Sustainable Resource Management in Hotels in the Pacific

Tourism is a main driver of economic growth in the Pacific with countries. However, the sector remains vulnerable, specifically susceptible to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. In order to drive and inform policies that support sustainability within the sector, there is a need for detailed sector data on sustainable consumption and production patterns. With the support of the United Nation's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), Sustainable Travel International in collaboration with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and partners are implementing the *Sustainable Resource Management in Pacific Hotels* project.

The goal is to create a replicable approach for destinations and businesses across the Pacific to monitor, measure, report on and address critical barriers to improving sustainable consumption and production in the tourism industry. Specifically, the project seeks to:
- Collect, monitor, and report on a small but practical set of sustainability indicators;
- Provide clear motivation and incentive for businesses to improve performance;
- Collect baseline data to provide the foundation for making the business case for sustainability; and
- Identify risks, challenges and gaps for future interventions.

This work provides the opportunity to inspire a new commitment to sustainability among members of the local tourism industry and empower them to improve consumption and production behavior by:
- Collaborating with the local stakeholders to identify the barriers to sustainable consumption and production within the destination
- Training 100 hotel managers on sustainable tourism best practices such as sourcing goods locally, using resources more efficiently, and utilizing a supply chain that is more inclusive of local people and local cultures
- Raising awareness among hotel managers on the financial benefits of incorporating these sustainability practices into their business operations
- Equipping 100 hotels with a Sustainability Management System (SMS) - a digital tool to monitor their energy-use, waste-reduction, water consumption, and sustainable sourcing and carbon footprint.

By influencing the sustainability behavior in businesses and across destinations, this project will lead to a more robust economy and a better future for people and environments in the South Pacific. The anticipated long-term impacts include:
- Reduced consumption of resources (water, gas, electricity) and increased resource efficiency through recycling, greywater, and use of alternative energy sources
- Decreased amount of waste and pollution generated by the tourism industry
- Less carbon emissions being generated from the transportation of imported goods
- Increased tourism-related job opportunities and income streams for local people
- Increased awareness and appreciation of local culture

For more information about this project, please contact Jessie F. McComb, Sr. Advisor Sustainable Travel International at jessiem@sustainabletravel.org.