Integrating Tourism into Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maldives

Initial Stakeholder Workshop

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Chief, Environment and Quality Section

International Tourist Arrivals, 1950-2020
Current situation and forecasts WTO Tourism 2020 Vision
Global Climate is Changing
‘The warming of the climate system is unequivocal’
(IPCC-WG1-AR4 2007)

+0.76°C

‘Our actions over the coming few decades could create risks of major disruption to economic and social activity, later in this century and in the next, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century.’

‘Climate change ceased to be an environmental issue, it has become a global development challenge’

‘Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity at the start of the 21st century. Failure to meet this challenge raises the spectre of unprecedented reversals in human development.’
Climate Change is already impacting tourism destinations

Sustainable Development of Tourism

‘See Them Now: Endangered Wonders’
Places to Visit Before they Vanish

- Arctic and Antarctic Wildlife – Polar Bears
- Cloud Forests – Costa Rica’s Cloud Forest
- Coral Reefs – Great Barrier Reef, Caribbean
- Mountain Glaciers/Snow Caps
  - in Andes, Alps, Himalayas, Rockies, Kilimanjaro
- Low-lying Islands and Cities
  - Maldives, Tuvalu, Venice
- Mangrove Forests
  - Florida Everglades, Bangladesh
Our customers

• 59% of customers - said that “holidays with a low impact on the environment would influence their decision in making a holiday purchase”

• 77% of customers - said that “holidays with a fair deal for local people would influence their holiday purchase choice”

TUI Travel PLC Online survey – December 2007

World Care Fund
£1m collected in the first year!
The New Realities of Tourism in an Era of Global Climate Change

- Impacts & Adaptations at Tourism Destinations (50 pgs)
  - Mountain regions
  - Coastal regions and islands
  - Natural and cultural heritage

- Implications for Tourism Demand (20 pgs)
  - Geographic and seasonal shifts
  - Perceptions and media influence

- Emissions from Tourism: Status & Projections (23 pgs)
  - Results for 2005 baseline and 2035 projection

- Mitigation Measures in Tourism (32 pgs)
  - Mitigation potential for 2035
Pilot country projects on climate change adaptation in the tourism sector of SIDS
• Tourism driven, emblematic destinations
• High vulnerability – low adaptive capacity

**Fiji:**

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<th>Key Stakeholders Involved - Project Committee</th>
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<td>Department of Environment</td>
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<td>Meteorological Service</td>
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<td>Disaster Management Office</td>
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<td>Department of Town and Country Planning</td>
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<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<td>University of the South Pacific</td>
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<td>Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission</td>
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<td>South Pacific Tourism Organization</td>
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<td>Fiji Visitor Bureau</td>
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**Approach in the Maldives:**

**Integrated policies and management actions:**
- Part of a national portfolio of adaptation strategies
- Dealing with impacts both at tourism resorts and at adjacent local islands (ecosystem and atoll management, cluster of islands)
- Mainstreaming good practices in EMS at resorts (varied levels, many good but isolated initiatives)
- Supporting the implementation of the new Tourism Master Plan (many linkages)
Positioning Maldives as an international leading destination in environmental management and climate response

“Maldives is climate ready” – preparing for the unavoidable consequences of climate change

Develop a model that can be widely disseminated and adapted at other SIDS destinations

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**Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)**

**Project Preparation Phase**

- identify current and potential risks
- evaluate institutional frameworks (set up project steering committee)
- evaluate policy, capacity building and technical assistance needs
- identify possible demo project sites
- identify support and co-funding possibilities

Formulate full Project proposal (objectives, actions, coordination, co-funding, implementation plan)
Co-Funding can come from a variety of sources and is presented in two forms which are IN-KIND and CASH FUNDS:

**IN-KIND:** Where existing resources are allocated to the GEF project on a part-time basis (e.g. incumbent personnel, use of a boat or vehicle), or;
Where a planned activity will coincidentally cover an intended GEF activity (e.g. an NGO undertaking training or awareness). There is no actual allocation of new cash to the GEF project but there is a value which can be defined.

**CASH FUNDING:** Where new (non-GEF) resources are created (e.g. hiring a staff member specifically for a GEF task or purchasing a boat or vehicle) or;
Where a new activity is funded from a non-GEF source (e.g. an NGO agrees to be responsible for a new activity arising from a GEF project, or a funding agency agrees to fund an activity which supports the GEF project but is not eligible for GEF funds).

**Time line**

PDF-A

May: initial consultations and workshop
June-July: preparation of draft MSP proposal
July-August: Sending of draft proposal for comments
September – Final consultation and workshop, national endorsement,
October - submission to GEF
2009 January-February - MSP commencement (about 3 years duration)
Thank you

www.unwto.org/sdt