Addressing plastic pollution in tourism destinations

Webinar n°: 16   Date: Tuesday 29th of October 2019,
14:00-15:00 CET

Please register to the webinar here

The Sustainable Tourism Programme (STP) of the One Planet network is delivering a series of stimulating webinars to advance sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the tourism sector for the fourth consecutive year. Each session provides tourism professionals with science-based and real solutions for translating SCP into action and accelerate the sustainability of the sector.

This year’s cycle of webinars on tourism and plastics is the result of the collaboration between the leading members of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme (World Tourism Organization -UNWTO-, governments of France and Spain) and United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), in line with the overall annual cross-cutting theme for the One Planet network.

Plastic pollution is among the great environmental challenges of our time. With 95% of marine litter being composed of plastics and various tons of additional waste entering the ocean every minute, the risks and damage to biodiversity and ecosystems are unprecedented. Coastal environments are one of the main assets of tourism destinations and at the same time very vulnerable to uncontrolled littering. According to WWF's “Stop the flood of plastic” 2019 report, in the Mediterranean region alone the tourism sector loses up to 268 million Euros each year from plastic pollution. At the same time, tourism has been found to be among the most probable sources of marine plastic pollution, with the sector being responsible for up to one-third increase of waste during the summertime in some Mediterranean countries, resulting in local waste management facilities being overwhelmed.

1 https://d80g3k8vowjyp.cloudfront.net/downloads/wwfnmni_stop_the_flood_of_plastic_mediterranean.pdf
The objectives of the webinar are to:

- Discuss how destinations can assess and reduce plastic pollution by improving their planning and management;
- Learn more about existing alternatives to plastic to revisit procurement strategies;
- Explore how the tourism sector can become a catalyzer for change and find innovative solutions to address plastic pollution and marine litter.

Participants will have the opportunity to raise questions and more broadly obtain access to top sustainability experts working on the impact of plastics in the tourism sector.

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<td>14:00-14:10</td>
<td>Introduction by the moderator – lessons learned from campaigns aiming at eliminating single use plastics in the Caribbean, Ignacio Sanchez Diaz, Resource Efficiency Programme Officer, UNEP</td>
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<td>14:10-14:25</td>
<td>Identify and promote alternatives to plastics – focus on Saint Lucia, Carl Hunter, Chair of the Saint Lucia Hospitality &amp; Tourism Association Environmental Committee</td>
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<td>14:25-14:40</td>
<td>Assess and reduce plastic pollution: the case of Bali, Saskia Pepping, Project Manager MVO Nederlands</td>
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<td>14:40-15:00</td>
<td>Discussions and closing</td>
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Speakers:

Carl Hunter, Chair of the Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association Environmental Committee

Carl Hunter is the Chairman of the Environmental Committee of the Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association (SLHTA). Carl is also the Director of the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority and the property manager of the Jade Mountain & Anse Chastanet Hotel and Spa which, in 2018, won several Saint Lucia Business Awards for its sustainability initiatives. He was previously the general manager and the regional director of engineering at The Landings St. Lucia. Carl Hunter has in total 24 years of experience managing the maintenance and development needs of Caribbean hotels and resorts’ facilities. He has a passion for leveraging environmental initiatives to drive down operation costs, enhancing marketing ability and improving training and information sharing with a special focus in overcoming cultural barriers. Carl has a degree in Engineering from the Imperial College. In 2019, he has developed in partnership with the SLHTA and UN Environment the Recommendations to the Saint Lucian Hospitality Sector for alternatives to Single Use Plastic.

Saskia Pepping, Project Manager, MVO Nederlands

Saskia Pepping is a Project Manager at MVO Nederlands. MVO Nederlands is an independent expertise and network organisation on Corporate Social Responsibility founded by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. The aim of the organisation is to inform Dutch businesses on CSR and how to implement this in their core activities.
Moderator:
Ignacio Sanchez Diaz, Resource Efficiency Programme Officer, UNEP

Ignacio Sanchez works as Resource Efficiency Officer at UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean coordinating the implementation of projects and initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy and life cycle thinking. He has worked for other UN Agencies (UNDP and UNFPA) in sustainable procurement, healthcare waste management and greening health systems. He holds a degree in Environmental Science from the Rey Juan Carlos University and an MBA on International Trade from Menendez Pelayo International University.

For more information on the webinar, please kindly contact the Sustainable Tourism Programme Coordination Desk: oneplanetsip@unwto.org

About One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme

The One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme, as an implementation mechanism for SDG12, has the overall objective to enhance the sustainable development impacts of the tourism sector by 2030, by developing, promoting and scaling up sustainable consumption and production practices that boost the efficient use of natural resources while producing less waste and addressing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity.