



# TOURISM AND SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Tourism is energy-intensive and as a sector can also be a source of environmental damage, especially when reliant on scarce resources like fossil fuels. By promoting investment in clean energy sources, tourism can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and contribute to access to energy for all. The implementation of renewables in a local community can start in the tourism sector, for example, ocean energy in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Paying particular attention to the potential growth of developing countries, tourism stakeholders should prioritize energy efficiency across operations and whenever possible aim to source operational electricity

needs from renewable sources.

Achieving the SDGs through tourism: Toolkit of Indicators (TIPs) publication will allow users to explore tourism's role in achieving SDG 7 and discover links and connections tourism have with selected SDG 7 targets.

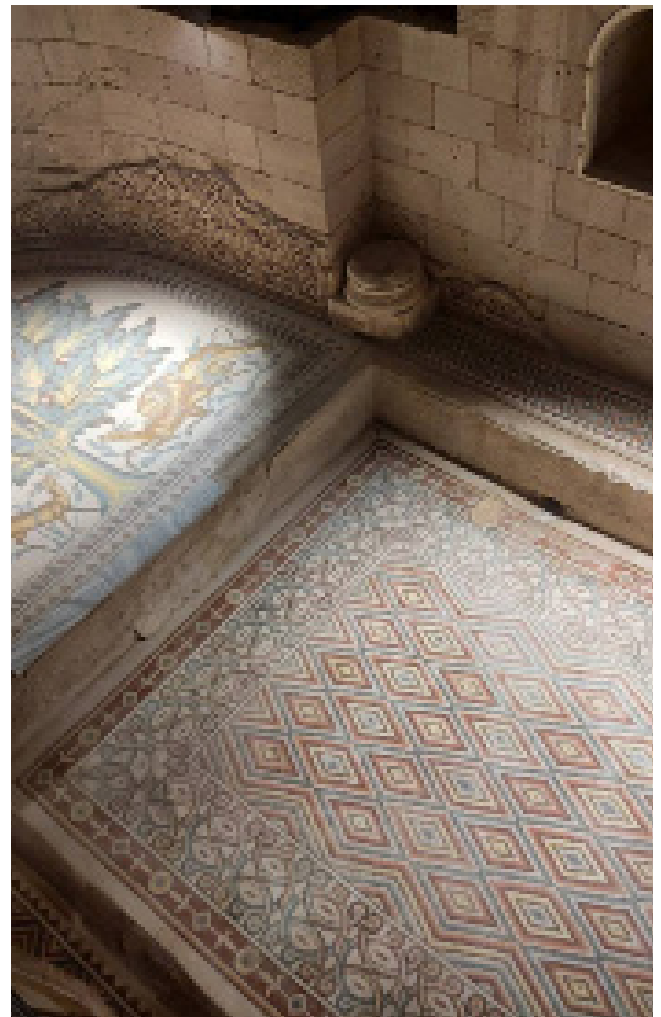
Each chapter in Part II of TIPs is dedicated to one SDG. In the chapter for SDG 7, users will be introduced to selected targets and potential indicators (note: Indicators are non-exhaustive and adaptable) for tourism projects to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

## Selected SDG 7 Targets : 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.b

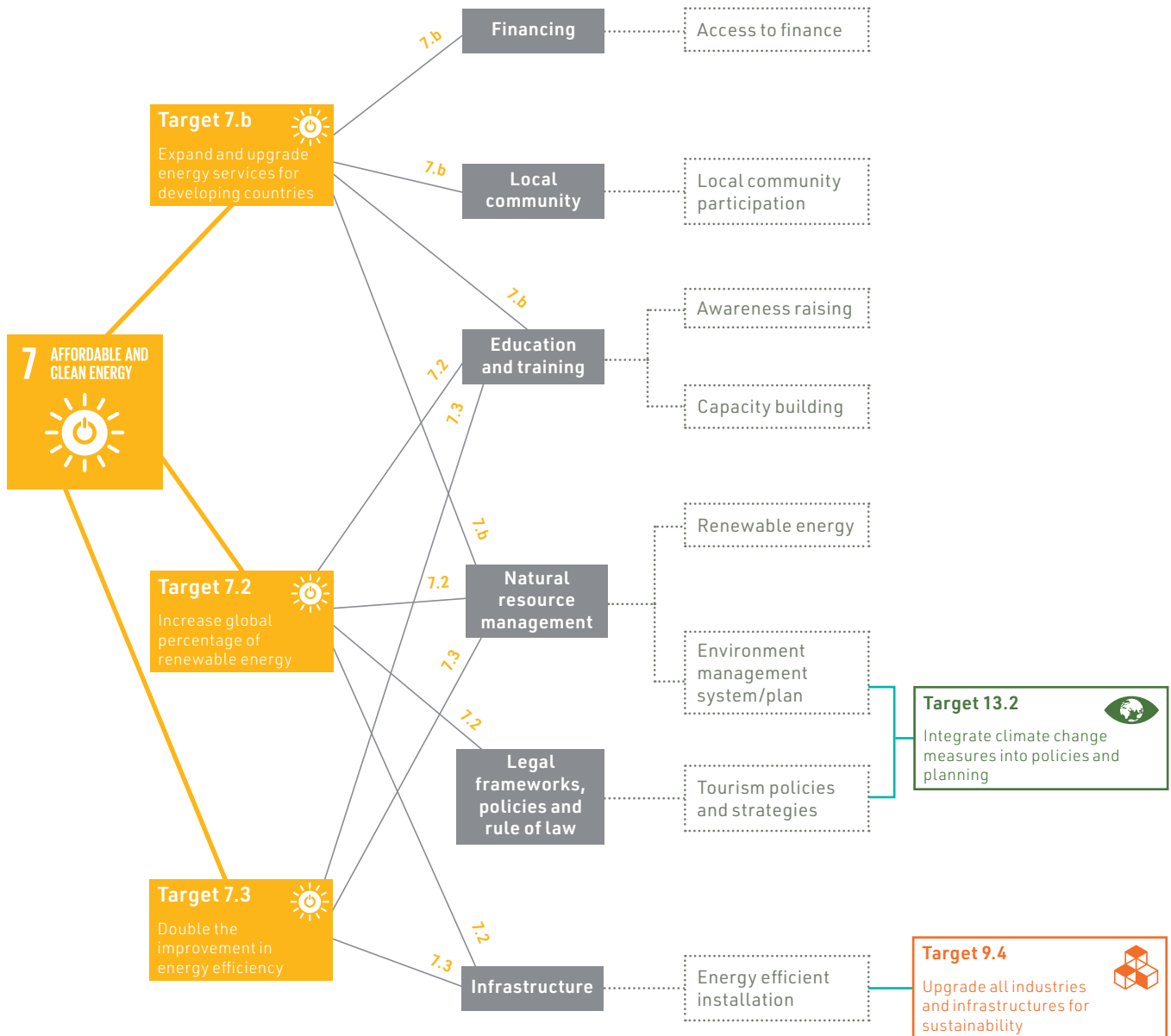
There are three targets within SDG 7 that are deemed have a closer link for tourism to help ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. These targets have been selected to base the potential project indicators.

In the following pages, you will find:

- a visual aid which illustrates the connection between the selected SDG 7 targets with various themes, sub-themes and connection with other SDGs and targets.
- Snapshot of the tourism-related SDG 7 targets including short elaboration of its connection with tourism, together with examples of potential indicators



Visual aid – Connections between selected SDG 7 targets with themes/sub-themes and other SDGs/targets



**LINES CONNECTION:**

- Selected SDG 7 targets
- To themes
- From themes to sub-themes
- With other targets

**Target 7.3**  
Double the improvement in energy efficiency

**THEMES**

**SUB-THEMES**

**Target 13.2**  
Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning

## 7.2 BY 2030, INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE GLOBAL ENERGY MIX.

Using renewable energy sources can significantly decrease the environmental footprint of tourism and production of energy will help businesses cope with the fluctuation of fuel supply and protect them from price inflation or shortage of fuels, making renewable energy a case for economic sustainability. Commitment to the use of renewable energy sources within the destination and the tourism sector, including self-production of energy, procurement of green energy, passive designs. in construction, as well as proactive regulatory frameworks and incentives can accelerate the shift towards renewable energy, helping to achieve this target.

Various parts of the tourism sector can have different approaches to change their energy sources. For example, the use of electric vehicles instead of conventional transportation, the use of air conditioning and boilers powered by solar and other renewable energy sources.

Potential indicators in this target are grouped by the following **Theme** and *sub-theme*:

**Natural resource management** / *Renewable energy*

**Infrastructure** / *Energy efficient installations*

**Legal framework, policies and rule of law** / *Tourism policies and strategies*

**Education and training** / *Capacity building*

### Examples of potential indicators:

- Whether there is use of certified renewable energy credits. (Yes/No)
- Percentage of energy consumption decreased due to passive installations at tourism destinations and businesses
- Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards regarding the tourism sector addressing renewable energy formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of the tourism development project

And more..



## 7.3 BY 2030, DOUBLE THE GLOBAL RATE OF IMPROVEMENT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

Significant levels of energy are consumed by the tourism sector both through fixed assets (buildings, etc.) and mobile assets (motor vehicles, trains, ferries, etc.). A reduction in energy consumed will have a positive impact on the operational costs of enterprises (and can reduce pressure on utilities) and have major environmental benefits, primarily through reducing consumption of natural resources and lowering associated greenhouse gas emissions and thus contributing to Target 7.3.

The availability of certifications and the use of ecolabels can help private sector actors, including tourism stakeholders, integrate a systematic management towards resource efficiency and overtly display their actions (e.g., Lead in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Green Key). Various tools exist to assist accommodation managers with energy benchmarking, most notably the free Hotel Energy Solutions (HES) “e-toolkit” or Nearly Zero Energy Hotels (neZEH)

Potential indicators in this target are grouped by the following **Theme** and *sub-theme*:

**Natural resource management** / *Environment management system/plan*

**Infrastructure** / *Energy efficient installations*

**Education and training** / *Awareness raising*

### Examples of potential indicators:

- Whether there is a tourism development plan which includes energy management, guidelines or manual for tourism stakeholders (Yes/No)
- Percentage of investment /budget allocated for new energy efficiency technology and infrastructure
- Number of evaluations/audits of education and training programmes on energy conservation

And more..





## 7.B BY 2030, EXPAND INFRASTRUCTURE AND UPGRADE TECHNOLOGY FOR SUPPLYING MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SERVICES FOR ALL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN PARTICULAR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, AND LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMMES OF SUPPORT.

Affordable and sustainable energy is essential for a thriving tourism sector especially in countries<sup>94</sup> whose energy costs are often elevated due to dependency on imported or expensive fossil fuels, which also makes them vulnerable to disruptions. Energy access is a major development constraint in many developing countries and, while starting from a relatively low base, energy demand is expected to grow very rapidly in many of these countries in the future. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and also other developing countries including least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are highly dependent on fossil fuels. This target calls for suitable programmes of support for developing countries, in particular LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs to access appropriate technologies and expertise to meet their future energy needs.

Accelerating the use of renewable energy by the tourism sector in these countries requires concerted actions and efforts to support the business case for such changes. The promotion of sustainable energy solutions can attract future investment and encourage tourists, for example, to stay in hotels that provide such solutions, demonstrating the business case worldwide.

Potential indicators in this target are grouped by the following **Theme** and *sub-theme*:

**Local community** / *Local community participation*

**Financing** / *Access to finance*

**Education and training** / *Capacity building*

**Natural resource management** / *Environment management system/plan*

### Examples of potential indicators:

- Number of discussions or consultations held on energy management matters with local community and tourism stakeholders in the destination, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs
- Number of initiatives/support programmes providing access to finance for adoption/installation of renewable energy technologies and services in the destination, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs
- Number of trainings on new technologies for renewable energy, and their use, for tourism workers/businesses as a result of the tourism project

And more..





**TIPs Toolkit is a joint publication by:**



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