

## **Sustainable tourism development: SDG8 and the 2030 Agenda for Fiji**

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The multisector tourism engagement in many developing countries is regarded as a reach towards addressing SDG 8 to meet sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Fiji has been a major tourist destination and its main comparative advantage over other sectors is that visitor expenditures have a catalytic influence across the economy through production and job creation. Its support for the economic, social and cultural activities is crucial to challenge a growth-led approach for sustainable development. I examine the dynamic nexus between tourism growth and economic growth in Fiji using a recently developed spillover approach, and a vector autoregressive framework for the monthly period 1992 to 2017. The results indicate a time variant inter-relationship in tourism-led economic growth (TLEG) and economic-driven tourism growth (EDTG) that have been influenced by political-economic events. The results for Fiji support TLEG while the net spillover results identify sharply distinct outcomes for tourism or economic growth as the net transmitter or recipient of shocks and the effects of crisis over time. The results establish the extent to which tourism contributions can meet decent work and economic growth goals, growth of micro-, small, medium enterprises but also self-employed, casual and informal economy workers. Targeting for the sustainability of tourism industries enable the socio-economic system to develop resilience within other spheres of SDGs for major outcomes.

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