

Glasgow Declaration Pact
Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation
Climate Action Plan

1. Background

The Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation is a local Non-Governmental Organisation based on Mahé, the main island of the Seychelles archipelago. SSTF's vision is to make Seychelles an international best practice example for sustainable tourism through an integrated collaborative approach with public & private sector stakeholders, academia and NGOs. The foundation's mission is to act as a cleaning house that deals full time with sustainable tourism that connects, collects, shares, implements and raises funds for this endeavour. Through its Global Sustainable Tourism Council-criteria based action plan, the SSTF aims to support a number of environmental and social sustainable tourism projects in Seychelles, connecting different stakeholders, upscaling initiatives and pushing for sustainable change. SSTF's area of intervention covers research, outreach & education, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement in sustainable tourism matters.

Climate Change Impacts and Action Seychelles' Tourism Industry

Tourism, an industry dependent on the natural environment and climatic conditions, is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. According to recent climate projections (CMIP5) for the Seychelles region, mean annual pre-industrial temperature levels will rise by 1.5°C in 2050 and mean annual precipitation will rise by 70.1mm in 2050. This will have significant negative impacts on Seychelles' critical infrastructure, such as the international airport, the port, primary roads, energy plants, and hotels, and will additionally threaten local livelihood and biodiversity (Etongo et al. 2021). This will undoubtedly be detrimental to tourism, the economic pillar of Seychelles.

Although Seychelles itself contributes insignificantly to global GHG emissions, it still depends on long-haul travel and tourism continues to put a strain on natural resources & ecosystems that act as carbon sinks. It is therefore both an environmental and socio-economic imperative for Seychelles' tourism industry to address its carbon footprint and build climate resilience. Seychelles holds precious blue carbon sinks in its coastal and marine environment (e.g. seagrass and mangroves), and tourism plays a key role in helping preserve and manage such ecosystems.

Based on observations, past projects and stakeholder consultations, the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation feels that there is still a lack of climate awareness, education, and action within the tourism industry. There is a need to build climate literacy & awareness and transfer climate adaptation tools amongst tourism professionals to appropriately address and prepare for future climate change impacts.

2. Climate Action Plan

Although there is some local climate change communication material (e.g. Preparing for Climate Change in the Tourism Sector, Ministry of Tourism) and a nationally-led sustainable tourism certification tool (i.e. the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label), these are not necessarily known or understood by the majority of private tourism stakeholders. Having worked with other local NGOs on climate change capacity building within the tourism industry and conducted small scale research on the SSTL, SSTF has noticed that a lot more communication and awareness is needed on the existing climate tools and material developed for the tourism sector.

Guided by Seychelles' 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), SSTF wants the Climate Action Plan to contribute to the national climate adaptation and mitigation commitments, addressing the following NDC goals:

- Give special attention to the engagement of SMEs in climate change adaptation, since Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are often less capable of adapting to climate change
- Continue building local adaptation capacity in the tourism sector, tertiary education institutions such as the University of Seychelles' Master in Sustainable Tourism and the Seychelles Tourism Academy
- Increase promotion & certification of tourism establishments under the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL)

Through workshops, trainings, and communication toolkits, SSTF, aims to raise more climate awareness amongst local tourism stakeholders and provide them with existing & new tools and knowledge to implement sustainable practices and communicate effectively their impact. As guided by the NDCs, the project will target primarily SMEs and relevant academic bodies, namely tourism establishments (i.e. hotels & guest houses/self caterings), tour guides & boat charters, tour operators/DMCs, and academic institutes, namely Seychelles Tourism Academy, Seychelles Maritime Academy, and UniSey students/teachers.

The main activities will include workshops & trainings, the development of material & communication toolkits and the creation of a dialogue space for tourism establishments to share best practices, challenges and needs to become more sustainable and climate resilient. The project will also be in support of the Tourism's Department plan to develop a sustainability tourism brand and enhance the SSTL.

The 2023 – 2024 climate action plan objectives

Target audience: Tour guides/boat charters, Destination Management Companies/Tour Operators, small-medium hotels, tourism students

Focal Area: Capacity Building for a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Tourism Industry in Seychelles

Total funding secured for 2023: SCR131,000

Objectives:	Indicators	Funding secured?	Timeframe
1. Diffuse information about the Glasgow Declaration "Climate Action in Tourism" amongst	Emails sent to members and network, whatsapp group communication	Not needed	2022 – 2023

members, colleagues, and tourism private sector stakeholders			
2. Develop a communications material to inform visitors how to plan for a low-carbon holiday in Seychelles, measure their impact, and support biodiversity restoration and protection in Seychelles	“Tips for a sustainable and low-carbon holiday in Seychelles’ mini booklet developed and distributes amongst DMCs/tour operators, and other relevant tourism stakeholders.	Yes (National Grant)	July – September 2023
3. Train Tour Guides & Boat Charters on the Nationally Determined Contributions, impacts of climate change on the tourism private sector, and practical ways to adapt to and take climate action as a business (Mahe & Praslin)	Sustainability & Climate Resilience Workshops for Tour Guides & Boat Charters on Mahe & Praslin, 30 participants	Yes (National Grant)	October – November 2023
4. Train Tour Operators/DMCs on the Nationally Determined Contributions, impacts of climate change on the tourism private sector, and practical ways to adapt to and take climate action as a business (Mahe)	Sustainability & Climate Resilience Workshop for Tour Operators/DMCs on Mahe, 20 participants	Yes (National Grant)	October – November 2023
5. Conduct a sustainable and climate-focused tourism study tour for 20 students/teachers from the Seychelles Tourism Academy and University of Seychelles	Sustainable and climate-focused study tour for 20 STA/Uni students	Yes (National Grant)	November 2023
6. Educate small-medium tourism establishments on Mahe, Praslin & La Digue on the NDCs and provide them with the appropriate tools to successfully apply for sustainable tourism certification	SSTL training material & programme developed. Three half-day SSTL/climate resilience workshops completed on Mahe & Praslin, covering 40 participants	No	TBD
7. Creation of a network and dialogue space for tourism establishments to discuss sustainability & climate resilience matters	One “Towards a More Resilient Tourism” round-table event, 50 – 70 Participants. WhatsApp group formed between all sustainability managers working in the hospitality sector and network officialized.	No	TBD