

## Indicator Proposal Summary Template

*Note:* This document is provided as a template for the 1-2 page summary that should accompany your Indicator proposal for the 2020 Comprehensive review

*Additional information/documentation that should accompany the summary include:*

- Draft metadata (*Word file only please*)
- Available data and/or link to where data can be located-
- Any methodological documents and/or links to these documents

**Full name of the Indicator:** Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

**Custodian Agency(ies):** World Tourism Organization, UNWTO

**Goal and target addressed:**

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Target: 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**What type of proposal (replacement, refinement, adjustment and addition), for replacement, refinement and adjustment, please list the original indicator and its number:**

Replacement of the original indicator 12.b.1 “Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools”

### 1. Background and rationale for the indicator proposal

The UNWTO Committee on statistics<sup>1</sup> has identified challenges with the original indicator: there is no internationally agreed statistical methodology nor concepts that can be used to define a “sustainable tourism strategy or policy and action plan”, nor what the relationship/boundary may be between the three different instruments (e.g. a tourism master plan may contain elements of all three - thus would this count as 1 or 3 actions?). In addition, there is currently no international dataset collecting this information, nor any plans to do so, and it would seem difficult to incorporate into existing statistical infrastructures due to the above mentioned issues.

The UNWTO Committee on statistics proposes an indicator that corresponds to the focus of the target “develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable [tourism]” and recognizes that the main accounting tools to monitor sustainable tourism are the Tourism Satellite Account and the [System of Environmental-Economic Accounting \(SEEA\)](#). Linking these two standards is at the core of the under development Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST).

---

<sup>1</sup> The Committee is composed of around 25 countries and international and supranational organizations such as ILO, WTO, OECD and Eurostat. More information on the mandate, composition and activities of the Committee can be found at: <http://statistics.unwto.org/content/committee-statistics-and-tourism-satellite-account>.

The SF-MST integrates tourism statistics with other economic, social and environmental information and provides a coherent base for deriving indicators that are relevant for monitoring and analysing the sustainability of tourism. Development of SF-MST is supported by the UN Statistical Commission<sup>2</sup> and the UNWTO General Assembly<sup>3</sup>, the highest international body in tourism.

The proposed indicator is calculated by the number of SEEA and TSA tables produced by countries. Method of computation is explained in the metadata form.

### **Information on how and when the methodology has become an international standard and who is the governing body that approves it**

The [Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008](#) (TSA: RMF 2008) provides the common conceptual framework for constructing a TSA. It adopts the basic system of concepts, classifications, definitions, tables and aggregates of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008).

The United Nations Statistical Commission took note of the TSA: RMF 2008 document at its 39th session (26-29 February 2008). It updates and replaces the previous TSA:RMF 2000 which was approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 31st session (29 February-3 March 2000).

The SEEA is a statistical system that brings together economic and environmental information into a common framework to measure the condition of the environment, the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment. The SEEA contains an internationally agreed set of standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables to produce internationally comparable statistics.

The United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the SEEA Central Framework at its 43<sup>rd</sup> session (28 February – 2 March 2012).

### **Data sources and data availability**

In relation to the SEEA, UNSD regularly monitors its implementation through a [Global Assessment Survey](#). According to the last SEEA Global Assessment (2017), 109 countries reported information on the SEEA implementation. In addition, the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting is currently working towards the creation of a global SEEA database

In relation to the TSA, various exercises on data availability have been carried out in the last years:

- UNWTO released a first compilation of TSA data as well as information regarding TSA implementation in countries in the publication [TSA Data Around the World - Worldwide summary](#).
- Eurostat regularly track the status of TSA implementation in its Member Countries. Last release was in 2016: [Tourism Satellite Account in Europe](#). An update will be available at the end of 2019.
- OECD collects TSA data from its Member countries and partner countries.

---

<sup>2</sup> Decision 48/115 on Tourism Statistics in the Report on the forty-eighth session of the UN Statistical Commission: [E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35](#), Decision 50/115 on Environmental-economic accounting of the fiftieth session of the UN Statistical Commission: [E/2019/24-E/CN.3/2019/34](#).

<sup>3</sup> [http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a22\\_resolutions\\_en.pdf](http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a22_resolutions_en.pdf)

**2. Confirmation/explanation of joint submission with other partner/co-custodian agencies (if applicable)**

**3. Conclusion**

This indicator proposal meets the specific criteria required for indicator replacements: it tracks well the target, has an agreed methodology and available data.