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Progress on the development of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

**Fourteenth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)
United Nations New York
24-25 June 2019**

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Outline

- **Developing the Statistical Framework of MST**
- **MST and SDGs, SEEA**
- **Process and Tentative Timeline**

Developing the Statistical Framework of MST

**2017 UN
International Year
of Sustainable
Tourism**



**UN 2030
Sustainable
Agenda and
the SDGs**



**Linking
SEEA and
TSA**

**6th International
Conference on
Tourism Statistics
held in Manila last
June 2017**

**Manila Call to Action:
Develop the Statistical
Framework for Measuring
Sustainable Tourism
(joint declaration of Ministers,
Statisticians, etc.)**



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Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST)

- **is a major innovative initiative with the objective to expand the existing statistical frameworks (IRTS & TSA);**
- **launched in the framework of the UN 2030 Sustainable Agenda, with participation of countries, UNSD and international organizations;**



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Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

- **UNWTO is custodian agency of 3 indicators and coordinates the development of tourism related indicators with countries and through the coordination within the formal process of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators;**
- **UN Statistical Commission recognises MST as the framework for the derivation of SDG indicators**



Developing the Statistical Framework for MST

- **A call by countries was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Committee Meeting in March 2017**
- **Manila Call for Action in June 2017 - joint declaration of ministries & statisticians, etc**
- **September 2017 reinforcement by the UNWTO General Assembly as a key area of work**



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Developing the Statistical Framework for MST

- **Firm support from UNWTO General Assembly, Executive Council, Regional Commissions and the Committee on Statistics**



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- **The Working Group (WG) of Experts on MST**, leading the development of SF-MST, is a multidisciplinary group with sub-groups working on specific issues (social, spatial, SDGs, implementation, communications);
- The WG is composed of UNCEEA members, tourism people (from tourism statistics, accounting, policy, management), ministry of environment, international organizations and academia.



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The Working Group (WG) on MST

- Seeks to bring together, learn from, and engage relevant data users and producers:

- Tourism statistics**
- Environment statistics**
- National accounts, employment, trade**
- Environmental-economic accounting**
- Tourism satellite accounts**
- Transport and mobility**
- Geo-spatial and regional statistics**



MST and SDG Indicators

Sustainable tourism is “tourism that takes full account of its current and future **economic, social** and **environmental** impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industries, the environment and host communities...



Target 8.9 – by 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

In addition to current Tier II Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism Direct GDP (economic indicator), the UNWTO Committee on Statistics proposes to:

- Adjust current 8.9.2 indicator by “Number of Employees in the tourism Industries” (social indicator)
- Add indicator 8.9.3 “Energy use in the tourism industries” (environmental indicator based on the SEEA and TSA)



MST and SDG Indicators



Target 12.b – develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for **sustainable tourism** that creates jobs, promotes local culture and products.

The UNWTO Committee proposes to replace current Tier III indicator by “Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability”.

- In operational terms, it means stage of implementation of the MST core accounting frameworks: the TSA and SEEA (in number of tables produced by countries).



MST and its Links to SEEA

1. Accounts for environmental flows for tourism industries

- **Water including flows of wastewater**
- **Energy**
- **Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**
- **Solid waste**



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MST and its Links to SEEA

- 2. Measuring Tourism related environmental assets**
- 3. Measuring Tourism related environmental transactions**



Process / Tentative Timelines

June 2019	New versions of different chapters of SF-MST being reviewed by the Editorial Board
June - Sept 2019	Revised SF-MST for Global Consultation; SEEA Technical Committee endorsement of Chapter on Environment
Oct - Sept 2019 until March 2020	Incorporate comments from SEEA TC & present to UNCEEA for endorsement
	Revise SF-MST based on global consultation feedback, final consultations, revise SF-MST, finalize and submission to UNSC



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**thank
you!**

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