

**SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION**

**SIDS GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK PRIVATE SECTOR
PARTNERSHIP FORUM**



TOURISM AS A DRIVER OF SDGS

21-22 May 2018

Mauritius

Presentation by the SPTO Chairperson, Sonja Hunter





SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW



About SPTO



Overview of Sustainable Tourism in the Pacific



Constraints and Opportunities



Tourism and the SDGs – the Pacific Perspective



How Sustainable is Pacific Tourism



Way Forward



Conclusion



ABOUT SPTO



- Intergovernmental body for tourism marketing and development in the Pacific. 17 PI governments + China
- Private Sector Members (130+) and 5 reps on the Board
- Vision:
“Inspire Sustainable Growth and Empower Pacific People”

Mandate:

“Market and Develop Tourism in the South Pacific”

- Partners/Strategic Alliances
EU, CROP, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), National Tourism Offices (NTOs), PT&I network, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Sustainable Travel International (STI), UNDP, Non-Government Organisations (IUCN, WWF and local NGOs)



**SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION**

OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLETOU RISM IN THE PACIFIC

- ✿ OHRLLS Tourism Experts Meeting in New York 2013
- ✿ SIDS 2014 S.A.M.O.A Pathway
- ✿ SDGs 17, Agenda 2030 in 2015
- ✿ Official Recognition of ‘Sustainable Tourism’ by the Pacific Council of Tourism Ministers in 2015

- ✿ Division established in 2016, fully operational in Jan 2017 and Launch of the **UN International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017** with UNWTO

- ✿ Public & private sectors have progressed significantly e.g. Governments in creating the enabling environment for tourism investment, and private sector adopting sustainable energy solutions.

- ✿ Mainstreaming of sustainable tourism policies in national planning strategies e.g. 16 PICs have integrated sustainability into tourism policies with 2 developing specific sustainable tourism policies.

- ✿ Partnerships in recognition of Sustainable Tourism



SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

SPTO'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

- ✦ **Improve and enhance SPTO's institutional competence** in effectively responding to and addressing regional and global issues on sustainable tourism development.
- ✦ **Strengthen the organisation's capacity in the development and delivery of sustainable tourism Programmes** relevant and beneficial to members and stakeholders.
- ✦ **Align SPTO's regional sustainable tourism programmes with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Pacific Tourism Strategy 2015-2019 and national priorities & plans** of its members



SPTO'S SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FOCUS



SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION



- ✿ Awareness, education & capacity building
- ✿ Regional policy framework
- ✿ Technical support to National Tourism Offices
- ✿ Advocacy and establishment of strategic partnerships
- ✿ Resource mobilisation



SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CHALLENGES

- ✦ **Lack of baseline data and robust M &E systems to measure sustainability.**
- ✦ **Low level of awareness & appreciation of sustainable tourism** at all levels and its importance to the Pacific
- ✦ **Adequate technical expertise** to assist in the planning and development of sustainable forms of tourism is lacking
- ✦ **Lack of incentives for private sector investment** in sustainability initiatives





**SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION**

- ✿ **Aligning the region's sustainable tourism Programmes with the 2030 Agenda requires financial and technical support**
- ✿ **Resource constraints for already struggling SMEs to implement best practice sustainable measures. Sustainable tourism practices can be expensive. Most businesses are Micro-Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**
- ✿ **High energy costs and waste management, are increasing concerns.**
- ✿ **Governance and Policy Frameworks and Enforcement Processes requires strengthening**



SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES



✿ **Technical and financial support for measuring and monitoring sustainability performance –**
E.g. upscale the SPTO Sustainability Monitoring Program as part of the Sustainable Tourism Enterprise Programme (**STEP**)

✿ **Strengthen governance and policy frameworks**

✿ **Incentivize private sector e.g. through a Pacific Tourism Private Sector Support Facility**

✿ **Explore effective partnerships within and outside the region**

✿ **Support for targeted research in collaboration with partners**



SPTO SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING PROGRAM

Improve your hotel performance, while making a difference.

ABOUT

From housekeeping and property maintenance to catering and purchasing, we know that there are lots of complexities involved in running a hotel. This program is designed to connect you with useful tools and information that will make your job easier and your business more successful. Participating in the program is not only free, but it can also lead to long-term savings and an enhanced brand reputation - all while helping to conserve our region's natural and cultural resources!

WHY PARTICIPATE?

 <p>COLLECT USEFUL DATA Our digital toolkit makes it simple to monitor your operations performance related to energy-use, waste-reduction, sustainable sourcing, and other business processes.</p>	 <p>ACCESS HELPFUL RESOURCES You'll receive useful information about best practices, new technologies, and innovative ideas, as well as access to implementation resources and training opportunities.</p>
 <p>DRIVE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT Use the data and resources to streamline your management processes, increase resource efficiency, and run your business in a more cost-effective manner.</p>	 <p>SHOW GUESTS YOU CARE Travelers are increasingly seeking responsible travel experiences. We'll help you use your data to demonstrate your sustainability progress and enhance your brand reputation.</p>
 <p>RECEIVE RECOGNITION Participating in the program will help you prepare for and learn about recognition opportunities, such as sustainability awards and certifications.</p>	 <p>LEAD THE WAY By showing initiative and participating in the pilot stage of this program, you'll be taking steps to establish your business as a regional changemaker and sustainability champion.</p>



- Introduce **sustainable waste management options and systems** in the Pacific for **effective recycling**.
- Support to develop and promote **Community Tourism** in the Pacific
- Enhance partnerships to develop and promote **marine eco tourism** and **Cultural Heritage Tourism**





SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

TOURISM AS A DRIVER FOR SDGS IN PACIFIC SIDS

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS MOST RELEVANT TO TOURISM IN PACIFIC SIDS



PARTNERSHIPS



WHAT IS WORKING

- ✦ Pacific leaders commitment to achieving the SDGs and S.A.M.O.A Pathway
- ✦ Pacific Sustainable Monitoring Programme for Accommodation Sector (SPTO) piloted in Fiji and Samoa
- ✦ SPTO-UNDP Green Tourism Project
- ✦ Tourism and Health (SPTO and WHO)
- ✦ SPREP-IUCN Climate Resilience Proposal to the Green Climate Fund



SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

- ✦ **SPTO – CTA Partnership on Agritourism**

- ✦ **SPTO-UN Environment Partnership Project Proposal on Climate resilience, zero emissions tourism sector**

- ✦ **SPTO Partnership with SPREP on:**
 - **Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism development**
 - **IUCN Coastal Resilience project proposal to the Green Climate Fund**
 - **Climate Resilience proposal for Tourism Sector**

- ✦ **Energy Programmes with SPC, IRENA and the Global Green Growth Institute**





PARTNERSHIPS

Areas where partnerships are lacking:

- ✂ Sustainable tourism research and statistics
- ✂ Supporting sustainable measures to reduce waste management & energy costs specifically for the tourism private sector.
- ✂ Supportive partnership to compliment resourcing for SDGs
- ✂ Support to increase enforcement capacity for existing policies and legislations



CONCLUSION: How Sustainable is Pacific Tourism?

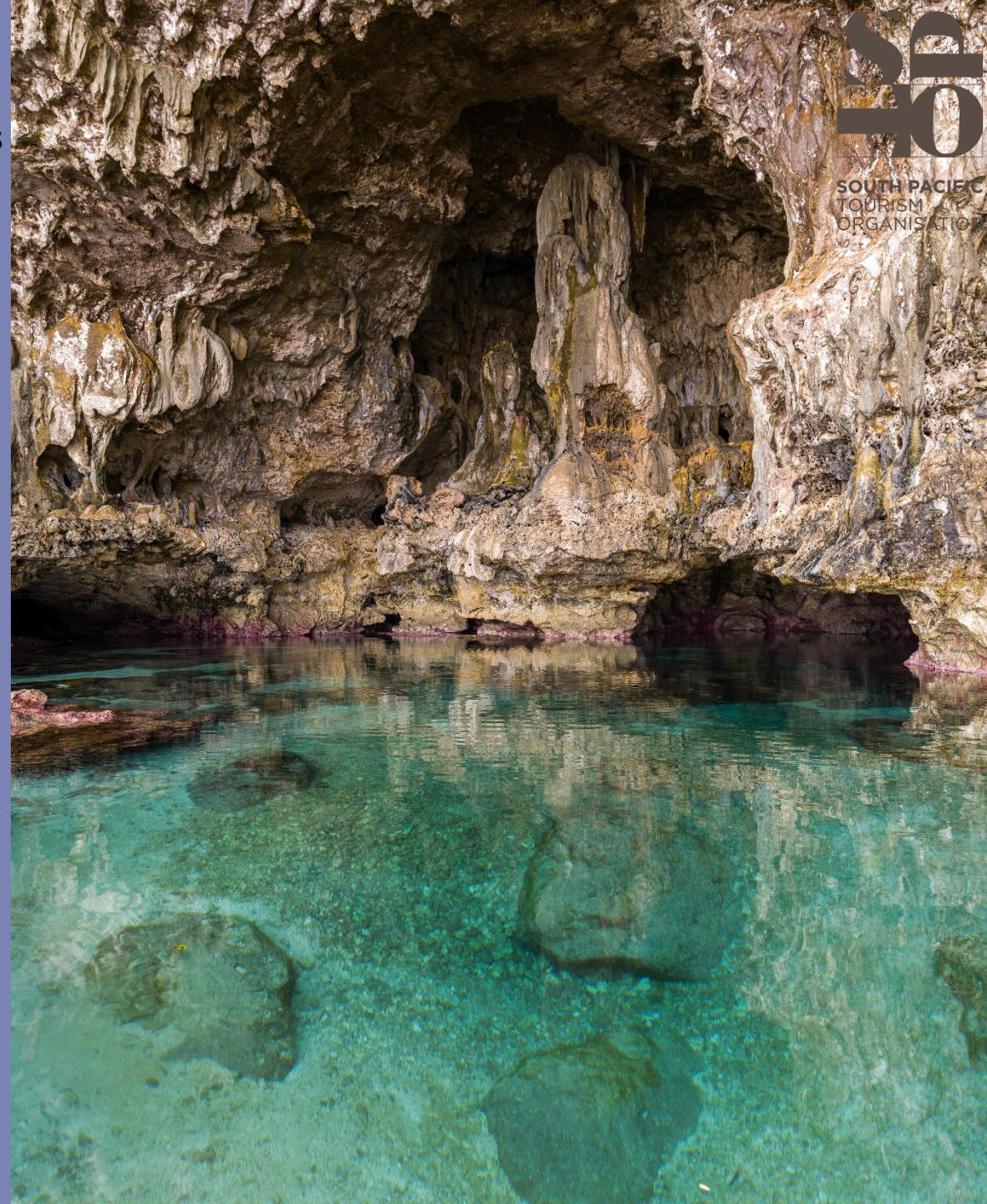


SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

- ❖ We are on the right track but much work still needs to be done because its multifaceted, cross sectoral and requires the work of all.
- ❖ We are creating a culture of sustainable tourism led by Pacific Values.
- ❖ Embrace sustainable development in our culture and religions and vice versa.
- ❖ Incorporate resilience-building measures to address climate change impacts and associated environmental challenges
- ❖ For the Pacific to be sustainable, we must change our economic, environmental and socio-cultural attitudes for a more cooperative, collaborative, communal and coordinated approach
- ❖ Sustainability is a journey and we must work together to achieve the future we want!

WAY FORWARD

- ✦ We need the strong support of the development partners and donors (human & financial)
- ✦ Foster effective partnerships to pool resources, complement each other and avoid duplication
- ✦ Establish and strengthen the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Network to share experiences, best practices, information and lessons learnt
- ✦ Monitor and Measure sustainability performance is the Key for Future Planning. Support for improved monitoring systems is needed.
- ✦ Support for transitioning to green energy and tackling waste management issues are urgently needed.
- ✦ Access to financing and business-friendly financing modalities for private sector investment
- ✦ Take Action! - Implement best practices, start with the simple & less expensive!





SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION

THANK YOU

www.southpacificislands.travel

WELCOME TO THE PACIFIC

