global levels.
3. Identify successful public-private sector partnerships for sustainable tourism and examine how these can be scaled in other SIDS and regions.
4. Announcement of new partnerships that can help unlock the potential of sustainable tourism in SIDS and support the achievement of the SDGs.

Structure of the session

The session will be subdivided into two segments:

- First Segment: Expert Panel Discussion (11:00 – 12:00)
- Second Segment: Interactive Dialogue (12:00 – 12:30)

Guidance for Speakers

General progression of session:

- All speakers will be introduced by the Moderator at the beginning of the session.
- Speakers are asked to make 10-minute presentations.
- Following the presentations, there will be an interactive dialogue with questions from the floor as directed by the Moderator.
- The use of PowerPoint is allowed.
- Please email a copy of the presentation/speaking notes to the session focal point (below) by 20 May 2018 at the latest.

Guiding Questions

The points are offered to stimulate your thinking in relation to the session's key objectives and to help your preparations.

1. How can responsible and sustainable tourism development practices contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in SIDS?
2. What are some of the challenges to mapping tourism at the national level to achieve the SDGs? (data gaps; pressure on resource management; including land, water, waste; environmental challenges).
3. What are the specific goals and targets of the SDGs where sustainable tourism can contribute the most in your country/ line of work?
4. Private companies as the key pillar of the tourism sector, how can they be incentivised to implement sustainable business practices and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies; what are the recommendations for policymakers to create incentives for more sustainable business practices, in line with SDGs?
5. How are public/private sector partnerships built to promote sustainable development; what areas have shown promising results and what are the areas where partnerships are lacking?
6. What are some of the constraints SIDS face in adopting a path to tourism that is sustainable in the future?
7. Explore options for strengthening regional cooperation and coordination for scaling-up partnerships in transition to sustainable tourism.
8. Explore the options for accessing the capital necessary to achieve the ambitious sustainable development goals targets in SIDS.

Focal Point

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