

**Guidance documents in support of the framework for the
International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027**

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Knowledge Base – Research and Flagship Reports

This document provides complementary guidance on the purpose, scope and criteria governing development of a knowledge base, through research, reports and publications, undertaken in the context of the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027 (IYSRT 2027). It should be read in conjunction with the overall framework and guidance documents for the International Year, including the Guidance Note on National Committees and other thematic and operational guidance issued by UN Tourism.

For the purposes of the present document, the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027 is hereinafter referred to as “the International Year”.

I. Strategic Orientation and Specific Objectives for Building a Knowledge Base

Sustainability is not a static objective but a continuous process requiring ongoing research and building of knowledge to guide tourism policy, planning and development formulation and implementation. Resilience has become an essential dimension of this process, ensuring that the tourism sector is not only of withstanding shocks but also of advancing its development responsibly and in alignment with broader societal, economic and environmental objectives.

The International Year is conceived as a forward-looking, implementation-oriented initiative to consolidate progress in advancing sustainable and resilient tourism, while responding to evolving global challenges affecting destinations and communities, including environmental degradation, economic volatility and social inequalities. It aims to translate policy commitments into coordinated, measurable action at the national, regional and global levels, with a focus on effective implementation and tangible impact. In doing so, it contributes to ongoing international deliberations on sustainable development beyond the current global framework, including the transition from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to future global frameworks.

Strategic Orientation

The International Year prioritizes the development of a comprehensive Knowledge Base to support the translation of sustainability and resilience principles into practical, implementable policies. This strategic orientation aims to strength skills and capacities across the tourism sector, raise awareness of tourism as an engine for sustainable, inclusive and resilient development and highlight its transformative role in the post 2030 global dialogue.

Specific objectives

The Knowledge Base on Sustainable and Resilient Tourism aims to:

- **Inform evidence-based decision-making** to promote sustainable tourism planning and development;

- **Enhance natural and cultural resources** through environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, resource efficiency, climate action, promotion of cultural values, diversity, living heritage and destination identity;
- **Support measurement and monitoring** of tourism-related data and impacts to strengthen governance, standards, and risk management;
- **Enhance local value creation and community well-being**, promoting inclusiveness and gender equality; and
- **Encourage innovation and competitiveness**, across the tourism sector.

II. Core Flagship Reports to be Prepared by UN Tourism

To ensure a strong analytical foundation for the International Year and to position tourism effectively within the emerging post-2030 global development framework, the Secretariat will prepare three mutually reinforcing knowledge products: two flagship reports and one rolling analytical report that spans the entire preparatory and implementation periods.

2.1 Future of Work in Tourism for the post 2030 agenda

The first flagship report will examine how the profound structural shifts under way in labour markets, technology and social systems are likely to shape employment and human capital in the tourism sector beyond 2030. It will analyse the transformation of skills and the growing need for lifelong learning, as well as the sector's capacity to promote inclusion and provide access to decent work. Particular attention will be given to the implications of the digital transition and artificial intelligence for tourism labour markets, alongside evolving patterns of labour mobility and migration that increasingly influence workforce availability across regions. The report will also explore the emerging relevance of the care economy and the need for more gender-sensitive approaches to workforce development, recognising the specific characteristics of tourism as a service-intensive, people-centred sector.

2.2 Resilient Tourism Development and its contribution to Poverty Alleviation, Urban Prosperity and Biodiversity Protection

The second flagship report will explore how tourism can serve as a catalyst for resilience-oriented development at both national and subnational level, with particular emphasis on its potential contributions to poverty alleviation, inclusive urban development and biodiversity conservation. It will assess the specific conditions under which tourism SMEs can strengthen their resilience and how coherent national and local frameworks can support more robust tourism development pathways. The report will also analyse the ways in which tourism can effectively contribute to poverty reduction, especially in regions where the sector represents a major source of livelihoods.

In addition, it will examine the role of tourism in urban environments, where the sector can drive more inclusive and resilient forms of growth, and will consider how biodiversity protection and nature-positive approaches can be systematically integrated into tourism planning and investment. Special attention will be given to the evolving role of private sector commitments, particularly net-positive strategies, in shaping more sustainable and resilient tourism ecosystems.

2.3 Rolling Analytical Report: Strategic Roadmap – Tourism in the Agenda 2030+

The Rolling Analytical report will serve as a continuous knowledge instrument, collecting insights, evidence and inputs generated throughout 2026 and 2027, and culminating in a strategic position paper to guide the tourism sector in negotiations on the post-2030 global agenda.

The primary aim of this report is to clarify how tourism can be most effectively positioned within the post 2030 agenda. Work on the report will progress in phases:

- **2026:** focus on establishing conceptual foundations, identifying key themes and gathering initial evidence.
- **2027:** incorporate findings from the International Year, across all regions and workstreams, will be continuously incorporated, enabling a progressive consolidation of ideas and building a broad consensus on the sector's long-term positioning.

The strategic roadmap is intended to be finalized in 2028, ensuring it can meaningfully inform Member States' engagement in Agenda 2030+ negotiations. However, earlier completion may be required should UNDESA's consultation calendar advance more rapidly.

III. Other Research and Publications Developed in Support of the International Year

In addition to the core knowledge products prepared by UN Tourism, research and publications developed by external entities are encouraged to support the objectives and thematic priorities of the International Year. These contributions may be produced by National Committees, academic institutions, research bodies, strategic partners, other partner organizations and relevant stakeholders. They may take the form of policy papers, technical notes, thematic studies, background papers, case-study compilations and other analytical materials relevant to sustainable and resilient tourism. The development, preparation and delivery of such publications shall be financed entirely through independent resources. UN Tourism will not be able to provide financial support for activities related to their preparation, including research, drafting, consultations or associated operational costs.

Research and publications developed in support of the International Year should demonstrate clear relevance to its objectives, thematic priorities and guiding principles. They should be evidence-based, prepared with appropriate analytical rigor and methodological transparency, and clearly identify the responsible author or institution, date of publication and thematic or geographical scope. Publications that are primarily promotional, commercial or advocacy-driven in a manner inconsistent with the public-interest purpose of the International Year should not be presented in association with it.

All publications should include a visible Statement of Responsibility, Originality and Methodological Integrity from the authoring institution or author. This statement should confirm that responsibility for the content, sources, analysis, findings and conclusions rests fully with the named authoring entity; that the publication meets the applicable criteria set out in this guidance; and that the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of UN Tourism. A model Statement is included as Annex I.

Where artificial intelligence-assisted tools have been used in the preparation of a publication, such use should be disclosed in the statement in a clear and transparent manner. The statement should also confirm that AI tools have not replaced substantive human responsibility for the research, analysis and conclusions and have not been used to fabricate or misrepresent data, references, quotations or findings.

In selected cases, research and publications developed in support of the International Year may also be prepared jointly by UN Tourism and strategic partners. Such collaboration may be considered where it offers clear substantive value for the objectives and thematic priorities of the International Year and be governed by appropriate arrangements defining roles, responsibilities, editorial processes, visibility and accountability. These collaborations must remain fully consistent with the public-interest character of the International Year and shall not confer governance functions, decision-making authority or influence over the substantive independence of UN Tourism. The development, preparation, and delivery of such reports may be financed through the International Year project account, managed by UN Tourism, subject to availability of funds and approval of the Steering Committee. Specific agreements are required for the funding and preparation of joint publications.

For publications primarily addressing national or subnational issues, the relevant National Committee may, under its own responsibility, associate them with the International Year as part of the national implementation framework. Such association should reflect the Committee's judgement that the publication is relevant to the International Year's objectives and thematic priorities within the respective national context. Annex II includes a model Statement of Relevance by a National Committee, which can be used with that purpose.

All external publications developed in support of the International Year shall remain under the full responsibility of the respective authoring institution or author. Association with the International Year does not in itself imply review, validation or formal endorsement by UN Tourism.

IV. Knowledge Repository on the International Year Webpage

The Knowledge Repository on the International Year webpage will serve as a curated, non-exhaustive access point for selected knowledge products relevant to the objectives and thematic priorities of the International Year. It will include the core knowledge products prepared by UN Tourism and may also feature selected external publications developed in support of the International Year.

Inclusion of external publications in the repository is not automatic. As a general rule, only external publications accompanied by a Statement of Relevance issued by the relevant National Committee or, where appropriate, by one or more relevant National Committees, will be considered for inclusion. Such statement should confirm that the publication is relevant to the objectives and thematic priorities of the International Year, either within the respective national context or, where applicable, across the national contexts represented by the issuing Committees.

All publications considered for inclusion in the repository must also contain, in a visible manner within the publication itself, the required Statement of Responsibility, Originality and Methodological Integrity. Publications must be made publicly available in final digital form free of charge and comply with formal requirements relating to accessibility, completeness, presentation and metadata.

The repository may also include publications prepared jointly by UN Tourism and strategic partners, where such publications are developed in accordance with the applicable agreements, governing roles, responsibilities, visibility and editorial integrity.

Inclusion in the Knowledge Repository does not constitute substantive review, validation or formal endorsement by UN Tourism of publications produced by external entities. Responsibility for the content of such publications remains entirely with the respective authoring institution or author.

Annex I

Model Statement of Responsibility, Originality and Methodological Integrity

The authoring institution or author (hereinafter referred to as the “Author”) hereby declares and warrants that:

1. the publication is relevant to the objectives and thematic priorities of the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027;
2. the publication has been prepared on the basis of identifiable sources, supporting evidence and a transparent methodological approach appropriate to its nature, scope and intended purpose;
3. the content of the publication is original, to the extent applicable to its format, and that all data, references, quotations and other source materials have been used in good faith and, to the best of the Author’s knowledge and belief, are accurately, properly represented and duly attributed;
4. the publication is not promotional, commercial or advocacy-driven in a manner inconsistent with the public-interest character of the International Year;
5. the publication is made publicly available in final digital form free of charge;
6. where artificial intelligence-assisted tools have been used in the preparation of the publication, such use has been disclosed in a clear, appropriate, and transparent manner, and has not replaced substantive human responsibility for the research, analysis or conclusions;
7. artificial intelligence-assisted tools, where used, have not been employed to fabricate, falsify, or otherwise misrepresent data, references, quotations, analysis or findings; and
8. the views and opinions expressed in the publication are solely those of the Author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UN Tourism.

Name of authoring institution / author:

Date:

Place:

Signature, where applicable:

Annex II

Model Statement of Relevance by a National Committee

Statement of Relevance

The *[name of National Committee]* has taken note of the publication entitled "*[title of publication]*", prepared by *[name of authoring institution or author]*.

For the purposes of its potential inclusion in the Knowledge Repository of the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027, the present statement attests that the publication is deemed relevant to the objectives and thematic priorities of the International Year within the national context of *[country]*, and, where applicable, across the national contexts represented by the issuing Committees.

This statement is issued solely for the purpose of confirming relevance and shall not be construed as constituting a substantive, technical or peer review of the publication. Nor should be interpreted as an endorsement, in whole or in part, by the National Committee or UN Tourism of any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations contained therein. Responsibility for the content of the publication remains exclusively with the authoring institution or author.

Issued by: *[Name of National Committee]*

Country / Countries concerned:

Name and function of signatory:

Date:

Optional reference to thematic area(s):

Optional short note on relevance: