

2025 SIDS NDE Joint Programme

World Café: *Climate Action in Business & Industry*

PRESENTER

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CENTRE
for **SOCIAL**
IMPACT



Flinders
University



Dr. Laura Lesar, PhD

Sustainability expert with 17 years experience in developing and implementing sustainability solutions with business and industry

- ◆ **Specializes in sustainability practice and climate action for business and industry** – supporting industry to develop and implement practical tools for sustainability and resilience (e.g., certification programs, climate action tools, capacity building tools for sustainability, sustainability indicators, ESG reporting, benchmarking tools)
- ◆ **International Experience on Sustainability Projects with public, private, and non-profit sectors internationally in USA, Asia-Pacific Region, Australia, and South America**, (e.g., Municipal Government of Hawaii, Australian Federal Government, Chile’s National Environmental Commission, Royal Caribbean International, Global Sustainable Tourism Council, Expedia, Experience Gold Coast, and Gemtree Wines).
- ◆ **Holding academic and industry credentials, her research engages scientifically rigorous methods to drive impactful, practical sustainability and climate action solutions for business and industry** (e.g., sustainability toolkit for tourism delivered 50% reduction in transport/emissions)
- ◆ **Invited Industry Presentations on Sustainability and Climate Action In Asia-Pacific, USA, Australia:** UNCTCN NDE Forum/Capacity Building “AI4Climate Action” (Pacific); U.S. Department of State East-West Fellows Program’s Invited Expert Speaker (Pacific)
- ◆ **Invited Policy Consultation on Climate Action and Tourism:** She has been invited to share her expertise in sustainability and tourism in the public sector, and has shaped national and state policies on climate action and tourism in Australia.



Centre for Social Impact Flinders

- ◆ Part of national network, Centre for Social Impact Flinders delivers research and development solutions to tackle significant social challenges to drive transformational change.
- ◆ Our team specializes in working collaboratively with business, industry, and communities to drive positive change.
- ◆ We co-design social impact solutions with – not for – business, industries, and communities to deliver meaningful and relevant social impact solutions.
- ◆ Our researchers hold multi-disciplinary expertise to deliver impactful solutions, with expertise in climate action, food security, sustainability, AI, agribusiness, social inequalities, diversity/equity/inclusion, and social impact marketing
- ◆ Our team of internationally leading experts have worked on social impact projects globally in the USA, Australia, and Asia-Pacific



World Café

***Climate Action in Business & Industry:
A Theory of Change Perspective***

Centre for Social Impact Flinders' Theory of Change Framework for Climate Action™



Centre for Social Impact Flinders' Theory of Change Framework for Climate Action™: Pacific and SIDs Case Studies

Aruba



◆ Food waste emissions (10% global GHGe)

◆ Tourism Industry
◆ Private sector businesses (hotels)

◆ AI-Enabled Technology “Winnow”



AI identifies and measures wasted food

Data sent to managers for decision making



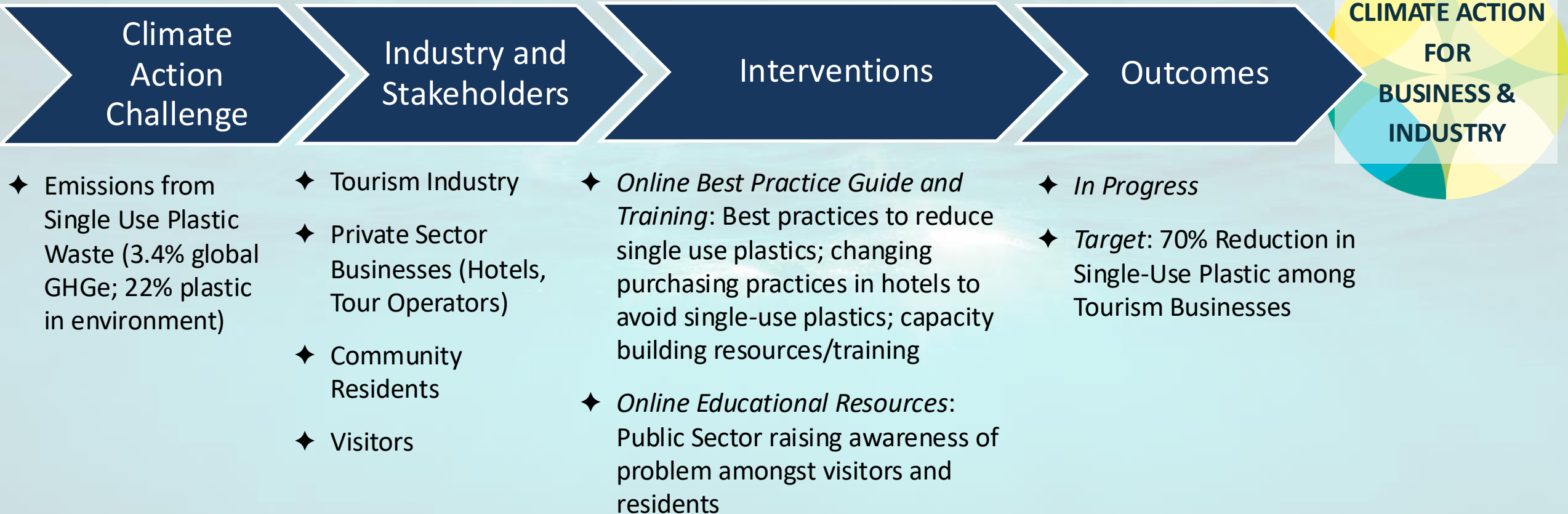
◆ 50% food waste reduction (avg)
◆ Emissions reduction from food waste



Centre for Social Impact Flinders' Theory of Change Framework for Climate Action™:

Pacific and SIDs Case Studies

Cyprus



Centre for Social Impact Flinders' Theory of Change Framework for Climate Action™:

Pacific and SIDs Case Studies

Federated States of Micronesia



- ◆ Salt water intrusion in local crops (taro) due to sea level rise

- ◆ Agricultural Industry
- ◆ Tourism Industry
- ◆ Private Sector Businesses (restaurants)
- ◆ Community Residents

- ◆ Transformed salt water contaminated taro into flour for sale and consumption

- ◆ Reductions in food waste and emissions
- ◆ Supported community livelihoods
- ◆ Combats food insecurity from climate change



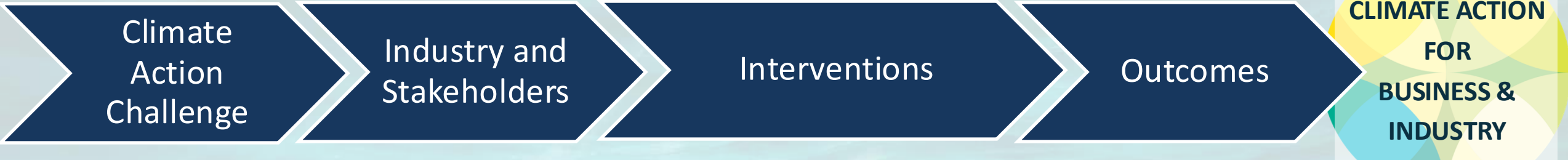
Consider Cross-Industry Linkages with Tourism Industry...

Sell local food product to tourism businesses (restaurants, hotels) to reduce emissions from food miles and support community livelihoods

Centre for Social Impact Flinders' Theory of Change Framework for Climate Action™:

Pacific and SIDs Case Studies

Australia



- ◆ Climate action tools inadequately address place-based priorities
- ◆ Many climate action tools are “one-off” rather than continuous solutions

- ◆ Tourism Industry
- ◆ Private Sector Businesses (Tourism/ Events)
- ◆ Public Sector (Destination Management)

- ◆ *E-Toolkit* to Measure, Monitor, Report, Assess, and Act on Climate Action Priorities for Continuous Improvement: Indicators, Best Practices, Monitoring Tools, and Assessment Tools for Climate Action
- ◆ *E-Guidance and Capacity Building Manual* for Industry
- ◆ *E-Best Practice Guidance Manual* for Tourism Suppliers

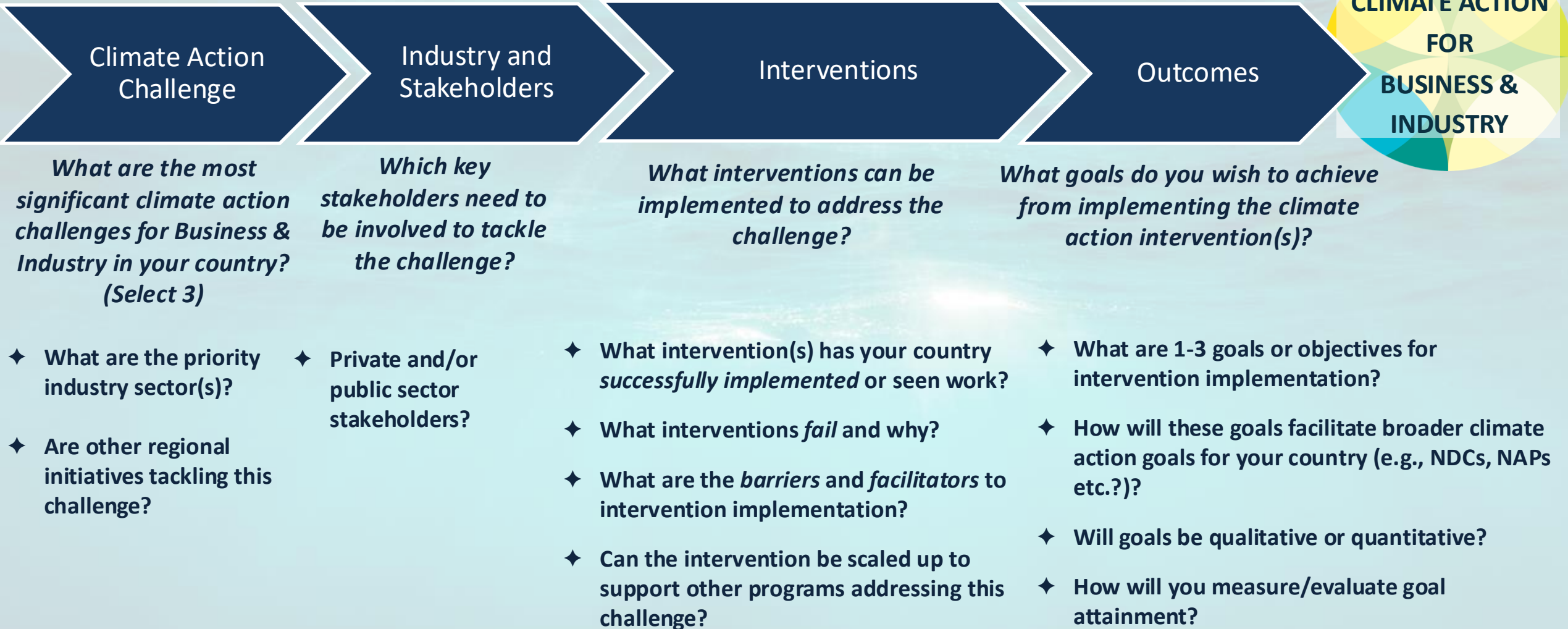
- ◆ 50% Reduction in transport emissions to event
- ◆ 100% local suppliers (reducing supply chain emissions)

E- Toolkits



Centre for Social Impact Flinders' Theory of Change Framework for Climate Action™:

Discussion



Thank You!



References

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Winnow (n.d). Aruba Marriott launches Winnow to double down on sustainability. <https://www.winnowsolutions.com/hubfs/2024/Aruba%20Marriot%20CS%20%5BEN%5D%20-%20Editable.pdf?hsLang=en>

