Measuring environmental sustainability of Tourism - A UN perspective

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United Nations Statistical Commission decisions on SF-MST in 2022 and 2023

53th session (2022)

• “Encouraged the finalization of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism for future submission to the Commission and, noted the strong interest from countries in this work” (Decision 53/115 (j)).

54th session (2023)

• Noted the update provided on the statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism, encouraged the finalization of the document, and welcomed its future submission to the Commission. (Decision 54/110 (m))
SEEA - Governance mechanism

UN Statistical Commission

UN Committee of Expert on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)

UNCEEA Bureau

Area A: Coordination and communication
- Strengthening collaboration
- Identifying entry points for NCA:
  - circular economy
  - biodiversity
  - climate change
  - ocean

Area B1: Methodology
- SEEA CF research agenda
- SNA update
- Classifications ISIC/CPC/COFOG

Area B2: Methodology
- SEEA EA research agenda
- WG on Forest Ecosystem Accounts
- WG on Ocean Accounts
- Classifications ISIC/CPC/COFOG

Area C: Data
- Data collection/dissemination
- Global assessment
- WG on Ocean Accounts
- ARIES for SEEA

Area D: Capacity building
- Global assessment
- Capacity building
Process

- Environmental Chapter of the Statistical Framework for MST was circulated to the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee for review from 7 June to 28 July
- Upcoming consultations
  - Presentation of latest SF-MST at the SEEA CF Technical Committee
  - Global consultation on SF-MST will be launched by UNWTO in partnership with UNSD
Comments from the environmental-economic accounting communities

- Responses from UNCEEA members to the previous round of the consultation process
- Earlier comments from Environmental-Economic Accounts Section of UNSD on Chapter 4 have been taken on board for further consideration
  - Linking tourism characteristic activities with the revised ISIC classification
  - Connection between tourism and ecosystems
  - Activities of tourism industries aimed at improving environmental outcome
  - Attribute of environmental flows to tourism - Residence vs territorial principal
- SF-MST provides an illustration on integration of environmental, social and economic information to official statistics
  - The application of the international statistical standard and recommendation, such as the SNA, SEEA, ISIC Rev 5, CPC 3.0, to SF-MST can ensure the relevance and robustness of the framework, and to facility the integration among the different dimensions of official statistics to answer the question on sustainability.
Summary

- Welcome the development of the chapter 4 on measuring the environmental dimension
- Support the application of the principles of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the measurement of the tourism-economic connection
- Support the MST process towards its finalization
THANK YOU

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