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Tourism Indicators for Monitoring the SDGs

Session 6. Tourism Indicators for Monitoring the SDGs

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Topic addressed:

There is a growing need recognizing that tourism development has an impact on the social, economic and ecological environment since tourism destinations have sensitive and fragile environments which might be threatened by the tourism industry itself.

In many regions and countries sustainable tourism policies are more or less well developed; however, there is still a lack of guidance and information on how to monitor this progress. Considering this fact the development of indicators measuring the economic, social and ecological sustainability applicable to the tourism industry has been initiated by various national and international organizations.

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a set of 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets.

Targets 8.9, 12.b and 14.7 directly concern tourism which are – after general considerations related to “Measuring Sustainable Tourism” - discussed in the present document. Nevertheless, tourism is relevant in many more goals and targets beyond those that explicitly mention sustainable tourism which are analyzed and for which respective indicators are proposed.

However, building on additional indicators, further work has to be done related to clarifying concepts, developing agreed measurement definitions, establishing measurement boundaries and limits, describing potential measurement techniques and supporting ongoing implementation and training.

Keywords:

Tourism, Sustainability, Indicators