Background information

Rising carbon emissions are accelerating climate change with devastating impacts on communities and biodiversity. The hotel industry already accounts for around 1% of global emissions and this is set to increase as the hospitality industry continues to grow.

The International Tourism Partnership works with leading hotel groups worldwide to drive sustainability by sharing best practices, offering practical products and programmes and facilitating collaboration in one of the world’s biggest industries. Hoteliers around the world, however big and small, have access to resources at no cost, enabling them to drive their own responsible business agendas.

The International Tourism Partnership’s members are BC Hospitality Group, Caesars Entertainment, Deutsche Hospitality, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Hilton, Hyatt, Indian Hotels Company Ltd, InterContinental Hotels Group, Marriott International, NH Hotel Group, Radisson Hotel Group, Scandic Hotels, Soneva, and Wyndham Hotels and Resorts.

The challenge

Purchasing decisions can have significant environmental and social impacts, particularly for the tourism and hospitality sectors, which often find themselves under pressure to import large numbers of goods, including food, from distant countries to cater for guests’ demands. Hotels’ supply chains are often global, complex and influenced by multiple financial, quality and management factors. This complexity makes it difficult to create a level playing field where all companies can apply similar solutions to reduce their impact. Furthermore, procurement processes in hotels are often decentralised and do not provide the critical mass necessary to have decision leverage with suppliers.
The strategy

The International Tourism Partnership has published several guidelines and factsheets on this topic, which are available to its member companies and the wider hotel industry:

- Know-how guide on reducing and managing food waste in hotels
- Know-how guide on sourcing sustainable food in hotels
- Know-how guide on responsible procurement
- Know-how guide on sustainability in the kitchen – food and drink
- ITP Manual: Environmental management for hotels – Chapter 7: Purchasing and Supply Chains

The International Tourism Partnership is currently working with the hotel industry to identify commodities that have the most impact on climate change, water resources and human rights to create sustainable alternatives. This work will include procurement, on which ITP will develop recommendations that will enable hotels and hotel chains to identify environmentally and socially preferable products in a practical manner when making purchasing decisions.

Impacts

These guidelines and factsheets are available for the whole industry through the Green Hotelier website, which receives more than 20,000 unique visitors each month.

“Our unique collaboration with leading hotel brands gives us the ability to discuss and influence good practices in procurement across our member companies. By enabling pre-competitive dialogue and collaboration, we strive to create impact by increasing the corporate demand for responsibly produced goods and services worldwide.

Thanks to the reach and power of our collective, each step we will take on sustainable procurement will generate a multiplier effect.”

- Madhu Rajesh, ITP Director

For further information

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1 Source: International Tourism Partnership.
3 http://www.greenhotelier.org/know-how-guides/sourcing-sustainable-food-in-hotels/
4 http://www.greenhotelier.org/our-themes/responsible-procurement/
6 http://www.greenhotelier.org/our-manuals/environmental-management-for-hotels/chapter-7-purchasing-supply-chains/
7 http://www.greenhotelier.org