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Title: Tourism development in the SIDS: Dynamic linkages, growth and SDGs in Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius

I am a scholar focusing on socio-economic and sustainable development issues of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) island economies. The ACP nations have mobilised private sector’s tourism industry in the national planning strategies to meet small islands developing states’ (SIDS) challenges and opportunities in recent period. Tourism is a crucial economic sector that may address various dynamic linkages in monitoring and assessment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The global-domestic policymakers recognise this industry as indispensable by creating strategies for its growth and development, and in establishing an enabling environment to meet SDGs. This study empirically examines the dynamic linkages between tourism growth and economic growth in three ACP states of Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius. Applying a recently developed spillover approach and the Vector Autoregressive framework, using monthly data from 1992 to 2017, indicate time variant inter-relationship in terms of both magnitude and direction in tourism-led economic growth and economic-driven tourism growth. The linkages, influenced by political-economic events (political instability, 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, 2007-08 Global Financial Crisis), address the socio-economic challenges over time. Spillovers reveal the directional inter-linkages between tourism and economic growth. First, my study presents the causality direction between these two variables for each sample country. Second, I show the extent of directional and net spillovers between tourism growth and economic growth and the level of influence from each other (contributions from or to). The net spillover results identify if tourism (economic growth) is the net transmitter or recipient of shocks and the effects of crisis. The findings address if tourism contributions can meet some of the SDGs targets. Aiming the sustainability of private sector tourism industries are vital for resilience within a number of spheres of SDGs, policy influence and outcomes. Significance and practical application of the results from the policy approach highlight various factors of production, sectoral linkages (agriculture, manufacturing, services), expansion of skill system for inclusive growth, land-use tourism, development of outer island tourism, guided tours in eco-tourism, spread of agri-tourism industry, ICT, innovative locally-led approach, value chain, corporate social responsibility and social capital to SDGs, and provision of incentives to enhance tourism business investment.