TRANSFORMING TOURISM VALUE CHAINS

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

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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 United Nations 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.

www.oneplanetnetwork.org/transforming-tourism
Park Inn by Radisson Iloilo moves to monitor sustainability through Resource Efficiency Tool

As part of SM Hotel and Convention Corporation’s (SMHCC) 5-year sustainability plan, some of its hotels have stepped up to become pilots in monitoring their respective establishments’ resource efficiency and carbon footprint using the Resource Efficiency (RE) Tool of the project. Through an online session, Park Inn by Radisson Iloilo, which is another of SMHCC’s hotels, and also based in one of the pilot areas of the project, moves to be capacitated in learning to monitor their carbon footprint. They were introduced to the interface of the tool and were trained on how to encode their data.

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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 necessary data such as energy, food, water consumption and guest nights, to name a few. These 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. More information about the Tool can be found on p. 10, but a demo of the tool can be downloaded here, and a sample Performance Report customizable per hotel here.

“As tourism restarts, return-to-work-policies could be informed by a human-centred approach that puts rights, international labour standards and psychological wellbeing of workers at the heart of economic, social and environmental recovery strategies.”

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism, United Nations
The goal of the 11th Philippine Stakeholders Advisory Group (PSTAG) Meeting held virtually on October 23, 2020 was to present to members the proposed strategy for the implementation of the Roadmap for Low-Carbon and Resource Efficient Tourism in the Philippines, along with other project initiatives and interests such as integrating sustainability and environmental considerations into current health and safety guidelines for accommodation and MICE establishments. During the virtual meeting, organizations and other key stakeholders were identified to reach out to them for possible collaborations and activities in the pursuit of implementing the Roadmap and sustainable tourism recovery in the country. Members were also given updates on other project activities such as recent and upcoming trainings, and new project publications such as the outline of performance reports for hotels and MICE, and recommendations on how to tackle plastic pollution in the sector during COVID-19 recovery.

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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands (CCPI), De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB), and the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (PCEPSDI).

"A collective and coordinated response by all stakeholders can stimulate the transformation of tourism, together with economic recovery packages, and investments in the green economy."

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism, United Nations

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Hospitality and Foodservice Sectors Look to Plant-based Menus for Health and Environment

One of the most impactful things people can do to lessen their carbon footprint is by switching to more plant-based dishes in their diets. The same can be said for the hospitality industry, in which foodservice plays a huge part. On October 28-29, 2020, PCEPSDI, through the TVC project, has successfully conducted its second online training for tourism stakeholders entitled Low-Carbon Menus: Plant-based Culinary Training for the Hospitality Sector.

The training was hosted by PCEPSDI in collaboration with Humane Society International (HSI), an organization that works for the protection of all animals through the use of science, advocacy, education and hands-on programs. For the two-day training session, PCEPSDI and HSI introduced to hotel and restaurant managers and event organizers the basic principles of meat reduction and animal welfare, and discussed how plant-based diets and menus can have a positive environmental impact, and how proper nutrition can be integrated in a plant-based diet. HSI also brought in plant-based chefs to teach and demonstrate to hotel and restaurant chefs and food caterers how to create meat alternatives, and egg and dairy-free dishes.

Read the full article on the PCEPSDI website here:

"The [COVID-19] crisis is also an opportunity to rethink the tourism sector and its contribution to the SDGs, nature, and the Paris Agreement on climate change; an opportunity to work towards a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient tourism."

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism, United Nations

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According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), eight million tonnes of plastic are being washed to the world’s oceans every year and have affected not just marine biodiversity, but also communities and wildlife. The COVID-19 pandemic has also aggravated the plastic pollution due to an increase in the use and disposal of single-use items such as medical face masks, plastic gloves, hand sanitizer bottles, and food packaging. Eighty percent of tourist destinations are located in coastal areas, which makes the tourism sector even more susceptible to the tides of plastic pollution.

In light of these factors, the Department of Tourism, through its sustainability campaign Save Our Spots, has collaborated with the PCEPSDI, through the TVC project, in cooperation with UNEP, in creating an awareness campaign to reduce single use plastics in the tourism sector while keeping in mind health and safety protocols. Key messages of the campaign are aligned with the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. The campaign, funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety under their International Climate Initiative, is designed for three key audiences in mind: hotel managers and procurement officers, hotel staff, and tourists and guests. It seeks to encourage the mindset that reduction of unnecessary plastic packaging is possible, while ensuring the health and safety of hotel staff and guests, by developing robust sanitization procedures, promoting digital and contactless transactions, and inviting guests to be part of the change.

Other organizations that took part in the campaign are: Clean our Oceans Project (CoOp), Reef World Foundation, Philippine Hotel Owners Association, Inc., and World Wide Fund for Nature - Philippines (WWF-Philippines).

"...necessary health and safety protocols may lead to more waste, including masks, gloves, gowns, food packaging, and other disposable protective equipment."

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism, United Nations

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Campaign Launch: Beating Plastic Pollution from the Tourism Sector
Campaign Launch: Beating Plastic Pollution from the Tourism Sector (cont.)

To further encourage the hospitality sector to take action on plastic pollution amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a training webinar entitled “Responsible Tourism through Plastic Upcycling and Waste Management” was also hosted on December 15, 2020. Almost 70 participants from different sectors - government, academe, and private sector - attended the training webinar. Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat from the Department of Tourism also showed her support by welcoming the participants and delivering the opening remarks, stating that “with so many of our sights being close to the water, we must restart and revive our campaign to save our Spots and protect them from plastic pollution.”

Speakers from CoOp and WWF-Philippines then enlightened participants about existing plastic waste management issues in the country, and how these pose a threat to the country’s marine biodiversity and conservation. They also showed how the COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting such issues, and introduced ways on how tourism businesses can operate more responsibly and minimize unnecessary usage of disposable plastic packaging during the pandemic.

For more information about the campaign or the training webinar, or any interest in partnering with the TVC project, kindly email TVC’s Project Officer Kiko Velhagen at tvc4relcd@gmail.com or kiko.velhagen@pcepsdi.org.ph.

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism, United Nations
"The COVID-19 crisis is a watershed moment to align the effort of sustaining livelihoods dependent on tourism to the SDGs and ensuring a more resilient, inclusive, carbon neutral, and resource efficient future.”

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism, United Nations

Sustainable tourism does not have to be kept at industry level; the youth can play a huge part in shaping the sustainability of our tourism sector as well, starting from the academe. The TVC project was invited to speak (virtually) at three academic institutions this year: Southville International School and Colleges (October 15), Far Eastern University’s Virtual Seminar on Sustainability in Tourism and Hospitality (November 25), and St. Joseph’s Academy (December 11).

Project Officer Mr. Kiko Velhagen and Project Assistant Ms. Andrea Go shared to the students, ranging from senior high school to 2nd year college level, how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the tourism sector in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals. They also shared why it was then imperative to recover from the pandemic not just economically but also sustainably, emphasizing that the tourism sector has to rethink its role and restart to be a more inclusive and resilient sector.

They shared examples of strategies of sustainable tourism, such as food waste management and resource efficiency, and the project’s experiences in implementing such strategies with different kinds of stakeholders, from government officials and key industry players to consumers and tourists. There are also several actions that students can already do, at home, at school and in their future careers, to practice sustainability.
Moving Forward

Call for tool developers to express interest in the RE Tool

Are you an applications developer with an interest in environmental initiatives? Or a program developer interested in creating user-friendly tools for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking for businesses?

We have a free upcoming training exactly for developers like you as an introduction to the Resource Efficiency Tool and its interface. It aims to help accommodation establishments, MICE and other tourism businesses track their resource consumption and create a baseline of GHG emissions for the sector. Help us make it easier for tourism businesses and encourage the sector to monitor its carbon footprint!

Please send us an email at tvc4relcd@gmail.com so we can keep you updated for further details of the training.

How else can we improve this year?

We want to get your feedback and insights, particularly those who have engaged in one way or another with the Transforming Tourism Value Chains project. We would like to know how effective our engagement with you has been in the past year/s, and would be grateful to receive any feedback that would allow us to improve on:

1. How we conduct our greenhouse gas (GHG) and resource efficiency (RE) data collection activities,
2. How we conduct our trainings and capacity building sessions, and
3. How we communicate and update our partners with current activities.

You can find the 5-8 minute survey here: https://bit.ly/EvalSurvey_TourismPartners

Trainings in 2021

We still have some ways to go in fully implementing the Roadmap for Low-Carbon and Resource-Efficient Tourism in the Philippines. Enhance your business’ knowledge and capacities on sustainable tourism by attending our trainings and webinars! Below is a tentative list of what we have in store for the year:

- GHG monitoring and reporting (year-long, upon request)
- Effective waste management (Q2-May)
- Plastic use reduction (upon request)
- Energy efficiency and conservation (Q3-Sep)
- Sustainable procurement (upon request)
- Urban agriculture in tourism destinations (Q2-June)
- Sustainable meetings, functions and events (TBD)

Follow our social media pages to keep up to date with these trainings and other project activities! Email us at tvc4relcd@gmail.com for any inquiries or requests for trainings for your business!
Resources & Publications for A Sustainable Tourism Industry

Roadmap for Low-Carbon and Resource-Efficient Tourism in the Philippines
This Roadmap, developed by the TVC project, offers a suite of actions and activities to reduce carbon emissions and improve the resource efficiency of the tourism sector in the Philippines. These are grouped under four systemic solutions that have been identified to mitigate key impacts: (1) sustainable food value chains, (2) sustainable events, (3) beat pollution in tourism, and (4) sustainable energy. Access the Roadmap [here](#).

Resource Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance Report
This customized report presents a business or an establishment’s data shared through the RE Tool, which hotels and MICE can integrate in their monitoring and reporting mechanisms since it highlights GHG emissions and gives a general overview of their performance of their resource consumption. The report also provides analysis and recommendations which can be used to determine and plan out strategic solutions from the Roadmap for Low-Carbon and Resource Efficient Tourism in the Philippines. Access the sample template of the report [here](#).

Supporting Jobs and Economies through Travel & Tourism
This document, written by the World Trade Organization (UNWTO), contain recommendations that aim to support governments, the private sector, and the international community, in navigating the unparalleled social and economic emergency that is COVID-19. Access it [here](#).
Global Guidelines to Restart Tourism
This document, developed by the World Trade Organization (UNWTO), is a living guidance document that lays down the priorities for recovery of the tourism sector, and how these can be achieved in terms of eight pillars: safe and seamless border management, private sector - cross-cutting measures, safe air travel, hospitality, tour operators & travel agencies, meetings & events, attractions and thematic parks, and destination and planning management. Access the Global Guidelines here.

Fighting Food Waste in the Tourism Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for Latin America, the Caribbean, and Beyond
This report, prepared by Fixit, together with the Development Effectiveness Division of IDB Invest, focuses on food waste at the consumption stage, specifically in the tourism sector, and lays out the enormity of the issue of food waste, as well as the competitive advantages, roles, challenges and opportunities of the sector to tackle this issue. Access the report here.

Hotel Kitchen's Food Waste Toolkit
World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA), with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, came together to work with the hospitality industry on understanding and reducing food waste. This toolkit provides the background, tools and resources a property of any size needs to: PREVENT food waste from occurring at their properties; DONATE what cannot be prevented but is still safe for people to eat; and DIVERT the rest away from landfills. Access the toolkit here.
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 undertaking training for carbon footprint monitoring and tracking.

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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Jan 19</th>
<th>Feb 19</th>
<th>Mar 19</th>
<th>Apr 19</th>
<th>May 19</th>
<th>Jun 19</th>
<th>Jul 19</th>
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<th>Oct 19</th>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Dec 19</th>
<th>Year '19 Total</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waste data entry sheet
Enter the data for waste, using waste collection bills or own measurement (weight) of waste
If your facility sends waste for recycling and composting, indicate those separately.
This sheet does not include food waste, that should be recorded separately in the following sheet.
Please ensure all units are in metric tonnes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste unit (Example: Hotel/Kitchen bins)</th>
<th>Waste type (unsorted/recyclable/food waste)</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bins in service area</td>
<td>Unsorted Waste</td>
<td>metric tonnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>From offices</td>
<td>Recycled Waste - Mixed</td>
<td>metric tonnes</td>
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Data collected

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<th>January</th>
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<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<td>1.5</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO ACCELERATE MORE RESOURCE-EFFICIENT, LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

Contact Us

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Transforming Tourism Value Chains - Global

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