

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

SESSION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Background

Considering the integral role of environmental sustainability for SIDS, and given that renewable energy plays an increasingly important role in sustainable tourism, this session will highlight the nexus of environmental sustainability and renewable energy for sustainable tourism in SIDS. Sustainable tourism in SIDS provides opportunities though also faces challenges to achieve environmental sustainability from environmental degradation, climate change, overconsumption, population growth and their often remote locations. On the other hand, progress is being made in terms of renewable energy and their implications for sustainable tourism, as several islands plan to go 100 per cent renewables; The Cook Islands, Cape Verde, Fiji, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Vanuatu and Samoa have all been noted as aiming to increase their share of renewable energy in the power mix to between 60 – 100%.

In the spirit of the SAMOA Pathway, which calls for the support of efforts by SIDS to raise awareness and communicate climate change risks, including through public dialogues with local communities, to increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change, this session will focus on the present status of Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Energy generation, technologies, barriers to their promotion, and other important issues for SIDS.

Key objectives:

1. Share key information, lessons learnt and initiatives to spur investment in sustainable tourism, including through investment in environmental sustainability, that can be easily replicated and adapted for other SIDS.
2. Explore ways for new and existing partnerships for environmental sustainability and renewable energy for sustainable tourism in SIDS.
3. Highlight country experiences and exchange of views on how to implement sustainable tourism in the context of the 2030 Agenda and specifically, the SAMOA Pathway priority areas of Climate Change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction management of chemicals and waste among others.

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

1. What are the impacts of sustainable tourism on SIDS biodiversity and how are these regulated and by whom?
2. What are the tourism concessions and partnerships for tourism available to promote environmental sustainability and renewable energy in SIDS?
3. How have SIDS expanded their market opportunities for ecotourism, agritourism and cultural tourism and adopted more environmentally conscious models for tourism expansion? What are the benefits and challenges?
4. What policies are in place to ensure that sustainable tourism supports environmental sustainability, or what are the challenges to creating such regulatory frameworks?
5. What are the constraints and gaps that SIDS face in deploying renewable energy in sustainable tourism, including capacity constraints, technology and resources?
6. Highlight the importance of enabling policy framework for overcoming investment barriers in renewable energy at the country-level, what are the policy interventions that can maximise the deployment of renewable energy in small, remote island communities?
7. Outline concrete examples of how public and private actors have utilised innovation in using technologies to promote the use of renewable, clean resources for sustainable tourism.

Focal Point

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