



Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism Community of Practice Factsheet

What is a Community of Practice?

A Community of Practice (CoP) is an interactive and member-driven network of people who come together to learn and support individual and group goals.

The Local2030 Islands Network and partnering organizations are developing a Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism CoP to enable islands to learn from one another with the support of island experts. The team welcomes island stakeholders to help develop and participate in this CoP. Some of the activities may include:

Participate in Island Peer-to-Peer Exchanges: attend virtual and in-person training, webinars, and events to share information to support common objectives that fast-track sustainable and regenerative tourism.

Collaborate with Sustainable Tourism experts: work with experts from around the world to implement sustainable tourism in support of island resilience goals.

Develop Solutions: collaborate with peers and experts to develop and evaluate new ideas and strategies.

Support Implementation of Initiatives: use knowledge gained to implement tangible projects or policy initiatives.

With the input of its members, the Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism CoP may choose to focus on one or more of the following topics which will be determined by the CoP members:

- Sustainable tourism as driver for economic diversification and how to build back better
- Managing visitor use of natural, cultural, and historic places
- Shifting economic focus in tourism to regenerative.
- Balancing between tourism and the well-being of communities and the natural environment.
- Identifying and realizing opportunities to support sustainability with benefits for the tourism sector such as:
 - Waste management,
 - Culturally authentic tourism experiences,
 - Ecotourism,
 - Energy,
 - Linking local agriculture to the tourism industry to promote food security,
 - Adaptation planning,
 - Species and habitat management that promotes ecological well-being and resilience, both marine and terrestrial, and
 - Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
- Role of Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) as destination stewards
- Industry leadership development for regenerative tourism

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The Local2030 Islands Network

The Local2030 Islands Network is a global, island-led network dedicated to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through locally driven, culturally informed solutions. The Network brings together island nations, states, communities, and cultures, all tied together by their shared island experiences, cultures, strengths, and challenges.

The Four Principles of the Local2030 Islands Network are:

- Identify local goals to advance SDGs and strengthen long-term political leadership on sustainable development and climate resilience
- Strengthen public-private partnerships that support diverse stakeholders in integrating sustainability principles into policy and planning
- Measure SDG progress through tracking and reporting on locally and culturally informed indicators
- Implement concrete initiatives that build island resilience & circular economy through locally appropriate solutions, particularly at the water-energy-food nexus for increased social and environmental well-being.

Why Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism?

The Sustainable & Regenerative Tourism Community of Practice builds off key priorities identified by islands through the [Local2030 COVID-19 Virtual platform](#) and through ongoing engagement with islands.

Pre-covid, tourism was the fastest growing industry in the world accounting for about 10% of the world's economic activity and is one of the main generators of employment for islands. However, it also has major impacts on natural and built environments, and on the wellbeing and culture of host populations. The COVID pandemic, while devastating to the tourism industry, has also given us an opportunity to repair the damage we have done to our environment and communities and to stop and think about how we can build a more resilient economy for the future.

Planning for tourism must not merely reduce its negative impacts but purposely aim to improve the communities in which tourism takes place. Regenerative tourism is considered the next step in sustainable tourism, especially considering a rapidly changing climate. Sustainable tourism focuses on minimizing the negative impacts for the benefit of future generations. Regenerative tourism seeks to leave the destination better than it was while improving the quality of life of the local community. It sees communities as living systems that are distinct, constantly interacting, evolving and essential for creating balance and building resilience for improved well-being. At its core, the focus is on the needs and aspirations of the host communities.

“Regenerative tourism is not anti-growth; it simply asks that we grow the things that matter most to us in ways that benefit the entire system and never at the expense of others.” (Anna Pollock).

This Community of Practice, sitting within the Local2030 Islands Network, will link to others including Communities of Practice (CoP) on Data for Resilience, Clean Energy, and an emerging Food Security CoP as all these issues are interconnected. It will include experts across a range of disciplines and agencies with expertise in sustainable and tourism development and

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administration, community development, tourism research, data and statistics, natural and environmental resource management, transport, energy, climate adaptation and resilience along with our partners NOAA, NREL and Esri.

Expected Outcomes for the Tourism CoP

1. Development of local guidelines and policies that reflect the unique community-identified needs and opportunities found in islands, from thorough analysis and tangible recommendations, for the promotion and adoption of the regenerative tourism concepts
2. Value creation for members through opportunities for learning, building capability, sharing knowledge, and reducing duplication of work.
3. Connecting members to available technical and fiscal resources to help implement the local guidelines and policies developed through this CoP
4. Curation of shared experiences, stories, tools, ways of addressing recurring problems and help empower local people to create meaning for their communities
5. Mapping knowledge and identifying gaps
6. Innovation - new practices, create new knowledge, and development of a collective and strategic voice
7. Strategies to improve community engagement
8. Improved adherence to evidence-based policies
9. Increased thought leadership and creative problem-solving, with actionable, quantifiable steps to protect communities and environments around the world.
10. Incorporating and using knowledge systems of Indigenous people and aligning our tourism approaches with existing cultural/traditional views of guardianship and protection of places.
11. Development of community-led initiatives on regenerative tourism
12. Assist industry stakeholders improve energy and water efficiency and integration of renewable energy

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