

REPORT

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP FOR THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT Tuesday, 4th Department, 2018, UNDP PCU MEETING ROOM

Compiled by Michele Martin for the GCCA+ Component A and the EBA Project.

BACKGROUND

As a small island developing state, Seychelles is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise, salt-water intrusion, heavy rains and flooding, coral bleaching and droughts. It is critical that the population of Seychelles becomes more aware and pro-active in terms of how they can better prepare for present and future impacts of climate change. Tourism is the most important economic pillar, and currently relies almost exclusively on natural coastal resources such as pristine beaches, coral reefs and other habitats. These coastal habitats are increasingly threatened by sea level rise, erosion and flooding, and changing rainfall patterns also present challenges for tourism planning. In order to ensure that the tourism industry continues to remain viable into the future, it is critical that the sector as a whole starts to participate actively in national efforts to plan for climate change impacts. The Government of Seychelles' GCCA+ capacity building program held this workshop for the tourism sector to familiarize participants with the impacts of climate change, help them identify strategies to reduce climate risks and also plan realistic strategies to reduce carbon emissions attributed to tourism.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To increase tourism professionals' understanding of climate change and its effects on Seychelles' main populated islands
- 2) To explore how the tourism industry will be impacted by climate change in the short and long terms, and propose strategies to reduce the negative impacts of these effects.
- 3) To inspire workshop participants to apply what they have learned to their work in tourism policy and planning.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

8.30	Welcome and Introductions & Ice Breaker	Iris/Michele
8.45	Brief Introduction to Climate Change	Peter
9.15	CC projections and current actions to protect coastal environments	Michele
10.00	BREAK	
10:15	Screening of Tourism Strategy	Peter
10:30	Managing climate risk & cc projections in the Tourism Sector	Philomena
10:45	The SSTL overview – tourism's response to environmental challenges	PDS
11:00	Group work Part 1: How to integrate CC into the SSTL	Iris
12.00	Group work Part 2: (1) integrating CC in policies & programmes; (2) Recommendations for Manual. To be continued after lunch.	Iris/Michele
12:30	Lunch	
1:30	Group work continued...Followed by Plenary and discussion	Iris/Michele
3:35	Conclusion of workshop, evaluations	Iris

PARTICIPANTS

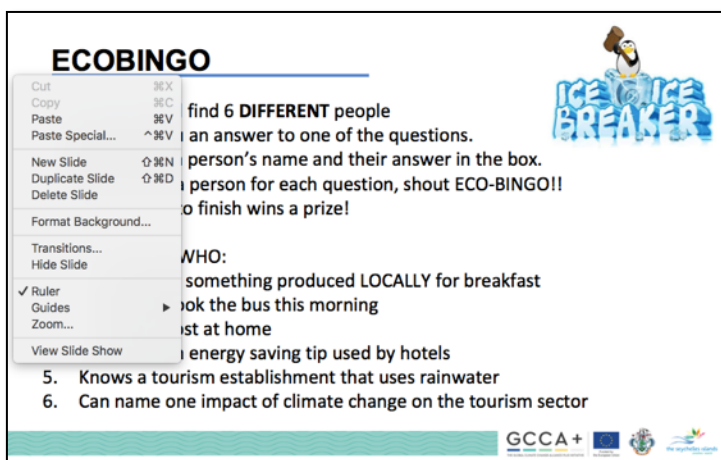
The workshop was attended by about 12 people from the Tourism Department, representing various sections including HR, policy, product development and quality/standards. The registration list can be found in Annex A. The workshop was facilitated by Iris Carolus and Michele Martin from the GCCA+, with presentations also by Peter Brinn (GCCA+), Philomena Hollanda and Lilian Durup from the Tourism Department.

WORKSHOP EXPENSES

1. Tea break and lunch were mostly covered by the Tourism Department.
2. GCCA+ covered the costs of workshop planning and facilitation as well as photocopies
3. The EBA project donated copies of the S4S climate change citizen's guide
4. WCS donated a magazine as a prize for the ice breaker game
5. The venue was provided by the MEECC UNDP Project Coordinating Unit
6. S4S provided backstopping support.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The Tourism Department had initially confirmed over 15 participants for the workshop including staff from all departments, but only 11 people attended. However the group participated enthusiastically in all of the planned activities, and we made a good start at reviewing some of the key sustainability and climate related programs and policies of the tourism department.



The first activity was a short icebreaker “eco-bingo”, which required participants to interact with each other and begin to engage with the ideas of climate change sustainability. A prize was donated by the NGO Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles (a magazine featuring protected areas).

Peter's presentation on the science of climate change started with another activity whereby participants had to work together to match up climate change terminology with definitions. Their score

demonstrated that the group already did have some understanding of climate change. This activity was followed by a powerpoint presentation led by Peter, highlighting some of the key causes of climate change as well as an explanation of how climate changes.

The next session led by Michele was a pictorial overview of the impacts of climate change currently facing Seychelles as well as some graphs from the SMA on past trends and future projections. The presentation also featured some of the actions being implemented in Seychelles to address climate change.

After this, Peter provided a brief overview on an exercise undertaken by the GCCA+ team to review the climate content of the tourism strategy submitted as part of the National Development Strategy (NDS), and make suggestions on how climate change could be better integrated into the tourism sector's plans.

Following this presentation, Philomena presented some slides focusing more specifically on how climate change can and is impacting on the tourism sector, and the risks involved. The Lilian provided an overview of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) and how it provides a framework for hotels (of all sizes) to work towards more sustainable practices, in line with guidelines of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. These presentations were followed by a groupwork session whereby participants reviewed and provided feedback on the SSTL. The results of this groupwork session are provided in Annex C.

After this working session, we looked at a new climate change manual for hotels that Philomena has been drafting, and participants broke up into groups again to provide feedback on the contents and approach. Their feedback is also provided in Annex C.

In the afternoon, Iris presented an overview of some of the key policies of the Tourism Department that were relevant for review in light of whether they addressed climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.

The participants broke into groups again and each group took on 1-2 policies to review and provide initial feedback. The groups focused mainly on the restaurant and accommodation policies, noting that a few policies do already have some environmental content and that all round it made sense to build on this and incorporate more explicit environmental/sustainability/climate change concerns related to each of the different policy documents.

Photos of the workshop can be found in Annex D.

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

At the end of the day, participants were invited to fill in an evaluation form. 12 forms were submitted and the findings are summarized in the table below.

Workshop evaluation responses – summary from 12 participants.

1. Please tell us at least one new thing you learned	2. What did you enjoy about the workshop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of mitigation in context of climate change vs. adaptation (x6) • Direct and indirect effects of cc on the tourism industry (x3) • Causes and effects of CC (x2) • More about mitigation and adaptation to climate change • Did not really learn anything new but enhanced what I already know • Research being done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info, presentations clear, useful, relevant, interesting (x8) • Interactive, learning from each other, form of team building (x6) • Friendly, open, lively atmosphere (x3) • Staff participated positively • Efficient use of time • Eco-bingo
3. What didn't you like?	4. How can you apply what you learned in your work?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything ok / no response (x7) • Do such workshops more often (x2) • The venue • Too short • Room too hot • Presentation style could have been more interactive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply what I learned to my work in standards and criteria, policy and guidelines/ site visits to tourism establishments/SSTL (x6) • Apply what I learned at work and at home (x4) • Pass on awareness to co-workers • Provide inputs about CC during work discussions • Help build awareness of cc in tourism sector to encourage more adaptation and mitigation action

Numbers indicate how many participants wrote a similar response.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The workshop was deemed to be useful and enjoyable by the majority of the participants.

Many of the participants noted that they learned new information about the relevance of climate change to the tourism sector, and indicated a commitment to apply this in their work. A couple of participants noted that the workshop had an additional benefit as a form of team building for tourism staff, while others suggested that more workshops be held in the future to keep tourism staff abreast of latest developments regarding climate change.

The workshop represented a focused effort to mainstream climate change across the different sections of the Department of Tourism. It provided a good starting point for revisiting some of the policies, programs and publications in use by the tourism sector, in light of climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations. Follow up recommended and agreed:

1. Iris from the GCCA+ team is available to continue to work with the different sections to assist with policy and program revisions as needed, including the SSTL.
2. Michele will assist Philomena with edits and revisions to the Climate Change Manual for the Tourism Sector and will investigate the possibility of GCCA assisting with layout.

ANNEX A – WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Participants' List Tourism CC Training Workshop 4th Dec 2018

Name	Organization	Contact Details	Signature
Diane Chelot	Tourism Dept	4286517	<i>[Signature]</i>
KARINE MICHAUD	TOURISM DEPT	4286530	<i>[Signature]</i>
Ginny Camille	Tourism Dept	4286538	<i>[Signature]</i>
Astide Camille	Tourism DEPT	4286523	<i>[Signature]</i>
LISA ROSE	TOURISM DEPT	4286542	<i>[Signature]</i>
Manuela Ernesta	TOURISM DEPT	4286508	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kenneth Tomking	TOURISM DEPT	2724213	<i>[Signature]</i>
Neison Hootenay	Tourism Dept	4286549	<i>[Signature]</i>
LILIAN DURUP	Tourism Dept	4286500	<i>[Signature]</i>
Rosulinda Siphda	Risk Section	4286543	<i>[Signature]</i>
Philomena Hollanda	Tourism Dept	4286514 / 2724227	<i>[Signature]</i>
Diana Quek	Tourism Dept	4286537	<i>[Signature]</i>

ANNEX B – GROUPWORK NOTES - CLIMATE PROOFING THE SSTL

Management

- 1.4 Make it more specific crisis management plan/ risk management plan, which should address cc impacts among other hazards and an evacuation plan.
- Monitoring – can address climate change mitigation more directly, can add more awareness regarding climate change/ carbon footprint to link together the three aspects.
- Emission from refrigerants 3.4 – ozone depleting substances not CO₂. Need to separate them. Have a plan for getting rid of ODS, follow EPA guidelines.

Waste

- In general - promoting waste reduction, recycling diverts waste from landfill
- Food waste = add in a criteria for hotels to divert food waste from landfill and to reduce food waste in the first place, open up to idea of giving away safe, still usable leftovers, also give to staff cafeteria – ask Rossetta about this.
- Oils and fats – for biodiesel

Water

- Decrease dependence on PUC (need programs to educate establishment) – especially large hotels.
- But the criteria themselves are ok...
- Signs for guests to reduce water use in bathrooms...

Energy

- It's an easy one to convince hotels – reduces their running costs.
- 14.1 should go in beginning – monitoring...
- also need an awareness program
- 12.6 not less than 23C (current wording is confusing)

Staff

- Training 18.2 add in training in climate change issues as an indicator...so staff are aware of impacts/effects/hazards also.

Conservation

- Structure of the buildings/climate proof and safe, can be more explicit and linked to risk plans
- New developments – Philomena does review plans and can make suggestions for more appropriate climate friendly and proof constructions but doesn't see the final drawings or get feedback in the plans.
- Need better guidelines for buildings incorporating climate proof features....

Community

- Get hotels involved in adaptation projects, local or national

Guests

- Inform guests about climate change initiatives and opportunities to get involved in conservation and climate change adaptation projects and initiatives (whether their own or collaborate with other partners, CBO's NGO's).
- Wall of fame – photos or other means to share info about tourists who have participated in the activities
- Donation box to support projects to address CC adaptation

ANNEX C – GROUPWORK NOTES – FEEDBACK ON THE CLIMATE MANUAL AND TOURISM POLICIES

FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE MANUAL:

Wording

- Use fewer words, make it short and sweet, more photos/images. GCCA/MM can help with photos
- Graphic designer in house but budget is closed. May be able to be covered in new budget. GCCA can help with this as well.
- Is simplified, can use for hotel staff for action at home

Adaptive Measures

- Separate actions as all lumped together
- Education and awareness (guests, staff, community)

Mitigation Actions

- Add Definition at the beginning
- Suggest: “reduce your carbon footprint” instead of mitigation
- Instead of a paragraphs, use bullet points with headings followed by sentence
- Additional measures:
- Transport: Use of solar electric buggies, bicycles
- Introduction of key cards and sensor systems for AC
- Reducing food waste avoiding going to landfill
- Sorting of waste and what actions can be taken once these are sorted

Separate actions as all lumped together.

INITIAL CLIMATE SCREENING OF THE TOURISM POLICIES’

General comments:

- Some policies already have direct environmental content so it can easily be added to others.
- Having a statement about ensuring client engagement in env/sustainability also very feasible in each policy.
- Policy statements re environment need to be specific to the tourism sectors they are addressing in addition to making reference to other guidelines e.g. SBS, Planning, etc. (at present they are mostly limited to these references, except for a few sectors).
- Some are under revision – boat charter, water activities but already have a bit on env/cc. tour guides, accommodation really need work.
- New info in light of climate change is emerging all the time, need a commitment to relook at policies on a regular basis.

RESTAURANT POLICY

- Mentions environmental requirements but no detail at all.
- Should have a specific policy statement that addresses these environmental and climate change concerns, e.g for building/location, refers to actual policies or planning guidelines that reflect environmental qualities. TCP regulations recently amended and can be incorporated at same time.
- Need a policy statement to capture the operations side (including structure) and measures to adapt/mitigate
- Many new proponents of developments do refer to policy and strategy docs and use them as guidance and will do the minimum to abide by these. If we want them to address cc there must be some specific strategic action in the tourism strategy and master plan, that are aligned to statements in the policies – they have to be coherent not inconsistent.

ACCOMMODATION

- Many points same as above
- Need to address issues of waste (landfill diversion, recycling, waste minimization)
- Architectural design also needs to address climate adaptation and mitigation

Tour guiding

- It was noted that the tour guide course is under review by STA, they will be dealing with the content. There is a 2 year full time course but the one in question is 3 day course for existing tour guides to standardize quality. STA would be in charge of any revisions, GCCA could target them for any revisions needed.

ANNEX D – WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Top: Kenneth receiving a prize for winning Eco-Bingo! Bottom: participants matching up climate change terms with definitions



Top: presentation by Philomena on climate change impacts on tourism. Bottom presentation about the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label.