Reference metadata template for data reported on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The purpose of this template is for international agencies to submit reference metadata on the agreed upon tier I and II global indicators and associated data for which they are responsible, in order to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets in a consistent manner. We appreciate the work done by many agencies to prepare previous versions of their metadata and submit it to UNSD in order to ensure further coherence and consistency of the metadata that will be presented alongside the SDG indicator database, we are requesting additional and more uniform reference metadata on the global indicators and associated data that you are reporting.

While we realise this form is detailed, your willingness to provide this reference metadata in a standard format will be vital to users better understanding of the global indicators and associated data you have provided. We hope any metadata submitted previously can be copied and pasted into the relevant section of this form. Any metadata that was previously submitted to UNSD can be found at: http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation/.

This form should be completed by the international agencies that provided their data for inclusion in the SDG progress report and associated database. Please replace the instruction text shaded in yellow with the appropriate text describing the reference metadata for that section (i.e. definition, rationale, etc.). Please try to make your responses as concise as possible while making sure to include all relevant information. For more detailed methodological information, a link can be included in the reference section (see page 4).

If there are any questions regarding SDG metadata or this form, please contact Zin Lin at lin@un.org.

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
Indicator: 12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

Institutional information

Organization(s):
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

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Concepts and definitions

Definition:
The indicator "Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability" relates to the stage of implementation of two accounting standards: the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 and the System of Economic-Environmental Accounting 2012.

Rationale:

The UNWTO Committee on statistics[1] 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).

[1] 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[2] and the UNWTO General Assembly[3], the highest international body in tourism.

Concepts:

All the concepts related to tourism statistics can be found in the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008:

The SEEA brings together economic and environmental information in an internationally agreed set of standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables to produce internationally comparable statistics.

Comments and limitations:

Methodology

Computation Method:

Sum of the tables produced in both the TSA and the SEEA:

- TSA core tables (from table 1 to table 6)
- SEEA tables relevant to tourism: water flows, energy flows, GHG emissions and solid waste

Disaggregation:
Not applicable

Treatment of missing values:
Not applicable

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:
In relation to the TSA, the methodology is described in the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008. UNWTO, in collaboration with UNSD, is currently developing a Compilation Guide for the TSA that will be available for all countries in the course of 2020.

In relation to the SEEA, the methodology is described in the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework.

Quality assurance

Discrepancies are resolved through written communication with countries.

[2] 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..

[3] http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a22_resolutions_en.pdf

Data Sources

Description:
The indicator is sourced from countries' Tourism Satellite Account and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

Collection process:
UNWTO sends a pre-filled questionnaire (including data from official publications and official web-sites) to countries to collect the number of TSA produced by countries. In order to lighten the reporting burden of countries, UNWTO collects the data on SEEA implementation directly from UNSD.

Data Availability

Description:

SEEA data is available in 109 countries according to the last Global Assessment Survey carried out by UNSD.

The UNWTO publication TSA Data Around the World found that 60 countries had developed or were in the process of developing TSA in 2010. Data compiled by OECD shows 44 countries with at least one data point in the years 2008-2018. Tentative estimates by UNWTO point to more than 90 countries having developed or currently developing TSA. These include countries in all regions.

Time series:
Data is available from 2009 onwards.

Calendar

Data collection:
The exercise UNWTO´s questionnaire starts in July 2019 for the data available up to the end of the previous year.

Data release:
First release will be in November 2019.

Data providers

For the TSA: National Statistics Offices and/or National Tourism Administrations.
For the SEEA: National Statistics Offices and/or environment or planning offices.

Data compilers

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for the TSA data and the UN Statistics Division for the SEEA data.

References

Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 (TSA: RMF 2008)
System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

URL:
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/Seriesf/SeriesF_80rev1e.pdf
https://seea.un.org/content/seea-central-framework

Related indicators

8.9.1 Tourism Direct GDP.