

## The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

### THAILAND

Capital	Bangkok
Population	67.2
Area (in sq. km)	513,120
Area (in sq. mi)	198,115
Language(s)	Thai
Poverty rate	12.6 (2012)
Gross national income per capita	13,323
Human Development Index	0.726 (2014)
International	
Tourist Arrivals (2015) (thousand)	29,923

Sources: UNDP, UNWTO



The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

**Title of VNR:** Thailand's Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Presenter for VNR:** Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs

#### **National Thematic Focus:**

1. Enhance and develop potential of human capital
2. Create a just society and reduce inequality
3. Strengthen economy and sustainable competitiveness
4. Promote environmental friendly growth for sustainable development
5. Reinforce national stability for prosperity and sustainability
6. Improve governmental administration, corruption protection and good governance
7. Advance infrastructure and logistics
8. Develop science, technology, research and innovation
9. Develop regions, cities and economic zones
10. Promote international cooperation for development

#### **Institutional Arrangement:**

Thailand's main mechanism responsible for sustainable development is the **National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD)**, chaired by the **Prime Minister**. The CSD is comprised of 37 members, including 16 members from the public sector, 3 academics, 2 from the private sector, 2 from civil society, and 4 independent experts on sustainable development. It is responsible for formulating policies and strategies on SDGs, and monitoring their implementation. The **Secretary-General of National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)** serves as the Secretariat.

The CSD has established three sub-committees, open to a larger number of participants, namely:

1) The **Sub-committee on Implementing Sustainable Development Goals** includes representatives from Ministries, civil society organizations, and other experts. This sub-committee is responsible for planning the implementation, coordination, and monitoring of the SDGs. This includes defining SDG targets that are consistent with SEP and creating Roadmaps for achieving the SDGs. This Sub-committee has created three additional taskforces dedicated to implementation of the SDGs, 1) Taskforce on Integrating the Implementation of SDGs, 2) Taskforce on Preparing Reports on the Progress of the Implementation of the SDGs, and 3) Taskforce on Reviewing and Recommending Economic, Social, and Legal Measures for the Promotion of Sustainable Development.

2) The **Sub-committee on Promoting Understanding and Evaluating Sustainable Development** in Accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, is tasked with raising awareness about the SDGs and SEP.

3) **Sub-committee on Developing Information System to Support Sustainable Development** works to establish a national central database to enable sustainable development data collection and analysis.

### **SDG Incorporation to National Framework:**

In Thailand, the SDGs are implemented within the 20 Year National Strategy Framework (2017 - 2036) and the 12<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017 - 2021). All 30 priority targets identified by Thailand in the SDGs are in line with the 6 dimensions of the 20-Year National Framework. They follow the national Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP).

These national strategies promote inclusive, balanced, and sustainable development, which is in conformity with the core principles of the SDGs.

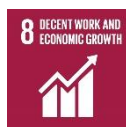
### **Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:**

[Ministry of Tourism and Sports](#)

### **Tourism and SDG in Thailand:**

#### **Opportunities**

- **Poverty Reduction**
- **Rural development**
- **Partnership**
- **SMEs and entrepreneurship promotion**



**Community Tourism:** The Government encourages and supports poor families in using Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as a guide to make a living, manage households and increase self-reliance. There are 878 SEP model villages which seek to increase income, reduce expenditure and promote community welfare for those in the rural areas. Furthermore, the Government has implemented the project “Pracharath Rak Samakee” under the Public-Private-People Partnership (PPPP) called Pracharath Policy, to promote social enterprises and enable the private sector to work with the Government to help communities and societies. The Pracharath social enterprises have been set up in 76 provinces nationwide to increase income in rural communities via three strategic pillars: agriculture, product processing by small and medium-sized enterprises, and **community tourism**.

- **Economic development**



**Tourism is seen with Increase in total of productivity as Thailand's main sector of economy.** Thailand has set out to stabilize the economy and achieving an average growth rate of 5 per cent per year, with supporting factors such as logistics, energy and R&D that will enable the expansion of the means of production of goods and services. An increase in GDP per capita to 8,200 USD and an increase in total factor productivity of approximately 2.5 per cent per year is envisioned, along with growth targets in main sectors of the Thai economy, such as (1) agricultural sector, industrial sector and service sector, with an average growth rate of 3.0 per cent, 4.5 per cent and 6.0 per cent, respectively, and (2) **tourism sector, with the goal of increasing revenue from both Thai and non-Thai tourists, no less than 3.0 trillion Baht (approximately 85.7 billion USD) small and medium enterprises, with a share of total GDP of no less than 45 per cent, once the 12th Plan has concluded.**

- **Urban development**



**Integrated and Resilient Urban Planning:** The Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning has reformed spatial planning system with broad participation of all stakeholders. At present, spatial plans have been done at all stages which are: National Plan, Regional Plan (6 regions), Sub-regional Plan (18 sub-regions), Comprehensive Provincial Plan (73 provinces), and City/Community Plan (435 plans). These plans are to be used by all relevant sectors not only for making integrated policy planning and development at the provincial, district and sub-district levels, but also for land use management, economics activities, agricultural area, industrial zoning, **tourism**, infrastructure, water management, natural resources and environment conservation in accordance with opportunities, roles and capabilities of each zone.

- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**



Thailand attaches great importance to environmentally-friendly development. The 20-Year National Strategy Framework advocates for growth that is based on an environmentally-friendly lifestyle. The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017 – 2021 and the Environment Quality Management Plan 2017 – 2021, as keys national plans on sustainable development, both highlight the significance of sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Additionally, **Thailand has also been implementing a range of industry-specific strategies and plans which foster SCP in manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, education and transportation.**

- **Industry, transport and Infrastructure**  
- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**



At a smaller scale, the Government has been promoting daily usage of bicycles and is currently accelerating the construction of safe bicycle routes in all regions which will become connected as **bicycle route networks for both transportation and tourism.** This will reduce energy consumption and pollution, saving Thailand's environment.

## Challenges

- **Marine and coastal protection**
- **Natural resource management**



Thailand still needs to **address many human activities that affect the marine environment** and resources including coastal development, such as industries, aquaculture, **tourism**, human settlements and fisheries, as well as the increased amount of marine debris and worsened pollution. Furthermore, the integration of development policies and **natural resource management remains a major challenge**, which could lead to further environmental and resources degradation and conflicts. Thailand will continue to exert its utmost efforts to address the challenges in coastal and marine resources management by fostering the integrated coastal management approach, i.e., enhancing coordinated application of the policies affecting the coastal zone and related to activities such as nature protection, aquaculture, fisheries, agriculture, industry, **tourism**, development of infrastructure, and mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (page 58)

## Resources and Useful Links

[Thailand VNR 2017](#)