



TRANSFORMING TOURISM VALUE CHAINS

IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO ACCELERATE MORE RESOURCE-EFFICIENT, LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT



LOUIE MARTINEZ

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Building Back Better for a Sustainable Tourism Industry

The Transforming Tourism Value Chains project is a 4-year global initiative that was launched in 2017 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It supports the countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resource efficiency in key tourism sector value chains with high resource use, i.e. accommodation, food & beverage, and meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE). Transforming the sector to low carbon, resource efficient operations, requires an increase in sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices by businesses and tourists through more coherent actions in countries.



10th PSTAG Meeting to Support Tourism Industry During COVID-19

The goal of the 10th Philippine Stakeholders Advisory Group (PSTAG) Meeting held on June 5, 2020 was to present to members [the proposed project activities and prioritized actions for the project given the COVID-19 pandemic](#), which heavily impacted the country's tourism industry. During the virtual meeting, potential impacts of the pandemic on the global tourism industry were highlighted in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals. Initial results of a survey launched by UNEP in assessing these impacts were then presented to give the PSTAG members a qualitative view of the challenges and the directions being taken by tourism stakeholders.

It was stressed during the meeting that sustainability is still very much relevant and valuable especially with the pandemic today and its environmental and socio-economic impacts on the industry, hence the crucial role of the project's [Roadmap for Low-Carbon and Resource Efficient Tourism in the Philippines](#). Some of the proposed solutions are:

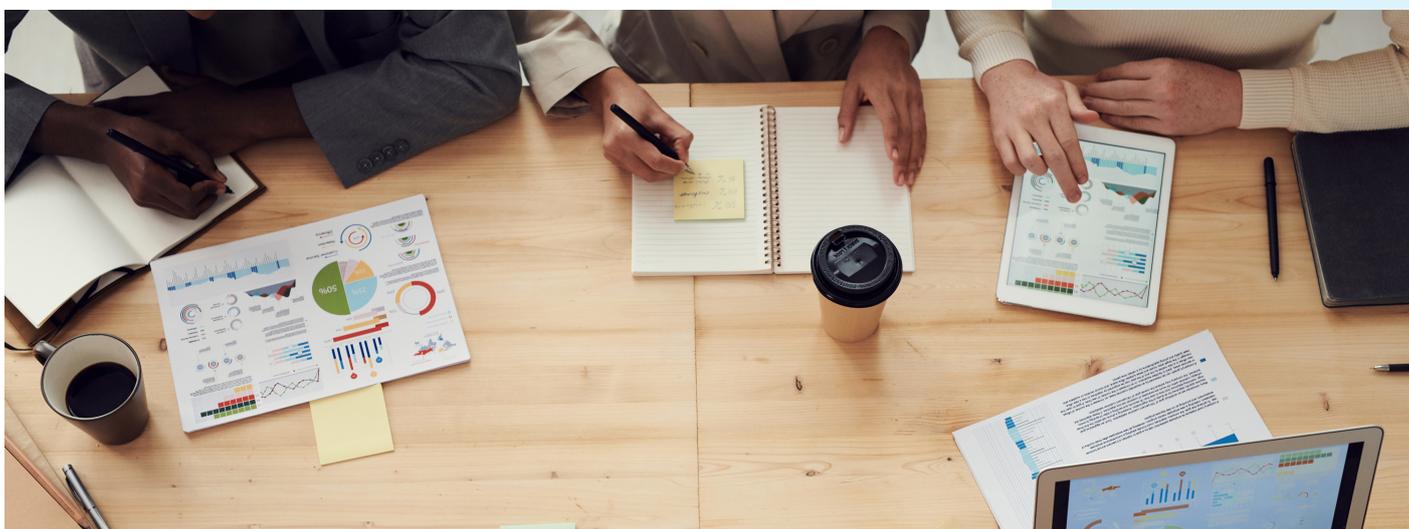
- Capacity building on [food sustainability principles](#) and strengthening [sustainable procurement policies](#), given that food supply chains are considered critical at this time and that plastic waste in the form of takeout boxes are increasing;
- Providing capacity building and boosting [research & development in MICE sustainability](#) to support the sector's recovery;
- Pushing for [more responsible and minimal use of single-use plastic products](#), given the surge in medical waste which more often than not come in disposable packaging; and
- Using this time to promote the construction of [smart hotels and venues](#) and investing in [staff training and guest communication](#) in pursuing energy efficiency.

Present PSTAG members were representatives from: the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT), the Philippine Association of Convention/Exhibition Organizers and Suppliers (PACEOS), the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands (CCPI), De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB), the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (PCEPSDI), and international partners from UNEP.

"This crisis has highlighted both the fragility of the natural environment and the need to protect it..."

One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, UNWTO





Virtual Coordination Meetings with the Climate Change Commission

Since last year, the Transforming Tourism Value Chains project has been supporting the Climate Change Commission, which is one of the PSTAG Members, through its **Foreign Assisted Project Management System (FAPMS)**. Through coordination meetings with FAPMS, the project reports on key accomplishments and planned activities in order to determine how it is aligned with the activities of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) and how climate change is being mainstreamed in project development plans and policies, as well as partnerships developed that have aided in the project's results. As the tourism industry falls under the **Climate Smart Industries and Services Cluster**, some activities that the project has contributed to are **assisting MSMEs in developing capacity for eco-efficient production, developing knowledge products on climate-smart best practices, and enhancing public-private partnership investment promotion.**

In the 2nd quarter of this year, under the guidance of the FAPMS team, the project outlined its support to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases - Technical Working Group for Anticipatory and Forward Planning (IATF-TWG for AFP). Specifically, the project determined how its respective work programs and activities could contribute to and align with the implementation of current emergency measures and suggested interventions, as well as ways forward on the new normal of COVID-19. These would be via **information campaigns, technical assistance and capacity building activities** for sustainable tourism topics (such as urban agriculture, waste management and plastics upcycling) that could help increase resource efficiency in establishments to save on costs and other expenses.

"As governments and the private sector are now embarking on a path for recovery, there is no better timing for placing future generations at the centre of the action."

One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, UNWTO





MIKA BAUMEISTER

Green Recovery COVID-19 Toolkit for Tourism Stakeholders

As mentioned by the UN World Trade Organization (UNWTO), a responsible recovery of the tourism sector is called for. One that is “founded on sustainability to build back better, which therefore can underpin the resilience of the tourism sector”. Our international partners from UNEP have then created a “COVID-19 Toolkit” that aims **to help our stakeholders in achieving this green recovery**. The toolkit, which is available for download [here](#), contains the following:

- 1) Key messages on [COVID-19 Impacts](#)
- 2) [Action plan templates](#) for stakeholders
- 3) [Checklists](#) – selections of activities for partners, businesses and governments
- 4) Recommendations for the tourism sector to continue taking action on [plastic pollution](#) during COVID-19 recovery (which may also be found in the Publications section of this newsletter)
- 5) Results of the [survey on COVID-19 impacts](#) including country-disaggregated data

"...the resilience of tourism will depend on the sector's ability to balance the needs of people, planet and prosperity."

One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, UNWTO





RALPH RAVI KAYDEN

Pursuing Low-Carbon Menus with Humane Society International

As the foodservice industry is very much intertwined with the accommodation and MICE sectors, it goes to show that food production and consumption practices have a lot of potential to contribute to the sustainability of the tourism industry as a whole. This is why the Transforming Tourism Value Chains project, implemented by PCEPSDI, has partnered with Humane Society Internationale (HSI) on the **promotion of low carbon food consumption and purchases**. HSI is an organization that aims to promote the humane treatment of animals worldwide, and to foster respect, understanding and compassion for all creatures through education, awareness and direct animal care programs.

The goals of this newfound partnership with HSI are to conduct **plant-based culinary training** (the first of which will be in October 2020), to promote **plant-based foods**, to promote **higher welfare animal-product sourcing**, such as cage-free eggs, and to promote **sustainable procurement practices of the foodservice sector**.

In order to assist the project design the training more appropriately for the sector, your F&B department may answer the [survey on the experiences of the sector regarding the uptake of plant-based dishes here](#).

"Food represents an entry point for circularity in tourism value chains through sustainable procurement... sustainable menus... and food waste and loss reduction and management."

One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, UNWTO





Tracking and Monitoring Hotel and MICE Resource Efficiency and GHG Emissions

The Transforming Tourism Value Chains project's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas footprint and increase resource efficiency of its main stakeholders, Hotels and MICE businesses. To facilitate this, the project has developed a tool to monitor and analyse the operations of these establishments by collecting relevant data such as energy, food, water consumption and guest nights, to name a few. This data will be used to establish [a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions and to determine the direction of sustainability for the Philippine tourism industry](#) and achieve the necessary reduction targets planned out by the project and the Roadmap for Low-Carbon and Resource-Efficient Tourism in the Philippines.

Hotels who have chosen to take part in the data collection will be able to receive [performance updates](#) from the project that outline the outcomes of their resource efficiency and their [carbon footprint](#), together with recommendations on how to further increase their [resource efficiency](#) or reduce their [waste generation](#). The following are the establishments who have supported the data collection as of August 2020: SM Hotels and Conventions, Corp. (Taal Vista Hotel, Pico de Loro Beach and Country Club, Pico Sands Hotel, SMX Convention Manila), Holiday Inn & Suites Makati, and Robinsons Hotels and Resorts (Summit Ridge Tagaytay, Summit Magnolia Hotel).

"Supporting the engagement of the tourism sector in adaptation to climate change and carbon removal, through both natural and technological methods is necessary."

One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, UNWTO





Food Safety and Food Waste Management Training

The TVC project hosted a successful first of a series of online trainings for tourism stakeholders, the Food Safety & Food Waste Management Training for the Hospitality Sector, last August 24-25, and 27-28, 2020. In partnership with and guidance from The Sustainable Diner project of the World Wide Fund for Nature - Philippines (WWF-PH), the two-day training aimed to increase stakeholders' familiarity with food safety and hygiene practices in the kitchen, which is especially relevant in today's new normal, and at the same time for them to minimize food waste in daily operations.

Opening remarks were delivered by representatives from the Department of Tourism, Dir. Virgilio Maguigad, Director of the Office of Tourism Standards and Regulation, for the first batch, and Asec. Rica Bueno, from the Tourism Regulation Coordination & Resource Generation, for the second batch. The training proper was mostly moderated and conducted by experts from The Sustainable Diner project. Ms. Iris Abrigo, Sustainable Business Officer, conducted the Food Safety segment of the training on Day 1, which gave an overview of COVID-19 and its transmission, its impacts on food, and principles of proper food handling. Ms. Alexa Jeanne Lasch, Sustainable Business Specialist, conducted the Food Waste segment of the training on Day 2 by discussing agriculture and the foodservice industry's environmental impacts, the interrelationships between climate change, food waste and hunger, and the food waste management toolkit.

"Mainstreaming food loss and waste reduction in tourism has potential to support the recovery of small and large businesses as it presents an opportunity to reduce costs and improve efficiency while curbing CO₂ emissions."

One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, UNWTO



Resources & Publications

for A Sustainable Tourism Industry



ONE PLANET VISION FOR A RESPONSIBLE RECOVERY OF THE TOURISM SECTOR



Recommendations for the Tourism Sector to Continue Taking Action on Plastic Pollution During COVID-19 Recovery

This document illustrates how reducing the plastic footprint, increasing the engagement of suppliers, working closer with waste service providers, and ensuring transparency on the actions taken, can significantly contribute to a responsible recovery of the tourism sector. Access it [here](#).



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR TO CONTINUE TAKING ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION DURING COVID-19 RECOVERY



transmission prevention and sustainability

In the Travelife COVID-19 Member Survey, over 90% of Travelife Members said they were concerned about the environmental impacts from increased use of plastics and chemicals used to take coronavirus transmission prevention measures. Travelife certification requirements cover the use of chemicals and waste (including plastics), yet there are no changes specifically to address this new problem. However, Travelife advisors have been advised about this concern and the Travelife certifications team is aware of the problems this may cause for accommodation providers who are trying to minimise their environmental impacts.

Travelife cannot tell you about the specific measures you should take, so this section of the operational guidance summarises the current advice from reputable authorities such as the WHO (World Health Organisation), on how to reduce the risk of virus transmission and what cleaning methods reduce the risk of surface contamination. Accommodation providers can use this to help them make decisions about how to best ensure the health and safety of people whilst minimising environmental impacts wherever possible.

Other Travelife resources

Travelife Members can access our usual guidance about environmental management in the [Member Zone](#). You will find this information in the Sustainability Toolkit under 'Environment'.

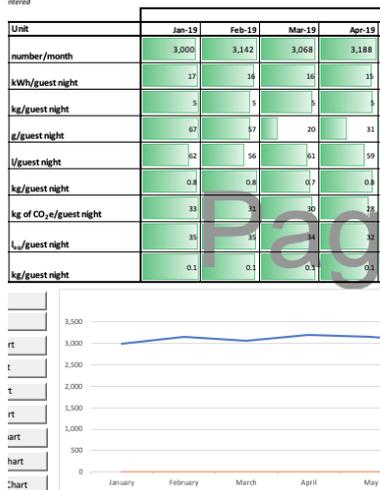
[Click here](#) to view and download multilingual versions of the Travelife Checklist. The specific requirements around environmental impacts can be found under Sustainability Management (policies and legislation) and Environmental Management.



COVID-19 Operational Guidance Kit

This document is designed to provide general guidance for accommodation providers in order to assist them with making decisions about how to implement science-based virus prevention measures in a way that puts the health and safety of people first, yet minimises unnecessary environmental impacts. It also contains suggestions about how to support staff and the local community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and where to find reliable information. Access it [here](#).

Performance Summary
Entered



Resource Efficiency Tool (Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Monitoring Tracker)

This spreadsheet allows hotels/supporting organizations to collect data about resource efficiency. Collecting this data has two purposes: 1) Allows hotels and MICE to monitor their resource efficiency over time to see where any actions they are taking have effects, and 2) Provides information that can be used to produce a baseline for the hotels and MICE sector of the tourism industry in a country.

Kindly contact us to inquire about the tool and undergoing training for carbon footprint monitoring and tracking.



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Contact Us

**Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and
Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI)**

4B, Development Academy of the Philippines Building,
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center

Pasig City 1605, Philippines

tvc4relcd@gmail.com

www.pcepsdi.org.ph