Introducing the Tourism Satellite Account in the Seychelles

15th December 2022
The Tourism Department in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the National Bureau of Statistics set out to develop a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for the Seychelles in January 2019.

Unfortunately, the project faced delays due to the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent travel restrictions.

**Project Objectives:**
- Assess the system of tourism statistics in Seychelles.
- Improve the information base for making decisions on planning, policymaking, marketing, promoting and regulation in the sector.
- Compilation of a first experimental TSA so that the economic importance of tourism can be measured using the same concepts, classifications, and definitions as other sectors of the economy.
- To make comparisons between tourism with other sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, and manufacturing.

The TSA officially launched on **Monday 12th September, 2022** and is currently in its implementation phase.
What Did We Find?

An Experimental Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for the Seychelles for the years 2014 to 2020 was developed.

The TSA for 2019 showed that tourism contributed 17.3% to Gross Value Added (GVA).

The various contributors towards Gross Value Added:
- Accommodation 60%
- Passenger Transport 19%
- Food and Beverages 4%
- Car Hire 3%
- Travel Agencies/Tours 7%
- Recreation 5%
- Other 2%
Obstacles We Face

- Some of the data gathered are subjected to human error and may not be entirely accurate.
- Slow communication between agencies lead to delays in compiling data for the TSA and may affect its implementation.
- Lack of resources and labour for the data compilation and analysis.
- Reliance of the Tourism Department for statistics on other agencies.
- Lack of data compilation during the COVID-19 pandemic has affected trends.
- No capacity for the Seychelles to store data.
Next Steps

Pilot Phase of TSA
- Travizory Online Survey

Implementation of TSA
- Possible creation of a data compilation & analysis Section within the Department

Establishment of TSA
- Compilation of TSA Report annually & use of data for policies

After TSA
- Moving towards Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST)
Why MST?

- The Tourism Department has been implementing sustainability in various ways without the capacity to measure it.

- Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) will be a statistical framework that will link with the established Tourism Satellite Account of Seychelles.

- The Tourism Department is working towards bringing greater structure towards sustainability through:
  - Developing a Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework
  - Greater focus on the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL)
  - Implementation of Carrying Capacity Study recommendations
Pilot Phase of MST

- In 2019, the Tourism Department commissioned the Carrying Capacity Studies for the 3 principal islands (Mahe, Praslin & La Digue) which were completed in 2021.

- The Cabinet of Ministers approved the recommendations for La Digue island as it echoed the La Digue Island Vision 2032 that being “The Eco Tourism Island Destination of Seychelles sought after by visitors and locals alike for its pristine beauty, tranquility and friendliness”.

- The Department is currently channeling its resources towards a Visitor Use Management Plan and Hotel Development Strategic Plan to ensure sustainable tourism development on the Island.

- There is also a need to measure the level of sustainability on the island hence why there is intent to establish a pilot of MST for La Digue.

- Once the pilot is successfully implemented same can be adapted and adopted Nationally.
Thank You For Listening...

Any Questions?