

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

SESSION 5: FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Background

A lack of financing for tourism still hinders tourism to fully unfold its potential as a key instrument for sustainable development, green growth and poverty reduction. The sector is still underrepresented in aid flows as only 0.09% of total ODA and 0.78% of total Aid for Trade (Aft) disbursements were directed to tourism in 2013.

Most SIDS share a number of key challenges related to financing for development which directly impact their capacity for sustainable tourism. Challenges include limited capacities to mobilize domestic resources, high per capita costs for essential service provisions and vulnerability to environmental and economic shocks. Climate adaptation costs are also among the highest in the world for SIDS when measured as a proportion of national output. Overall, high levels of public debt remain a key challenge for many small island states.

The horizontal nature of the sector and its many linkages to other activities along the value chain requires that the international community develops an approach to tourism financing that promotes cross-sector cooperation and solutions (Medellín, Colombia, 15 September 2015).

Key objectives:

1. Share country experiences and exchange of views on how financing for tourism development can improve the tourism sector and complement the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway.
2. Explore how policy, legal and institutional frameworks can help integrate financing for tourism sustainable tourism in SIDS.
3. Explore the contribution of financing to promote responsible, responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism, inclusive of all peoples.
4. Explore enabling conditions that can enhance public and private sector investments including ODA
5. Identify successful public-private sector partnerships for improving financing for Tourism and examine how these can be scaled in other SIDS and regions.
6. Announcement of new partnerships related financing of sustainable development 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 (14:00 – 15:00)
- Second Segment: Interactive Dialogue (15:00 – 15:30)

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 encouraged.
- 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. What are the challenges and opportunities of financing for sustainable tourism development in SIDS?
2. How can financing for sustainable tourism development be more inclusive? What would success look like and how do we measure it?
3. How can we better integrate approaches and instruments that attract more private sector investment in tourism and tourism-related activities?
4. What is the role of external finance in tourism? As an important and growing service sector with significant spill-overs into other economic segments, how can aid flows in tourism be scaled up in order to fully deploy its potential?
5. Is there scope to leverage access to other sources of development finance, including the growing resources of climate finance for resilience building and post-shock concessional finance for sustainable tourism? How can this be best achieved?
6. How are public/private sector partnerships geared to promote financing for sustainable tourism; what areas have shown promising results and what are the areas where partnerships are lacking?

Focal Point

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