Indigenous Tourism Group - ITG

Terms of Reference


Having reviewed the close alignment in both membership and work programs for the Indigenous Tourism Working Group (ITWG) and Indigenous Tourism Government Forum (ITGF), it is proposed that the most efficient and effective use of the limited resources allocated to the development of Indigenous tourism is to merge the two groups.

Key Deliverables:

The key deliverables of the ITG, which align with Tourism 2020, include:

- Facilitating an increase in Indigenous tourism employment;
- Building capacity of Indigenous tourism businesses;
- Enhancing Indigenous tourism product offerings;
- Guiding policy direction for Indigenous tourism development; and
- Coordinating national projects between relevant government and industry bodies.

The role of the ITG members is to:

- Promote Indigenous tourism, and identify and support opportunities for Indigenous tourism development within their own organisation, agency or jurisdiction;
- Strengthen networks for sharing information on and promoting Indigenous tourism;
- Identify and report on key initiatives and opportunities; and
- Lead and/or participate in working parties.

Membership:

The ITG membership draws from government, industry and representative bodies, comprised of representatives that have expertise in Indigenous tourism or related activities and support Indigenous tourism development and participation. Membership of the ITG is at the discretion of the Chair, based on capacity to contribute; balance of representation; and knowledge and skills.

- Tourism Australia (Co-Chair and Co-Secretariat)
- Commonwealth Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (Co-Chair and Co-Secretariat)
- Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Parks Australia
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Reconciliation Australia
- All State and Territory Tourism Organisations
- Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Committee
- Indigenous Tourism Business Leader
Administrative Arrangements for the Indigenous Tourism Group

Meetings
Meetings will be held at least three times a year and will align with reporting requirements of the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT) and Tourism Ministers’ Meeting.

Working Parties
Working parties of the ITG may be established to lead and implement projects, such as for the Indigenous Tourism Champions Program and/or as required.

Additional participation will be sought to reflect emerging issues and activities from agencies and organisations including:

- Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
- Commonwealth Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) through the National Indigenous Tourism Taskforce (NITT)

Operating Principles and Guidelines
The ITG will commit to operating principles from the Larrakia Declaration – Attached.

Work Plans
Work Plans against the key deliverables will be developed for approval by ASCOT.

Project initiatives generated through the ITG must be funded through existing Australian Government and/or State and Territory resources. Projects presented for approval must have an identified and secure source for the budget.

- Nominated ITG member or working party to develop project scope including description, expected project/policy outcomes and estimated budget. Project scope to be endorsed by ITG.
- Secretariat to verify funding availability, oversee tender documents and tendering process in consultation with ITG member or working party. The nominated ITG member or working party is to endorse relevant tender briefs, processes, etc.
- Variations to Projects and/or additional expenditure to be endorsed by the ITG.
- Secretariat to administer milestone reporting and alert the ITG to any issues.

Reporting
Step 1. ITG Secretariat drafts meeting outcomes
Step 2. ITG Chairperson/s review/endorse meeting outcomes
Step 3. Secretariat distributes to all Group members
Step 4. Forward to ASCOT Secretariat
Step 5. ITG outcomes posted as update to Group website.

ITG reports to ASCOT and TMM as required. Group Secretariat/RET to provide outcomes briefing for Tourism Ministers. RET will coordinate reports which will provide an update on the ITG’s activities and progress; and advise on key issues for consideration.
Indigenous Tourism Group

OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

OPERATING PRINCIPLES ARISING FROM THE LARRAKIA DECLARATION

The Larrakia Declaration originated from the Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference 2012 held in Darwin 28-30 March 2012. The Declaration was subsequently adopted by the PATA Board September 2012 and supported by the UN Executive Council on 29 October 2012.

Principle 1
Tourism decisions will have respect for:
- Customary law/lore, land & water, traditional cultural expression and cultural heritage

Principle 2
Tourism practices will protect and promote:
- Indigenous culture and
- the land and water on which it is based

Principle 3
Indigenous people will determine:
- The extent and nature and organisational arrangements for their participation in tourism

Governments and multilateral agencies will support:
- The empowerment of Indigenous people

Principle 4
Government will consult and accommodate:
- Indigenous peoples before undertaken decisions on public policy and programs designed to foster the development of Indigenous tourism

Principle 5
The tourism industry will respect:
- Indigenous intellectual property rights, cultures and traditional practices,
- The need for sustainable and equitable partnerships; and
- The proper care of the environment and communities that support them.

Principle 6
Equitable partnerships between the tourism industry and Indigenous people will include:
- The sharing of cultural awareness
- Skills development which support the well-being of communities and enable enhancement of individual livelihoods

OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS TOURISM

The World Indigenous Tourism Alliance state:

As Indigenous peoples in tourism, we share the same belief that tourism which is based on universal Indigenous values provides the opportunity for improved global social, environmental and economic outcomes, not just for Indigenous peoples but for all peoples.

Universal Indigenous values are principles which have spiritual origins that are concerned with the maintenance of mutually beneficial or symbiotic relationships including Indigenous concepts of
intergenerational stewardship of culture and environment, providing safe spiritual passage for visitors and respect for peoples differences and commonalities.

In response, the ITG will engage with Indigenous organisations in a manner that is consistent with and respectful of the following concepts and core values that underpin Australian Indigenous culture:

**Connection to Country**
The ITG will respect the intergenerational rights/obligations of Indigenous language groups for the spiritual maintenance of country.

Consequently the ITG support for the development of Indigenous tourism will focus on the creation of an operating environment that empowers and enables traditional owners to take responsibility for their own Indigenous tourism developments.

**Welcome to Country**
The ITG will respect and acknowledge the role of traditional owners in providing safe passage to visitors.

Consequently the ITG will be based on processes and relationships that produce reciprocal mutual benefits.

**Corroboree**
The ITG understands that Corroboree is an opportunity for people with a common interest to come together to share, learn and make informed decisions.

Consequently the ITG will inform itself as to the needs of Indigenous tourism and consult with Indigenous tourism before exercising its prerogative to advise government on policy and programs designed to support Indigenous tourism.

**OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTS**

Projects that receive the support of the Tourism 2020 Working Group on Indigenous Tourism shall meet the following criteria:

1. **Projects which have the potential to impact on the rights/obligations of Traditional Custodians for the spiritual maintenance of the land and provision of safe passage for visitors shall include processes which:**
   - Include consultation with the relevant mandated traditional custodians
   - Work in terms of processes and protocols deemed necessary within country by the mandated traditional custodians

2. **Projects intended to promote the development of Indigenous Tourism Businesses shall:**
   - Either include an Indigenous tourism project partner in the design and implementation of the project;
   - Or have defined processes for:
     - Including consultation with relevant Indigenous tourism business(es); and
     - Including feedback received from relevant Indigenous tourism business(es) in the project (impact) report

3. **Projects intended to promote employment opportunities for Indigenous people in tourism shall:**
   - Include comment on the potential social and cultural impact of the proposed employment opportunity on participants