

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON OCEAN ECONOMIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mauritius, September 1-2, 2016

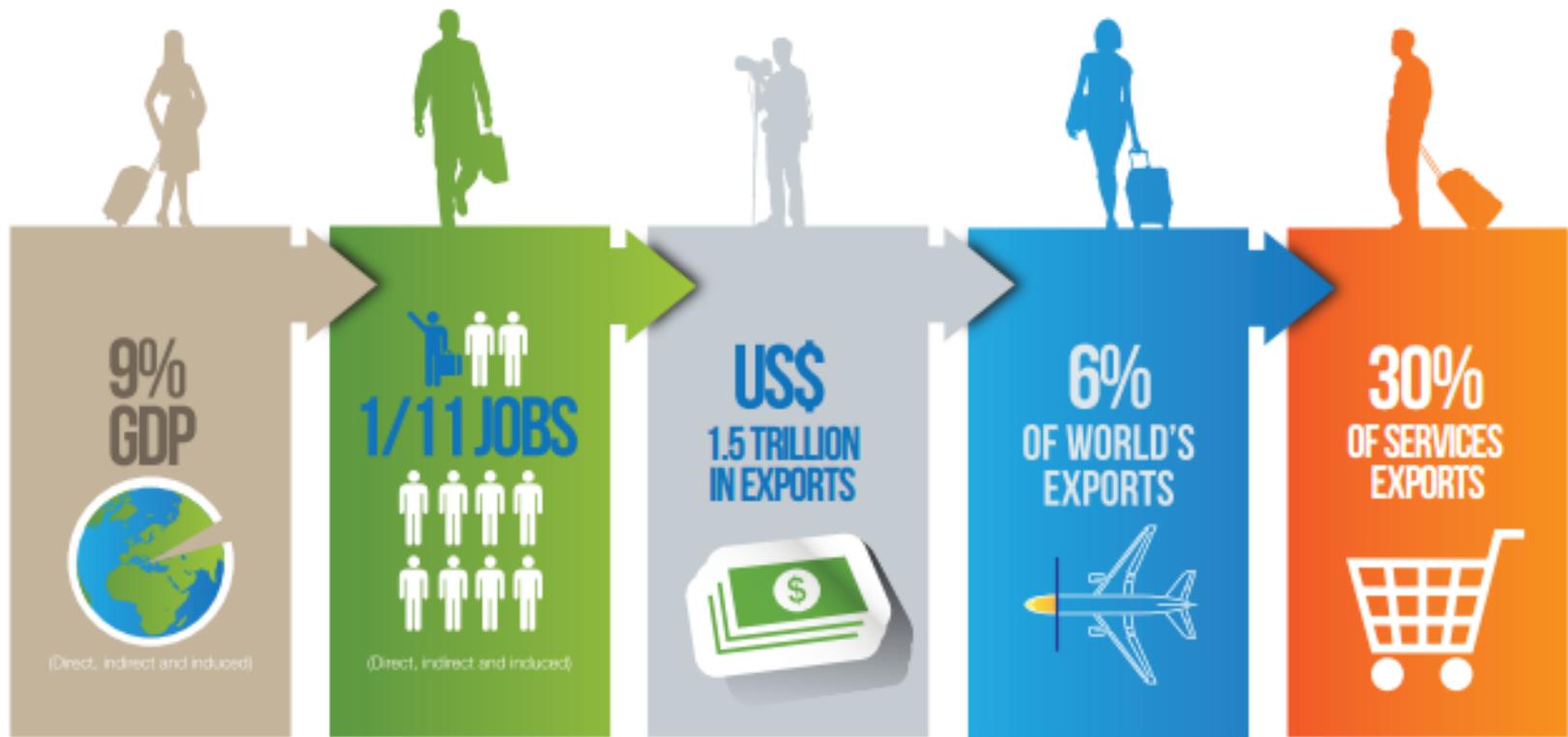


WORLD BANK GROUP

**Dialogue 1: Tourism, including
Îles Vanille**

September 4, 2016

Importance of Tourism “Why tourism Matters”



Contribution of the Tourism Sector in Africa

Tourism is a main pillar of the many African Economies, earning foreign exchange that enables the nation to trade in the world economy.

- Africa has been one of the world's fastest growing tourism regions, growing a small base of just 14.7 million visitors in 1990 to 26 million international tourists in 2000 and 56 million in 2014.
- International tourism receipts (+3%) increased by US\$ 1 billion to reach US\$ 36 billion in 2014 .
- The region maintained a [5% share in worldwide arrivals](#) and a [3% share in tourism receipts](#). (2014)
- [One in twenty of all jobs in SSA are in travel and tourism](#). The number of job in the region went up to 20.5 million in 2014.

Tourism is complex. For economic growth and sustainability it needs to be managed.

- Unmanaged tourism can create adverse environmental, cultural, and social conditions. **Well-managed, sustainable tourism can be a beacon for investment, economic development, and private sector reform.**
- Tourism generates income for biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage protection. **If tourism growth goes unmanaged however, the natural, cultural, and social asset base on which tourism depends is likely to deteriorate.** Forests may be cleared to make way for hotels, reefs can be damaged from nutrient overload from golf courses, and habitat for endangered species can be lost.
- **Awareness of the necessity to adopt sustainable development approaches and manage environmental impact in Africa has been low.** There have been signs of overexploitation of ecosystems leading to negative impact



Tourism and Climate Change



- Tourism is responsible for about **5% of all anthropogenic carbon emissions**. About 25% of all tourism-related carbon emissions come from planes and cars, an issue the tourism industry is only beginning to address.
- Tourism is highly climate-sensitive. Climate defines the length and quality of tourism seasons, affects tourism operations, and influences environmental conditions that both attract and deter visitors. **Climate change particularly affects the tourism sector through a rise in sea level, threatening islands and coastal areas**. Climate change is likely to increase the cost of tourism in the future.
- The **accommodation sector has very accessible options to reduce energy, from solar and wind energy to efficient insulation methods**, and is developing initiatives to promote local products and avoiding environmentally harmful ones.
- Air transport remains the main challenge: UNWTO works closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in a search for the best options on climate change activities - **emissions trading, carbon offsets, incentives and taxes, etc.**
- To simply decrease air travel frequency would be an unrealistic task to attempt. Work must be done to find a middle path as populations of less developed countries would be hugely affected if we deprived them of the economic contribution of tourism.
- Without a doubt, **low carbon or climate-friendly policies must form part of tourism strategies** moving forward.

Solution Approach - Opportunities

- While tourism contributes to Climate through carbon emissions, we must **balance the fact that that tourism generates wealth, creates jobs and contributes to the alleviation of poverty**.
- **Tourism development should be sustainable regardless of targeted segment and geographical location**. Sustainability issues are even more critical in the context of island economies where all tourism development interventions need to be guided by an effort to balance economic, social and environmental impacts;
- Climate change also **presents an opportunity for the tourism industry**, particularly in Africa as **a new breed of tourist is emerging who is interested in low-carbon vacations**.
- While developed destinations may have difficulty changing their modus operandi, **emerging and potential destinations in SSA have a real opportunity to choose a low-carbon and more sustainable tourism future**
- **To counter the industry's contribution to climate change**, many tourism operators already offer a **carbon calculator and suggest offsetting programs**. The United States already charges airlines US\$16.50 for each international passenger who lands in or departs from its territory; the United Kingdom charges passengers on the basis of the distance they have flown.
- Countries such as Maldives, Montenegro and Costa Rica are striving to be **"carbon neutral" destinations**.

Discussion Points

What sector wide changes will need to take place to prepare for and adapt to climate change?

- **Sector Policy:** What is the role of Government in ensuring strong political support and adequate and coordinated low carbon or climate-friendly policies are inserted in sustainable development strategies for the sector?
- **Strategic Choices:** Type of Development: How to assessing the scale of development that is appropriate to the country's assets and management resources and determining where and when development will take place (who and when)?
- **Financing:** What is the impact of climate change and climate vulnerability have on financing of the Sector.
- **Accommodation Sector:** What framework/incentives must be put in place to ensure the accommodation sector moves has access to options to reduce energy and is developing initiatives to promote local products and avoiding environmentally harmful ones.
- **Technical level:** How does Climate reflect in the day to day activities of Climate Vulnerable Countries – impact in the of climate in Ocean activities (scuba-diving, sailing). What measures need to be put in place to ensure safety of marine tourism activities vis-à-vis climate change.

THANK YOU!

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