

TOURISM POLICY BULLETIN

Department of Tourism

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tourism

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INTRODUCTION

The tourism sector is multidisciplinary in nature and its growth and success is highly dependent on other sectors. This multi-sectoral nature of tourism subjects it to various policy and regulatory frameworks some of which impacts negatively on the development and growth of tourism. The Tourism Policy Bulletin focuses on various policy developments at global, national and local level.

The aim of the Bulletin is to provide an overview of recent policy developments across sectors, with a view to inform tourism stakeholders and encourage proactive responses. Policy developments covered by this issue range from tourism, transport, bills and visa policies.

NATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. National Treasury highlights tourism plans in the new policy document



South African economy has been experiencing difficult economic challenges in the past few years with the country reporting negative growth in some of the GDP quarterly reports by Statistics South Africa. This has been accompanied by crippling unemployment rates. Amidst the economic challenges, tourism has been the beacon of hope with the sector demonstrating its resilient characteristics. Although some of South African tourist arrivals source markets have been affected by global economic challenges, which is evident in percentage decline of some markets, tourism continues to increase international arrivals in South Africa. Thus various government economic policy frameworks identify tourism as a key economic sector.

The National Treasury released in September 2019 a new policy document titled “Economic transformation, inclusive growth and competitiveness” towards an Economic Strategy for South Africa. According to the policy, document tourism is one of the sectors that can drive labour intensive growth and help to combat South Africa’s high level of unemployment. The treatment of tourism in the document is dissimilar to other sectors such as mining, manufacturing and financial services, tourism is not clustered in specific development nodes. It is regarded as an important aspect that contributes to inclusive growth and economic transformation. Furthermore, it is seen as an important economic driver of rural economies and mechanism to create sustainable employment opportunities outside urban and industrial areas.

Pursuant to transformation, competitiveness and inclusive growth, the policy document highlights the following interventions that can improve South Africa’s competitiveness:¹

- Greater budgetary support for tourism agencies is required and measures should be introduced to protect their budgets from the negative impact of currency fluctuations given their impact on marketing in foreign destinations.
- The Department of Tourism should increase the level of support to tourism firms to navigate the highly regulated business environment.

¹ Towards an Economic Strategy for SA

- South Africa’s visa regulations should be amended to ensure a better balance between security concerns and growing the tourism sector.
- Adopting proposals for the reintroduction and enhancement of the Tourism Safety Initiative, with highly visible policing in tourist hotspots can address the perception of South Africa as an unsafe destination.

The National Treasury document has elicited much public interest and is currently the subject of intense debate from all sectors of society interested in influencing the economic policy direction of the country. As indicated above the country appears to have huge expectations from the tourism sector and the document already highlights some of the necessary interventions to ensure the destinations’ competitiveness.

2. Call for nomination for members of the National Public Transport Regulator



The Minister of Transport has issued a call for nominations from qualified and experienced

persons who wish to be considered for appointment to serve as members of the National Public Transport Regulator. Members are expected to serve on a full time or part time basis for a period not exceeding 3 years.

The call for nomination is issued in line with the National Land Transport Act of 2009. Section 20 (1) of the National Land Transport Act establishes the National Transport Public Transport Regulator (NPTR). Section 20 (2) outlines the requirements by specifically stating that the National Public Transport Regulator incumbents must have extensive knowledge training or experience in any one or more of the following fields:

- Public transport
- Transport economics
- Accounting
- Auditing or actuarial studies
- Law
- Tourism Transport
- Vehicle standards and specifications

The National Land Transport Act 2009 outlines the roles and responsibilities of the National Public Transport Regulator. Section 21 of the Act identifies the following responsibilities of the National Public Transport Regulator:

- Monitor and oversee public transport in the country in general and the activities of the Provincial Regulatory Entities and municipalities in relation to their land transport functions;
- To receive and decide on applications relating to operating licenses for interprovincial transport services,

tourist transport services and accreditation of tourist transport operators;

- To oversee fares charged for public transport services throughout the country; and
- To advise the Minister on the making of regulations in relations to the fares or fare structures in terms of section 8 of the Act.

The call for nomination process is vitally important as it provides the tourism sector with an opportunity to identify and propose a suitable nominee with expertise in tourism transport to be a member of the National Public Transport Regulator. The Department of Transport indicated that the closing date for nomination is the 25th of September 2019 and that nominations should be accompanied by a curriculum vita with certified copies of the identity document and educational qualifications.

3. Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Act, 2019



The Department of Transport and its State Owned Enterprise – the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (to be renamed the Road Traffic Infringement Authority) published the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Act 4 of 2019. The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Act (AARTO) 4 of 2019 aims to amend the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act, 1998, so as²:

- to substitute and insert certain definitions;
- to improve the manner of serving documents to infringers;
- to add to the functions of the Road Traffic Infringement Authority;
- to repeal certain obsolete provisions;
- to establish and administer rehabilitation programmes;

² https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201908/4264819-8act4of2019adminiadjudicroadtrafficoffencesamendact.pdf

- to provide for the apportionment of penalties;
- to provide for the establishment of the Appeals Tribunal and matters related thereto;
- to effect textual corrections; and
- to provide for matters connected therewith

Subsequently, the South African Labour Guide on behalf of AARTO is coordinating workshops across the country. The main objective of the workshops is to assist companies in effectively dealing with procedures under the AARTO Act and ways of preventing the effect that the Act would have on the company fleet and employees. Upon completion of the workshops, participants will have a clear understanding on how to effectively manage the changes and implications of the implementation of AARTO nationally.

The AARTO Act will have an impact on each and every individual driver across sectors in South Africa due to the demerits points being introduced. Lastly, the President assented to and signed the AARTO Amendment Bill [B38D-20015] on the 13th August 2019. In so doing, it has become the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Act, No 4 of 2019. The Act will come into operation on the date fixed by the President in the Gazette³.

4. Tourism Safety Campaign Launched



South Africa continues to respond to some of the barriers inhibiting tourism growth. The National Tourism Safety Awareness Campaign was launched by the Minister of Tourism on the 08th August 2019 at Table Mountain in Cape Town, following isolated incidents of violence directed at tourists. During the Launch the Minister of Tourism, Honourable Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane highlighted that "incidents of crime directed at tourists and tourism products have created a negative perception and reputation about a destination and in turn, impact on both the visitor experience and visitor numbers."

International tourism trends indicate that personal safety and security issues are of high importance in potential tourist's choice of a destination. The collaborative efforts by government was evidenced by partnerships formed to work together for the safety of all visitors and to ensure that South Africa remains a destination of choice.

³ <https://www.aarto.co.za/>

Work is underway to ensure that the industry addresses the sector's primary concerns on safety and security. The Department of Tourism together with the security agencies and community policing forum have set initiatives, to collaborate jointly to identify, address and mitigate risks, challenges and threats impacting on tourist safety as well as businesses in the tourism industry which includes⁴:

- Identification and analysis of key Tourism hotspots
- Establishment of a database of crime against tourists
- Enhancement of tourism built and environment through crime prevention initiatives
- Ensure the joint implementation of an optimised policing and security strategy in the tourism environment

In response to tourism safety challenges as well as enhancing the tourist experience, the Department of Tourism has been working with various stakeholders to compile a safety plan of which the Tourism Monitors Programme forms part of. The programme involves the recruitment, training and deployment of youth to assist with the safety of the tourists at key tourism sites with high volumes of tourists or those sites that have a high potential of personal risk to tourists.

The National Tourism Safety Awareness Campaign focused on the following⁵:

❖ *Ensuring tourist safety*

The tourism monitor's role is to among other things: raise awareness about safety and security matters to tourists; coordinate emergency and other relevant support for tourists; guide tourists on safest routes and areas as well as report incidences of crime against tourists. A total of 86 tourism monitors have been recruited to be deployed within Table Mountain National Park.

The Minister also announced the development of a safety mobile app to provide tourists with basic tourism information and safety tips with relevant contact details that tourists in distress can use. Further consideration will be to ensure that United Nations and African Union working languages are incorporated into the app to ensure effective communication and quicker better response time.

❖ *Integrating technological innovation*

The department is currently engaging with mobile network operators and hope to pilot the app by December 2019. Another initiative being looked at, is the model that is currently being used in the Kruger National Park where rangers, drones and cameras are being deployed to monitor rhino poaching. This will further support the safety monitors with technology and innovation.

⁴<https://www.tourism.gov.za/AboutNDT/Publications/Opinion%20piece%20%20Safety%20of%20tourists%20in%20SA%20top%20of%20government%20agenda.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/595/194190.html>

Relatedly, South African National Parks (SANParks) received a donation of 34 Bose A20 Aviation Headsets from Bose Aviation and Century Avionics for pilots operating in the Kruger National Park. The headsets aim to improve the communication between pilots and ground crews during conservation operations, including anti-poaching. The donation is a crucial tool and was warmly accepted by the Kruger National Park.⁶

5. Department of Environmental Affairs, Approach to a Spatial Management System for South Africa’s Marine Planning Areas



South African government is continuing to lay the foundation for the management of its marine spatial system by putting in place the regulatory, planning and implementation frameworks. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries published a report titled the “Approach to Spatial Management System Report for South Africa’s Marine Planning Areas”. The report was published in the government gazette No 42657 on the 23rd

⁶ <http://www.tourismupdate.co.za/article/193210/SANParks-receives-anti-poaching-tech>

⁷ https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/creecy_draftapproach_marine_spatialplanning

August 2019 for public comments and or objections⁷. The report outlines proposed approaches to the spatial development and management for South Africa’s Marine Planning Areas and it is the build-up on the Marine Spatial Planning Act (Act 16 of 2018) and the National Framework for Marine Spatial Planning in South Africa. The report aims to facilitate the development of Marine Area Plans that are consistent across the country and whose provisions are transparent to all sectors and users.

General guidelines will be developed for specific marine sectors in the respective Marine Planning Areas. The tourism sector was identified on the marine tourism sector objectives. The table below provides the objectives and development guidelines for marine tourism⁸:

Sector	Objectives	Development guidelines
Marine tourism	Protection of the natural resources that attract visitors	Opportunities to promote sustainable development of marine recreation and tourism are supported
	Continued and improved access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities	The aesthetic qualities, coastal and marine character and wildlife experience of the Marine Planning Area is enhanced.

Marine Tourism is one of the proposed zones for regulations. Proposed example for regulation of the maritime tourism zone in the

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https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/gazetted_notices/approachtomarinemarine_spatialmanagementplanning_g42657qn1090qn.pdf

document are highlighted as Uses with serious and long-term impacts on these resources, particularly those that negatively impact on key species and their habitats (e.g. whales, sharks) and aesthetic qualities (e.g. coastal scenery and landscape) that tourists come to experience, will be restricted.”

6. Department of Home Affairs announces more visa waivers



The South African Government continues with its effort to ensure ease of access to the destination and position South Africa as a competitive destination by improving visa policy measures. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) added seven countries to the list of countries exempted from visa. As of 15th August 2019, visitors from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and New Zealand will no longer require a visa to visit South Africa for the purpose of holidays, conferencing and business meeting visits. These countries were part of the seven countries that were granted visa-free status by the Department of Home Affairs in July 2019. Visa waivers for the other

three countries (Ghana, Cuba, and Sao Tome and Principe) will be implemented once the department concludes negotiations with these countries⁹.

The Minister of Home Affairs indicated that the country took a unilateral decision to introduce these visas and are in the process of engaging these countries to reciprocate to South African citizens. The unilateral approach taken by Home Affairs is one of the best practices highlighted by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation wherein it advises countries to introduce visa policy measures unilaterally as a way of ensuring destination competitiveness.

The Minister also indicated Home Affairs’ commitment to continuously review its operation with a view to contribute in growing the economy, facilitating job creation whilst securing South African Borders. Most importantly, the Minister acknowledged the role Home Affairs has to make in growing tourism in the country. According to the Minister, South Africa has waived visa requirements for 82 of the 193 countries who are members of the United Nations and 18 of these countries are in the continent.

The Department of Home Affairs indicated that its ports of entry, missions abroad and airlines have been informed of these developments to enable the facilitation of movement. The DHA also recently announce that it considering the requirements on minors.

⁹ <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/1278-home-affairs-implements-visa-waivers-for-four-countries-which-are-among-the-big-tourist-sending-nations>

7. Housing Consumer Protection Bill 2019

The Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation published the Housing Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 for public comment. The Bill seeks to amongst others¹⁰:

- Provide for the protection of housing consumers;
- provide for the continuance of the National Home Builders Registration Council as the National Home Building Regulatory Council;
- provide for the registration of homebuilders;
- provide for the enrolment of homes in order to be covered by the home warranty fund;
- provide for the regulation of the conduct of homebuilders;
- provide for the continuance of the home warranty fund;
- provide for claims against the fund;
- provide for the funds of the Council and for the management of those funds;
- provide for procurement and contractual matters in relation to the building of a home;
- provide for the enforcement of this Act; and
- repeal the Housing Consumers Protection Measures Act, 1998.

One of the main objectives of the Bill is to amend the National Home Builders

Registration Council to continue as the National Home Building Regulatory Council, with powers to regulate. The objectives of the Council are to represent the interests of all housing consumers; regulate the entire home building industry; ensure structural quality of homes in the interests of housing consumers and the home building industry; promote housing consumer rights; and provide information relevant to stakeholders in the home building industry.

The provisions of the Bill apply to:

- the building of a new home;
- any addition to, alteration, renovation or repair of, a home, in so far as the addition;
- alteration, renovation or repair necessitates the submission of building plans to a municipality in terms of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, 1977 (Act No. 103 of 1977); and
- whether or not the home is acquired through social housing or subsidy housing.

However, the Bill does not apply to—

- homes that are co-owned in terms of the Share Blocks Control Act, 1980 (Act No. 59 of 1980) or the Property Time-Sharing Control Act, 1983 (Act No. 75 of 1983);
- any temporary building as contemplated in the National Building Regulations issued in terms of the

¹⁰ HOUSING CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL, 2019

National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, 1977;

- a caravan;
- any structure forming part of an informal settlement;
- a hotel; or
- a motel.

The Bill further outlines the criminal offences and penalties in case of failure to comply with the Act. The Bill makes provisions for the appointment of inspectors to ensure compliance, management of funds, application of the Public Finance Management Act, compulsory information and contractual matters as well as requirements for registration as homebuilder and developer.

LOCAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Umngeni Valley Proclaimed a Nature Reserve



KwaZulu-Natal continues to increase its rich portfolio of nature reserves. The process to

proclaim Umngeni Valley as a nature reserve was officially gazetted on the 16th of May 2019¹¹. Umngeni Valley forms part of the core area of the greater Umngeni Biosphere Reserve initiative, incorporating the Umngeni and Karkloof River Catchments, from Midmar Dam to Nagle Dam in KwaZulu-Natal. The valley also contributes to the hydrological functioning, ecosystem and biodiversity value of the uMngeni River Catchment, that is a critically important river system in KwaZulu-Natal.

Umngeni Valley is a place of a special value as it holds an important contribution to the aesthetic and sense of place of Howick, and it has significant value in terms of its habitat. The decision to proclaim was based on the fact that Umngeni has various altitude gradients of the area, and that there is a wide variety of habitat types. These include midlands mistbelt Grasslands, KZN Hinterland Thornveld, Southern KZN Moist and Thornveld Savannah. Umngeni Valley also has a significant contribution to the economic sustainability of the region through its activities. It is an important part of conversation within the landscape forming part of a mosaic of protected areas across the region.

Together with the ecological and socio-economic value of Umngeni Valley, there are several graves and iron age sites within uMngeni valley, that are of cultural and historic importance. Therefore, the proclaimed nature

¹¹ <http://wessa.org.za/news/wessa-umngeni-valley-officially-proclaimed-nature-reserve-status/>

reserve will further play a significant role in the cultural and social value of the KZN Midlands.

2. Durban named the new darling of South Africa



Forbes, which is the international magazine and the global brand has named Durban the new darling of South Africa, taking the title away from Cape Town. According to Forbes Magazine, Durban has much to offer. Joni Sweet, the international travel writer indicated that Durban has earned its place in the hearts of travellers for its golden beaches. The city is also seen a melting port of culture and traditions owing to its diverse residents.

Forbes noted that the accolade has come as Durban is about to launch its Durban Summer Love campaign. The campaign seeks to highlight that Durban fulfills and exceeds expectations of travellers and also provides visitors with unforgettable experiences. The travel writer also added that Durban's distinctive laid back surfer vibe sets the tone for the city and underlined the fact that Durbanites understand the art of adventure

and know how to have good times. Forbes noted that the reason why Durban was named the darling of South Africa, besides the year round warm weather, is the long stretch of beaches, traditional cuisine, lively markets, world class hotels and its revitalized art district.

The City was also commended for its excursion location, serving as a jump off point for tourists visiting KwaZulu-Natal. The City welcome the accolade and committed to continue to improve the quality of products for the discerning visitors.

3. New By-Law to protect Cape Town's beaches



The City of Cape Town published the draft Coastal By-law for public participation. The draft by-law was available for public comment as from 01st of August until 02nd of September 2019. During that period the City also hosted eight public hearings across Cape Town where residents were given opportunity to raise questions and comments. The purpose of the by-law is to better protect and manage the coastline which is one of Cape Town's most important and valued assets particularly for the tourism sector.

The By-Law will be a legislative tool that intends to improve safety on Cape Town's beaches. The By-law seeks to among other things¹²:

- entrench and enforce the public's right to freely access and enjoy the coastline;
- ensure the sustainable use and development of the coastal area;
- promote the protection of the natural environment of the coastal zone;
- manage and promote public access to beaches and beach areas;
- prevent anti-social behaviour on beaches and beach areas;
- manage access to and the use of public amenities on the beach and beach areas;
- enable better regulation, protection, and governance of the coastline as a sensitive and economically valuable asset; and
- ensure measures are taken to rehabilitate or correct actions that have a damaging impact on the coastal environment.

The City's proposed by-law is founded on the principles of Integrated Coastal Management Policy and Coastal Management Programme that were adopted by the City Council in 2014 and 2015 respectively, and the National Environmental Management Integrated Coastal Management Act 36 of 2014 as amended.¹³

The proposed by-law will be addressing many challenges within the City of Cape Town and these include the following:

- poaching, or illegal fishing

- harvesting, or removal of vegetation
- removal of sand, pebbles, rocks, shells, and kelp
- removal of or damage to indigenous coastal vegetation
- littering
- pollution and dumping
- encroachment of private property into the coastal environment
- measures to remove encroachments, and rehabilitate affected land
- possession or consumption of liquor or drugs
- hawking or doing business without authorization
- launching of vessels
- issuing of fines for contraventions

Regarding the scope, the draft By-law will be applicable to the coastal zone, and it will cover the seashore, the coastal waters, and the environment on, in, under, and above the coastal zone.

¹² <http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/New%20by-law%20to%20protect%20Cape%20Town's%20beaches>

¹³ <http://www.capetown.gov.za/Media-and-news/New%20by-law%20to%20protect%20Cape%20Town's%20beaches>

REGIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Improving Migration Governance in Africa



Migration issues, and in particular migration management, have become an important subject of deliberation in the continent recently. The African Union (AU) Ministerial Session for the 5th Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM V) took place on the 15 of September 2019. According to the African Union (AU), the main objective of PAFOM V is to open dialogue on ways of developing and strengthening the collection and utilisation of accurate and disaggregated migration data and statistics for effective migration governance in the continent. The Forum also aims at providing a more focused engagement with all relevant Migration stakeholders including Regional Economic Communities (RECS), AU Member States, private sector, academia, parliamentarians, African diaspora

community and civil society organisations in Africa.

In 2018, the AU's Executive Council adopted the revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa, which also included a 12-year action plan. The decision, among others, requested AU member countries to align their individual migration policy frameworks with the new continental framework, including the African Plan of Action. Some of the outcomes of the PAFOM V were as follows¹⁴:

- The AU urged African countries and Pan-African institutions to use concerted efforts to ensure effective migration governance across the continent.
- The AU emphasised the need to invest in evidence-based continental migration trends and updates through improvement and investment in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate information and research on migration issues in Africa.
- A report with recommendation on strengthened migration data and research for evidence-based policy development and implementation towards effective migration governance in Africa was developed.
- The forum agreed on ensuring that the proposed Migration Research Centre in Mali, the Migration Observatory in Morocco, and the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan are

¹⁴ <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20190916/pafom-5-effective-policies-grounded-evidence-towards-effective-migration>

operational as soon as possible and work closely with existing continental and regional statistics centres in strengthening migration statistics in Africa.

2. African Tourism Leaders Meet in Saint Petersburg to Plot Future Growth of Continent’s Tourism Sector



Leaders from across Africa met in Saint Petersburg to discuss the key issues facing the continent as it focuses in growing its tourism sector and harnessing it as a key driver of economic development and social transformation. The key focus of the 62nd meeting of the UNWTO’s Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) was the UNWTO’s 2030 Agenda for Africa. According to the UNWTO, this blueprint for the future of African tourism was launched after the UNWTO’s African Member States requested help in drawing up plans for growing and managing tourism and in

making the sector a central driver of economic growth and sustainable development. The UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili stated that “Africa has everything to position itself as a global tourism leader. 60 percent of Africans are under the age of 25. And African cities are real hubs of innovation, with entrepreneurs and innovators finding new ways to manage how we travel. With a concerted approach, international tourist arrivals to Africa can be expected to reach 135 million by 2030. More tourists mean more jobs, more schools and greater protection for cultural and natural heritage”.¹⁵

3. Madagascar signed the Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicine Agency (AMA)



The African content is one step closer to its first medicine and health super-regulator. The African Union Heads of State and Government endorsed the treaty to establish an African

¹⁵ <http://www2.unwto.org/press-release/2019-09-10/african-tourism-leaders-meet-saint-petersburg-plot-future-growth-continent->

Medicine Agency (AMA), meant to govern medical product regulation for the entire continent. The treaty was drafted with the aim of aiding the expansion of universal health coverage across the continent.

According to the AU, the Agency will regulate the access to safe, effective, good quality and affordable essential medicines and health technologies. AMA will do this through coordination of on-going regulatory systems, strengthening and harmonizing efforts of the AUC, RECs, Regional Health Organizations (RHOs) and member states, providing regulatory guidance.

The continental treaty, so far has been signed by four AU member countries that are Algeria, Rwanda, Saharawi, with Madagascar signing on the 1st of August 2019 during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-3), in Cairo, Egypt. AMA will be effective once ratified by fifteen African Union Member States and will serve as the continental regulatory body that will offer regulatory leadership, to ensure that there are harmonised and strengthened regulatory systems, which govern the regulation of medicines and medical products on the African continent¹⁶.

¹⁶ <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20190802/republic-madagascar-signed-treaty-establishment-african-medicine-agency-ama>

GLOBAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Visa Policy Simplified in Sri Lanka



Countries globally continue to explore visa policy measures as a means of facilitating access to their destinations. In an attempt to attract international tourism to the country, Sri Lanka allows travellers from almost 50 nations to get a free visa on arrival. Sri Lanka's government expanded the free visa on arrival programme to include the following 10 countries, which started on the 1st August 2019: India; China; UK; Denmark; Sweden; Norway; Finland; Iceland; Philippines; Russia¹⁷.

The visa-free policy is expected to save the average tourist US\$20-40 in visa costs, making it easier and affordable than ever to visit the country. Such initiative has had an impact on the different categories of visas in global indices with traditional visas becoming less and less appealing and other forms of visas such as eVisa and visa on arrival gaining prominence.

¹⁷ <https://blueswandaily.com/sri-lanka-expanding-visa-on-arrival-programme-to-add-10-countries/>

Top source markets such as UK, China and India and the Scandinavian countries appear to be attractive target markets for these visa relaxation initiatives.

2. New Chinese Visa Policies



China has improved and simplified the visa application process for skilled foreign nationals and young talent who wish to work or study in the country. These policies became effective on the 1st August 2019¹⁸. The following categories of Visa will be impacted¹⁹:

Chinese Permanent Residence:

- High-level foreign talent who have made an outstanding contribution to China or foreigners whose positions are deemed 'urgent' by the Chinese government, will be able to apply for permanent residence along with their spouses and underage children.
- Foreigners who have worked in China for 4 consecutive years, with a stay of more than 6 months per year, whose salary is more than six times that of the

average local salary, will be able to apply for a permanent residence along with their spouses and underage children.

- Foreign Chinese nationals holding a PhD or who have worked in the China Development Area of the state for more than 4 consecutive years, with a stay of more than six months per year, will be able to apply for a permanent residence along with their spouses and underage children.

Visa on Arrival and Long Term Visa²⁰:

- Foreign professionals and students who work for or have been invited by highly recognised Universities, Research and Development centers or that are sponsored by leading organisations, and foreign talent whose employment has been confirmed by the government, qualify to apply for a visa on arrival. After entering China, they are eligible to apply for a 5-year residence permit.
- Foreigners who work for industries deemed important by the Chinese government, special talents or members of entrepreneur teams qualify for a 5-year residence permit.
- Foreigners who have made outstanding contributions to China or that have been especially requested by China are eligible to apply for a 5-year residence permit along with their team members.

¹⁸ <https://blog.newlandchase.com/china-broader-visa-policies-to-attract-foreign-talent>

¹⁹ <https://blog.newlandchase.com/china-broader-visa-policies-to-attract-foreign-talent>

²⁰ <https://blog.newlandchase.com/china-broader-visa-policies-to-attract-foreign-talent>

- Foreigners hired by any China company who already hold a working permit can apply for a working visa directly, without having to apply for a Z visa first (only available in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou at the moment, but will take effect in all cities after August 1st)
- Foreigners who have been working in China for 2 years without a bad record are eligible to apply for a 5-year residence permit.
- Part Time Job Visa²¹:
- High-level talent working at renowned universities, R&D centers or elite companies can apply for apart-time entrepreneur visa.

Foreign Students²²:

- Foreign students who graduate from a renowned China university are eligible to apply for a two to five-year entrepreneur visa.
- Foreign students who graduated within two years from a renown international university are eligible to apply for a two-year entrepreneur visa.
- Students who have been invited by the China government or sponsored by public institutions can apply for a one-year internship visa.

3. South African Airways Signs Codeshare Agreement with Brazilian Airline



South African Airways (SAA) signed a codeshare and frequent flyer agreement with Brazilian airline Gol - Linhas Aéreas (GOL). The agreement came into effect on 4th July 2019. The agreement gives strategic impetus to SAA's strategy of growing partnerships globally to offer customers more travel options. The agreement will enable SAA to add its code on flights operated by GOL in the Brazilian territory, which will allow SAA customers to integrate their travel with easy connections on flights of both carriers²³.

According to SAA, the agreement offers SAA customers through the direct flight to Sao Paulo an opportunity to explore travel options in Brazil. Similarly, the code share offers Gol customers a chance to explore the riches of Africa. This agreement allows SAA to add its code on 20 connecting flights in Brazil

²¹ <https://blog.newlandchase.com/china-broader-visa-policies-to-attract-foreign-talent>

²² <https://blog.newlandchase.com/china-broader-visa-policies-to-attract-foreign-talent>

²³ <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/748/192880.html>

operated by Gol, including Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte and Florianopolis. SAA also indicated that the two airlines also signed the Frequent Flyer Program to ensure that customers can redeem their miles.

4. UNWTO General Assembly ends with commitment to more sustainable, ethical and accessible tourism

The UNWTO hosted the 23rd session of the General Assembly from the 9th to the 13th of September 2019 in St Petersburg, Russia. More than 1300 delegates attended the session which focused on working to make the global tourism sector more sustainable and more accessible through growth, employment, embracing entrepreneurship, innovation and education.

The assembly tackled various topics of interest. Ministers and private sector leaders engaged on the role of tourism in creating jobs and training workers to fill the tourism jobs of tomorrow. A partnership with the IE University in Madrid, which is the Online Tourism Academy, was announced which will allow tourism sector workers of all levels to enhance their skills, with a particular emphasis on preparing workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

The UNWTO also achieved a monumental milestone where Member States unanimously agreed to the first ever Global Convention on Tourism Ethics. UNWTO congratulated

member countries for taking such a historic decision to elevate the code of ethics into a binding legal instrument. According to the UNWTO, globalisation needs to be governed by principles that make it better not worse for humankind.

The General Assembly also underline the need to achieve Tourism for All by ensuring that the sector is a leader in sustainable development agenda and innovation. The UNWTO Secretary General stated that “if tourism is to fulfill its massive potential as a creator of jobs, driver of economic growth and catalyst of equality, then it needs to be open to all and open to new ideas. The General Assembly also saw the first awarding of the Accessible Tourism Destination which was won by Portugal. Portugal was named as the most accessible tourist destination whilst cities of Barcelona and Thrissur in India were recognised for steps taken to welcome tourists.

At the end of the session, Morocco was chosen as the host for the 24th session of the General Assembly.