Progressing the Statistical Framework for MST

The state of play

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Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism
Linking data and decisions


What? Standard definitions, classifications & terms

How? Data & methods

Sustainable tourism policies, SDGs

Statistical Framework for MST

Economic
- Tourism industry value added
- Tourism establishments
- Tourism employment
- Visitor numbers
- Visitor expenditure
- Investment & infrastructure

Environmental
- Water
- Energy
- Waste
- GHG emissions
- Land
- Ecosystems
- Biodiversity
- Protected areas / parks
- Natural resources

Social
- Community
- Health outcomes
- Education
- Income & wealth
- Decent work
- Governance
- Human rights
- Accessibility
- Culture / heritage
- Security

Spatial scales: Global, National, Regional, Local

MST in practice: statistics, accounts & indicators

Process to date

- Technical support for SF-MST from Working Group of Experts, UNWTO Committee on Statistics and UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)
- Wider support for an SF-MST from UN Statistics Commission, Manila Conference and UNWTO General Assembly
- Three versions to date: June 2017; March 2018; October 2018
- One round of broad consultation: April-May 2018
- Specific working groups on key research issues established
Feedback from consultation

• 19 responses from countries, international agencies, academic institutions and ST initiatives
• Key issues raised
  • Rationale for SF-MST (links to policy, indicators, role of statistics)
  • Structure
  • Conceptual framework (sustainability, national accounting links, TSA connection)
  • Technical issues (consumption perspective; environmental assets, coverage of environmental flows, detailed labour statistics, link to well-being, potential for accounts in social dimension vs indicators, linking national and destination scales, challenges in delineation of spatial areas)
  • Data collection and implementation challenges
  • Connections to analysis and interpretation

Key proposed changes in version 3.0

• Changed naming of MST to Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism
  • Recognise achieving a universal definition of “sustainable” not possible; aim is to frame relevant information and discussion
• Reduce focus on wealth accounting and place discussion in a more statistical context
• Introduce text on implementation and feasibility
• Introduce new Chapter 6 on indicators and analysis
Outstanding issues

• Introduction – what should be the nature of the link to sustainable tourism policy?
• Advancing research on key topics
  • Employment
  • Social dimension
  • Delineation of spatial areas
  • Consumption perspective (especially wrt environmental flows)
• Establishing clear indicators and key data requirements

Next steps

• Discussion at Working Group of Experts
  • Introduction and link to policy
  • Key research topics and indicators (note dedicated sessions)
  • Other issues and areas of focus
• Continuing research and discussion: Version 4.0 January 2019
• Broad consultation through 2019
• Finalise end 2019 for UNSC March 2020