

2026 Joint Programme

NDE Forum and Capacity Building for System Transformation in LAC

19-22 May 2026,
San Ignacio, Belize

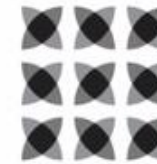




BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

2026 Joint Programme: Latin America and the Caribbean
NDE Forum and Capacity Building, 19-22 May 2026

A/Professor Laura Lesar
Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University



CENTRE
for **SOCIAL**
IMPACT



Flinders
University



Dr. Laura Lesar, PhD

Expert in sustainability, climate action, and social impact solutions with business and industry - 17 years experience

- ◆ **Specializes in sustainability practice and climate action for business and industry** – support industry in developing and decision-making support on practical tools for climate action, sustainability, and social impact (e.g., certification programs; climate action tools; capacity building tools; decision-making support tools; indicators for climate action, sustainability and social impact; ESG reporting; benchmarking tools; SDG alignment)
- ◆ **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 Int., 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 Globally:** UNCTCN NDE Forum/Capacity Building (2024-2026) (Asia, Pacific, Small Island Developing States, Latin America/Caribbean); U.S. Department of State East-West Fellows Program’s Invited Expert Speaker (Pacific)
- ◆ **Invited Policy Consultation to shape Policy on Climate Action and Tourism** She has shaped national and state policies on climate action and tourism in Australia.



**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY:
CONTEXT**



BUSINESS & INDUSTRY – IMPORTANCE

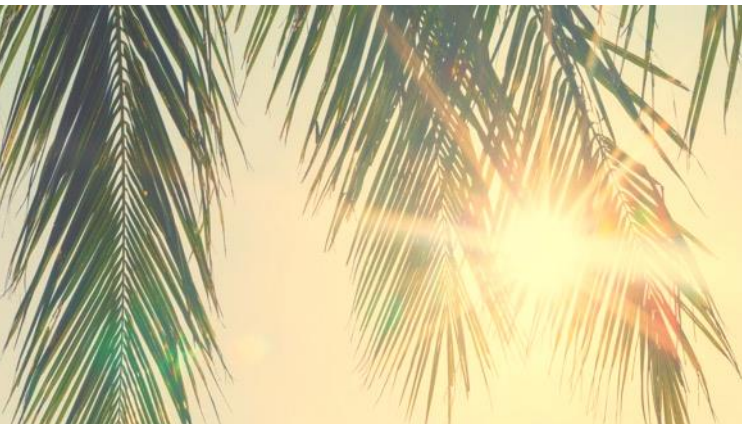


Business Case for Climate Action: Global Imperative, operational efficiencies, Social license to operate

Govt Challenges in Climate Action:
Engaging Business/Industry for collective action + performance outcomes

Business Challenges in Climate Action:
Tool Selection; Technical & Financial Support; Place-Relevant Solutions

- Presentation will show **scalable, adaptable, place-relevant solutions** for **engaging** business and industry in climate action for **collective action** and **impact**
- *Spotlight:* Tourism, Agribusiness
- Solutions **co-developed with – not for – business** for optimal **industry relevance**
- Solutions are **manageable to use** with demonstrated **efficacy**
- Solutions can be **replicated in a TA** for your countries



**CLIMATE ACTION
KNOWLEDGE SHARING
AND
CAPACITY BUILDING
PLATFORM**



Climate Action Knowledge-Sharing and Capacity Building Platform (Pacific) (In-Development)

Multi-Country Technical Assistance Project (Pacific): *Developing a Regional Roadmap for an Open-Source Knowledge-Sharing and Capacity Building Platform for Pacific Island Countries*

Online Knowledge-Sharing Platform: Best Practice Online Repository, Guidance and Capacity Building Tools

- Knowledge-sharing platform with best practices, case studies, and guidance tools on priority climate action areas





**COMMUNITY-BASED
BEST PRACTICES IN
CLIMATE ACTION:
TOURISM**



Community-Based Best Practices

(Low Carbon Tourism: Ecotourism, Sustainable Tourism)



Community-Based Best Practices



Community-Based Practices for Emissions Reduction

- Community agricultural plot (reducing food miles/emissions)
- Sustainable/local fish harvesting (community led + research)
- Responsible transportation: Community guides led boating excursions; limited speed/frequency of motorized boards to reduce emissions

Community-Based Best Practices

(Low Carbon Tourism: Ecotourism, Sustainable Tourism)

Energy and Water

- Rainwater collection, purification, sewage filtration system
- Solar Panels: Electricity, water heating/pumping

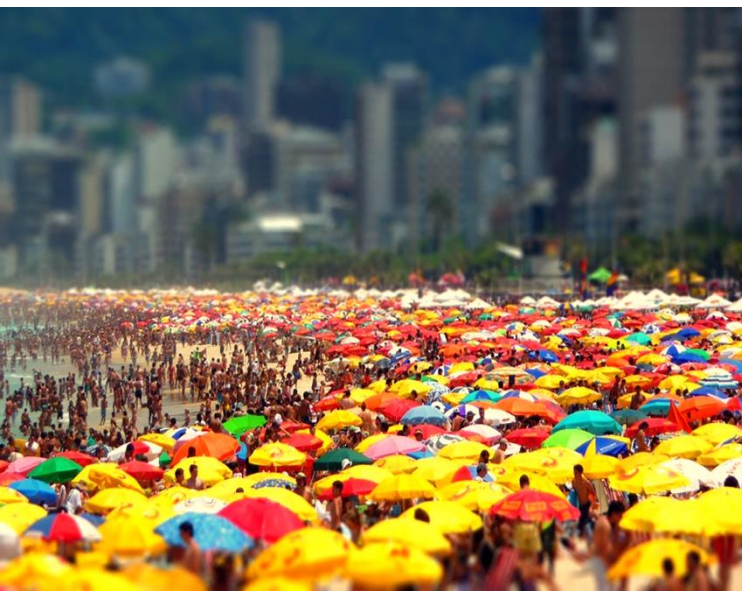
Community-Based Best Practices and Best Practices in Low Carbon Tourism



Native Material and Non-invasive Infrastructure

- Local, buoyant infrastructure materials
- 5 floating bungalows + gathering place, floating walkways





**AI & AERIAL DRONES
FOR
CLIMATE ACTION
AND
SOCIAL IMPACT**



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for SOCIAL
IMPACT**



Flinders
University

AI-Machine Learning and Aerial Drones for Coastal Protection and Social Impact

Community Engagement + Aerial drone technology and AI machine learning to identify whether visitation levels breach social and environmental thresholds





**E-TOOLKIT
FOR
CLIMATE ACTION
AND
SOCIAL IMPACT**

E-TOOLKITS FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY: TOURISM

For industry engagement and collective action toward national climate priorities

- E-Toolkit For Sustainability/Resilience
- E-Toolkit for Guidance and Capacity Building
- E-Best Practice Guidelines for Suppliers
- E-toolkits Co-designed with – not for – businesses for optimal industry relevance

E- Toolkits



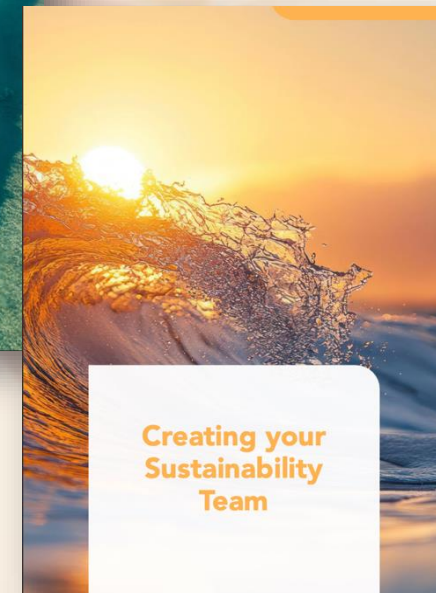
- **Toolkit co-design Method:** Scientifically sound, evidence-based, practical - validated via real-world application/replication (e.g., tourism, agribusiness) and peer-review (Lesar & Weaver, 2026b; Lesar, 2025; Lesar et al., 2025a, 2025b, Lesar et al. 2024);

E-TOOLKIT FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY: TOURISM

E-Toolkit

- Includes a suite of tools to support businesses to measure, monitor, report, assess, act on, and build capacity for climate action and sustainability priorities.
- Customized to reflect place-based best practice to optimally suit local needs + internationally recognized best practice.
- Demonstrated cross-sectoral efficacy (tourism, agribusiness)

Toolkit Guidance Manual: Offers a step-by-step guide to support businesses in selecting and implementing the toolkit – from establishing a climate action and sustainability team to reporting their performance outcomes.



E-TOOLKIT - POSITIVE PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Collective Action – Industry implemented 60+ best practices and indicators for climate action, sustainability, and social impact



(Lesar et al., 2026b; Lesar, 2025; Lesar et al., 2025a, 2025b; Lesar et al., 2024)

E-TOOLKIT - POSITIVE PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Performance Impact Highlights



**50% Emissions
Reduction
(Transportation)**



**23% Guests Used
Active or Public
Transportation**



**100% Local Food
& Wine Suppliers
(+16.2%)**



**Baseline
Renewable Energy
(43% Solar)**

E-TOOLKIT - POSITIVE PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Additional Benefits for Businesses

Market Benefits

6 Awards (State National, International)

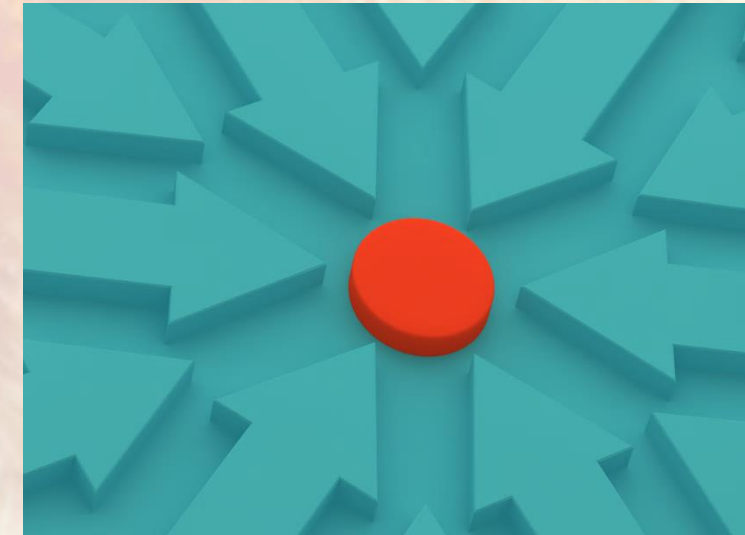
Media



Capacity Building, Engagement, Relevance (via Co-design Process)



Decision-Making Support for Tool Selection To address Place-Based Priorities





E-SOLUTIONS
FOR
BENCHMARKING &
ADVANCING
SDG
ALIGNMENT



E-SOLUTIONS FOR BENCHMARKING SDG ALIGNMENT: AGRIBUSINESS & TOURISM

SDG Benchmarking Assessments

- Systematic Method (Lesar & Weaver, 2026a)
- SDGs (All) + SDGs relevant to climate action

Empirical Research Article

Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Tourism Using Quality Control Tools

Laura Lesar¹ and David B. Weaver²

Abstract

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are increasingly prevalent in research and practice. Because they help businesses build sustainability, quality control tools offer actionable solutions for addressing the Goals. However, tourism research has yet to systematically investigate the diversity of tools that facilitate business-level contributions to the Goals and Targets. This work addresses this gap through the lens of diffusion of innovations theory, an in-depth instrumental case study, and multiple qualitative methods. Findings contribute to research and practice by revealing 10 tools that enable Goal contributions, including 4 new tools hitherto unacknowledged for this purpose. Outcomes also include a literature-based and empirically enhanced framework of tools to address the Goals, and a fit-for-purpose toolkit that enables contributions to multiple Goals. Theoretically, findings reveal the characteristics of tools that facilitate Goal contributions, including Fordism (post-Fordist, Fordist), function (e.g., measurement), strength (e.g., basic/advanced), administering organization (e.g., internally/externally created), and industry applicability (e.g., sector-specificity).

Keywords

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), quality control tools, diffusion of innovations theory, sustainable development theory, Fordism, sustainable tourism

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E-SOLUTIONS FOR BENCHMARKING SDG ALIGNMENT: AGRIBUSINESS & TOURISM

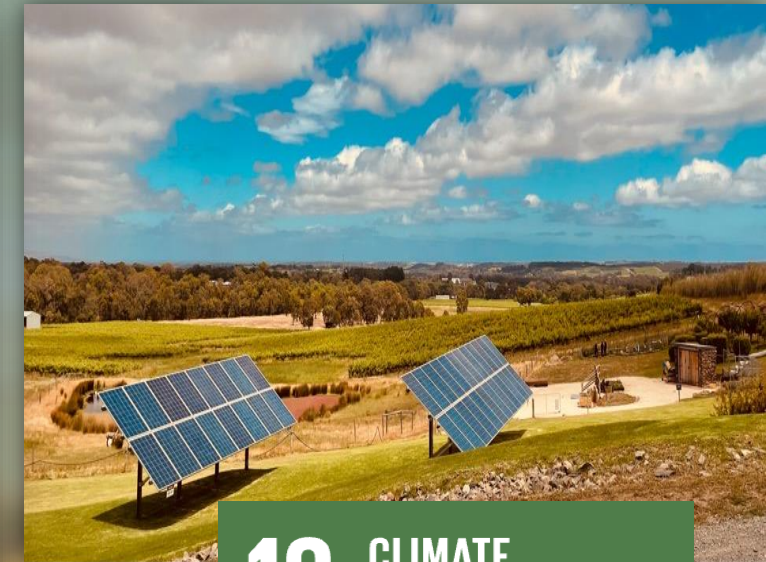
Benchmark Existing Best Practices for SDG Alignment



15 LIFE
ON LAND



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



E-SOLUTIONS FOR BENCHMARKING SDG ALIGNMENT: AGRIBUSINESS & TOURISM

Identified Best Practices Addressing Multiple SDGs



Water-Efficient Garden Beds for Food Production



Drought Resilient Agricultural Practices via raised, water efficient garden beds (Target 2.4)



Reduces Food Miles (Emissions) from Locally Grown Produce (100% Tasting Room Food from On-Site, Organic Garden)

E-SOLUTIONS FOR BENCHMARKING SDG ALIGNMENT: AGRIBUSINESS & TOURISM

Performance Outcomes & Roadmap for Future SDG Advancement



Performance Outcome:
14 of 17 SDGs
26 of 169 Targets



**Inventory of International
Best Practices in SDG
Alignment → Address Gaps**

Thank You!

Interested in How These Solutions can be Replicated in a TA for your Countries?

**Contact the Centre for Social Impact Flinders University –
Together, We Can Co-Create Positive Change**

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