



tourism

Department:  
Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## 2021 Tourism Research Webinar

### Opening Remarks by DDG: Tourism Research, Policy and International-Relation, Aneme Malan

Good morning ladies and gentleman and welcome to the Department of Tourism's 2<sup>nd</sup> research webinar.

The revised 2017 National Tourism Sector Strategy (NTSS) recognises research as one of the key success factors for sustainable competitiveness in destination management and emphasises the important role research plays to guide planning and decision making.

The strategy highlights the need to build partnerships and collaboration to strengthen the context, use and dissemination of research findings in order to inform policy, planning and decision making. It is on this basis that the Department strives to collaborate with institutions of higher learning to conduct tourism research.

As far back as 2010, the Department initiated engagements with several universities to foster collaboration on tourism research and enhance capacity within the tourism sector. A partnership that we are very proud to continue to have with universities until today.

The main aim of the partnership is to foster collaboration, enhance research capacity within the tourism sector and provide financial support to post-graduate students pursuing tourism-related studies.

Our annual research seminar was instituted as a vehicle to disseminate our research findings and the recommendations.

In keeping with current lockdown regulation under the COVID-19 environment and ensuring that the research findings are disseminated to wider tourism stakeholders, the Department is today hosting its second research webinar under the theme: **“Advancing Tourism Growth and Development through Research: COVID-19 impacts and potential opportunities”**.

Today we are proud to share the results of two research studies done in collaboration with the University of Pretoria and the University of Johannesburg during the last year.

We are excited that in addition to this two research studies Dr Unathi Henama, from Tshwane University of Technology will deliver a key note address and be our moderator for the day.

### PROFILE OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND MODERATOR

- Dr Unathi Sonwabile Henama is a Tourism Lecturer at the Tshwane University of Technology.
- He has a Doctorate in Commerce in Tourism Management from Mid Sweden University, and holds a Masters from the University of the Free State.
- Dr Henama has presented conference papers at both local and international conferences, and has published extensively on matters related to tourism.
- He has contributed book chapters in various local and international books.
- He has contributed chapters in various books by Van Schaik Publishers, which are prescribed in several Higher Education Institutions in South Africa.
- He has further established himself as the leading tourism commentator in South Africa. His engagements in public discourse associated with tourism has seen him gracing news bulletins, writing newspapers articles locally and internationally and his commentary is sought after by print, radio and news outlets.

Dr Henama, we are looking forward to your address.