Panel Session IX: Leveraging sustainable procurement practices to transform the tourism sector

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The tourism industry already accounts for 9% of global gross domestic product (GDP), and its importance is bound to increase even more. The United Nations World Tourism Organization projects international tourist arrivals to increase from 1.1 billion in 2014 to 1.8 billion in 2030. For many developing countries tourism is a key pillar of national development contributing to growth, employment, investment as well as technology dissemination. In many small island developing states (SIDS), it accounts for up to 25-60% of national GDP.

Transforming the tourism value chains to low carbon and resource efficiency requires an increase in sustainable consumption and production practices. This panel session will specifically focus on the role that procurement can play to advance sustainable consumption and production in the tourism sector. Sustainable procurement is now widely recognized as a strategic driver for innovation to respond to environmental, as well as socio-economic concerns of tourism actors.

The Panel will explore opportunities for tourism businesses and governments to leverage sustainable procurement to transform the tourism sector. Experts from the tourism sector will present case studies illustrating successful sustainable procurement practices. By integrating sustainability requirements into their purchasing processes, corporate and public buyers can drive markets towards sustainability and help scale the purchase of sustainable products and services in the tourism sector.

Background

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Moderator: Ligia Noronha
Director, Economy Division
UN Environment

Ulf Jaeckel
Head of the Division, Sustainable Consumption, Environmental Product Policy
German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Virginie Dumoulin-Wieczorkiewicz
Director of the European and International Affairs Directorate
French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition

Jane Ashton
Director of Sustainability
TUI

Madhu Rajesh
Director
International Tourism Partnership
Business in the Community

Carolyn Wincer
Commercial Director
Travelife Limited

Grace Nderitu
CEO
Ecotourism Kenya