The focus on food and plastic waste as drivers of a circular economy approach

5th July 2023
Circular Economy and Tourism

Plastics and Food Waste as entry points

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Global Tourism Plastics Initiative


UNWTO
World Tourism Organization

UN Environment Programme

Global Commitment
Signatories commit to:

- A vision of a **circular economy for plastics**
- **Eliminate** problematic or unnecessary plastic items and packaging
- Integrate **reuse models** or reusable alternatives
- **Collaborate** to increase recycled content and recycling and composting rates
- Report publicly and annually on progress made

- Sectoral interface of New Plastics Economy Global Commitment
- Sectoral readiness for the upcoming Plastic treaty
- 162 signatories (mainly businesses – 50 new signatories per year)
- Strong linkages with the Blue Economy agenda (together with the Glasgow Initiative)
Support to signatories:

- **Knowledge management**: Trainings, participatory development of methodologies and research.
- **Monitoring and reporting**: Reporting platform, guidance on measurement of plastic footprint.
- **Advocacy and communications**: High-level events, online events, awareness raising campaigns.
Which stakeholders can become signatories?

The problem of plastic pollution is too big for any organization to solve on its own. Therefore, everyone has a role to play.

Tour operators and platforms
Destinations
Supporting organizations
Cruise lines
Accommodation providers
Suppliers
Airlines (if part of TO)

Governments (national/local), businesses and civil society can become signatories.
Problematic and Unnecessary Plastics

Not reusable, nor recyclable or compostable

Contains, or is manufactured with, hazardous chemicals

Can be avoided or replaced while maintaining utility

Hinders or disrupts the recyclability or compostability of other elements

Has a high likelihood of being littered or ending up in the natural environment
TOP PRIORITY – Category 1

- Bags (garbage and others)
- Mini toiletry bottles
- Packaging around dry room amenities
- Stirrer
- Straws
- Takeaway containers
- Takeaway cups
- Takeaway cup lids
- Takeaway cutleries
- Toothbrushes
- Water bottles (below 750ml)
ADDRESSING POLLUTION FROM SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS:
A LIFE CYCLE APPROACH
KEY MESSAGES FOR TOURISM BUSINESSES

ADDRESSING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN TOURISM THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT
RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE

GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE
PLASTICS MEASUREMENT METHODOLOGY FOR ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR TO CONTINUE TAKING ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION DURING COVID-19 RECOVERY
Global Roadmap on Food Waste Reduction in Tourism

A consistent framework for Tourism stakeholders to embrace the sustainable management of food so that it never becomes waste.
The roadmap calls to:

- Support the implementation of SDG 12.3
- Prevent food waste and surplus
- Redistribute surplus food (to people)
- Divert (circulate) food waste from landfill through revalorization processes
The Global Food System

The global food system is an important driver of biodiversity loss. One third of the food produced is wasted.

- 30% Global GHG emissions
- 50% Habitable land occupied
- 70% Fresh water we consume
77% of National Tourism Policies identify food as a competitive advantage

Food waste in the hospitality and food service represents the loss of USD 100 billion annually

Tourism businesses source food from globally

Only 3 national tourism policies portray a sustainable food approach

Measurement of food related impacts is limited
Food Measurement Challenges

- General estimates do not describe the tourism sector
- There are no reference values by type of business
- Smart scales are generating most of the data available
- Many of the estimates available are not comparable
- Conversion into CO2 does not take into account the life cycle of products
- Business case for savings undocumented
Targets and Milestones

**Accommodation**
- By 2030, *halve food waste* per guest night
- *Divert 100% of food waste from landfill* or where the infrastructure does not exist divert 50% by 2030.

**Cruise**
- By 2030, *halve food waste* per guest day
- Increase capacity onboard (or in port) to process 100% of residual food waste, avoiding the need to discharge to sea by 2030
Measurement Guidance

01 Define a 12-month period and scope of operations

02 Quantify the tonnage of food waste

03 Define the inclusion or exclusion of unedible parts

04 Express food waste in terms of food waste (kg) per guest night/day

05 Describe the scope and methods of measurement and reporting
Thank you

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