

# Recommendations for Sustainable Tourism Activities in the Caribbean

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## Advancing Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean: A Regional Progress Report

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# Sustainable Tourism Policy

## □ Evaluation of 2008 Regional Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework in terms of:

- Current relevance
- Usage
- Practicality

# Reporting and Monitoring

- **Strengthen the reporting mechanism of CTO member countries through:**
  - Online reporting mechanism to:
    - provide updates and feedback on sustainable tourism initiatives, priorities, achievements and progress
    - highlight activities, timing, methods, partners and challenges in undertaking sustainable tourism initiatives
    - allow CTO to track, measure and monitor member countries' progress and assess their changing priorities

# Strengthening Collaboration

- Use the **Open Source collaboration concept** to facilitate and promote intra and inter country collaboration of tourism and other sector stakeholders to:
  - Encourage more effective networking, communication, info, idea and solution sharing
  - Engender the sense that ownership of the outcome belongs to all member countries

# Strategic Plan of Action

- Member countries should develop a 3-5 year Strategic Action Plan to:
  - detail sustainable tourism priorities, roles and responsibilities, sources of funding (donors, budgetary, grants, sponsorships, counterpart funding) and expected outcomes
  - provide a programme of focused action in keeping with broader national socio-economic and environmental goals

# Incentives

- ❑ Governments need to continue to employ or introduce and promote monetary incentives to encourage better resource management and efficiency e.g. tax breaks, VAT rebates, concessions
- ❑ Funding instruments can be developed to deliver resource conservation funding for small-scale tourism and hospitality organisations.

# Incentives

- ❑ Financial institutions should also begin to mainstream a resource management component into their investment and lending solutions, so that there is a broad public-private sector approach to resource conservation and management

# Water Resources Management

- ❑ Online training in climate change adaptation, including water resource management
- ❑ Regional workshop that focuses on water conservation in the tourism sector.



# Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

- ❑ Continuous capacity building in disaster management, climate change mitigation and integrated multi-hazard management through workshops, publications, information sharing, conferences
- ❑ Go beyond preparedness and response and focus on proactive development, integrated multi-hazard management & hazard mapping

# **Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building**

- Ministries and Departments of Tourism need to review the current institutional arrangements that facilitate comprehensive risk reduction and management to see how well they are addressing contemporary challenges in this area.
- UWI should provide education to strengthen institutional capacities

# Financing

- ❑ Info about funding opportunities to support sustainable tourism initiatives could be provided via:
  - individual agencies or the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group (ECDG) chaired by the UNDP
  - A dedicated CTO webpage
  - Research officers in Ministries and Departments of tourism can be utilized to research funding opportunities

# Financing

- ❑ More direct finance to the development of sustainable tourism initiatives is encouraged in areas including:
  - sustainable tourism policy & plan development
  - development of innovations for resource conservation
  - Continuous tourism-related training

# THE WAY FORWARD

- ✓ Validate and prioritize identified ST needs
- ✓ Incorporate feasible recommendations into future regional & national work programmes
- ✓ Update as necessary and monitor the impact of the Regional ST Policy Framework
- ✓ Conduct baseline rapid destination assessments through a pilot project
- ✓ Develop strategic partnerships to enhance financial and technical resources needed to advance Caribbean tourism sustainability

# THANK YOU. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

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