Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST)

Committee on Statistics
UNWTO HQ, Madrid, Spain
26-27 February 2019

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Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST)

- MST is a major innovative initiative with the objective to expand the existing statistical framework (IRTS & TSA) beyond the economic dimension to measure also social and environmental dimensions
- launched in the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda, with participation of countries, UNSD and international organizations
- aims to get comparable, comprehensive and consistent data on the impacts of tourism in the economy, environment and host communities coherent on national and subnational level
- a core feature of the framework is the linking of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) with the existing framework for tourism satellite account (TSA)
MST is the basis for the development of indicators for the Measurement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Monitoring 17 SDGs with their 169 targets with statistically-based indicators as requested by UNGA
- UNWTO is the custodian agency of 3 indicators and coordinates the development of tourism-related indicators with countries and through the coordination within the formal process of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
- UN Statistical Commission recognises MST as the framework for the derivation of SDG indicators
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Where do we stand

Statistical Framework MST

- First discussions 2015
- Work through UNWTO Committee on Tourism Statistics and MST Working Group of Experts, 2nd meeting October 2018
- 6th International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Measuring Sustainable Tourism in June 2017 and the Manila Call for Action
- Pilot studies in various countries to test relevance and feasibility
- Consultation of countries
- 2019: Meeting Committee of Statistics; present and discuss draft in RC meetings and GA
- Aim is to get MST statistical framework adopted by the UN Statistics Commission (UNSC) as third international standard on tourism statistics


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Outcomes 2nd meeting WGE

- Make clearer connections between IRTS and TSA:RMF 2008 in Chapt. 1
- Agree on framing the consumption perspective
- Further development of Chapt. 6 (ex: articulate more clearly the relationship between accounts/indicators)
- Research work on the allocation of air emissions (transport)
- Keep engagement with SEEA Ecosystem Accounting and circulate examples
- Further work on compilation guidance and data sources (traditional & new, non TSA-non SEEA)
- Continue conceptual research work in the Sub-groups: employment, social dimension, spatial areas
- MST pilot studies show feasibility; encourage countries to conduct pilot and in particular on the social dimension
- Agree on the preliminary outline of the implementation strategy
- Interest in more work on a agreed set of indicators
- Sub-group on SDG indicators to test the proposed indicators
- Seek opportunities to communicate
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Technical Note SEEA/TSA

Role
- Provide introduction to concepts, sources and methods
- Bridge to indicators and reporting
- Basis for testing, pilot studies, capacity building and user engagement
- Input to MST Framework

Focus
- Four different environmental flows
  - water
  - energy
  - greenhouse gas emissions
  - solid waste
- Practical guidance for measurement of tourism related environmental flows

Thank you!

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