



Workshop:

“How can tour operators assess human rights impacts in their value chains?”

Tuesday, 22 October 2019, 9:30 am – 17:00 pm CET

About the workshop

On 22 October 2019, the Roundtable Human Rights in Tourism (Roundtable) gathered 28 tourism-related stakeholders in a workshop in Berlin. The Roundtable members and other interested stakeholders from tourism associations, tour operators, civil society, academia, tourism certification convened to:

1. Learn about the new, practice-oriented [Human Rights Impact Assessment \(HRIA\) tool](#) developed by the Roundtable and provide feedback. It is integrated in the Roundtables' get started tool for SME tour operators and is now publicly available on the Roundtable's website.
2. Discuss the preliminary findings from the HRIAs conducted in Thailand and Myanmar by the Roundtable in September 2019 and potential follow-up measures that tour operators and other actors in the tourism industry could take.

Main takeaways for HRIAs to be conducted by tour operators

- The touristic value chain is particularly complex and makes the scoping for a HRIA difficult. A HRIA cannot cover all operations and assess all the various elements of the value chain in details of a tour operator. It is rather a snapshot with a limited scope which allows for more in-depth consultations and organizational learning.
- Conducting a HRIA requires a high level of (human & financial) resources, know-how and commitment from a company.
- Stakeholder expectations & international standards are high for conducting a HRIA. The following elements are important to be considered by anyone working with companies on HRIAs:
 - Practical guidance is needed that translates the high expectations into something accessible for SME tour operators. The Roundtable's HRIA tool provides a good basis for that.
 - Identify synergies among tourism companies and join forces to conduct HRIAs (e.g. among members of the Roundtable).
 - A broad network helps identifying the stakeholders to consult (e.g. through Roundtable).
 - Limit the scope to be able to go more in-depth.

- Interdisciplinary expertise is needed, including language, soft and intercultural skills for conducting the consultations.
- Work with local partners that can help you to get access to rights-holders – especially vulnerable groups such as children, indigenous people and women.
- A stepwise approach is also possible: Companies who do not decide to conduct a full-fledged HRIA can still use specific HRIA guidance materials provided in the HRIA tool (e.g. for worker interviews)
- HRIs allow to give stakeholders / affected rights-holders a voice, which in turn allows for new perspectives and priorities.

The [two webinars](#) conducted by the Roundtable help you to better understand the methodology applied in Thailand and Myanmar.

Discussing the preliminary findings from the on-site assessments

The workshop participants worked in groups discussing positive and negative social impacts of tourism in the destinations assessed, human rights dilemmas encountered during the on-site assessments, prioritizing the issues and identifying potential measures that could be taken by tour operators. This included discussions around the following issue areas:

- Community-based tourism
- Economic inclusion/exclusion
- Loss of cultural identity through tourism and the rights of indigenous people
- Tourism planning/governance and related land management
- Working conditions and gender equality
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Project and school visits by tourists / child rights
- Environmental impacts (mainly water and waste management)

Next steps

- As the HRIA tool is [now available](#) online, **feedback on the content is very welcome** and can be sent to info@humanrights-in-tourism.net.
- Based on the on-site consultations in Myanmar and Thailand as well as on the outcomes of the kick-off workshop in Bangkok (September 6th), the closing workshop in Yangon (September 17th) and the follow-up workshop in Berlin (October 22nd), **an action plan with potential follow-up measures and responsibilities is currently being developed** in collaboration with Roundtable members and will be integral part of the HRIA report to be published in spring 2020.
- The **results will be disseminated and discussed** by Roundtable members (e.g. tourism associations, RT representatives, NGOs etc.) and their channels (e.g. newsletters, webinars, workshops, trainings etc.). This includes events planned for 2020 such as a public discussion at ITB Berlin (March 2020), the Roundtable Symposium in Switzerland (25-26 June 2020) etc. The Roundtable is also exploring how the results can be made available to relevant stakeholders in Thailand and Myanmar through local partners. Any ideas and suggestions in this regard are welcome.

List of participants

No.	Name	Prenome	Organisation
1	Braun	Ulrike	DER Touristik Central Europe
2	Busche	Dorothea	DRV
3	deWinter Schmitt	Rebecca	twentyfifty
4	Eichkorn	Nora	Import Promotion Desk
5	Prof. Dr. Gronau,	Werner	University of Applied Sciences Stralsund
6	Grunwald	Swantje	Gebeco
7	Hardeman	Gerben	ANVR
8	Henning	Britta	Erlebe Fernreisen
9	Heurtier	Anais	Travelife
10	Hopfer-Kubsch	Ruth	Studiosus Reisen
11	Huesken	Danica	GIZ Scout at DRV
12	Jean-Francois	Rika	ITB
13	Käufer	Florian	TFC Airlebnis Reise & Event GmbH
14	Kogge	Lara	GIZ
15	Krütten	Maren	nomad Reisen
16	Monshausen	Antje	Tourism Watch/ BfdW
17	Dr. Putz	Miriam	HH Stiftung Wirtschaftsethik
18	Reyhanloo	Tony	DER Touristik Suisse
19	Schmid	Roland	SRV
20	Schmidt	Sina-Aline	Fair Tourism NL
21	Tribolet	Emilie	Secrétariat d'Etat à l'économie SECO, Direction du travail, Affaires internationales du travail DAIN
22	Vonwirth	Anne	Global Compact Network Germany
23	Wilks	Saskia	Business and Human Rights Resource Center
24	Wolf-Gorny	Louisa	GIZ