UNWTO Regional Seminar on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development

Final Report

Nadi, Fiji, 18 – 20 June 2018
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Climate Change, Biodiversity and
Sustainable Tourism Development

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Introduction

This report comprises a summary of the proceedings and the presentations made during the UNWTO Regional Seminar on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development. The event was held within the framework of the 30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia in Nadi, Fiji, from 18 to 20 June 2018.

The growing international awareness of the fast pace of climate change and biodiversity loss taking place on our planet, together with the impacts that such changes are having on the natural environment, on humans and their livelihoods, have become evident. For tourism, climate change and biodiversity loss is not an abstract concept, but a phenomenon that already affects the sector and certain destinations in particular, mountain regions and coastal destinations.

A stable and agreeable climate is an essential resource for tourism, especially for beach, nature and winter sport tourism segments. Changing climate and weather patterns at tourist destinations and tourist generating countries can significantly affect the tourists’ comfort and their travel decisions. Changing demand patterns and tourist flows will have impacts on tourism businesses and on host communities, as well as multiplier effects on related sectors such as agriculture, handicrafts and construction. In small island states and developing countries, where tourism is a major economic activity, any significant reduction in tourist arrivals will have serious employment impacts and a decline in economic prosperity.

Since the 1st International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, convened by UNWTO in Djerba, Tunisia, in 2003, a growing body of knowledge has been generated addressing the complex relationships between the tourism sector and climate change. There is now a wide recognition of the urgent need for international organizations, national governments and the tourism industry to develop and implement strategies to face the threat of climate change and mitigate its future effects. At the same time there is a call for tourism to reduce its contribution to greenhouse gas emission.

Fiji is the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to preside over the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Further to COP21 and the ratification of the Paris Agreement by all parties, Fiji’s presidency over COP23 (Bonn, Germany, 6–17 November 2017) was a legitimate choice from the international community to give a voice to one SIDS member that belong
to the most vulnerable countries currently impacted by climate change. Through its presidency, Fiji set up its main goal to reinforce and advance on the objectives identified within the Paris Agreement with regard to the effects of global warming.¹

For many destinations, the unique and diverse biodiversity, e.g. in national parks or on coral reefs, forms a main tourist attraction. Tourism can contribute directly and positively to the conservation of such precious and sensitive areas and habitats in a variety of ways. However, tourism can also negatively impact on biodiversity and natural habitat if land and natural resources are excessively exploited and if tourism development is not managed responsibly. Therefore, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection are priorities tourism stakeholders must care about. Tourism planning and development must pursue sound environmental management practices and be accompanied by appropriate conservation and environmental protection measures, which should be ongoing to protect the natural environment and the tourism asset value of destinations.

The roles of public and private institutions in sustainable development of tourism and wildlife and biodiversity conservation are significant. While the government is largely responsible for policy and planning the private sector can contribute to product development. However, in spite of the rich biodiversity and wildlife tourism resources in the Asia and the Pacific region, there have been relatively few discussions and research studies that examine wildlife and biodiversity conservation for sustainable tourism development in the region.

As tourism leaders came together for the 30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commissions for Asia and the Pacific and South Asia, the occasion was ideal for them, in their policy-making capacities, to examine the effect of climate change on tourism development, and the link between sustainable tourism development and biodiversity conservation, and how this translates into governance arrangements in their respective destinations.

**Objectives**

In the above context, the objectives of the Seminar were:

- To understand the challenges and opportunities of the impacts of climate change for tourism development, especially in protected and coastal areas in Asia and the Pacific;

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• To raise the awareness of the important relationship between biodiversity protection and sustainable tourism development;
• To exchange views and experiences on applying sustainability principles and policy instruments for sustainable tourism development related to climate change and biodiversity protection; and
• To provide recommendations on strengthening governance and management mechanisms to ensure that tourism serves as a positive force, minimizing environmental impact, helping to conserve biodiversity and contributing to the well-being of local communities.

**Structure of the Regional Seminar**

The seminar started with an opening ceremony during which welcome speeches and introductory remarks were addressed by the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources of Fiji, the Chairman of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Secretary-General of UNWTO and the Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Services and Communications of Fiji.

The seminar proceeded with a high-level dialogue among tourism leaders on how to address the issue of climate change in tourism development in the Asia Pacific region looking at governance mechanisms that can be used in the planning, development and operational phase of tourism development.

It was followed by a technical session composed of three components:

1. An introduction that provided an overview of the activities of UNWTO and other organizations on governance mechanisms for sustainable tourism and wildlife and biodiversity conservation, with a particular focus on initiatives in Asia and the Pacific;
2. A technical presentation on wildlife tourism in the context of climate change including the presentation of good cases in Asia and the Pacific, followed by an open forum on that theme; and
3. A technical presentation on climate change and the management of biodiversity protection in protected areas, followed by an open forum on that theme.

In the afternoon, two seminar sessions were conducted addressing sustainability in wildlife and biodiversity conservation through policy and regulatory frameworks (panel one), and financing sustainable tourism development initiatives tackling climate change and biodiversity loss (panel two) where best practice case studies, publications and initiatives on the ground in the region were examined.
Participants

International participants were primarily from National Tourism Administrations and National Tourist Organizations from Asia and the Pacific, with selected representatives from other organizations dealing with tourism and sustainable development.

National participants included national and local government officials dealing with tourism and environment, tourism industry members, universities and media.

A list of participants with the names and contact details of all attendees is annexed to this report.
Summary of the proceedings

The Regional Seminar on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development implemented under the framework of the 30th CAP-CSA Joint Commission Meetings was held on Monday 18 June 2018 in Nadi, Fiji and organized jointly by the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the Ministry of Industry Tourism and Trade of Fiji.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included the Welcome Remarks addressed by the Hon. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism Lands and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Fiji and by the Chairman of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, the Hon. Ms. Nia Niscaya, Deputy Minister for Tourism Marketing of Indonesia.

Key messages:

• Tourism is multi-disciplinary impacting different sections of the economy: it boosts trade and provides a wide range of socio-economic opportunities. UNWTO is grateful to the Government of Fiji for recognizing this and for making tourism a pillar in the country’s National Development Plan;
• Fiji became the first Small Island Developing State to head the UN climate change conference. Fiji, regrettably, is also one of the most vulnerable states currently impacted by climate change and biodiversity loss;
• UNWTO recognizes that tourism has an impact on natural resources but that at the same time it has great socio-economic relevance. Nonetheless, tourism has the potential to make a meaningful difference to the protection of natural resources and in the fight against the negative impacts of climate change;
• UNWTO is working on ways to measure tourism’s impact on sustainability by creating a strong “Statistical Framework” for measuring sustainable tourism in social, economic and environmental terms. This includes an International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories, 22 of which have already been established, including 15 in Asia and the Pacific with more to come.
Conclusions:

UNWTO priorities are shaped by listening and responding to its members’ needs. As such new UNWTO visions include advancing sustainability through tourism as a key priority although critical information is needed in order to take appropriate actions.
High-level dialogue:
how to address the issue of climate change in tourism development

The High-level dialogue provided a platform for delegates to address the current issues raised by climate change in the development of tourism in the region of Asia and the Pacific. The session was introduced by a presentation from Mr. Xu Jing, UNWTO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, on the close association between tourism and climate change and their inter-dependency.

Key messages:

• Tourism can be seen as both a vector and a victim of climate change: mitigation and adaptation measures need to be put in place to deal with a changing climate.
• The Pacific island countries contribute very little to CO₂ emissions yet they are at the forefront of the impacts of climate change.
• Tourism in Asia-Pacific is driven by the private sector and the role of governments is to provide a conducive environment for the development of the tourism industry. In that regard, greater efforts should be made to implement the shift towards reusable energy, increasing the use of local products and educate all stakeholders involved, tourists included.
• The private sector has also been called out to play a more prominent role in counteracting the negative impacts of climate change. For example, by designing new hotels and resorts based on green principles (IFC’s EDGE programme)² and by retrofitting existing properties based on these principles the accommodation sector can make a positive contribution to reducing its environmental impacts.
• On the other hand, the intensity and frequency of natural disasters such as tropical cyclones and flooding has increased and, therefore, access to financial support and insurance schemes for tourism projects has become more acute but more difficult.
• However, there are already initiatives that have been put into place: UNWTO is working with OECD to measure the impacts of tourism and is ready to assist countries with policy development. PATA has addressed the concerns about food waste generated in hotels, resorts and restaurants such as the BUFFET initiative³ which aims to reduce food waste.

¹ For further information, please consult: Excellence in Design For Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) from International Finance Corporation (IFC; World Bank Group) at: www.edgebuildings.com/ (15-10-2018).
Conclusions:

Climate change is not just an issue for the tourism industry; it has a much broader scale and should be considered an issue of very high importance. At government level the Pacific Island countries now have a greater voice in climate change debates but governments also need to raise awareness of climate change impacts with their respective local populations.

While economic sustainability of tourism is important, much greater emphasis needs to be placed on the social, cultural, and environmental pillars of sustainability. Tourism development needs to be based on sustainability principles with a focus on policy, planning, implementation and monitoring of sustainability.

Tangible outcomes must be highlighted so that the Asia-Pacific region can be supported to meet the challenges of climate change. There is a need to share sustainable tourism policies and best practices between countries and UNWTO can facilitate this process.
High-level dialogue – Introduction

How to address the issue of climate change in tourism development

Mr. Xu Jing
Director of the Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific
UNWTO

Selected slides from the presentations

Climate Change?

- “A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods” (UNFCCC, 1992)
- “Climate Change is unequivocal and human activities are the dominant cause” (IPCC AR5, 2014)

Relationship between Climate Change and Tourism

UNWTO’s response to Climate Change

- One Planet – Sustainable Tourism Programme (formerly known as the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production -10 YFP)
  - Programme on sustainable consumption and production patterns: One Planet – Travel with care;
  - Capacity building & technical and financial assistance to developing countries
- International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO)
  - Operating 22 observatories to monitor sustainability of tourism development
  - Climate change issue needs to be addressed as an important initiative
- Statistical framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism (SF-MST)
  - Integrating statistics on the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable tourism.
- Technical Cooperation Services
  - UNWTO/Chimelong Initiative for wildlife conservation & sustainable tourism
  - Capacity building projects
- Global Code of Ethics for Tourism
  - Adapted as a convention at the general assembly in 2017
  - All forms of tourism development that are conductive to avoiding waste production should be given priority (article 3).
- Technology and Innovation
  - NeZEH: Sustainable and competitive hotels through energy innovation – nearly zero energy hotel.

UNWTO Desired Outcomes for the UNWTO Regional Seminar

- Integrating the theme of climate change at the policy level for the tourism sector;
- Conducting further research (knowledge gaps – holistic point of view regarding impact, change of tourists preferences, adaptation polices, costs and benefits), strengthening international partnership, financing;
- Enhancing collaboration between all tourism stakeholders involved (Governments, businesses, the UN System, the donor community, academia and civil society);
- Encouraging sectors involved in climate action and biodiversity protection towards a more inclusive and integrated framework for sustainable development.
High Level Dialogue – Welcome to the Pacific

Mr. Chris Cocker
Chief Executive Officer
South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO)

Selected slides from the presentations

Pacific Tourism Strategy

Climate change impacts on Pacific Tourism

- Loss of prime natural attractions (e.g. beaches, rivers, waterfalls, lakes, diving spots);
- Availability of local food – consistency affected by seasonal changes;
- Damage to tourism infrastructures - sea walls, roads, etc.;
- Access to financial support – difficult due to the increasing risks;
- Market perception of the region as a high risk destination;
- Tourism demand affected – travel plans are hindered, other regions will be more attractive.

Recommendations for the way forward

Full presentation available at:
• Research and impact assessments – Climate change impacts on the tourism sector;
• Education – Embrace the value of traditional knowledge and science;
• Knowledge sharing – Share best practices and lessons learnt, talanoa forums and networks;
• Natural solutions – Ecosystem-based adaptation, soft over hard solutions (mangrove planting vs seawalls);
• Going green- invest in and incentivising green practices;
• Innovation – Integrate local methods and technology;
• Partnerships – Public, private, NGOs and CSOs.
Technical session – Introduction

UNWTO Projects on biodiversity protection and sustainable tourism

Mr. Marcel Leijzer
Manager Technical Cooperation
UNWTO

Key messages:

• Environmental protection and the conservation of biodiversity should be recognized in the context of tourism planning.

• The protection of biodiversity is a shared responsibility that requires coordinated action within both the tourism sector and between tourism and other sectors (taking into account that between 1970 and 2010 the planet had lost 52% of its biodiversity and 60% of the land surface of earth is now managed by humans in one form or another, and knowing that biodiversity is an important asset for tourism development).

• In many destinations, interesting opportunities exist to develop biodiversity-based tourism products. For instance, in order to help enhance tourism’s contribution to biodiversity conservation, UNWTO has carried out a wide range of capacity building and awareness raising activities and implemented various projects that focus on the relationship between sustainable tourism development and biodiversity conservation.

Conclusions:

UNWTO endeavours to show best practices on developing biodiversity-based tourism products and disseminate the lessons learnt. The organization remains committed to continue working with its Member States and partners on raising awareness and build capacities to strengthen the important relation between sustainable tourism development and biodiversity conservation.

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Selected slides from the presentations

Tourism and Biodiversity

• Biodiversity contributes to the attractiveness and quality of destinations, and therefore to their competitiveness and long-term success;
• When biodiversity is an important attraction, tourism in turn can provide a positive stimulus for protection and conservation;
• Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation should be given due recognition in the planning, development and implementation phases of tourism activities;
• Loss of biodiversity is recognised as a major challenge internationally;
• Between 1970 and 2010, the planet has lost 52% of its biodiversity (WWF Report 2014);
• Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems is a shared responsibility that requires coordinated action within both the tourism sector and between tourism and other sectors;
• Opportunities to develop biodiversity-based tourism products.

UNWTO Initiatives on Tourism and Biodiversity

• “Tourism and Biodiversity” selected as theme for World Tourism Day 2010, coinciding with UN International Year of Biodiversity;
• Publications on Tourism and Biodiversity:
  o *Tourism and Biodiversity – Achieving Common Goals Towards Sustainability* (2010);
  o *Practical Guide for the Development of Biodiversity-based Tourism Products* (2011);
  o *Tourism in the Green Economy* (2012 – in collaboration with UNEP);
  o *Tourism for Development* (2018): Key Areas for Action “Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change” included as Pillar 3.

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UNWTO Consulting Unit on Tourism and Biodiversity

- Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation projects in Pangadaran (Indonesia, 2007-2009) and Phang Nga Province (Thailand, 2007-2009);
- Programme for Energy Efficiency in Kho Khao Hotels (Thailand, 2008-2011);
- Training on Tourism and Biodiversity in 2011, 2012 and 2013 for representatives from over 50 Member States;

Tourism Biodiversity Projects with IUCN (2009–2011)

- Vocational Training in Amboseli (Kenya);
- Tourism and Wildlife Conservation in Kasigau Community (Kenya);
- Uluguru Mountains Eco-Tourism Project (Tanzania);
- Community-Based Elephant Tourism and Nature Conservation in the Hongsa District (Lao PDR);
- Canopy Walkway and Zip Line (Lao PDR);
- Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Tam Giang Lagoon (Vietnam).

Case Studies

- Lao PDR – Canopy Walkway and Zipline
  - To enhance local income in Dong Hua Sao NP through biodiversity-based ecotourism activities;
  - Main activities:
    - Canopy walkway, zip-line and tree houses constructed with local labour (40 villagers);
    - New trails and routes prepared (16 guides trained) and 6 home-stays established.
  - Impacts:
    - Income generated for the National Park (USD 3 per visit) and local community (USD 6 per tourist to community fund; 20 villagers employed);
    - Tripadvisor (Ranking 6 out of 34 activities 2012): “Simply amazing”; “A lot of fun”; “One of the most amazing things I have done in my life”.


• **Coastal Tourism Project Africa (2009-2014)**
  
  o Beneficiary countries: Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles and Tanzania;
  
  o Pilot projects on reef and marine recreation management, environmental management systems and eco-tourism;
  
  o Field research in the 9 countries to assess and make recommendations on national and local mechanisms for *Sustainable Tourism Governance and Management in Coastal Areas*, with results presented in publication and disseminated through 3 regional capacity-building workshops in Kenya, Ghana and Senegal;
  
  o Tourism and Biodiversity Workshops in The Gambia, Ghana and Tanzania.

• **Projects with the Guangdong Chimelong Group**
  
  Implemented in 2017 and ongoing:
  
  o Capacity-building seminars on Tourism Development and Biodiversity Protection in West and Central Africa (Gabon, Benin, Niger, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo);
  
  o Media Training on Sustainable Tourism and Wildlife Protection (Botswana);
  
  o Capacity-building Workshop for Public Officials on Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Tourism (Bangladesh);
  
  o Tourism Development, Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods (Zimbabwe);
  
  o Sustainable Tourism and Conservation of Great Apes (Democratic Republic of Congo).

**Final remarks**

- UNWTO endeavors to show best practices on developing biodiversity-based tourism products and disseminate lessons learned;

- UNWTO remains committed to continue working with our Member States and partners on raising awareness and build capacities to strengthen the important relation between sustainable tourism development and biodiversity conservation.
Technical presentation on wildlife tourism in the context of climate change: presentation of good cases

Dr. Ronda Green
Chairman / Adjunct Research Fellow
Wildlife Tourism Australia / Griffith University

Key messages:

• Wildlife is very sensitive to the direct and indirect effects of climate change (e.g. alteration in temperatures and rainfall, food supply, habitats). For instance, many endangered species on Pacific islands are threatened, including Fiji’s crested and banded iguanas.

• Such effects represent a threat to tourism development since many animals are popular with tourists (e.g. drying of lakes for bird watching, degradation of corals).

• Fires, floods, droughts, cyclones, melting of ice, heat waves, drying of lakes, and other effects have all increased in recent years, no single incident being a definite result of climate change but collectively pointing to it.

• Climate change cannot be stopped in the near future, but it can be slowed down and its effects mitigated with appropriate actions (e.g. use renewable energies, protection endangered species, inception of relevant research and acting on its relevant findings, increase dialogue between researchers, tourism operators and managers, and educating students, tourists, politicians and the general public about climate change and its effects).

• There are numerous good practices including the increased use of renewable energy, the planning tour routes to minimize fuel use (recommended by Ecotourism Australia for eco-certified operations), conservation breeding of endangered species and/or restoration of forests educational self-guided nature trails featuring climate change actions development models for tourism operators facilitating research (e.g. Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Sabah).

Conclusions:

There is still hope for the future within the continuation of projects such as the above through the implementation of appropriate actions. These could include increased communication between various stakeholders, government support of relevant research and facilitation of renewable energy, work of eco-lodges with governments and private

landowners to create habitat corridors for migratory species, promotion of the good work of tour operators and associations on a wider scale and increased promotion of good practices to encourage tourists to choose responsible operators involved in the tourism industry.

Selected slides from the presentations

What are the threats to wildlife?

- Unsuitable temperature or rainfall for particular species;
- Temperature or rainfall changing food availability;
- Invasion of competitor, predators or parasites;
- Changes in solubility and pH in aquatic and marine systems.

What are the threats to tourism?

- Popular animals becoming locally extinct (e.g. Giant panda in the People’s Republic of China);
- Animals’ habitats becoming less scenic;
- Parasites and disease-carriers moving in;
- Dangerous species moving in.

What effects are we seeing now?

- Rising of sea levels;
- Melting of ice;
- Floods;
- Increased frequency and intensity of extreme temperatures;
- Drying of lakes;
- Massive loss of coral;
- Changes in animal’s sex ratio.
What effects could we see in the future?

- Increase in all current trends;
- Aggravation of food’s quality and scarcity;
- Mass extinctions of various type of wildlife (e.g. vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, fungi);
- Increasing risk of extinction of iconic Asian species such as the Asiatic black bear, the Asian elephant and the Bengal tiger.

What can we do about it?

It is likely that climate change will continue no matter what we do, but it is still possible to slow down its effects and mitigate some of them, such as the examples below:

- Switch to alternate energy;
- Protect endangered species (where necessary and appropriate);
- Relocate selected endangered species further from the equator;
- Preserve endangered species through captive breeding;
- Monitor changes in natural habitats and treatments areas;
- Educate the general public on the effect of climate change;
- Governmental support for research into efficient and affordable renewable energy;
- Support and conduct research on wildlife conservation;
- Governments: conserve and restore habitat corridors for wildlife.

Tourism operations mitigating effects

- Education : Nature trails
  - Flinders Ranges National Park (South Australia) features animals already extinct and warns about future extinctions;
  - Lady Elliot Island Climate Change trail put an emphasis on solar energy and research on marine wildlife;
- Protected area as a tourism product
  - Wildlife Alliance (Cambodia) stopped the over-exploitation of their forest and chose to protect it and open it for international tourism (e.g. tree days treks, river kayaking, mountain biking, etc.)
  - TUSA Dive and Spirit of Freedom (Great Barrier Reef, Australia) aim to monitor marine wildlife, measure carbon footprint and educate tourists on the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef wildlife
- Certifications
  - Ecotourism Australia;
  - Green Globe;
  - Right Tourism.
• PR examples for the promotion of responsible tourism
  o ABTA;
  o Trip Advisor.

Hopes for the future

• Improved communication between wildlife tourism operators and researchers to effectively combat climate change;
• Better conditions for researchers on site (e.g. free accessibility, cheaper traveling costs, etc.);
• Effective promotion of successful implemented strategies for climate change action in wildlife tourism operators (increase the possibility of reproduction in other similar operators);
• More research on the impacts of climate change on wildlife tourism operators;
• Democratization of appropriate and accurate information for visitors to encourage them to act responsibly and thus combat climate change.
Technical presentation on climate change and the management of biodiversity protection in protected areas

Dr. Thomas Bauer

Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management
University of South Pacific

Key messages:

• It is well known that climate change has been an issue for tourism for more than a decade (see UNWTO World Tourism Day 2008). Although the tourism industry has made some effort to reduce its impacts, more can be done to address the issue.

• Climate change is a reality but changes to the climate are not uniform across the planet. For instance, the Asia-Pacific region is vast; as such, climatic and biodiversity conditions vary greatly between the snow-covered Himalayas of Bhutan or Nepal and the coral reefs of the South Pacific.

• As such, within the region a great diversity of protected areas already exist ranging from World Heritage sites to private protected areas. Nonetheless more efforts are necessary for the conservation of vulnerable environments (e.g. identification of biodiversity hotspots in protected areas that are, or will be negatively impacted by a changing climate).

• Where wildlife is endangered, measures can be taken to increase numbers by captive breeding. For example, Giant Pandas have been successfully bred in captivity at Wolong, Sichuan, China. They are being released into the vast tracts of protected land that have been set aside for their survival. On the other hand, the introduction of non-native species into protected areas must be avoided and where they have been introduced, they need to be eradicated. One good example is the eradication of introduced rats on the Island of South Georgia during 2018.

• There is a need to prepare for negative changes impacting climate well in advance by carrying out appropriate risk assessments, by putting mitigation measures in place and by carrying out monitoring of biodiversity changes caused by climate change or other human induced changes (e.g. illegal logging or illegal fishing).

• Governments must initiate the establishment and maintenance of funds for such protected areas. Funds raised must be put into a separate account exclusively used for biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation measures at the site where

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the funds have been raised. Involving tourists’ contributions for the privilege of visiting protected areas and use of funding from the Green Climate Fund for mitigation and adaptation measures are examples of financial support options.

Conclusions:

To implement all the above-mentioned actions, a shift towards sustainable tourism governance is required, involving thorough planning, development and operation, as well as legal measures to monitor and enforce action of breaches of planning, and the development of guidelines set by the authorities.

Selected slides from the presentations

Introduction

Climate change has been an issue for tourism for more than a decade.

Eminent scientists have written on Climate Change:


- We need to be aware that changes to the climate will not be uniform across the planet – in some places warmer temperatures will be welcomed.
- We need to prepare for negative changes to climate well in advance by carrying out appropriate risk assessments and by putting mitigation measures in place.
Example of climate change reporting:

Range of Protected areas

- World Heritage;
- National Parks;
- Marine Reserves;
- State Parks;
- Bioreserves;
- Private protected areas.

Case study: Antarctica

Antarctica is the largest protected area on Earth and much can be learned from how tourism is operated there that is relevant to other protected areas around the world.

Due to a changing climate new species may be introduced and every effort needs to be made to prevent the introduction of non-native species into protected areas.

Eradicate those non-native species that are damaging the biodiversity of protected areas.

For example, rats were successfully eradicated from the island of South Georgia and the island was declared rat-free on 9 May 2018.
Conclusion

- The willingness of governments to set aside land or sea for protection is vital;
- Sufficient funds for establishment and maintenance of protected areas need to be made available by governments;
- Carrying out ongoing monitoring of biodiversity changes caused by climate change or other human induced changes such as illegal logging or illegal fishing is important;
- Identify biodiversity hotspots in protected areas that are, or are expected to be, negatively impacted by a changing climate. Provide a timeframe by which changes are expected and design and fund mitigation measures;
- Funding from the Green Climate Fund for mitigation and adaptation measures may be a finance option;
- Make tourists “Climate Ambassadors” and charge a contribution of a minimum of USD 10 per person for the privilege of visiting protected areas;
- Allocate funds in a separate account that is exclusively used for biodiversity protection;
- Sustainable tourism governance requires thorough planning, development and operation. It also requires monitoring and enforcement of breaches of planning and development guidelines set by the authorities.
Panel 1
Addressing sustainability through tourism policy and global partnerships within the scope of climate change and biodiversity

The first panel focused on addressing sustainability through tourism policy and global partnerships within the scope of climate change and biodiversity. It was introduced by two keynote presentations on Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO designated sites in the Pacific: toward ecological, economic and climate resilience and on Fiji’s Policy and Regulatory Framework on Sustainable Development.

Key messages:

• It is only now that the full impacts of climate change are starting to be understood; although it is clear that its effects occur on different ranges: geographical and sectorial.
• Some countries in Asia and the Pacific are extremely vulnerable to climate change induced by an increase of cyclones, rise in sea level, melting of ice and droughts. For example, Bangladesh has shown its commitment to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change through the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which offers inputs on disaster management, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry policies (e.g. low carbon development, improvement of cropping systems, food security, research and monitoring, etc.).
• Indeed, sustainable tourism, including preservation of biodiversity and also of traditional culture, is essential, especially to SIDS’ populations; For instance, the Government of Fiji has shown great commitment by supporting initiatives such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
• Nonetheless, support from international organizations is required in order to acquire new technologies and benefit from international network and mutual aid.
• Assistance from international bodies to small island states (amongst others) in the fight against climate change is necessary; not only financial but also in the exchange of technical expertise and general information relevant to mitigating climate change.
• The fight against climate change through tourism goes beyond the tourism industry: international organizations such as UNESCO and FAO also included tourism in their agenda for climate resilience.
• With a combined total of over 1800 sites around the world, UNESCO designated sites are developing sustainable tourism initiatives in a myriad of ways, from developing
“geo-gastro trails” to support agriculture and gastronomy to developing plans for climate and disaster resilience.

- Forests play an important role in sustainable tourism, where the aspects of environmental, social and economic sustainability need to be looked at comprehensively. Examined from the environmental aspect forest ecosystem services provide a useful mechanism to mitigate climate change, particularly through its regulating services, (e.g. through carbon sequestration and climate regulation, purification of water and air, crop pollination etc.). Socially and economically, cultural ecosystem services of forests directly refer to tourism and/or ecotourism. Thus, by supporting communities and people who live within and nearby forest, it is possible to not only preserve nature but also human heritage.

- SMEs have proven to be particularly vulnerable to climate change: a pilot study led by UNESCO and the University of the South Pacific’s Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development found that the impacts of climate change were having profound effects on tourism businesses across the entire supply chain, especially impacting small and medium businesses in Pacific Islands community, threatening not only their businesses, but their homes and, in some cases, their food and water security.

- Efforts are being deployed to assist SMEs in need through the development of project funds such as the world Heritage Toolkit centered on the needs and priorities of the Pacific SIDS. To that end, all stakeholders are consulted in the planning stages, and portions of the region are delimited to establish the best ways of collaboration and working together.

- Innovation, new technologies and other visionary methods of management and governance are important. Young generations should be inspired to get involved in climate change mitigation in order to provide innovative ideas to combat climate change.

Conclusions:

The challenges induced by climate change are cross-sectoral in their nature; therefore, concerted efforts are required across all relevant sectors (e.g. tourism, agriculture, forestry, culture, etc.) through multi-sectoral collaboration and partnership. Such collaborative initiatives can ensure addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more effectively. While many of the SDGs can be addressed together, a few goals can greatly contribute directly such as SDG 1 (No poverty); SDG 2 (No hunger); SDG 3 (Good health and well-being); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG 13 (Climate action); SDG 14 (Life below water); SDG 15 (Life on land) and, most importantly, SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals).
Panel 1 – Key note presentation

Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO Designated Sites in the Pacific: Towards ecological, economic and climate resilience

Ms. Serena Heckler
Natural Sciences Programme Specialist
UNESCO Pacific Office

Selected slides from the presentations

UNESCO Site Designations

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Outstanding universal value;
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Models and learning sites for sustainable development;
  - Role: Support sustainable economic activities;
  - The World Network of Biosphere Reserve: a platform for new ideas, values, standards, knowledge, partnerships and solutions.
  - Global Geoparks Network: a platform aiming to work together, exchange ideas of best practice and join common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practices of a UNESCO Global Geopark.

World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

The UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme represents a new approach based on dialogue and stakeholder cooperation where planning for tourism and heritage management is integrated at a destination level, the natural and cultural assets are valued and protected, and appropriate tourism developed.

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World Heritage and Climate Change

Focus areas

- Policy Guidance

*Report on the increasing vulnerability of World Heritage Sites to Climate Change impacts and the potential implications for tourism*\(^\text{12}\).

The report lists 31 natural and cultural World Heritage sites in 29 countries that are vulnerable to increasing temperatures, melting glaciers, rising seas, intensifying weather events, worsening droughts and longer wildfire seasons. It documents climate impacts at iconic tourism sites – including Venice, Stonehenge and the Galápagos Islands – and other World Heritage sites\(^\text{13}\) such as South Africa’s Cape Floral Region Protected Areas; the Port, Fortresses and city of Cartagena, Colombia; and Shiretoko peninsula in Japan.

**Impacts of Climate Change on tourism in Pacific SIDS**

**Case study: Langalanga Lagoon, Malaita, Solomon Islands**

The research looked into how climate change had impacted tourism and agriculture in communities – in the case of Solomon Islands, the effects of sea level. In Langalanga Lagoon, a place of extraordinary cultural and biological richness, the impacts are multiple and extreme.

**UNESCO Site Designations on the Pacific SIDS**

- Pacific World Heritage sites\(^\text{14}\): 10 (+29 on tentative list);
- Pacific Biosphere Reserves\(^\text{15}\): 3;
- Pacific UNESCO Global Geoparks: 0;


• Sustainable economic strategies;
• Tools that reflect SIDS priorities and realities:
  o Small budgets, small government teams, infrastructure needs;
  o Traditional knowledge and values, traditional land tenure, strong community leadership;
  o Threats posed by climate change and natural hazards;
  o Many examples of good practice, including community-based supply chains, carbon initiatives and citizen science.
• Capacity-building.

Roles of governments and partners

• International organizations can provide networks, specialized technical expertise, good practice, capacity building\(^\text{16}\);
• IGO’s have complementary mandates: e.g. UNESCO, SPTO and UNWTO;
• Governments can bring multiple sectors to engage with tourism (e.g. environment, education, climate change, disaster risk reduction);
• Can support community-based, small to medium-scale enterprises;
• Can support locally sourced products and supply chains.

\(\text{\textsuperscript{16}}\) For more information, consult: https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/894/.
Panel 1 – Key note presentation

Fiji’s policy and regulatory framework focused on sustainable development

Mr. Shaheen Ali
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Fiji

Selected slides from the presentations

Importance of tourism

Tourism in Fiji

• In 2017, tourism in Fiji grew by 12%, which is faster than the global tourism growth of 8.7%;
• Tourism numbers in Fiji is growing larger than the Fijian population.

Fiji’s Leadership in the International arena on Sustainable Development

Fiji is the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to preside over the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Further to COP21 and the ratification of the Paris Agreement by all parties, Fiji’s presidency over COP23 (Bonn, Germany, 6-17 November 2017) was a legitimate choice from the international community to give a voice to one SIDS country which are of the most vulnerable states currently impacted by climate change. Through its presidency,

Fiji’s set up its main goal to reinforce and advance on the objectives identified within the Paris Agreement with regard to the effects of global warming.

**National Policies and Regulatory Frameworks**

**Recommendations**
Panel 2

Financing sustainable tourism development initiatives tackling climate change and biodiversity loss

The second panel addressed financing sustainable tourism development initiatives tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. The panel was introduced by one keynote presentation on business case for sustainable tourism.

Key messages:

- There are free online tools accessible on the Internet (e.g. EDGE software) which allows the monitoring of construction of environmentally friendly buildings including hotels and resorts. This will help identify measures that would meet the appropriate standards for more environmentally friendly buildings.
- UNWTO can assist member states and their respective ministries in charge of tourism to enhance their chances of getting funding for sustainable tourism projects that tackle biodiversity conservation and climate change.
- UNDP has funding available that can assist national governments with the financing of sustainable tourism development initiatives tackling climate change and biodiversity loss.
- The tourism private sector would welcome greater access to international subsidies to assist tourism industry members in their efforts to make tourism more sustainable. As noted above, technical assistance is available (see EDGE software from IFC) but funding applications for sustainable tourism measures have to be made through official government channels.
- A good practice has been identified in in Bhutan through the Gross National Happiness Index (GNHI). Its four pillars are: sustainable and equitable socio-economic development; environmental conservation; preservation and promotion of culture as well as good governance. The GNHI is used in Bhutan as a yardstick instead of the purely economics based GDP currently used in other countries. Environmental conservation is an integral part of the GNHI.

Conclusions:

Funding solutions for sustainable tourism development initiatives tackling climate change and biodiversity loss are made available through different channels as stated above: whether from a free online tools to monitor and achieve the challenging standards set by environmentally friendly buildings, from assistance of international organizations such as UNWTO and UNDP or through a change in policy conducted at the government level.
Panel 2 – Key note presentation
Financing tourism properties towards sustainability – Is there a business case for sustainable tourism?\(^\text{18}\)

Mr. Autif Sayyed
Green Building Specialist for Asia and the Pacific
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Selected slides from the presentations

Why are we talking about Green?

\[ \text{ANNUAL WATER USE} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
1 & \quad \text{GUEST ROOM} \\
& \quad \text{IN A NON-GREEN FIJI RESORT}
\end{align*} \]

\[ = \]

\[ \begin{align*}
5 & \quad \text{FIJI HOMES} \\
& \quad \text{OF LOW-MIDDLE INCOME}
\end{align*} \]

ANNUAL ENERGY USE

1 GUEST ROOM
IN A
NON-GREEN FIJI RESORT

= 

14 FIJI HOMES
OF
LOW-MIDDLE INCOME

Based on EDI simulation

CHALLENGES TO GREEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition of Green</th>
<th>IFC’s Solution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I don’t understand what a “green hotel” means”</td>
<td>![Edge logo]</td>
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<tr>
<th>Perceived Complexity</th>
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<tr>
<td>“It takes too much effort to meet green standards”</td>
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<th>Perceived Cost</th>
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<td>“Green hotels are much costlier to build. Where do I get the money to build green?”</td>
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<th>Awareness</th>
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<tr>
<td>“The demand from Guests is not there”</td>
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</table>
**Definition of Green**

EDGE standard focuses on resource efficiency, and operational cost reduction.

- **ENERGY REDUCTION**
- **WATER REDUCTION**
- **MATERIALS REDUCTION**

20%

**EDGE provides hotels:**
- Validity on green
- World Bank brand
- Publicity through IFC channels

**EDGE Software uses:**
- Local construction cost
- Projections of operational cost using local weather data, operational practices and typical specifications

**EDGE allows you to compare measures and select the optimum mix**
IFC Climate investments

- IFC is one of the world’s largest financiers of climate-smart projects for developing countries, with USD 18.3 billion in long-term financing from own account and mobilized another USD 11 billion.
- USD 2.7 billion in 276 hotels in 90 countries.
- IFC’s partners include:
  - Leading international investors, such as Orient Express Hotels, TPS Serena and Shangri-La;
  - Local investors under management or franchise contracts with leading hotel brands including;
Green Bonds

- IFC’s total green-bond issuance: USD 7 billion aimed at unlocking private funding for climate-related projects;
- IFC also supported Fiji’s recent USD 50 million sovereign green bond that supports climate change mitigation and adaption through projects such as green hotels.

Other Financing Opportunities

After the Paris Climate Agreement, commitments from climate investors have appeared such as:
- USD 600 billion through Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition;
- USD 150 billion by Goldman Sachs;
- USD 125 billion by Bank of America/ Goldman Sachs;
- USD 100 billion by Citibank;
- USD 10.3 billion from Green Climate Fund (GCF).
Panel 2 – Key note presentation
Financing Sustainable Tourism Development Initiatives
Tackling Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

Ms. Srijana Rana
Team Leader for Inclusive Growth
UNDP Pacific Office

Selected slides from the presentations

Voluntary Framework for Resilience Building

The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

UNDP is scaling up climate resilient livelihoods and risk management by supporting countries to advance sustainable economic development in rural areas, provide improved climate information and early warning systems, and promote the sharing of climate-smart tools, training and techniques.

To tackle climate change and biodiversity loss UNDP focuses on:

- Economic Diversification;
- Climate Resilient Technologies;
- Climate Resilient Social Protection;
- Risk Transfer and Insurance.

Case study: SPTO Sustainability Monitoring Programme

- Improve hotel performance while making a difference;
- Monitoring themes;
- Energy Management;
- Water Management;
- Waste Management;
- Procurement;
- Employment;
- Pollution;
- Conservation;
- Cultural Heritage.
Technical conclusions and recommendations

The Regional Seminar concluded that climate change is a reality and that there is an urgent need to take appropriate actions to reduce carbon emissions and address the issue of biodiversity loss. Tourism needs to play its part by gearing the tourism industry towards sustainable practices and raising awareness of the general public on the challenges of sustainable tourism in order to contribute effectively to reducing carbon emissions and preventing further degradation and loss of the biodiversity in the region.

Recommendations:

- Urgent action on climate change is central to delivering sustainable development.
- Encourage the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, the international agreement to address the threat of global climate change.
- Promote the content of the Cancun Declaration\(^\text{20}\) in which tourism is recognized as an enabling agent of change that can contribute directly to the conservation of the sensitive areas and habitats through a variety of activities and by raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity.
- Include climate change and biodiversity conservation issues during the planning, development, implementation and monitoring stages of tourism development.
- Mainstream biodiversity conservation in the tourism sector and in climate change plans and strategies, developing a low carbon, resource efficient economy and transitioning towards a more circular economy.
- Promote evidence-based decision making, ensuring the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development plans, policies and strategies at all levels.
- Advocate collaboration between government bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and to share experiences and best practices.
- Integrate climate change and biodiversity conservation issues into education curricula and empowerment actions of vulnerable communities.
- Encourage stakeholders at all levels (government bodies, tourism industry, local residents and tourists) to recognize their responsibility in the fight against climate change and biodiversity protection, including through awareness raising and capacity building activities to stimulate behavioural changes.
- Encourage stakeholders to join the efforts of the One Planet – Sustainable Tourism Programme\(^\text{21}\) which aims at increasing resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and thus focuses on impact areas such as


\(^{21}\) For further information, please consult: http://sdt.unwto.org/about-oneplanet-stp.
biodiversity conservation, GHG emissions reduction, waste reduction, water use efficiency and energy use efficiency.

- Maintain the dialogue on climate change and biodiversity conservation in the Asia and the Pacific region by encouraging innovative ideas, involvement and knowledge sharing on climate change adaptation approaches and on the preservation of ecosystem services.

- Strengthen closer partnerships and collaboration between the public sector, private sector and communities, fostering investments and innovation in energy efficiency and renewable technologies across sectors, strengthening the ability of nations, particularly the most vulnerable, to build climate resilience.

- Identify projects and approaches for funding agencies such as UNDP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Green Climate Fund.

- Use available free tools to gear the tourism industry towards sustainable practices (e.g. EDGE software developed by IFC for green buildings).
Annex 1 – Conference programme

30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia

UNWTO Regional Seminar on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development

Sofitel Resort and Spa, Nadi, Fiji, 18–20 June 2018

Monday, 18 June 2018

07:30 – 08:30  Registration of the participants
08:10  Delegates to be seated inside the Ballroom
08:15  Audience rise for arrival of the Chief Guest, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications and other dignitaries

National Anthem

08:20 – 09:30  Opening Ceremony of the 30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia and the UNWTO Regional Seminar on Tourism, Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
  in Ballroom 1, 2 and 5
  - Traditional ceremony and cultural performance
  - Welcome remarks by Hon. Mr. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister of Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Fiji
  - Congratulatory remarks by the Chairman of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific Hon. Ms. Nia Niscaya, Deputy Minister for Tourism Marketing Development of Indonesia
  - Opening remarks by Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
  - Inauguration address by Hon. Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service & Communications of Fiji

09:30 – 10:00  Group Photo and Coffee break

10:00 – 11:20  High-level Dialogue: “How to Address the Issue of Climate Change in Tourism Development”
  in Ballroom 1, 2 and 5
  The High-level Dialogue will address the policy and governance frameworks necessary to support sustainable development of tourism considering the onslaught of climate change, looking at steps that can be taken by both the public and the private sector during the planning, development and operational phases of tourism initiatives. It will look at
the roles and responsibilities of both the public sector and the private sector, and explore how different governance instruments can be used to ensure that tourism makes an optimal contribution to all aspects of sustainability.

Introduction by Mr. Xu Jing, Director of the Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific, UNWTO

Moderator: Ms. Sarah Mathews, Head of Destination Marketing TripAdvisor
- Hon. Mr. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources of Fiji
- Hon. Emil Tammur, Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture for Papua New Guinea
- Mr. Zhu Shanzhong, Executive Director, UNWTO
- Hon. Mr. McKenzie Kiritome, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Labor for Tuvalu
- Hon. Ms. Nia Niscaya, Deputy Minister for Tourism Marketing of Indonesia
- Mr. Upali Ratnayake, Director General, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
- Ms. Adela Issachar Aru, CEO Vanuatu Tourism Office
- Mr. Mario Hardy, CEO of PATA
- Mr. Chris Cocker, CEO of SPTO

11:20 – 12:30
Technical session
in Ballroom 1, 2 and 5

Introduction: UNWTO Projects on Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Tourism
Mr. Marcel Leijzer, Programme Manager, Technical Cooperation, UNWTO

Technical presentation on Wildlife Tourism in the context of Climate Change: presentations of good cases
Dr. Ronda Green, Chairman of Wildlife Tourism Australia and Adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith University
Open Forum on Wildlife Tourism in the context of Climate Change

Technical presentation on Climate Change and the Management of Biodiversity Protection in Protected Areas
Dr. Thomas Bauer, Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management of the University of South Pacific
Open Forum on Climate Change and the Management of Biodiversity Protection in Protected Areas

12:30 – 14:00
Lunch hosted by the Government of Fiji at the Sofitel Resort and Spa, Nadi in Lagoon Restaurant, Ground floor

in Ballroom 4

14:00 – 15:30 Panel 1

in Ballroom 1, 2 and 5

Addressing Sustainability through Tourism Policy and Global Partnership Within the scope of Climate Change and Biodiversity

Key Note Presentation of Ms. Serena Heckler, Programme Specialist Natural Sciences, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States: Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO designated sites in the Pacific: towards ecological, economic and climate resilience

Presentation by Mr. Shaheen Ali, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Fiji on Fiji’s Policy and Regulatory Framework focused on Sustainable Development

Moderator: Dr. Ronda Green, Chairman of Wildlife Tourism Australia and Adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith University

- Hon. Mr. Shaheen Ali, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Fiji on Fiji’s Policy and Regulatory Framework focused on Sustainable Development
- Hon. Mr. Nikhil Ranjan Roy, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and CEO of the Bangladesh Tourism Board
- Ms. SooYeon Jin, Forestry Food Security Officer, FAO
- Ms. Serena Heckler, Programme Specialist Natural Sciences, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Panel 2

in Ballrooms 1, 2 and 5

Financing Sustainable Tourism Development Initiatives Tackling Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

Key Note Presentation of Mr. Autif Sayyed, Green Building Specialist for Asia and the Pacific: Is There a Business Case for Sustainable Tourism?
Moderator: Dr. Thomas Bauer, Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management of the University of South Pacific - Mr. Autif Sayyed, Green Building Specialist, IFC - Mr. Marcel Leijzer, Programme Manager, Technical Cooperation, UNWTO - Mr. Rinzin Jamtsho, Chief Tourism Council of Bhutan - Ms. Srijana Rana, Team Leader for Inclusive Growth for UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji - Mr. Dixon Seeto, President of the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association

17:30 – 18:00 Closing Session
- Technical Conclusions and Recommendations by Dr Thomas Bauer
- Closing remarks by Mr. Zhu Shanzhong, Executive Director, UNWTO
- Closing remarks by the Hon. Mr. Inia Seruiratu, High-level Climate Champion and Minister for Agriculture, Regional Development and Disaster Management of Fiji

19:00 – 21:00 Gala dinner hosted by the Government of Fiji at the Sofitel Resort and Spa, Nadi
in Meke Lawn, Sofitel Resort

Tuesday, 19 June 2018
09:30 – 12:30 30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia
in Ballroom 1, 2 and 5

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch hosted by the Government of Fiji at the Sofitel Resort and Spa, Nadi
in Lagoon Restaurant, Ground floor

14:30 – 17:00 30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia
in Ballroom 1, 2 and 5

19:00 – 21:00 Farewell cocktail hosted by the Government of Fiji at the Sofitel Resort and Spa, Nadi
in Poolside Terrace

Wednesday, 20 June 2018
09:00 – 18:00 Technical visit (s) for general participants and media
Annex 2 – List of participants

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The UNWTO Regional Seminar on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism Development was held alongside the 30th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commissions for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia (18-20 June 2018, Nadi, Fiji).

The event brought Asia and the Pacific tourism policy makers together to examine the effect of climate change on tourism development, the link between sustainable tourism development and biodiversity conservation, and how this translates into governance arrangements in their respective destinations.

The regional seminar and associated report were supported by Chimelong through the UNWTO/Chimelong Initiative.