




# AFRICANEWS

Volume 19. April 2021



A background image of a savanna landscape featuring a giraffe in the upper left, a zebra in the lower right, and several birds on the ground. A semi-transparent white text box is centered over the image.


COVID-19 has disrupted tourism and travel in an unprecedented way, putting at risk millions of livelihoods. The risk is especially great for the most vulnerable groups, including those whose daily source of income are from the informal sector. All this has an effect on local communities across Africa. Our Member States are witnessing disruptions in business continuity, closures and revenue losses. According to UNWTO's estimates, one billion fewer international tourists traveled globally in 2020, and Africa recorded a 75% fall in international tourist numbers.

As a global response to the pandemic, under the leadership of the UNWTO Secretary-General, Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, the Global Tourism Crisis Committee bringing together governments, public and private sector leaders and international organizations held its 8th meeting on 18 January. This was held within the framework of the 113th session of the UNWTO Executive Council. The outcome of the meeting was to give clear recommendations for harmonized, coordinated and digital COVID-19 travel protocols including testing, tracing and vaccination certificates. All of this is aimed at restoring traveler's confidence and promoting safe travel, including through the establishment of an [International Code for the protection of tourists](#).

As we reset, the challenges of the pandemic have also accelerated the opportunity to promote domestic tourism and intra-regional travel. Basing our future growth on sustainable tourism practices and the adoption of digitalization is now more than ever before critical for the recovery of the tourism industry than ever. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for promoting digital skills as technology becomes a key driver for competitiveness.

In light of the above, [UNWTO through its online academy](#) has made the development of human capital a key priority. We are addressing the gaps in reskilling and up-skilling to meet the emerging demands needed for the jobs markets of tomorrow and invite tourism students to get involved by sharing their talent and ingenuity in the [World Tourism Student League](#). With a view of supporting our Member States across the region to rebuild the tourism sector, virtual meetings are being held to allow them to share the recommendations of UNWTO services and so respond to the pandemic in order to





elaborate tailor-made solutions through the [COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Technical Assistance Package](#) and identify capacity-building programmes for tourism officials.

Africa remains one of the core priority regions of the UNWTO Secretary-General and this year the continent will celebrate two major UNWTO events; The official celebrations of the World Tourism Day in Côte d'Ivoire and the 24th UNWTO General Assembly in Morocco.

In addition, earlier this the year, as part of our efforts in advocating Brand Africa, the publication ["A Tour of African Gastronomy" was launched to promote Africa's diverse and unique cuisine by showcasing the talent of our African Chefs and their state-of-the art recipes.](#) In alignment with [SDG5](#), which promotes gender equality, together with our partner [VoyagesAfric](#), interviews and videos featuring African Women's Chefs were shared through a [podcast](#) during March to mark International Women's Day. This also helped increase the visibility of African gastronomy around the world and in the region in particular.

Finally, we are elaborating a white paper on Security in Tourism in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, and UEMOA. We aim to launch this within the framework of a Ministerial conference on the topic of security, due to be hosted by the government of Senegal towards the end of the year.

Looking ahead, though challenges remain, I am optimistic about the long-term prospects of our region. The current vaccine programmes and the travel protocols being implemented and enhanced by local authorities are testimony to stakeholders' engagement to position Africa as a safe destination. UNWTO will continue throughout the year to support and work with Member States and the private sector partners of the region to rebuild a resilient tourism sector and to prepare to welcome tourists again.

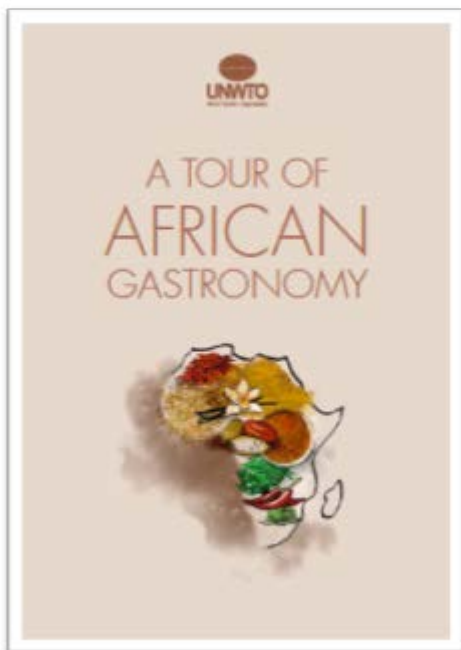
The Director  
**Elcia Grandcourt**



## A Tour of African Gastronomy Book

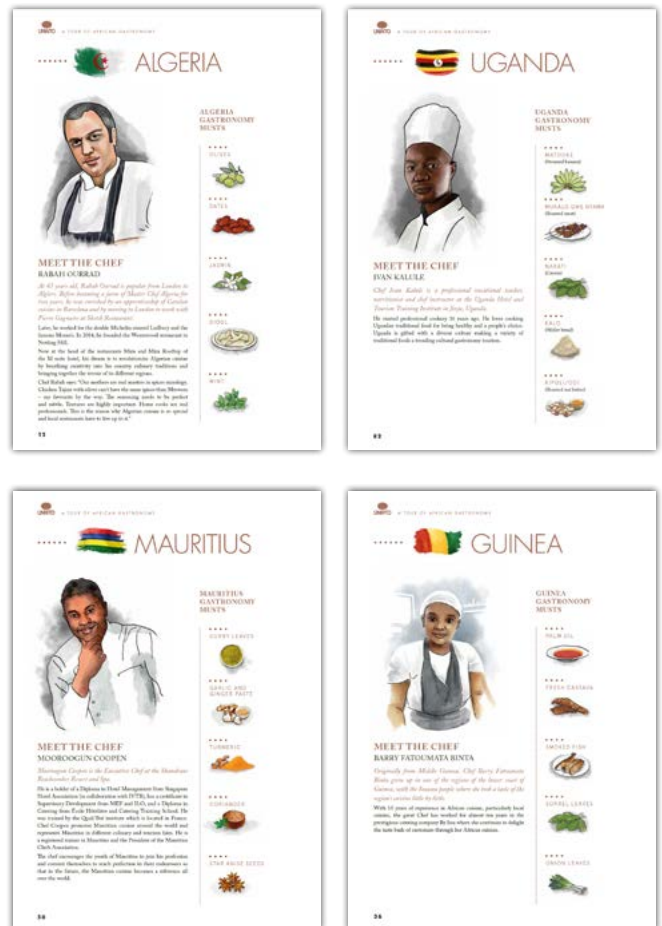
The development of gastronomy on the African continent is the result of multiple influences that have made this a blend that combines tradition, ancestral knowledge of communities and the innovative vision provided by the new actors of the value chain in today's African gastronomic scene. This publication is a compilation of signature recipes from 38 African chefs, each of them honouring their home country, its local ingredients and particular savoir-faire.

Gastronomy tourism not only advocates for the economic development of the communities in which it is carried out, but also contributes to the preservation of ancestral traditions and the cultural heritage of the people, ensuring that future generations also benefit from those unique resources. It contributes to the wellbeing of destinations and their people, thus helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.



This publication gives local chefs, the best food ambassadors, the chance to contribute to the story telling of African gastronomy, by sharing their most emblematic recipes and local ingredients.

A Tour of African Gastronomy is presented as the start of a journey that not only offers an itinerary through a variety of culinary delicacies, but also aims to be a guidebook for travelers to understand the culture of the communities they intend to visit.



This book illustrates the diversity of the African gastronomy that the traveler will no doubt encounter on their journey and acts as a precursor to encourage visitors to jump from the usual crowded urban centres to more rural areas in order to discover where and how such delicacies originated, thus contributing to rural tourism and to the development of the image of the continent.

We invite you to discover "A Tour of African Gastronomy" [here](#).

### **RDAF Webinars and Capacity-Building activities**

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, UNWTO, in collaboration with Members States, Affiliate Members, international organizations and other tourism partners, has been consolidating intelligence on the local, national, international measures and policies undertaken for mitigating and combating the effects of the crisis on tourism and accelerating recovery.

UNWTO has been demonstrating leadership, commitment and engagement in assisting Member States and the key stakeholders of the international tourism sector towards the adoption of harmonized strategies and coordinated mechanisms. UNWTO is providing guidance to ease travel restrictions through the effective implementation of health and sanitary protocols. This will play a key role in restoring market confidence and so pave the way to reopen borders and enable the recovery of our sector.

The UNWTO Regional Department for Africa has been continuously supporting Member States and regional stakeholders through several initiatives and activities aligned with the countries' renewed needs and priorities, as reflected in the *Agenda for Africa – Tourism for Inclusive Growth*. These include:

- ATLAS Africa - Launch of the Routledge Handbook of Tourism in Africa, 13 January 2021

Please find the recording of the live session [here](#)

- 8th Edition of the Annual Best Practices Workshop organized by the Department of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, 2 March 2021

### **Cabo Verde hosts the 64th Meeting of the Regional Commission Meeting for Africa**

The Republic of Cabo Verde through its Ministry of Tourism and Transport, will host on 2nd and 3rd September 2021, the 64th Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa followed by the 2nd edition of the Global Investment Forum.

It will be an opportunity for tourism ministers and stakeholders from the region to meet and take stock of the impact of the pandemic and discuss the UNWTO programme of work 2022-2023. In that framework, nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies will be conducted. The results will then be submitted to the 24th UNWTO General Assembly, to be held in Marrakech, for approval.

## World Tourism Day will be hosted in Côte d'Ivoire

Each year, World Tourism day (WTD) is commemorated on 27 September with celebrations led by UNWTO. Its purpose is to foster awareness among the global community of tourism's social, cultural, political and economic value and the contribution the sector can make in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. This year, World Tourism Day will be celebrated on the African continent, and Côte d'Ivoire will be the host country, as decided during the 22nd Commission for Africa which took place in St Petersburg on 10th September 2019.

Regions and destinations around the world, have realised, now more than ever, the importance of the sector at the local and international level. The tourism sector, generating one in 10 jobs in the world, reducing poverty and creating value, contributes significantly to providing a better future for people.

In this spirit, World Tourism Day 2021 presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the contribution of tourism to development among decision-makers of the public and private sector, and the international community, while mobilizing all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change.

UNWTO and Côte d'Ivoire are pleased to invite Member States and tourism stakeholders to join us for this year's celebration around the theme: "***Tourism for an inclusive growth***"

## UNWTO in Morocco: Official Visit to initiate preparation of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly

UNWTO and the Kingdom of Morocco met to advance the organization of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly scheduled for October 2021, the first global high-level United Nations event to be held since the beginning of the pandemic.

Led by Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili, a delegation from UNWTO paid an official visit to from 2 to 5 February 2021 to Rabat and Marrakesh to discuss the programme, calendar and facilities to be prepared for this statutory meeting that will focus on education and youth, rural development and digital innovation.

The Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy, Nadia Fettah Alaoui, and her team accompanied the UNWTO delegation during this three-day visit and expressed their commitment to organizing an "historic" General Assembly to showcase the importance of restarting international tourism in a safe and more sustainable way.

The Prime Minister of Morocco, Saad Dine El Otmani, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita, welcomed the UNWTO Secretary-General in Rabat, highlighting the importance of the celebration and the high-level support of the host country. The delegation was also received by the Governor of the Marrakesh-Safi region, Karim Kassi Lahlou, and other local authorities and representatives of the private sector of the area that will be strongly involved in the preparations for this meeting.

Secretary-General Pololikashvili thanked the Prime Minister and his government for their "hard work" in ensuring that the Assembly will be a success on the back of the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He said: "Tourism is adapting to the new reality and we face the future with optimism and with the backing of our Members."

The Secretary General and the Minister presented the book "A Tour of African Gastronomy" to the Moroccan Chef Mohamed Fedal who has contributed a recipe of his own to the publication.

## UNWTO/EBRD Projects in Morocco and Tunisia on COVID-19 Recovery for the Tourism Sector

In May 2020, UNWTO launched a tourism recovery technical assistance package to offer guidance to Member States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Structured around three main pillars: economic recovery; marketing and promotion; and institutional strengthening and resilience building, and widely disseminated, Member States and donors alike have expressed interest in the package.

Among the first to collaborate with UNWTO in the implementation of the COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Package is the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). They signed a Framework Agreement with UNWTO to deliver technical assistance to a selected group of EBRD priority countries to aid the fast recovery of their tourism sectors post COVID-19. These priority countries include Morocco and Tunisia.

In Morocco, the EBRD has appointed UNWTO to improve and strengthen the Dashboard of the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) to better reflect qualitative data related to the measurement of the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector. The work will also help develop a Tourism Recovery initiative; prepare a marketing and product development strategy for domestic and regional markets; review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prepared by MoT for COVID-related safety, hygiene and security and trainings put in place for the adoption of the SOPs, and develop training sessions for SMEs on key areas envisaged under the Recovery Program to support its implementation.

In Tunisia, UNWTO will be responsible for the development of a Tourism Recovery Roadmap; a Digital Strategy for the promotion and communication for domestic and near-shore markets; the promotion of gender equality through tourism; and training to support the work of the National Agency for Tourism Training through a Train-the-Trainers programme.

## Lesotho Council of Tourism

Driven by the need to position the private sector as an engine of growth and development in Lesotho tourism, the Government is working to re-establish the Lesotho Council of Tourism (LCT) through the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture.

UNWTO is assisting the Ministry in this endeavour through research and stakeholders participation to devise a model for the new and revived LCT. This will include a working policy document with an overall outline of the mandate and organizational structure of the LCT, its mission, and how it will work and be funded. This working document will serve the basis for the LCT to be registered with the Law Office. Funded by the African Development Bank. The implementation of the project will contribute to guiding the Government of Lesotho in managing impacts of COVID-19 on their tourism sector and paving the way to recovery.

Currently, UNWTO is carrying out a thorough review of Lesotho tourism laws, plans, policies, and other documents relevant to this assignment. Subsequently, consultative meetings and virtual interviews will be conducted with target stakeholder groups guided by key thematic areas, followed by research and benchmarking on similar bodies in nearby countries.

Once finalized, the LCT Model, Strategic Plan and Funding Strategy will be presented to the Government and relevant stakeholders.



Maseru, Lesotho

## Technical Committee of the International Organization of Standardization (ISO TC) 228

### Working Group 18 and on Health & Safety Protocols

During the second half of November 2020, UNWTO organized a **series of joint UNWTO-ISO/UNE webinars** in English, French and Spanish for its Members States to disseminate the work of **ISO TC 228 WG 18 on Measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the tourism industry** with the aim to strengthen linkages between National Tourism Administrations with the national standards bodies and to encourage these bodies to participate in WG18 (for more information on ISO TC 228 please visit <https://www.iso.org/committee/375396.html>)

The outcome of this WG18 will be an **ISO PAS (Publicly Available Technical Specification) 5643 on Measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in the tourism industry - Guidelines and Recommendations** which is expected to be published in spring 2021 and will be available upon purchase according to ISO rules.

UNWTO is fully engaged in the process of elaboration of this ISO PAS by providing comments and technical feedback. The intended outcome is not a health protocol but internationally harmonized guidelines and recommendations, aimed at helping the global tourism sector operate in safer conditions, both for tourism workers and tourists themselves (as well as residents of destinations), all under the framework of the regulations of national health authorities and with reference to WHO.

## Official visits of Member States to the UNWTO Headquarters

Ministers of Tourism of various countries acting in their capacity as the highest representatives of the State in the tourism sector, International Organizations CEOs, and Accredited Ambassadors of Africa have the opportunity upon request to pay an official visit to the UNWTO headquarters. The secretariat uses these meetings to share information on the UNWTO Programme of Work, the adopted *UNWTO Agenda for Africa -inclusion for tourism growth* as well as the institutional meetings programmed for the year such as the 64th UNWTO CAF Meeting in Cabo Verde, to be held on 2 and 3rd September 2021, the WTD celebrations in Cote d'Ivoire, September 2021, the 24th UNWTO General Assembly in Marrakech in October 2021 and other upcoming activities. It is also an opportunity to discuss extensively on the needs of each country and identify areas of support of UNWTO. In March two meetings were conducted with the following high-level officials:

H.E. Mr. Lai Mohammed, Minister of Information and Culture of the Republic of Nigeria, 9th March 2021 (virtual meeting) and

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Adam, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to Spain, on 9th March 2021 (presential).





### **The resilience of the tourism sector in Benin**

In Benin, the tourism sector has been at the heart of public policies since 2016 through a vast and very ambitious government program. Important actions aimed at the renovation of existing tourist infrastructure and the creation of tourist zones for better tourism development have been underway since the start of the pandemic. Far from being discouraged by the impacts of the crisis, Benin has made bold choices.

To cope with the effects of the pandemic, the Government, rather than taking the option of closing borders, has taken strict measures to ensure the health safety of tourists. The acquisition of visas has been simplified and made almost automatic thanks to the digital e-visa platform. Aware that their closure would constitute a brake on the growth of tourism activity, the Beninese executive has kept key tourist sites open while ensuring anti-COVID measures are in place. Considerable support has been provided to tourism operators in order to mitigate the effects and to support the functioning of their businesses through a bonus fund. In addition, a response plan has been put in place to support the continuity of service for hotels and tourist complexes and travel agencies. A national campaign entitled the month of "local consumption" was organized to convince all Beninese of the importance of internal tourism and its contribution to rural development.

### **Internal tourism as a stimulus engine**

The health crisis did not dampen the Government's determination to develop tourism. It has stepped up the implementation of projects to develop domestic tourism, which according to UNWTO projections will restart faster than international tourism. Among the actions undertaken for the benefit of rural tourism, we note the development of tourism in the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve in northwestern Benin, the creation of the Tatas Route and the enhancement of tourist sites in communities with the contribution of local communities themselves. In the north of the country, for example, package tours have been set up, with considerable discounts for national residents. Also, new tourism products have been launched in Pendjari since the new season and on the Tatas Route with a view to strengthening the tourism offer. Internal tourism thus offers a journey of discovery of the rich heritage and landscapes of these communities as well as their way of life.

### **Ready to come back in force**

After the measures taken to mitigate the shock and the promotion of internal tourism to support the continuity of the service, Benin is preparing to come back in force. Heavy investments are being made in the construction of infrastructure, the seaside resorts, the reinvention of the lakeside city of Ganvié and the identical reconstruction of the historic city of Ouidah. Major reforms are also being undertaken with the aim of improving the quality of the tourist sectors. In short, the threat of the pandemic has been transformed into a great opportunity for Beninese and foreign visitors. The fight against the virus continues with method, strategy and determination. And Benin will emerge unscathed with regard to the relevance of the stimulus measures. Welcome to Benin!

## National COVID-19 Immunisation Campaign begins in Seychelles

Seychelles, one of the top tourist destinations for tourists, leaps towards immunization as the country launched its national COVID-19 Immunization Campaign on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

Leading by example, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, H E Wavel Ramkalawan, became the first Head of State in Africa to take the SinoPharm COVID-19 Vaccine.

Following the launch, the Seychelles Ministry of Health has rolled out the administering of the vaccine to key groups in the country, starting with healthcare workers and other front-line groups including the tourism industry operators.

In his address, President Ramkalawan restated the need for the country to unite and rally behind the Health Authorities to help curb the spread of this deadly virus, protect the lives of all citizens and restore economic development in the country.

President Ramkalawan also expressed special thanks to the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the generous donation of the 50,000 doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine that was offered during President Ramkalawan's visit to Abu Dhabi in December. "This is testimony to the excellent friendly ties that exist between the two nations that has been further consolidated through continuous

support for the mutual benefit of both peoples," the President added.

The President further thanked the Indian Government for an offer of 100,000 doses of the Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccine, which arrived in the country at the end of January 2021. "With such a robust vaccination campaign, Seychelles aims to be the first country in the world to vaccinate at least 70% of its over-18 population. From there we will be able to declare Seychelles as being COVID safe. This will allow us to reopen our economy," President Ramkalawan reiterated.

Speaking of the vaccination, Seychelles Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde mentioned the importance of this move by the government for the industry. "The COVID-19 immunization campaign is an important milestone for the restart of our tourism industry as the country balances its efforts to maintain its tourism activities and protect its population from further spread of the virus. The world has not come to a standstill and there are people who are still keen to travel. We need to fast rebuild our industry for our economic prosperity depends on it" said Minister Radegonde.

Minister Radegonde further stated the need for the tourism industry partners to remain vigilant for their safety and the safety of the population.

As of 15th February 2021 a total of 41,808 people amounting to 60% of the 70,000 population target have received their first dose of either the SinoPharm or Covishield vaccine and a total of 16,441 people have received the required two doses.





## Cabo Verde clears new paths and seeks the creation of a new narrative for Tourism of the islands

The touristic sector is, without a doubt, one of the most affected by the pandemic. In order to mitigate its effects, preparing the destination has been an important goal for Cape Verde's Government. In partnership and cooperation with several international organizations, under the theme "Cape Verde is a safe destination", a programme for the Recovery of Tourism was created, with emphasis on "Sanitary Safety of Cape Verde as a destination"; Product Qualification and Diversification; Social, Economical and Environmental Sustainability and Protection of Companies and Jobs". From this programme a series of projects were born, one of them being "caboverdesafe.com". A bilingual micro-website with accessible language that compiles useful and credible information about the sanitary situation of the country. Thinking of the future, Cape Verde clears new paths and seeks the creation of a new narrative for the tourism of the islands that must be, according to GOPEDS-T (Government's Tourism Sustainable Development Strategic Guidelines), sustainable and to the benefit of all.

To achieve this, the Government has pushed for the decentralization of touristic services, so as to promote and reinforce better access and proximity to them, namely through the establishment of the tourism Institute in one of the main entry points for tourism in the country - Sal island. Another impactful action has been to bring Tourism legislation up-to-date to facilitate the private sector and its agents' bigger and better development, starting with the approval of the new Tourism Utility Statute, Law nº22/2020 of March 13th.

In the scope of diversification, Tourism of Cape Verde has strongly focused on the training of tourism professionals for the qualitative leap intended for this key sector in the national economy. The Ministry of Tourism has promoted training on all the islands of around 2,500 professionals, in foreign languages, history and culture of Cape Verde, sanitary safety and consultancy. The training for Nature Guides is being prepared as the next area of intervention. In addition, hotel, bar and restaurant workers, taxi and minibus drivers, primarily on the touristic islands of Sal and Boa Vista, were trained in sanitary safety with the goal of receiving the "Bio&Safe" quality seal. Alongside this is the ongoing creation of two COVID-19 healthcare centers

in the islands of Sal and Boa Vista, providing services to the local population and visitors alike.

As a result of the approval of the vaccine by WHO, Cape Verde's Government has approved the plan for free-of-charge vaccination against COVID-19, which anticipates the immunization of 60% of the population by 2023.

With regards to the health sector, it is also worth mentioning the introduction of antigen tests for those who disembark in Cape Verde. Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the country has exercised intensive diplomatic works alongside the tourism source countries so as to guarantee that Cape Verde has the right conditions to welcome tourists safely. Safety will also be key to the success of "Remote Working", a programme created by the Ministry of Tourism that attempts to explore new niche markets.

Programme "ReInventa" (Reinvent) emerges as an open competition of ideas and innovation to identify the different niche issues of the tourism sector and to promote the development of digital solutions that allow for reinventing the way the country lives with the pandemic. Diversification of the national touristic offer is also empowered by the projects "Touristic and Environmental Valuing of Rural Villages", "Tourism and Local Housing/Accommodation" and "Promotion of the Aerial Connectivity of Cape Verde".

Hoping to foment Internal Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism and Transports, together with stakeholders of the sector, signed a multilateral protocol, grounded on facilitating and harmonizing actions to create a tourism product on the islands that stimulates and captivates those who wish to visit.

Aligned with the creation of this touristic product is the design of Cape Verde's Tourism Marketing Plan 2021-2023, a project with the participation of external consultancy and support of the World Bank. Established within this digital marketing plan, is a soon-to-be-released website promoting Cape Verde as a safe tourist destination of excellence.



## Mozambique- “CLEAN & SAFE SEAL”

### Purpose of Creating the Clean & Safe Seal Project

The Clean & Safe Seal was designed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism through the Instituto Nacional de Turismo I.P. with the aim of supporting different entities and service providers in the Hotel and Tourism Sector, as well as directly or indirectly intervening in the Tourism area in compliance with the Health Protocol in the context of COVID-19 and promoting Mozambique with a Clean & Safe.

### The stakeholders

- Ministry of Health - MISAU
- National Institute for Quality Standardization - INNOQ
- National Inspection of Economic Activities - INAE
- National Administration of Conservation Areas - ANAC
- Mozambique Television TVM - E.P.
- Mozambican Federation of Tourism and Hospitality - FEMOTUR



### Expected results

- Hotel and Tourism services with “excellence” for tourists (in the context of COVID-19);
- Ensure strict compliance with hygiene, cleanliness and safety rules as well as the implementation of the Internal Health Protocols vis-à-vis COVID-19

- The entities covered by the Clean & Insurance Label are sensitized;
- Promoted Mozambique as a Clean & Safe destination; and
- Adherence of all entities involved through the platform

**[selomocambique.limpoeseguro.gov.mz](https://selomocambique.limpoeseguro.gov.mz)**

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## UNWTO Global response to COVID-19

Please click here :

<https://www.unwto.org/tourism-covid-19>



## Remote working programs and COVID-19 vaccination campaigns

More than a year since the start of the pandemic, the international travel and tourism sector is still resiliently pursuing the path towards the recovery from the severe economic impact that the global health crisis.

In this regard, UNWTO is pleased to announce that several Member States have already launched and initiated COVID-19 vaccination programs and campaigns with the long-term perspective of restarting the tourism sector safely so as to confidently welcome domestic, regional and international tourists again in the strict respect of health and hygiene COVID-19 protocols.

Also, some countries from the continent, especially Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), have recently introduced remote working visas and programs as a tool to revive the tourism sector. These allow international nomads to work remotely while enjoying the beauties of wonderful tourism destinations.

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## Remote Working Programmes and Visas

- **Cabo Verde launches its Remote Working Program**

Please find more information [here](#)

Please click [here](#) to look at the promotional video

- **The Seychelles Tourism Board kicks off the “Workation Program”**

Please find more information [here](#)

- **Premium Travel Visa: the new way forward for Mauritius tourism sector**

Please find more information [here](#)

Please click [here](#) to look at the promotional video

### Visit Rwanda Reopens

<https://www.visitrwanda.com/rwanda-reopens/>

## Vaccination programmes

- **Ghana becomes recipient of historic first shipment of Covax vaccine**

Please find more information [here](#)

- **Côte d'Ivoire becomes first French Speaking country to receive vaccine doses through Covax**

Please find more information [here](#)

- **Mauritius launches its COVID-19 vaccination programme**

- Please find more information [here](#)

- **Morocco: Health Minister Welcomes Great Adherence of Citizens to National Anti-Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign**

Please find more information [here](#)

- **COVAX expects to start sending millions of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa in February**

Please find more information [here](#)

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## FACILITY CONCEPT SERVICES FROM OUR AFFILIATE MEMBER

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The Regional Department for Africa is pleased to count on Facility Concept as one of its Affiliate Member.

With its international network and its expertise in the tourism sector, Facility Concept can support tourism stakeholders in the development of their projects.

Their mission is to strengthen the vision, develop a coherent strategy and support their customer in their growth.

Find out more about their services [here](#)

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## POSITIVE STORIES FROM THE REGION

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**The Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) have elected H.E. Felix- Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as the new Chairperson of the African Union for the year 2021.** <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20210206/president-felix-antoine-tshisekedi-tshilombo-takes-over-new-chairperson>

**The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union has re-elected Moussa Faki Mahamat from the Republic of Chad, as the African Union Commission Chairperson for another four-year term from 2021-2024.** <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20210206/34th-au-summit-reelects-moussa-faki-chairperson-au-commission#:~:text=The%20election%20took%20place%20on,the%20ongoing%20Covid%2D19%20pandemic.&text=Faki%20will%20be%20deputised%20by,Dr.>

**Breaking the glass ceiling is a win for all women as history is made: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria chosen as Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).** WTO members made history on 15th February 2021 when the General Council agreed by consensus to select her as the organization's seventh Director-General. When she takes office on 1 March, she will become the first woman and the first African to be chosen as Director-General. Her term, renewable, will expire on 31 August 2025. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news21\\_e/dgno\\_15feb21\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/dgno_15feb21_e.htm)

**World Bank Group President David Malpass today announced the appointment of Makhtar Diop as Managing Director and Executive Vice President to head the International Finance Corporation (IFC),** an arm of the World Bank Group that advances economic development and improves the lives of people by encouraging growth of the private sector in developing countries. <https://pressroom.ifc.org/all/pages/PressDetail.aspx?ID=26206>

**MTN partners with African Union on COVID-19 vaccinations in Africa.** In a unique public/private partnership, MTN, Africa's leading mobile network, has announced a donation of US\$25 million to support the African Union's COVID-19 vaccination programme. <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20210128/mtn-partners-african-union-covid-19-vaccinations-africa>



**Ethiopian Airlines has transported more than 95 million stems of flowers for Valentine's Day.** <https://www.logupdateafrica.com/ethiopian-airlines-carries-over-95-mn-stems-of-flowers-from-nairobi-addis-ababa-air-cargo>

**Côte d'Ivoire, São Tomé, and Príncipe will receive syringes for Covid-19 vaccines in the first wave of shipments from UNICEF.** "In this global fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, syringes are as vital as the vaccine itself," said UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore. "It is critical to have adequate supplies of syringes already in place in every country before the vaccine arrives so that the vaccine can be administered safely." <https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/unicef-begins-shipping-syringes-global-rollout-covid-19-vaccines-under-covax#:~:text=%E2%80%9CIn%20this%20global%20fight%20against,vaccine%20can%20be%20administered%20safely.>

**RwandAir expands into Central Africa with new route to Bangui.** The launch of the new intra-African service to the Central African Republic is part of RwandAir's recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as it opens up new markets and destinations. <https://www.rwandair.com/media-center/news-press-releases/rwandair-expands-into-central-africa-with-new-route-to-bangui/#:~:text=Kigali%2D%20January%2028%2C%202021,up%20new%20markets%20and%20destinations.>

**EgyptAir to help launch new Ghanaian flag carrier.** Ghanaian government concluded negotiations with EgyptAir for a joint venture that will establish a new national airline in Ghana. <https://www.logupdateafrica.com/egyptair-ghana-ink-pact-for-a-new-flag-carrier-aviation>

**South Africa launches historic Tourism Equity Fund that may serve as global model.** The TEF is a dedicated fund that provides a combination of grant funding, concessionary loans and debt finance to support equity acquisitions as well as new and expansion developments in the tourism sector by black entrepreneurs. [https://www.tourism.gov.za/CurrentProjects/Tourism\\_Equity\\_Fund/Pages/Tourism\\_Equity\\_Fund.aspx](https://www.tourism.gov.za/CurrentProjects/Tourism_Equity_Fund/Pages/Tourism_Equity_Fund.aspx)

**Gambia Tourism Minister launches tourism policy and strategy development.** <https://www.voicegambia.com/2021/02/10/new-national-tourism-policy-will-provide-policy-framework-for-sustainable-tourism-industry/>

**Addis Ababa Culture, Art and Tourism Bureau said that it has partnered with Tourism Ethiopia to launch Addis Ababa's first-ever tourism brand** in view to enhancing the promotion of tourism opportunities in the metropolis. <https://www.press.et/english/?p=30034#>

**Kenya Tourism unveils new signature experiences.** The Magical Kenya Signature Experiences (MKSE) held to recognise outstanding tourism offerings among Kenyan travel industry players. <https://www.magicalkenya.com/mkse/>

**Mauritius unveils Covid-19 vaccination programme as it plans to safely reopen borders to tourism.** <https://www.mymauritius.travel/articles/mauritius-launches-covid-19-vaccinations>

**Air Côte d'Ivoire receives its first Airbus A320neo.** Air Côte d'Ivoire, flagship carrier based in Abidjan, has taken delivery of its first A320neo, becoming the first operator of the type in the West-African region. <https://www.airbus.com/newsroom/press-releases/en/2021/02/air-cte-divoire-receives-its-first-airbus-a320neo.html>

**Uganda Airlines flies further with its brand-new A330neo.** <https://www.airbus.com/newsroom/press-releases/en/2020/12/uganda-airlines-flies-further-with-its-brandnew-a330neo.html>



## Upcoming events

### **12th edition of INVESTOUR**

Madrid, SPAIN

Date: 20 May 2021 (FITUR 19 May 2021 – 23 May 2021)

**Strengthening Brand Africa for the Swift recovery of the Tourism Sector,**  
Windhoek, Namibia, 14-16 June 2021

**64th Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) Cabo Verde  
and 2nd Edition of the UNWTO Global Tourism Investment Forum,**  
Sal Island, Cabo Verde Date: 2-3 September 2021

**World Tourism Day 2021 under the theme “Tourism for Inclusive Growth”**  
Abidjan, CÔTE D'IVOIRE.  
Date: 27 September 2021

**24th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly**  
Marrakech, MOROCCO  
October 2021 (dates tbc)

**Ministerial Conference UNWTO/WAEMU : Perspectives on Security and  
Resilience for the tourism sector**  
Dakar, Senegal (22-24 November 2021)

## Contact us

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