
UN Tourism Inputs to the UN Secretary-General’s Report on “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations”

Accelerating climate action in tourism

The [Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism](#) presents a unified framework for tourism stakeholders to accelerate climate action and contribute to the achievement of the goals set in the Paris Agreement. The Declaration operates as a voluntary commitment where signatories commit to support the global goals of halving emissions by 2030 and achieving Net Zero by 2050 at the latest; to develop climate action plans aligned with five pathways: measure, decarbonize, regenerate, collaborate and finance; to report on an annual basis on progress achieved; and to work in a collaborate spirit to ensure knowledge transfer and scale-up impacts.

As for 31 December 2023, 10 organizations from the Caribbean Region have signed the Glasgow Declaration: Antigua and Barbuda (1), Aruba (1), Barbados (2), Dominican Republic (2) and, Saint Lucia (4).

Building a circular economy of plastics in tourism

The [Global Tourism Plastics Initiative \(GTPI\)](#) unites the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. The initiative supports the readiness of tourism vis à vis the upcoming international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The initiative operates as a voluntary commitment where signatories commit to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastics, to introduce reuse models or reusable alternatives; to foster collaboration with suppliers and waste managers; and to report on progress on an annual basis, with the aim to shift to a circular economy of plastics in tourism. As for 31 December 2023, 4 organizations from the Caribbean Region have signed the GTPI: Dominican Republic (3) and Saint Lucia (1).

Advancing Biodiversity Action: Nature Positive Tourism Partnership

At COP15 in Montreal, in December 2022, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), UN Tourism and the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance announced a new collaboration to unite public and private sectors towards a shared nature positive vision for travel and tourism to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Signatories from the travel and tourism sector pledged to adopt a nature positive approach to tourism. This includes integrating biodiversity safeguards, reducing carbon emissions, mitigating the impact of pollution, curtailing the unsustainable use of resources, and protecting and restoring nature and wildlife.

[The Partnership](#) is supporting and inspiring governments, businesses, and civil society to implement the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Kunming-Montreal (GBF), the UN’s Biodiversity Plan, particularly Targets 14, 15 & 16 on mainstreaming, assess and reduce impacts and on sustainable use, respectively, in order to do its part to preserve the planet for future generations.

Launched on 22 April, Earth Day 2024, [“Nature Positive Travel & Tourism in Action”](#) is the first joint outcome of the Partnership as the sector’s pledge to support the implementation of the GBF. The report presents more than 30 case studies, including from Costa Rica and Mexico,

of inspiring and progressive actions from around the world involving large and small businesses, national and local government agencies, civil society groups, and inter-sectoral partnerships. By offering actionable guidance and insights, this report not only highlights the intrinsic link between biodiversity and tourism's resilience, but also empowers businesses to become stewards of nature.

Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism Pilots

"Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism – Lessons from Pilots" draws on 12 case studies from around the world. In each case, they show how tourism's impacts are being measured on the ground, both at the national level and at specific regions and destinations. These pilots provide concrete data for use by destination managers and policymakers. They also contributed to the development of the [Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism](#), which aims to become the leading global statistical standard for the sector.

- [Costa Rica Pilot on "Estimating the Economic Contribution of Nature-Based Tourism"](#), case study included in the UN Tourism publication *Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism – Learning from Pilots*.

- [Mexico Pilot on Scaling Up the Status of the MST Pilot to a National Project](#), case study included in the UN Tourism publication *Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism – Learning from Pilots*

- A Virtual Side Event on "Better data for a Better Tourism in SIDS", is being organized under the auspice of the UN 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), in Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 27-30 May 2024: <https://tourism4sdgs.org/events/better-data-for-a-better-tourism-in-sids/>

UN Tourism International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO)

A network of tourism observatories, [INSTO](#) seeks to support and connect destinations that are committed to regular monitoring of economic, environmental, and social impacts of tourism, fostering a dynamic network of partners that strives towards creating healthy places for both visitors and the host communities while leaving resilient destinations to future generations.

The initiative is based on UN Tourism's long-standing commitment to the sustainable and resilient growth of the sector through measurement and monitoring, supporting the evidence-based management of tourism and fostering sustainable tourism practices. There are currently 44 worldwide members in INSTO, including one in the USA (Sonoma) and four in Mexico (Guanajuato, Nuevo Leon, Yucatán, and Tlaxcala).

Regional Past events

2020: The Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) and UN Tourism, in collaboration with other key regional and international partners, hosted in September 2020 a [Webinar on Food Supply & Tourism in the Caribbean: Mitigating the Impacts of COVID 19 and Accelerating Recovery](#), to address the fundamental issues surrounding agrotourism linkages in the Caribbean in particular, and the LAC region in general.

2021: In February 2021, a [Workshop on Tourism Statistics with a focus on the Caribbean](#) was held in collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization for the countries of this region.

2021: UN Tourism joined forces with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the

Organization of American States (OAS) to work on the review and harmonization of [biosafety protocols for the tourism sector](#) in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

2023: Award of 240 regular scholarships in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) program (7 beneficiaries and 1 Associate State) and 150 special scholarships: +100 (Haiti) +50 (Cayman Islands).
