



TAPAS GROUP
Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group

Call for Papers

Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Dates: 22-24 November 2017 (Conference), 25-26 November 2017 (Field visits)

In the framework of the 2017 UN International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development this conference wishes to provide a platform for tourism professionals, academics and practitioners from other SIDS and the region to discuss an integrated practical approach to sustainable tourism in SIDS. For this event, the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation (SSTF), and the University of Seychelles (Department of Tourism and Cultural Heritage) partnered up with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas' Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS group), the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and the Paris Tourism Sorbonne Institute of Research and Higher Education in Tourism (IREST), to organize a regional conference on sustainable tourism in SIDS, which will combine academic tourism research with practical best practice examples. The conference aims at connecting the various stakeholders working and researching the environmental and socio-cultural development of the tourism industry, for constructive discussions and networking. The specificity of this event would be to bring together experts working in the field of protected area management and specialists in cultural site preservation, to create synergistic knowledge and fruitful exchanges.

The conference aims to produce a publication with conference presentations and results, which will be widely disseminated through our joint partner network.

Conference dates:

- Wednesday 22 November: registration and social event at UniSey campus
- Thursday 23 November: Full day conference
- Friday 24 November: Full day conference and gala dinner at partner hotel
- Saturday 25 November: Field visit (optional)
- Sunday 26 November: Field visit (optional)

Conference venue: UniSey campus, Anse Royale, Mahe, Seychelles

Conference Themes

- Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas**

In Partnership with the TAPAS Group, the focus areas will be will be sustainable tourism in protected areas, including terrestrial parks and reserves, marine protected areas, and World Heritage Sites::

- Evaluating the financial and economic benefits of tourism in PAs;
- Impacts on biodiversity of PA tourism;
- Tourism concessions and partnerships for tourism;
- Community benefits and socio-economic linkages;



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- Destination management and the application of standards and certification tools for protected areas (e.g. IUCN Green List; GSTC Criteria and certifications, etc.)

□ **Tourism's social responsibility and cultural protection in SIDS**

In partnership with the UniSey - TCH Department

Main questions/themes/focus areas:

- Tools and best practices to reinstall destination ownership among local populations.
- Tools and best practices to involve local populations in sustainable tourism and provide training opportunities, foster sustainable product enhancement etc.
- Destination management and the application of standards and certification for heritage sites and cultural preservation in SIDS.

Audience: Tourism professionals from public and private sector, NGOs involved in tourism, academics, students.

Conference fees: 250 EUR (includes conference participation and coffee breaks). Registration details will follow

We invite all academics and practitioners with relevant sustainable tourism research and projects related to the two conference themes to submit their papers to sidssustainabletourism@gmail.com

Please indicate clearly which **conference theme and focus area** your paper fits in.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is June 30th 2017.

Abstracts should be max. 500 words with a title page containing full name and contact information, as well as a short bio as annex.