GUIDELINES

ECO TOURISM FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OPERATION
SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Identification

Ecotourism is responsible travel to destinations with ecological diversity that involves in activities, environmental and cultural conservation measures, and community participation providing benefits for the local people and the country.

Define the Service

“Ecotourism is a form of tourism centered on learning experiences which based and respects the natural environment and cultural associates and ensures the wellbeing of local community while being environmentally and socio-culturally sustainable, preferably in a way that enhances the natural and cultural resources in the destination as a viable economic activity” (Weaver, 2001 & Ratnayake 2007)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. Ecotourism Potential

(i) Need to use nature and associated culture as the focus for eco tourism attraction.
(ii) Diversity of ecological resources/natural habitat and socio cultural values and traditions.
(iii) Undisturbed environment or environments demonstrating natural process at work i.e. wetlands, wildness areas, or coastal areas
(iv) The site is a habitat for rare and/or unique species.
(v) Authenticity of culture of local community lived or living in the natural site.
(vi) Authenticity of cultural resources found in the area.
(vii) Any other resources associated with main natural and cultural resources with added value to the site.
(viii) Any indigenous economic activities such as handicrafts, agro base activities and fishing, are also provide platform for eco tourism.
(ix) Anthropological people

B. Accessibility

(i) Appropriate and sufficient access to the site.
(ii) Adequacy of clear directional signage which harmonize the environment and with natural materials to the site.
(iii)
C. **Environmental Management**

- carrying capacity of the site should be studied and determined at the beginning in comparison with the sensitivity and biodiversity / cultural diversity of the site.
- Existence of management control/ measures to ensure that tourism activities do not exceed carrying capacity of the site.
- Availability of environmental planning and impact assessment, which includes but may not be limited to:
  
  a. Appropriate design and materials used for infrastructure at site which is compatible with the local environment.
  b. Minimum site disturbance in constructing new facilities/product
  c. Promoting energy and water conservation policy
  d. Use of environment friendly alternative energy sources such as sola power, bio gas, composting etc. for the project.
  e. Availability of energy conservation program
  f. Promoting solid waste reuse and recycling, following Reduce , Reused and Recycle (3 R concept)
  g. Appropriate waste disposal that does not create any negative impacts to the environment.
  h. Minimize environmental impact caused by disposal of wastewater.
  i. Minimum noise impact in accordance to CEA specified levels equal to or lower than background noise in the local setting.
  j. Minimum disturbance to wildlife
  k. Minimum impact on local air quality
  l. Availability of clean restrooms
  m. Existing Eco system of the site to consider for conservation and management
  n. Architectural control

D. **Site Management**

- Provide a check list for a monitoring program in place to assess satisfaction of local people and tourists.
- Availability of training programs for staff on monitoring the carrying capacity,
- 1. Eco tourism activities
- 2. Eco lodges which includes but may not be limited to the understanding of natural and cultural values of the area, measures which are to be taken to prevent environmental degradation, and to respond to an emergency.
- Mechanism to ensure that visitors do not stray into fragile or sensitive areas of the eco system.
1. When visiting by themselves
2. When accompanied by interpreters
• Availability of a tangible contribution to conservation.
• Provide ongoing contributions to the local community to generate people empowerment.
• Demonstrate respect for a sensitivity of local cultures in both its development and operation phases.
• Ecotourism products meet or exceed customers’ expectation.
• Provide accurate and responsible information about the product that leads to realistic expectations.

A. Minimum Criteria (General)

1. Eco tourism facilities and activities should be based on natural and/or cultural (authentic/traditional) environmental and their associated resource base.

2. The facility essentially needs to provide inside education to tourists/visitors on the environment including flora, fauna and its associated communities.

3. Facility or the service should be offered to smaller groups (maximum 15) after identifying appropriate carrying capacity of the visiting site.

4. Facility or activity should generate economic benefits to the host community involving directly and indirectly in the area.

5. Facility or activity essentially need to conserve existing ecological, Cultural and social balances within the project and the associated areas.

6. Should take all necessary measures to minimize all negative environmental, social, cultural and economical impacts.

7. Enhancement of existing environment such as contributing to the nature, culture to be taken into consideration ensuring its sustainability.

8. Classification elements and levels

1. Solid wastes properly collected and separated – (100%).
2. Percentage of bio degradable material used for physical structures.
   a. Eco friendly design
   b. Natural lighting
c. Natural Ventilation

1. Use of local materials for physical structures (within 20 Km’s)
2.
3. Percentage of solid wastes recycled and reused within the project.
4. Percentage of waste water recycled and reused.
5. The percentage of all employees (permanent, casual and contract) from the area (within 20Km’s of radius) Consumable and services obtained from the area (within 20 Km’s of radius)

Tourism Activities

- Planned and controlled activities, subject to the guidelines of the relevant authorities (DWLC, CEA, CCD, etc.) conducted in high natural significant area or sensitive/fragile area to minimize the negative impact on the environment.
- Appropriate tourism activities compatible with local heritage, values and character.
- Tourism activities are planned so that tourists follow specific path to minimize the negative impact on the environment.
- Activity organized within and/or neighboring area and used the existing environments (not created) to qualify as an ecotourism activity.

- Should give education and knowledge enhancement for the visitors with experience.
- Open area activities need to support with pre briefing, additional reading, reference materials and eco interpretation (if requested) for knowledge enhancements of visitors.
- Should limit to smaller group of 15 pax at a time.

Safety and Security

- Availability of officials/local guards to take care of safety and security for visitors.
- Availability of trained staff to deal with disaster/emergency.
- Availability of communication tools/system and emergency plan.
- Adequacy of medical facilities and emergency response.
- Availability of emergency plan.
- Provision of information about the area (e. g. prohibited area, dangerous areas and animals for visitors before entering the site.
B. Criteria (other)

Interpretation and educational program

- Provision of brief introduction on natural environment of the site as well as ecotourism activities.
- Creation of appropriate ecotourism trails.
- Existence of information center or booth to provide updated and accurate information.
- Availability of well-trained local guides/interpreters serving visitors.
- Availability of diverse interpretation media. E.g. electronic, printed or verbal guides on flora and fauna found in the habitat.
- Introduction of codes of conduct to educate visitors on what should or should not do when visiting the site.

TOURISM FACILITIES

Eco lodges

GUIDELINES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TOURIST ECO LODGES IN SRI LANKA

01. Definition:

“Ecolodge is an industry label used to identify a nature-dependent tourist lodge that meets the philosophy and principles of ecotourism which is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well being of local people. At a purist level it will offer a tourist an educational and participatory experience”.

02. Criteria (General)

2.1. It should be a project initiated with local community participation and people should be aware about the benefits available through the project. In order to give a participatory experience to the tourist and to the local community, the maintenance, cooking, cleaning, management and guided tours should be done by the people of the area as much as possible.

2.2. The architectural design should be environmentally and culturally sensitive. The materials found in the area should be used for the project and the building should be done with the assistance of the local labor force.

2.3. It should have a minimal impact on the natural and cultural surroundings. Measures should be taken to mitigate all possible impacts
2.4. It should utilize the green technologies that provide the sustainable means of water acquisition, safe disposal of solid waste and sewage and use of renewable energy sources.

2.5. Adequate security should be provided to the tourist to avoid dangers from natural elements and other.

2.6. Adequate first aid facilities should be provided

**Accessibility**

2.7. The roads/paths should be maintained in a natural manner with the canopy cover unbroken without disturbing the natural setting of the area at the same time should be convenience to the tourist. No sweeping and burning are allowed.

**Construction**

2.8. Natural contours of the landscape should be followed.

2.9. High structures should be avoided

2.10. Minimum use of synthetics paints on surfaces should be used, if used the colours should blend, not contrast with the colors of the natural environment.

2.11. The design should be simple with minimum visual impacts.

2.12. Use of heavy machinery should be avoided/minimized.

2.13. Construction process should be combines traditional and modern technologies and materials.

**Accommodation**

2.14. It should have at least five letting bed rooms

2.15. It should be provided with basic requirements such as bed and bedding, mirrors, cupboards…etc.

2.16. Bath Rooms should be of modern sanitary facilities

2.17. Area to be provided to store linen.

2.18. Adequate accommodation facilities should be provided for drivers and the staff

**Kitchen**

2.19. Kitchen should be provided with basic and adequate kitchen equipments.
2.20. Necessary actions should be taken to prevent impacts insects and rodents.

2.21. Professionally built kitchen draining system should be available with grease trap soakage pit…etc.

2.22. Adequate and systematic storage facilities should be provided

2.23. Proper disposal system of garbage should be introduced as per the guideline of ecotourism

2.24. Kitchen should be provided with hot water facility.

**Staff**

2.25. Experienced staff should be provided

2.26. Staff should be provided with suitable uniforms

2.27. Staff at the reception should be able to speak at least English language.

**Dining Area**

2.28. A dining area should be provided with suitable seating facilities with all necessary requirements.

**Design and environmental Management system**

- Good waste water management system and standardized water treatment system.
- Environmental harmonized design with surrounding environment.
- Retain the original landscape as much as possible.
- Clear public restroom signboards and cleanliness keeping notice.
- Encourage the appropriate use of toilet.

**Amenities and facilities**

- Appropriate space for each unit
- Provision of adequate facilities for disabled and elderly.
- Provision of adequate units/cubicles for ladies and men.
- Sufficient amenities provisions such as issue, soap etc.

**Cleanliness**

- Adequate air circulation and ventilation system
- Good smell and no dirty slough
- Clean and adequate water
- Floor should be kept clean and dry
- Practice sanitation and hygiene principles
- Trained personnel on facility maintenance and cleanliness keeping
- Customers’ suggestion box and a procedure for action
- Regular maintenance of the toilet premises

**Safety**

- Firm construction
- Public location
- Adequate lighting with and outside building
- Good maintenance of facilities for safety reason
- No slippery ground

**REGULATORY REQUIREMENT**

Under the section 48 (4) of Tourism Act No 38 of 2005 all Tourist services shall be registered with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

It shall be an offence to provide any tourist services which has not been registered of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. According to the section 48 (10) and section 63 (2) of the said Act any enterprise or tourist service with no proper registration and license will become a punishable offence.

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<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Mr. Chandra Wickremasinghe SLAITO</td>
<td>Mr. Ruan Samarasighe THASL</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Mr. Ravi De Silva Aitken Spence Hotel</td>
<td>Mr. Siri De Silva ASMET-President</td>
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