



Egyptian Environmental Policy Program

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

Tourism Development Authority

Red Sea Governorate

U.S. Agency for International Development



**Red Sea Sustainable Development –
Red Sea Sustainable Tourism Initiative Sub-Component**

D E L I V E R A B L E N o . 3

**Proposed Ecotourism Standards for the Southern
Red Sea Region**



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Proposed Ecotourism Standards for the Southern Red Sea Region

United States Agency for International
Development (USAID)

Prime Contract # GS-1F-0076M

Order #263-M-00-04-00004-00

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ecotourism is presently one of the fastest growing segments of tourism around the world. The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) believes that Egypt can become a significant ecotourism destination. TDA identified the Red Sea Southern Region (SRSR) as a leading ecotourism destination, and prepared an Ecotourism Development Plan for the area. On May 31, 2004, the Ministry of Tourism declared the area an “ecotourism development zone.” Separately, the contiguous Wadi el Gemal – Himata area was designed a protected area, commonly referred to as the Wadi Gemal National Park.

The Proposed Ecotourism Development Standards for the Southern Red Sea Region provides a first attempt to guide ecotourism facilities and operations toward meeting international ecotourism standards. To date, international ecotourism standards have been introduced as voluntary instruments that would allow an enterprise, organization or community to market its product or service using the terminology “ecotourism”.

Similarly, TDA proposes to introduce these standards initially on a voluntary basis that might be linked to the Ministry of Tourism’s rating and classification system. Given the importance of nature conservation to ecotourism and the existence of the Wadi Gemal National Park within the SRSR, TDA recognizes the important role the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency’s Nature Conservation Sector will have in permitting the siting of ecotourism facilities and regulating ecotourism operations.

These Standards build up on a number of already published documents and are based to a certain degree on publications such as the Green Globe 21 International Ecotourism Standard for Ecotourism Products (Green Globe, 2003) and the International Ecotourism Societies International Ecolodge Guidelines (TIES, 2002).

Because of the importance of the “visitor experience”, the ecotourism standards target enterprises and organizations responsible for operations. For example, an accommodation by itself would be expected to meet the ecotourism standard, but rather the entity that operates the facility and is responsible for planning, organizing and conducting the “ecotourism experience.”

The standards are divided into four sections:

1. Tour operators
2. Visitor behavior
3. Visitor impact management
4. Tourism products

2. TOUR OPERATOR STANDARDS

2.1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The Principle: *Only tour operators that conform to the ecotourism philosophy and operate their tourism in an environmentally friendly way will be allowed to function in the Southern Red Sea Region (SRSR).*

Compliance to the following standards should provide the corresponding authority with the selection criteria for tour operators wishing to operate in the SRSR.

2.2 QUALIFICATIONS OF TOUR OPERATORS

Principle: *Only qualified tour operators and other tourism services providers with a proven track record will be authorized to operate in the (SRSR).*

1. The tour operator or other service provider is legally constituted, has an official and updated permit or license granted by the Minister of Tourism or TDA, and EEAA (if necessary).
2. The operator must demonstrate that its code of ethics is based on an understanding of the area's heritage and culture and on respect towards the natural environment, and that its staff is constituted by persons with sufficient know-how in the fields of ecotourism operation, regional ecology and culture, nature conservation and sustainable development practices.
3. The tour operator must demonstrate consideration of the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to have sensitivity towards local conditions by portraying local residents honestly in advertising brochures or the web site- by respecting religious and other traditional ceremonies and sites- by encouraging tour participants to ask permission before photographing local residents (or forthrightly abstain from taking pictures in specific situations and places)
4. Whenever possible, the tour operator should train and employ members of the local community as guides.
5. The operator should facilitate adequate opportunity for mutually satisfactory and authentic two-way interaction between tour participants and local residents.
6. Tour arrangements should be made in advance to avoid over-crowding at specific sites and attractions.
7. Advance arrangements made by the tour operator should always be reliable and honored
8. Tour operator should provide adequate compensation for all local services supporting tour groups.
9. Operators should always offer site-sensitive accommodation that is neither wasteful of local resources nor destructive of the environment, and that provides the opportunity for sensitive interchange with local communities.
10. Operators should ensure that tour leadership is adequate (neither meek nor excessive) and group size does not adversely impact the destination.
11. Operators should avoid areas that are under-managed and over-visited.
12. Operators should provide opportunities for local communities to take part in discussions and consultations on trip planning issues in so far as they affect that community.
13. Operators should foster environmentally responsible practices including waste management, recycling, and wise energy use.
14. Operators' programs should supplement or complement traditional local practices, such as grazing, fishing, social practices, without overwhelming or attempting to replace them.

2. Tour Operator Standards...

15. The operator must provide evidence that its activities provide a tangible contribution to conservation, through hands-on, in-kind and/or financial assistance that include at least six of the following measures over the previous 12 months:

- recycling
- removal of litter
- clean up days to remove litter from natural areas are organised and/or resourced
- weed and/or pest control
- rehabilitation
- development and maintenance of facilities/infrastructure to reduce visitor impact
- providing input/environmental planning and policy initiatives
- monitoring tourism impacts
- recording of flora/fauna/natural events
- ecological research
- support of conservation projects
- educate members of the local community as to the value of ecotourism and maintaining sound and healthy ecosystems
- promotion of conservation issues

16. The operator must provide evidence that it contributes to conservation outcomes beyond the immediate area of operation by implementing at least two of the following:

- a donation to, or support of, an environmental or conservation NGO
- participation in greenhouse gas abatement and/or carbon sequestration programs
- involvement in regional or nation wide recycling scheme
- a donation or other support for an environmental research project
- participation in other community-based activities and/or organizations

17. The operator must ensure that his merchandise for sale does not include rare or threatened species, and does not include items of significant cultural or heritage conservation value.

18. The operator must ensure that it systematically provides advice to customers not to purchase merchandise derived from rare and threatened species, or heritage artifacts, from other sources.

19. The operator shall provide evidence of tangible support to assist formal protection of a natural area or heritage site that is not an existing protected area.

2.3 QUALIFICATIONS OF TOUR OPERATORS

Principle: *Only qualified tour operators and other tourism services providers with a proven track record will be authorized to operate in the (SRSR).*

2. Tour Operator Standards...

1. The tour operator or other service provider is legally constituted, has an official and updated permit or license granted by the Minister of Tourism or TDA, and has had a minimum
2. The operator must demonstrate that its code of ethics is based on an understanding of the area's heritage and culture and on respect towards the natural environment, and that its staff is constituted by persons with sufficient know-how in the fields of ecotourism operation, regional ecology and culture, nature conservation and sustainable development practices.
3. The tour operator must demonstrate consideration of the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to have sensitivity towards local conditions by portraying local residents honestly in advertising brochures or the web site- by respecting religious and other traditional ceremonies and sites- by encouraging tour participants to ask permission before photographing local residents (or forthrightly abstain from taking pictures in specific situations and places)
4. Whenever possible, local guides should be trained and employed by the tour operator.
5. The operator should facilitate adequate opportunity for mutually satisfactory and authentic two-way interaction between tour participants and local residents.
6. Tour arrangements should be made far enough in advance.
7. Advance arrangements should always be reliable and honored
8. Local services for tour groups should always be adequately compensated.
9. Operators should always offer site-sensitive accommodation that is neither wasteful of local resources nor destructive of the environment, and that provides the opportunity for sensitive interchange with local communities.
10. Operators should ensure that tour leadership is adequate (neither meek nor excessive) and groups sufficiently small so that impact on destinations is minimal.
11. Avoid areas that are under-managed and over-visited.
13. Encourage relevant authorities to identify and recognize worthy of conservation and to determine the level of development, (as determined in the ecotourism standard matrix).
14. Provide opportunities for local communities to take part in discussions and consultations on tourism planning issues insofar as they affect that community.
15. Foster environmentally responsible practices including waste management, recycling, and wise energy use.
16. Supplements or complements traditional local practices, such as grazing, fishing, social practices, without overwhelming or attempting to replace them, and makes the local economy more robust and less susceptible to rapid change or world economic downturns.
17. The operator must provide evidence that its activities provide a tangible contribution to conservation, through hands-on, in-kind and/or financial assistance that include at least six of the following measures over the previous 12 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- recycling- removal of litter- clean up days to remove litter from natural areas are organised and/or resourced- weed and/or pest control- rehabilitation- development and maintenance of facilities/infrastructure to reduce visitor impact- providing input/environmental planning and policy initiatives- monitoring tourism impacts

2. Tour Operator Standards...

- recording of flora/fauna/natural events
- ecological research
- support of conservation projects
- promotion of conservation issues

18. The operator must provide evidence that it contributes to conservation outcomes beyond the immediate area of operation by implementing at least two of the following:

- a donation to, or support of, an environmental or conservation NGO
- participation in greenhouse gas abatement and/or carbon sequestration programs
- involvement in regional or nation wide recycling scheme
- a donation or other support for an environmental research project

19. The operator must ensure that his merchandise for sale does not include rare or threatened species, and does not include items of significant cultural or heritage conservation value.

20. The operator must ensure that it systematically provides advice to customers not to purchase merchandise derived from rare and threatened species, or heritage artifacts, from other sources.

21. The operator shall provide evidence of tangible support to assist formal protection of a natural area or heritage site that is not an existing protected area.

2.4 TOUR OPERATOR PREDEPARTURE PROGRAMS

The principle: *Prepare travelers to minimize their negative impacts while visiting sensitive environments and cultures before departure.*

Tour operators should offer visitors diverse educational and informative materials regarding the Southern Red Sea Region. These materials will give the tourists an appropriate insight on the rich ecological, historical, and cultural heritage of this region and also introduce the importance of contributing to the conservation of the places they will be visiting. Information should be of a holistic type, recognizing that the whole is more than the mere sum of parts, and should provide connections between the different features that will be encountered. The purpose of this is to educate visitors to consider the effects of their visit in advance and, if needed, to modify certain behavioral patterns while traveling, with the objective of minimizing negative impacts.

Promotional material for the trip should be sufficient to inform potential clients of the points of interest, the visitor behavior requirements, and any associated risks.

In this way the visitor is attuned to the full range of opportunities for viewing landscape, seascape, vegetation, wildlife, and cultural features. Other benefits to the visitor include obtaining an awareness of personal responsibility to minimize impacts on the natural environment and the local cultures before departure and also prepare the proper gear and clothing for the trip.

1. Provide introductory information on the people, history and ecosystems to be visited in pre-departure packages.

2. Provide reference to related information, such as selected bibliographies (books and magazines) and appropriate web sites.

3. Keep information objective and well-grounded using examples of phenomena visitors may encounter.

2. Tour Operator Standards...

4. Provide general travel ethics addressing standards for behavior in natural areas and in contact with local communities.
5. Warn against bringing disposable goods that contribute to the solid waste burden in the region.
6. Provide information on products to avoid they are illegally traded.
7. Provide information, as required, on avoiding the accidental transport of foreign, exotic species into isolated and/or fragile ecosystems being visited.

2.5 ETHICS OF OPERATION

The principle: *Ecotourism products have minimal impacts on the natural, social and cultural environment, and are undertaken in accordance with a defined code of practice.*

All ecotourism activities have to be based on a biocentric code of ethics, not an anthropocentric one. All things and living beings in the biosphere have an equal right to exist, i.e. they are all equal in intrinsic value.

The following principles are at the core of any code of ethics: environmental commitment, responsibility, integrated planning, environmentally sound management, cooperation between decision-makers, and public awareness. Economic profit should not override maintaining the natural and cultural heritage of a region as undisturbed as possible.

1. Tour operators or managers of ecotourism products shall develop and adopt a minimal impact code of conduct for their product(s). The Code shall:

- include measures to prevent or minimize environmental harm in general
- include measures to minimize social and cultural impacts from ecotourism product and activities
- be appropriate for the nature and scale of the ecotourism product or activity
- be appropriate to the natural and cultural environments visited by the ecotourism product or activity
- refrain from capturing wild animals in order to show them to their customers in captive or semi-captive conditions unless as part of a rescue and rehabilitation program
- abstain from feeding wild animals in order to attract them
- endeavor to minimize negative environmental impacts through the most appropriate means of transportation, preferring the use of non-polluting technologies
- avoid excessive approaching of wildlife for viewing purposes, especially during specifically fragile situations such as breeding conditions, nesting, offspring rearing, feeding, etc.
- incorporate input from a peer review from the ecotourism industry
- receive endorsement as appropriate from protected area managers, land-owners, government conservation agencies and where applicable, non-government conservation agencies

2. Tour operators must recognize that its basis is a limited resource, the environment, and that the resource must be managed to be sustainable.

3. All ecotourism service providers must realize that their business has to have strong emphasis on local communities, and that greater consideration must be given to the socio-economic costs of tourism development.

4. All managers of ecotourism products must recognize that their operation is service oriented, and that it must treat employees as well as customers ethically.

2. Tour Operator Standards...

5. Tour operators should carefully set up predeparture programs in order to prepare travelers to minimise their negative impacts while visiting sensitive environments and cultures before departure. These programs should include at least five of the following items:

- | |
|---|
| - Provide introductory information on the people and ecosystems to be visited in predeparture packages. Stress the importance of reading predeparture, such as selected bibliographies, corresponding Internet web sites, and review additional resources for each destination. |
| - Keep information objective and well-grounded using examples of phenomena visitors are likely to encounter. |
| - Provide general travel ethics addressing standards for behavior in natural areas and with local cultures. |
| - Provide information on the equipment, clothing and personal supplies suitable to the regions being visited. |
| - Warn against bringing disposable goods that contribute to the solid waste burden in the region. |
| - Provide information on products to avoid that they are illegally traded. |
| - Provide information, as required, on avoiding the accidental transport of foreign, exotic species into isolated ecosystems being visited. |

2.6 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

The principle: *Ecotourism products should always strive to meet or exceed the customer's expectations.*

1. Ecotourism product managers shall maintain informal feedback on customer satisfaction through at least three of the following, and use this feedback for product review:

- | |
|--|
| - Within the last 6 months the operation has used structured interviews with customers to formally monitor their satisfaction with the product. |
| - There are written performance standards for customer satisfaction for the product (e.g. 20% extremely satisfied, 40% very satisfied, 30% satisfied, 10% unsatisfied). |
| - Within the last 6 months the operation has used focus groups that represent their market to formally explore the reasons for customer satisfaction with the product. |
| - The operator communicates/shares insights from the customer satisfaction improvement process with the broader industry and stakeholders including TDA, EEAA and the Red Sea Governorate through initiatives such as conferences, newsletters and workshops. It is not expected to share insights that could directly reduce competitive advantage. |
| - The operator maintains copies of correspondence from clients |

2. Ecotourism product managers shall achieve formal feedback through at least one of the following and use this information for product review:

- | |
|--|
| - structured interviews |
| - focus groups |
| - analysis of comments in visitor books |
| - Within the last 6 months the operation has used questionnaires to formally monitor customer satisfaction with the product. |

2. Tour Operator Standards...

2.7 STAFF TRAINING

The principle: *Service staff in contact with customers are able to provide accurate information on the natural values, cultural heritage and conservation issues of the sites visited, and guides can provide quality interpretive experiences.*

1. All customer service staff will attend induction training that includes:

- the natural and cultural values of the area
- the environmental management issues in the area
- the principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the product
- practices that staff are to follow as part of their duties to minimize adverse impacts

2. Ecotour guides can demonstrate competence through a portfolio of evidence or training records in the following:

- knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage values of the area
 - skills in interpretation and communication
 - relevant minimal impact procedures
 - an understanding of environmental and conservation management issues of the area
- Where relevant, specialist hard skills/formal qualifications for 'adventure' activities such as snorkeling or diving.

3. Produce a training manual and/or the development of supplementary resource information kits for staff.

4. Lead or Head guides are qualified either through a Guide certification scheme or through competency based, on-the-job training which has been formally recognized by an accredited training authority.

F: RESPONSIBLE MARKETING

The principle: *Ecotourism provides accurate and responsible information about the product that leads to realistic expectations.*

1. Marketing material generated for the ecotourism product shall provide accurate and contemporary information that defines the visitor experience on the following attributes:

- the natural attributes of the area or site
- the formal status, if any, of the site (e.g. National Park, World Heritage Area, etc.)
- the main nature-based activities available
- the range and style of interpretive services provided
- the number of people in typical group (e.g. tour) activities
- the natural and cultural values (e.g. rare species)
- behavior that will minimize damage to the environment
- behavior that is appropriate in culturally sensitive areas

2. Tour Operator Standards...

2. Ecotourism product marketing material generated for the product shall provide realistic expectations of what will be encountered/sighted or provides appropriate qualifications. All marketing material representing the product includes codes of practice or guidelines that address minimal impact or appropriate behavior for the environment, or cultures visited

3. Ecotourism product marketing material shall include at least two of the following:

- means of accessing additional information on the destination and/or attractions
- advice on how the visitors can maximize their enjoyment of the product
- description of the key principles of ecotourism, how the product meets these, and the role and benefits of ecotourism certification

3. VISITOR BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

The Principle: *Ecotourism products have minimal impacts on the natural, social and cultural environment, and are undertaken in accordance with a defined code of practice as regards visitor behavior.*

Managers of ecotourism products shall have regard to the following codes of conduct for the ecotourism activities their clients carry out.

3.1 CAMPING

1. Whenever possible, existing official campsites are used.
2. Where there are no existing campsites, avoid using areas of high conservation value and ensure camps are set at least 30 meters away from the nearest water body.
3. Washing and bathing with soaps/detergents is carried out at least 100 meters away from the nearest water body.
4. Where toilets do not exist, human waste is buried in a hole 15cms deep and at least 100 meters away from the campsite and the nearest water body.
5. All other wastes are carried out.
6. Campsite fires, if necessary are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- set in existing fireplaces- are completely extinguished after use- made from firewood that has been brought in or is collected from further afield.
8. Fuel stoves are used for cooking.
9. The condition of the campsite is monitored by filling in log books or taking photographs.
10. Data from the monitoring program is provided to the relevant management agency.
11. The use of campsites is rotated.

3.2 WALKING AND TREKKING

1. Carry out all litter and food scraps.
2. In situations where toilets are not available bury waste in a hole at least 15cm deep, and at least 100 meters away from water bodies or campsites.
3. Utilize defined trails or tracks.
4. Fill in track log-books and provide monitoring information to management agencies.
5. In the absence of defined tracks and to the extent feasible, avoid wet or soft ground; instruct customers to spread out so that no two walkers follow in the same footsteps; and to the extent feasible, avoid walking through vegetation or on fragile soils.
6. For day walks (i.e. a walk that does not involve an overnight camp), the maximum group size is 25 people.

3. Visitor Behavior Standards...

7. For overnight walks or treks group size is limited to eight visitors or a number approved by the relevant government agency, and if camping or preparation of meals is involved, the minimal impact camping criteria is adhered to.
8. Include regular monitoring of the condition of tracks and trails by filling in log books and/or photographic records, carrying out human waste, and rotating tour routes in heavily used areas to minimize impacts.
9. For day walks, group size is limited to 15 or to the maximum number recommended by the relevant government nature conservation agency (EEAA); according to the natural carrying capacity.
10. Tracks prone to erosion are actively avoided when conditions are unfavorable (e.g., during flood season);
11. Guides ensure that fires are fully extinguished with water before breaking camp.
12. Tour groups are kept on existing tracks where they exist. Where there are no tracks, the guides should ensure that customers are spread out so that no two walkers follow the same footsteps; and
13. Guides set the walking pace to suit the slowest member of the group;

3.3 VEHICLE USE

1. Designated tracks and roads are used where they exist.
2. Where tracks and roads do not exist, travel routes are selected to avoid sensitive areas such as dunes, salt pans, steep hillsides; and, if appropriate, the route is approved by the relevant management agency.
3. Rivers and creeks are forded only at designated crossings and undertaken at slow speed, and if possible, at a 90° angle to the bank.
4. Only designated tracks or roads are used; if these do not exist the tour does not take place in the area in question.
5. Advice from relevant experts such as staff of government agencies, universities, specialized consultants or NGO's is sought to ascertain the appropriate route and level of use.
6. Road and track conditions are monitored in logbooks or via photographic records; and the data provided to the relevant management/government agency.
7. The tour operator undertakes remedial work where necessary on tracks and roads (provided this is approved by the relevant government agency).
8. Tour routes are regularly rotated.

3.4 POWER BOAT USE

1. Boat wash does not erode coastal environments.
2. The speed of boats is low enough to ensure that wash does not cause problems and that the enjoyment of others is not affected.
3. Boats are not anchored or grounded on sensitive environments such as seagrass and live coral.
4. Where tours use regular routes and make regular stops, mooring rather than anchoring is used.
5. Bilge water contaminated with oil, grease and fuel is not discharged; untreated ballast water is not discharged.
6. Where pump-out facilities for sewage/sludge exist, sewage and sludge are taken to shore and pumped out.

3. Visitor Behavior Standards...

7. Where no pump-out facilities exist, sewage/ sludge are only discharged where there will not be significant impacts on receiving environments (i.e. not in small lakes, near coral reefs or in land-locked coastal lagoons).
8. To achieve the previous two objectives, boats are fitted with holding tanks.
9. Maintenance of boats (spray painting, abrasive-ballasting, application of anti-foul ants, etc.) is only done in appropriately designed and managed facilities.
10. Anti-foul ants that contain heavy metals or biocides are scrubbed and removed in an appropriate facility (where fouling organisms, paint scrapings and sludge are collected and appropriately disposed of.
11. Anti-foul ants are not used in small freshwater bodies and only organotin-free anti-foul agents are used in the marine environment.
12. Sewage/ sludge and bilge water is not discharged into open water.
13. Ballast water is not discharged unless treated to ensure that potential diseases and exotic organisms are destroyed.
14. Anti-foul agents that release heavy metals or biocides are not used ;(tar epoxies are used in preference).
15. If feasible, diesel, four-stroke or electric engines are used instead of two-stroke engines
16. Noise suppression equipment is used in situations where noise will disturb wildlife or lessen the other people's enjoyment.
16. Oil or grease contaminated bilge water, or untreated ballast water is not discharged;
17. Vessel maintenance (spray painting, anti-fouling, abrasive blasting etc) is conducted in appropriately designed and managed facilities; and

3.5 NON-POWERED BOAT USE

1. Portage of craft follows routes advised by natural area managers to minimize long-term environmental damage.
2. Portage routes and/or regularly used mooring locations are actively rehabilitated or maintained.
3. Regular monitoring of portage routes and/or regularly used mooring locations is carried out (e.g. by way of photographs, log books), and this information is provided to the protected area manager.
4. The practices of minimal impact boating are actively promoted to all customers before and during the tour (e.g. interpretive commentary, group discussions, brochures and pre-tour information address this issue).
5. A "carry in – carry out" policy is in place for all litter and waste (including food scraps, but excluding human waste). Human waste shall be deposited in designated areas and removed periodically by the tour operator.
6. A best practice would be carrying human waste out.
7. Group size is limited to 5 vessels or less, or the maximum number recommended by the relevant government nature conservation agency (EEAA).

3.6 MINIMIZING IMPACTS OF SNORKELING AND SCUBA DIVING

1. When snorkeling or diving, care is taken not to touch, hang on, stand on, or damage fragile organisms (e.g. coral).
2. Free swimming animals are not chased, ridden or herded.

3. Visitor Behavior Standards...

3. Living or dead items that are picked up are returned to their exact position.
4. Collecting of seashells etc. is discouraged, and only undertaken in accordance with local laws and guidelines
5. Souvenirs are not taken from historic wrecks or historical sites.
6. Spear fishing and other collecting is not undertaken.
7. Pre-planned routes or underwater "trails" that are designed to minimize environmental impacts are provided for snorkelers/divers.
8. Resting stations or sites are provided for snorkelers
9. Equipment is secured to avoid dragging.

3.7 MARINE MAMMAL AND MEGAFUNA VIEWING

The following measures are implemented when whale, dolphin, shark, whale shark, dugong viewing.

1. Where they are in place, codes of ethics produced by management agencies are adopted.
2. Animals are not chased or herded.
3. Animals have unrestricted movement.
4. Particular caution is exercised around any group of animals that includes mothers and young.
5. At least one staff member monitors the animal's behaviour while the activity is occurring.
6. Interpretation of megafauna conservation issues, biology and behaviour is provided as part of the tour;
7. Where vessels are used ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they are not positioned directly in the path of animals nor used to "leap frog" in a way that repeatedly places the vessel ahead of the animals - engines are not started and vessels not moved off until animals have departed - where several vessels are operating at the same location, radio communication between the vessels is maintained to assist orderly management and safety - all machinery, engines, etc. are soundproofed
8. Swimming with megafauna (e.g., dolphins, seals) occurs only with the authorization of the statutory authority responsible for the animal. Where swimming with megafauna does occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - customers are prepared for their reaction to being at close quarters with the animals - customers are advised not to touch or swim at animals - lines are used in open water, and wherever suitable at reefs - where in use, customers are advised not to leave the line; - visitors are advised to avoid rapid movements - Instructions on correct use of equipment (e.g., snorkeling gear) is given. - at least one staff member enters the water before visitors - visitors displaying unsuitable behaviour are removed from the water - snorkeling gear is used in preference to SCUBA

3. Visitor Behavior Standards...

	- flash photography is prohibited
	- a maximum of six customers are in the water at any one time

4. VISITOR IMPACT MANAGEMENT

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Principle: *Ecotourism Operations are established on the basis of scientific understanding of potential environmental impacts*

1. Established ecotourism products that require a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or similar requirements shall provide evidence of the Assessment and evidence of official approval for the ecotourism product. Where law for approval of the product does not require a formal assessment of environmental impacts, it is nonetheless recommendable to identify, assess and minimize potential and ongoing environmental impacts.

2. New products should have an environmental impact assessment process that includes:

- an evaluation of alternative sites and designs for the product – with the aim being to select the environmentally preferred site and design for the product
 - assessment of the existing integrity of ecosystem processes
 - determining the known sensitivity of the ecosystem processes to human-induced change (including the potential for cumulative environmental impacts);
 - identifying the risk of irreversible damage to ecosystem processes
 - assessing mechanisms to rehabilitate the area
 - assessing mechanisms to effectively monitor ecosystem processes
 - evaluating strategies to minimize environmental harm and prevent irreversible environmental damage
-

4.2 MINIMAL IMPACT CODES OF PRACTICE

The principle: *Ecotourism operations adopt and implement a minimal impact code of practice for the activities they undertake.*

1. Ecotourism products shall develop a minimal impact code of practice for the activities they undertake and commit to a monitoring program and operational improvement. The code must set out the measures to prevent or minimize environmental harm, social and cultural impacts from the activities undertaken. The code must be appropriate for nature and scale of the activities undertaken and the natural environments visited.

2. Where there is no relevant industry code of practice in place, a code of practice developed by the tourism business has been endorsed by other tour operators, protected area managers, land owners, government conservation agencies and where applicable, non-government conservation agencies.

3. The code of practice should address measures such as those identified in the attached matrix. The code will be reviewed at the time of Assessment.

4.3 MINIMIZING NEGATIVE IMPACTS

The Principle: *All ecotourism operations and activities minimize their different types of negative impacts: physical, biological and socio-economic*

4. Visitor Impact Management...

Negative impacts of tourism may be generally divided into three main categories: physical, biological and socio-cultural.

For the purpose of these Standards, the following five specific types of negative impacts will be dealt with:

- Impacts on Soils
- Impacts on Water Resources
- Impacts on Vegetation
- Impacts on Wildlife
- Impacts on the Socio-cultural Environment.

4.3.1 Impacts on Soils

Generally speaking, physical alteration of soils may be caused by motor vehicles, horses or other pack and saddle animals, bicycles, walkers and trekkers, and also by on-site facilities.

Terrestrial and aquatic soil is treated here together, along with beach sands and estuarine muds, cave earths and screes.

Impacts on soils may be of several kinds. Soil removal and relocation is due mainly to the introduction of on-site facilities or site management practices, and can in effect “sterilize” land by burying its surface under buildings or car parks. Soil creep, slides and scree movement can occur as a result of walking activity. Soil creep becomes noticeable when it results in “terracotta” formation, which often accompanies the development of hillside contour or oblique paths, as seen in areas used for hiking and horse- or camel-trekking. Visitors when they walk or scramble down a slope can cause a more dispersed downward movement of topsoil.

Soil compaction is caused mainly by trampling. According to studies carried out in the US, the average pressure exerted by a hiker on the soil is 0.82 kg/sq cm, when applying all the body weight on one single foot, which is what normally, occurs when one walks. This implies a total weight of between 75 and 100 tons per km of trail. In comparison, a horse may exert a pressure of approximately 2.8 kg/sq cm, i.e. almost 3.5 higher. Evidently, continuous trampling reduces the capacity of the soil to recover from compaction, due to the decrease in the abundance of active roots. Compaction leads to other changes, such as reduction of air space in the soil and alterations in the humidity ratio in root zones. These changes also affect fauna (especially invertebrates like arthropods and worms and also bacteria) that live on the surface of the ground or slightly underneath it. Soil compaction is frequently exacerbated by the passage of vehicles, e.g. on camping grounds. Dunes are particularly vulnerable to the trampling of visitors and the passage of vehicles. Another negative impact of human and animal trampling is the rupture and fragmentation of superficial soil, which leaves sterile layers of soil exposed, by which the processes of desiccation and erosion are speeded up. The use of trails and footpaths are excellent ways of minimizing soil compaction and erosion (see section 4.5.3 for specific nature trail standards).

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Soil erosion at picnic sites, on paths and among sand dunes is often attributed to the impact of different recreational activities. But recreational activities are themselves almost never agents of erosion, their effect being only to provide circumstances in which forces of erosion, i.e. wind and water, are more likely to occur. Decrease in ground vegetation and increased soil compaction (which often occur together) are two commonly recorded impacts of tourism activities that can accelerate erosion. Sand dune systems are notoriously vulnerable to wind erosion once their vegetation cover has been broken. Since an *in-situ* soil may take up to 12,000 years to develop, soil erosion can lead to permanent ecological change (Speight, 1973). The eroded material is often redeposited elsewhere. This eroded material can make large outwash fans at the down-slope end of gullies, or becoming drifting dunes of wind-blown sand. In both cases, deposited material can quickly bury whatever existing vegetation there may be, producing new areas of bare ground that also erode.

Soil enrichment or eutrophication often occurs as a result of the organic litter, mainly food, left behind by tourists. Faeces and urine from humans and accompanying dogs, horses or other domestic animals, are an additional source of organic waste. An increase in nutrient-demanding ground flora (various grasses) on sites experiencing a high density of recreational use has been observed, as well as an increased nutrient status due to the deposit of animal faeces.

Following are standards to minimize negative impacts of tourism activity on the soil.

1. Strictly control and minimize motor vehicle traffic in protected areas or other areas of high ecotourism relevance, especially heavier vehicles (like big tourism buses), restricting this type of traffic to a few roads clearly identified.
2. Strictly forbid motor vehicles (including motorcycles and "sand buggies") in sandy beaches and dunes located in protected areas or other sensitive natural areas.
3. Restrict as much possible circulation of pedestrians in dune areas (only in exceptional cases, allow movement on very limited, clearly signed trails).
4. On trails for human use, strictly prohibit bicycle and horse use (these uses are all mutually exclusive).
5. Periodically close (in a rotating way) foot paths and horse tracks, so as to avoid their excessive impairment, allowing for their recovery. A good bench mark for closing a trail: when 10 % of the total length of the trail presents severe erosion).
6. In marshy land and/or mangroves use elevated boardwalks.
7. Avoid excessive crowding of tourists (in areas such as camping areas, picnic sites, viewpoints, etc.) so as to avoid severe soil damage.
8. Avoid dumping trash on the ground in areas not designated for this (persuade tourists not to litter protected areas, but to take their refuse away with them).

4.3.2 Impacts on Water Resources

The management of tourism impacts on water resources (both fresh water and marine) is a key management issue in desert area and other sensitive natural area. Managing water

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quality involves dealing with water flow, surface storage, and ground water systems. Groundwater systems may serve as municipal, domestic and park water supplies, and in the case of surface waters, as recreational amenities and resources.

Proper siting of designated camping areas in terms of soil suitability and distances to water resources are management responsibilities important to water quality management. Periodic sampling of the water composition is recommended in areas receiving high use in the watersheds or on the water (including coastal areas). Of particular concern is the rising incidence of *Giardiasis* and its debilitating effects on humans infected by the disease-causing parasite. This problem is likely to increase due to a high frequency of human carriers attracted to desert environments and the ubiquity of animal carriers. Excessive growth of algae is another water management problem.

Coastal and marine waters are particularly susceptible to tourism impacts. The adverse effects of sewage and wastewater disposal from beach hotels are widespread.

Major parameters influencing water quality is :(see TDA ministerial decree 80/1989)

- a) Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus,
- b) Suspended solids (either organic or inorganic materials),
- c) Amount of dissolved oxygen in the water column,
- d) Temperature,
- e) PH,
- f) Fecal bacteria,
- g) Pathogens,
- h) Dissolved solids,
- i) Transparency,
- j) Total alkalinity.

Nutrient enhancement, increased turbidity, and a lessening of dissolved oxygen are strongly linked to eutrophication (the process that results in an increase in nutrients, defined as "water-quality degradation resulting from the direct or indirect effects of excessive fertilization"). The slow, natural processes of eutrophication can be greatly accelerated by human activities that result in over-fertilization. When enrichment reaches a critical level, certain human uses of bodies of water may be directly impaired by the effects of high plant densities, changes in fish populations, algal blooms or scums, etc. The contrary of eutrophic waters is termed "oligotrophic waters" (deficient in nutrients).

Physical impacts of boating on water resources are caused primarily by motor-powered vessels, although hand-powered craft may produce localized disturbances. Forces

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generated by the propulsion of power boats result in wash and turbulence. In forward movement, water is displaced upward in front of the bow creating surface waves tangential to the direction of movement. At the stern end, sufficient displacement of water causes the water level to drop. Waves generated by the stern are perpendicular to the direction of movement. At the point where these two waves intersect, maximum wave amplitude occurs.

1. In order to avoid Bactrian proliferation induced by the presence of man, all camping activities should be carried out at a minimum distance of 80 m from the edge of a mangrove lagoon or the coast line (at high tide).
2. Outboard motors in protected areas should preferably be electric powered or 4- stroke (not 2-stroke), and never exceed 50 HP.
3. Among the bench mark indicators for water quality the following are the most important: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Total coliform bacteria count: 1,200 per 100 ml of water- Fecal coliform count: 200 per 100 ml of water- Fecal streptococcus: 100 per 100 ml of water- Biochemical oxygen demand: 2 mg per liter
4. It is strictly forbidden for all tourists to throw into the sea and lagoons any type of refuse (whether abiotic or biotic – the latter may cause eutrophication in fresh water or brackish bodies). Heavy fines will be applied to offenders; in severe cases or for that re-including, penal procedures should be applied.
5. The use of leaded fuel in powered vessels is strictly prohibited.
6. All tourism vessels will be surveyed every six months, in order to ensure good state of maintenance, avoiding oil spills, keeping motors in fine tuning.
7. Unnecessary running of motors will be strictly forbidden, especially when vessels are not moving.
8. Strictly forbid and control dumping of waste water from tourism facilities without due treatment in bodies of water (both fresh water and marine).
9. Land fills in wetland areas and mangroves are strictly prohibited.

4.3.3 Impacts on Vegetation

Tourism activities can have an immediate, direct impact on the species composition and vegetation. This is especially true of ground layer vegetation, and particularly as a result of trampling. Almost invariably this involves a decrease in species diversity. Plant-picking and uprooting by plant collectors and casual flower-pickers can also lead to loss of individual species. Generally speaking, damage produced by trampling is greater than that caused by camping.

Passage of tourism vehicles also has adverse effects on vegetation. Drivers of tourism vehicles sometimes leave designated tracks and crisscross grasslands and other types of habitats in search of wildlife. This has led to localized degradation of grass or other ground cover and development of multiple tracks. These have in turn destroyed the naturalness of the areas affected. Desert and coastal dune ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to this impact.

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The making of trails obliterates ground-covering vegetation, among other things, due to the usual application of inert material on trail surfaces, to avoid washout, muddying and excessive erosion. Excessive pedestrian traffic which overexposes trailside tree roots should be avoided. The planting of exotic species should be avoided at all costs, since this has serious negative effects on the native vegetation and on the naturalness of the landscape.

Use of off-road vehicles should be discouraged in all protected or sensitive areas, since the damage they cause to ground vegetation is enormous. Camping in non-designated areas is more damaging than concentrating this activity in clearly specified sites.

Tourism activities can also affect dead (standing or fallen) tree trunks and branches. The most common use of fallen dead wood is as fuel-wood for camp-fires.

1. A strict policy regarding off-road driving is enforced, with heavy penalties for those who ignore the regulations.
2. Reduce to a minimum the number of trails in a protected area, and also ensure that visitors remain on the trails. Similar regulations should apply in the case of bicycle tracks or tracks for horses or other saddle animals.
3. Carry out an intense educational and environmental awareness campaign among the local communities and visitors, demonstrating the fragility and ecological importance of plants and fostering respect to all types of vegetation.
4. Extreme caution should be applied in the lighting up and extinguishing of campfires, in order to avoid burning of the native vegetation.
5. Apply rotation and moratorium techniques on camping sites, in order to allow for regeneration of vegetation.
6. A monitoring program of negative impacts of tourism on vegetation should be put in place, based on the following indicators:
- By means of visual inspection and keeping of continuous photographic or digital records, areas visited by tourists (including trails, campsites and hotel grounds) should be surveyed for detecting excessive negative impacts on time.
- Trails should never exceed 1.30 m in width (and preferably 1 m). Over this limit, the trail functions as a veritable barrier for many faunal and floral species and also mars the naturalness of the landscape.
- Verify that, for every sq m of trail, no more than 30 % of tree roots are exposed.
- Another important visual benchmark is that in a stretch of 100 m of trail no more than five trees or shrubs alongside the trail show signs of vandalism, like graffiti, recently torn branches, etc. When this happens, more vigilance should be enforced and more public awareness should be fostered.
- Extirpate any exotic plant that appears on the side of a trail.

4.3.4 Impacts On Wildlife

The principle: *There is minimal disturbance to wildlife, and feeding and other animal behavior remains as natural as possible.*

The most extreme effects of tourism on wildlife arise from hunting, shooting and fishing, all of which may severely deplete local populations of certain species. But it is also well established that the mere presence of people can be sufficient to disrupt the activities of wild

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animals (particularly birds and large mammals) whatever the recreational activity or number of people involved.

In some instances, disturbance may be caused more by the equipment people use in association with tourism activities, than by the visitors themselves. Noise, for example, produce by portable radios and the engines of motorboats and motor vehicles can be extremely alarming for animals. And various forms of pleasure craft can affect the bird life merely by their presence. Motorboats and sailing craft can also disturb water birds in deeper water. Bird species that build floating nests on estuarine waters and other aquatic animals are likewise easily affected by motor boats, jet-skiers and water-skiers. Boating activities may affect fish populations too, particularly as a result of oil spillage or due to noise.

Many mammal and bird species will alter their breeding, nesting and feeding behavioral patterns if disturbance becomes severe. In general, animals of open habitats are those that are most susceptible to human presence. There are indications that, for some species at least, it is frequency of human presence rather than number of people present at any one time that is the most important factor.

Consumption of wildlife by tourists can be harmful to local populations of that wildlife if not controlled. For instance, demand for sea food by tourists can have a severe impact on local fisheries and threaten wildlife populations within protected or other sensitive areas. Tourism has also been largely responsible for the enormous increase in the marine curio trade. Corals and shells are sold in resorts throughout the world, and often poached from coastal and marine parks.

Some ecosystems and habitats are particularly vulnerable to tourism pressures. This applies especially to marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats since these are often the foci of tourism activity, which is the case of many portions of the Red Sea coast. Since visitors generally want a view of the sea and easy access to the beach, hotels and tourism activity tend to be sited close to the tideline. This can result in changes in natural sand movement and accretion and lead to serious erosion, which severely affects coastal wildlife (both vertebrates and invertebrates).

The tourism impacts on coral reefs have been particularly well documented in the Red Sea and around the world. In general, impacts on coral reefs fall into one of three categories:

- damage to structure
- damage to natural processes
- decline in amenity value

Structural damage occurs when, for example, reef flats adjacent to coral reefs are used for the construction of landing strips, and results in siltation.

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1. Carry out an intensive ecological education and environmental awareness campaign among tourists, local communities and tour operators, fostering more interest and respect for local wildlife, avoiding negative impacts to the different species.
2. Ecotourism products shall demonstrate that they are actively managed to minimize deliberate and regular intrusion into wildlife habitat likely to cause disturbance to natural wildlife behavior, such as foraging and breeding patterns and chasing or harassing of wildlife.
3. Nature-oriented tourists will be encouraged to watch wildlife through binoculars and spotting scopes, so as to avoid excessive approach.
4. The provision of observation towers, "hides" or "blinds" in protected areas facilitate viewing of certain species of wildlife, without causing disturbance to them.
5. Educate tourists and the public in general to avoid producing loud noises (radios, motor exhausts, shouting, etc.) when in proximity of areas where wildlife is present.
6. Educate tourists to avoid using excessively bright clothing in areas of bird concentration and nesting and also where wild mammals are present, since this frightens or disturbs many species.
7. Forbid dumping waste in general, and especially on beaches, dunes, lagoons and other sensitive environments. Certain inorganic refuse (mainly plastic) may provoke birds getting tangled in them. Organic waste (like picnic left overs) may change the feeding habits of wild animals and also propitiate the proliferation of rats, ants, wasps, etc.
8. Generally dissuade tourists from feeding wildlife.
9. Dissuade tourists from collecting seashells, conchs and other marine species in beaches that are part of a protected area.
10. Strictly control oil spilling in water bodies in order to minimize negative impacts on aquatic wildlife.
11. Avoid all types of motor vehicles in protected area beaches and dunes .
12. Dissuade tourists from using jet-skis and other high-impact recreational water vehicles.
13. Ecotourism products involving wildlife shall demonstrate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- unnecessary handling of wildlife is avoided- any handling of wildlife is carried out by trained staff- clients are advised of negative impacts of feeding wildlife- viewing routes are rotated regularly to help protect wildlife- wildlife viewing does not threaten the survival of the species

4.3.5 Impacts on the Socio-cultural Environment

The principle: *Ecotourism must respect and be sensitive to cultural matters, preferably embracing the cultural aspects of the areas they visit. For cultural values to be treated appropriately, there is a need to consult with local people to ensure that their aspirations are met and that any presentation of cultural attributes is authentic.*

Tourism may produce serious negative impacts on the social and cultural fabric of a region. Archaeological elements are also highly vulnerable to careless tourism management. Tour

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operators, lodge managers, and national and local authorities should endeavor to educate tourists to respect the cultural heritage and traditional values of the Red Sea coast.

Disturbance of any archaeological site, particularly if soil erosion is involved, can result in the loss of irreplaceable information. Disturbance caused by amateur “pleasure” excavators and collectors of exposed archaeological artifacts is of growing concern, and the Red Sea coast is not an exception.

1. Managers of ecotourism products shall consult with people known to have a cultural (traditional) affinity with the location of the product to ensure:	
	- cultural sensitivities are being taken into account
	- cultural protocols are implemented
	- cultural obligations are respected
	- cultural information and interpretation is accurate
2. Ecotourism guides and customer contact staff shall be trained in appreciation of local and indigenous culture, heritage and people.	
3. Guides will take tourists to only those archaeological sites with official authorization to be visited and will ensure that the tourists will not take any artifacts with them or cause damage to any monument or other archaeological feature.	
4. Ecotourism product customers shall be advised on appropriate behaviour (and taboos) prior to a visit to a culturally sensitive site or region including elements such as:	
	- how to greet people
	- form of clothing to wear
	- items that should not be touched
	- things or people that should not be photographed or approached
	- hand, feet and body movement/ placement
	- parts of the body which should not be touched

5. Ecotourism product contributes to enhanced customer services through one

or more of the following initiatives:

- locally produced handicrafts and goods offered for sale are guaranteed authentic (through a label of authenticity / certification) to indicate they are of indigenous origin, manufacture and/or design
- interpretive material dealing with a local culture has been developed by members of that cultural group
- local indigenous people or endorsed experts on their culture are employed as guides or guide trainers
- local indigenous people are offered training in guiding by the operator
- cultural experiences are facilitated through integrating appropriate and authentic cultural elements from the local region into the product
- in the presentation of cultural material, tourists are made aware of contemporary cultural practices in the context of the evolution of the people’s culture
- intellectual property and cultural copyright is respected through only using designs, photographs, performances, and objects with the permission of the traditional owners

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4.3.6 Air Quality

The principle: *Ecotourism has minimal impact on local air quality and globally in terms of greenhouse gases.*

1. Ecotourism products shall minimize air emission impacts by:	
	- avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions
	- using of LPG, natural gas, or ethanol-based fuel
	- using electric, diesel or four-stroke engines for outboard motors, motorbikes, and other small motorized vehicles
	- prohibiting smoking in any vehicles, vessels, or aircraft, or in any buildings used by guests
	- Prohibiting smoking in fragile natural areas
2. There are minimal heat and/or steam emissions.	
3. No solvents are used and dry cleaning is not offered.	

4.3.7 NOISE

The principle: *Ecotourism offers customers the opportunity to experience natural quiet when they are in natural settings.*

1. Ecotourism products shall minimize noise impacts to a level equal to or lower than background noise in nearby natural areas or in adjacent residences. Best practice is achieved when natural quiet prevails for the majority of each customer's time in natural areas.
2. Ecotourism products shall minimize noise impacts from machinery, generators, and air-conditioners (in case the latter are used) by using sound insulation.
3. Ecotourism products shall minimize noise impacts from vehicles and vessel engines by reducing idle time.
4. Campsites have separate areas for large groups.
5. Service and maintenance facilities are located away from public areas or are soundproofed.

5. *PRODUCT STANDARDS*

The following matrix provides a summary of the allowable and prohibited tourism related infrastructure, facilities, and equipment within the Southern Red Sea Region.

ZONING STANDARDS/CRITERIA MATRIX

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
DESCRIPTION	<p>- This zone represents areas of very high ecological sensitivity within the planning area that could be easily disturbed or areas where human activity would significantly impact important visual resources.</p>	<p>- This zone represents areas of high ecological sensitivity within the planning area. It will offer visitors a structured and guided experience with on-site interpretation and education. The opportunity for independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, solitude, and application of outdoor skills would be common.</p>	<p>- Moderately sensitive areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watersheds of Wadi Ghadir, Wadi El Gemal, and Wadi Lahmi - All intermediate and small wadis - Coastal plains near Sharm El Lulli, Marsa Umm El Abbas, and Hamata mangroves - Enclosed sand plains (sahl) <p>This zone is exclusively for permitted and licensed ecotourism activities & ecolodges.</p>	<p>- Moderately sensitive areas outside the Wadi El Gemal National Park. This zone will be exclusively for permitted and licensed ecotourism facilities and activities.</p>	<p>- Coastal zone, which comprises areas within to the Wadi El Gemal National Park, including Ras Hankorab and south Marsa Umm El Abbas. (This zone mention in the protected area declaration as Ecotourism zone.)</p> <p>- Restricted development, comprised of eco-hotels & eco-resorts, is allowed in this zone with TDA approved Master Plan.</p>	<p>- Zone located between the shoreline and the base of the coastal mountain range.</p> <p>- Moderately intensive hotels & resorts and other tourism facilities are allowed with TDA approved Master Plan.</p>

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE	- All activities inside Wadi El Gemal - National Park to be in accordance with Law 102 / 1983 and Law 4 / 1994 and other relevant legislation.	- All activities inside Wadi El Gemal - National Park to be in accordance with Law 102 / 1983 and Law 4 / 1994 and other relevant legislation.	- All activities inside Wadi El Gemal - National Park to be in accordance with Law 102 / 1983 and Law 4 / 1994 and other relevant legislation.	- All activities inside Wadi El Gemal - National Park to be in accordance with Law 102 / 1983, 4 / 1994 and Law 445/1992 and other relevant legislation.	- All activities inside Wadi El Gemal - National Park or Red Sea Protected Area to be in accordance with Law 102 / 1983 and Law 4 / 1994 and other relevant legislation outside the Park	- All activities to be in accordance with Law 4 / 1994 and other relevant legislation outside the Park
TYPE AND MODE OF ESTABLISHMENT	- Temporary structures only, for use by EEAA in conservation monitoring purposes.	- Temporary structures for use by EEAA in conservation monitoring purposes. - Pre-existing Traditional Bedouin settlement and activities permitted.	- The only type of tourism facilities allowed are ecolodges and camp grounds catering to ecotourists and centered on development of ecotourism activities. - Accommodations have a maximum of 50 rooms, located in a minimum number of 25 separate cabins or tented units.	- The only type of tourism facilities allowed are ecolodges, with environmentally-friendly design, catering for ecotourists and centered on development of ecotourism activities, with a maximum of 50 rooms, located in a minimum number of 25 separate cabins or tented units.	- Two types of accommodation facilities allowed: - Eco-hotels (minimum of 50 rooms and maximum of 99 rooms) - Eco-resorts (minimum of 100 rooms and maximum of 250 rooms) - Both types must adopt "Best Environmental Management Practices" applicable to the design, construction and operational stages.	- More conventional type of hotels and resorts. - According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989. - Recommended adoption of "Best Practices" in design, construction and operational stages.

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
NET DENSITY (MAX BUILT-UP AREA/LOT)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	-Other criteria are applied (see spatial distribution and pattern below) 2% or 1 room / faddan which ever is the lower coverage	- Maximum net density will be 4%	- Maximum net density will be 7% - According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989.	- According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989. - Rooms may be built anywhere within the two to four acquired lots according to TDA-approved Master Plan.
LOT SIZE (MINIMUM)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	1,000,000 sq m. - Each ecolodge owner with the right to exclusivity concession of adjacent wilderness area (see spatial distribution and pattern below)	200,000 sq m - Each ecolodge owner with the right to exclusivity concession of adjacent wilderness area (see spatial distribution and pattern below)	- According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989.	- According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989.
SPATIAL	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	-Minimum distance	-Minimum distance	-Master plans for IDCs must provide for beach access	-As specified in TDA-approved Master Plan

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
DISTRIBUTION AND PATTERN	In the case of existing developments, no new authorized construction or extension will be given.		<p>between ecolodges will be 5 km (in a straight line).</p> <p>-Large adjacent concession areas of 1 million sq m will be allocated for a 25-year period to ensure the suitable use and management of the natural resources contained therein (this period may be extended if deemed convenient by related authorities).</p> <p>- The boundaries of these concession areas are primarily determined by a natural watershed or other natural physical features of the site representing a natural unit, determined by EEAA.</p>	<p>between ecolodges will be 7 km (in a straight line).</p> <p>-Large adjacent concession areas (of no less than of 1 million sq m) will be allocated for a 25-year period to ensure the suitable use and management of the natural resources contained therein (this period may be extended if deemed convenient by related authorities).</p> <p>- The boundaries of these concession areas are primarily determined by a natural watershed or other natural physical features of the site representing a natural unit, determined by EEAA.</p> <p>- The corresponding ecolodge will have exclusive use of an</p>	<p>corridors not less than 25 meters wide at 1000 meter intervals for public beach access</p> <p>- No individual building block may have a dimension (length or width) of greater than 20 meters.</p>	<p>- Land movement must be minimized and not result in erosion.</p> <p>- Natural drainage must be maintained.</p> <p>- A beach walk must run parallel to coastline in all hotel and commercial areas, and public beach access maintained</p>

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
				ecotourism nature over the concessioned land., - Site location of the ecolodges must be at least 150 m away from the nearest water drainage pattern and from the boundary of the buffer zone.		
HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS (MAXIMUM)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	- Ecolodges with maximum height of 1 story (as relates to cabins) and a maximum of 2 stories not exceeding 7 meters in total for other facilities, such as restaurants and look out towers	- Ecolodges with height of 1-2 stories as relates to the cabins and other facilities, such as look out towers.	- Eco-hotels and eco-resorts with height of 1-2 stories.	- Eco-hotels and eco-resorts with a maximum height of 1-3 stories. - One floor maximum, generally, and within 200 meters of setback. -Two floors for the next 200 meters. -Three floors more than 400 meters from setback.

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
IMAGE	- Nature area restricted to protection purposes.	- Nature area restricted to protection purposes. - Bedouin style structure permitted.	- A predominantly natural landscape, with all physical facilities formally subordinated to the natural environment. - Bedouin style structure permitted.	- A predominantly natural landscape, with all physical facilities formally subordinated to the natural environment. - Bedouin style structure permitted.	- A low-impact, low-density and low-rise type of tourism development, in harmony with the natural environment, and following natural contours of the land.	- A medium-impact, medium-density type of tourism development (with facilities no higher than 3 stories). Preferably following natural contours of the land.
PERMITTED USES	- Nature observation. - Interpretation and guided walking trips in daylight hours. - Limited interpretation signs and trails - Scientific research with permits (from EEAA). - Consult the Wadi El Gemal National Park management plan for park	- Nature observation. - Traditional uses of indigenous Bedouin, including regulated fishing by local fishermen. - Hiking trails. - Special services for ecotourism (interpretation panels & signs, toilets to be established by EEAA as part of the Protected Area infrastructure).	Ecolodges: Two ecolodges proposed on the other side of the coastal road - The first at Sharm Al Loly with 30 rooms - The second at Qulaan with 30-50 rooms Camp sites: - Maximum six designated camp	Ecotourism activities and facilities such as ecolodges, interpretive centers, bird watching, desert camel rides, trekking, mountaineering. - Pre-existing settlements, limited animal grazing, previously authorized low-scale mining - Limited low-impact tourist services (mainly of an	- Restaurants & shops to be within structures, i.e. not a shopping mall type development. - Nature watching activities and facilities (hides, trails, observation platforms, etc.) - Dive centers. No diving schools in this zone. Only special certified divers allowed to dive within the park's marine	- Hotels and Resorts. Multi- and single-family residences. - Restaurants. - Dive and aqua centers. Shops. - Theme parks. - Recreation facilities, including "dry" golf courses. - Infrastructure.

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
	<p>regulations and see Annex B for suggested regulations to maximize protection of flora and fauna and other natural resources in core zone areas.</p> <p>- Research, traditional cultural activities, or other well-justified uses with a limited number of visitors accompanied by a licensed guide or park ranger</p>	<p>- Camp grounds (to be established by EEAA as part of the Protected Area infrastructure and approved by TDA).</p> <p>- Other structures are generally not permitted except temporary structures that are not visible and do not leave permanent impacts.</p> <p>- Ranger stations</p>	<p>sites as proposed within the transition area..</p> <p>- Where designated campsites exist, visitors may not select other campsites.</p> <p>- Camps will be subject to seasonal closures due to extreme heat in summerime.</p> <p>- Ecotourism facilities:</p> <p>- limited low-impact ecotourism activities and facilities (mainly of an interpretive nature) such as interpretive centers, bird watching, snorkeling & diving, boat rides. campgrounds, trail corridors.</p>	<p>interpretive nature).</p> <p>- Ecotourism facilities</p> <p>visitor centers, ecolodges, campgrounds, trail corridors.</p>	<p>boundaries.</p> <p>- Natural theme parks set in unreconstructed landscapes with totally natural ecosystems (marine and terrestrial) consisting of nature trails (e.g. underwater trails), discovery style outdoor exhibits (birds, turtle nesting), with minimal infrastructure.</p> <p>- Recreation facilities.</p> <p>- Maintenance facilities. Staff accommodation and services. These facilities will be considered as part of maximum land coverage of 10% per lot.</p>	<p>- Offices.</p> <p>- Community services.</p> <p>- Maintenance facilities.</p>

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected Area management facilities - Pre-existing settlements, limited animal grazing, previously authorized low-scale mining 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional uses of local Bedouin, insuring access to beaches for traditional fishing. - Small scale handicrafts centers and exhibitions. 	
ROADS AND VEHICLE ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All roads subject to EIA requirements. - Roads should be single track, unimproved surfaces, located on specific routes where impact can be minimized. - Access would be restricted with permitted access only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All roads subject to EIA requirements. - Roads should be single track, unimproved surfaces, located on specific routes where impact can be minimized. - Access would be restricted with permitted access only - Walking is encouraged or other forms of minimal-impact transportation, such as horses, donkeys, or camels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All roads subject to EIA requirements. - Primarily accommodates four-wheel drive experiences, and gives a sense of being in wild lands with trails, with minimal maintenance - Roads should be single track, unimproved surfaces, located on specific routes where impact can be minimized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All roads subject to EIA requirements. - Primarily accommodates four-wheel drive experiences, and gives a sense of being in wild lands with trails, with minimal maintenance - Roads should be single track, unimproved surfaces, located on specific routes where impact can be minimized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All roads subject to EIA requirements. - Except the main access road, all roads will be maintained as unpaved tracks. - All off-road traffic should be restricted to designated tracks and permitted vehicle types (e.g., All Terrain Vehicles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All roads subject to EIA requirements. - All routes should be consistent with TDA-approved Master Plan.

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
	- Walking is encouraged or other forms of minimal-impact transportation, such as horses, donkeys, or camels.		- Routes are marked routes improved and maintained for 4 wheel drive, foot and horseback traffic. - Only designated tracks or roads are used. - Tours and support vehicle routes and schedules are planned to minimize the distances traveled (including avoiding congested areas and peak hour traffic); landscape.	- Routes are marked routes improved and maintained for 4 wheel drive, foot and horseback traffic. - Only designated tracks or roads are used. - Tours and support vehicle routes and schedules are planned to minimize the distances traveled (including avoiding congested areas and peak hour traffic); landscape.		
ACCESS AND GUIDING SERVICES	Restricted access, prohibited without EEAA permission and guides.	Limited access, permitted only with licensed guides.	Limited access, permitted only with EEAA licensed guides.	Limited access, permitted only with MOT licensed guides.	Open access within specified “built-up” areas. All other access requires EEAA permission and guides.	Open access.

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
TRAILS SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trails are marked, but are generally unimproved except for clearing and some work on eroding or dangerous areas. - All trail networks within core areas will respect wildlife movement patterns and habitats requirements as well as location, growth, and expansion patterns of local flora. • Natural trails should be clearly delineated in order to contain tourists in controlled areas only. • The width of the trails should not exceed 5 meters. • Smaller footpaths to designated points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trails are marked, but are generally unimproved except for clearing and some work on eroding or dangerous areas. - Maintained for primitive use. - Traffic is low. These foot trails require custodial care. - Minimal maintenance is required. • The trail system must follow existing and old nomadic movement patterns. • Walking is encouraged or other forms of minimal-impact transportation, such as horses, donkeys, or camels. • All trail networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trails are marked, but are generally unimproved except for clearing and some work on eroding or dangerous areas. - Maintained for primitive use. - Traffic is low. These foot trails require custodial care. - Minimal maintenance is required. • The trail system must follow existing and old nomadic movement patterns. • Walking is encouraged or other forms of minimal-impact transportation, such as horses, donkeys, or camels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trails are marked, but are generally unimproved except for clearing and some work on eroding or dangerous areas. - Maintained for primitive use. - Traffic is low. These foot trails require custodial care. - Minimal maintenance is required. • The trail system must follow existing and old nomadic movement patterns. • Walking is encouraged or other forms of minimal-impact transportation, such as horses, donkeys, or camels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of pedestrian trails should be created off the main multi-use trails to facilitate a slower-pace and more intimate experience • Trail widths should accommodate a mixture of hikers, equestrians, and nature walkers. • Trails should be carefully designed to avoid adversely affecting sensitive resources. • A program to monitor the impact of the trails on the condition of sensitive resources must be instituted and reports submitted on a regular basis to EEAA and TDA for review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master plans for IDCs must provide for beach access corridors not less than 25 meters wide at 1000 meter intervals.

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
	<p>of interest will branch off the main trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each path will require initial surveying to comply with the general regulation of not disturbing wildlife movement and growth patterns. • All main trails should incorporate appropriate buffer zones between the trail tread and nearby sensitive resources. 	<p>within will respect wildlife movement patterns and habitat requirements as well as location, growth, and expansion patterns of local flora.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural trails should be clearly delineated in order to contain tourists in controlled areas only. • Natural permeable materials will be utilized in the construction of the trails. <p>Using low impact and low profile techniques is desirable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller footpaths to designated points of interest will branch off the main trails. • Each path will require initial surveying to comply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All trail networks within will respect wildlife movement patterns and habitat requirements as well as location, growth, and expansion patterns of local flora. • Natural trails should be clearly delineated in order to contain tourists in controlled areas only. • Natural permeable materials will be utilized in the construction of the trails. <p>- Using low impact and low profile techniques is desirable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All trail networks within will respect wildlife movement patterns and habitat requirements as well as location, growth, and expansion patterns of local flora. 		

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
		<p>with the general regulation of not disturbing wildlife movement and growth patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All main trails should incorporate appropriate buffer zones between the trail tread and nearby sensitive resources. <p>- Leaving a trail or walkway to shortcut between portions of the same trail or walkway, or to shortcut to an adjacent trail or walkway, is prohibited.</p>				

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
TRAIL SIGNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only signs necessary to protect wilderness resources or for public safety, such as signs identifying trails and distances, will be permitted. - The park must evaluate the need for trailhead information waysides that could serve visitors using trails. - Design standards for these signs should be established in a park sign plan. • No obtrusive signs will be allowed, only signs that are low to the ground and constructed of natural materials. • Educational signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only signs necessary to protect wilderness resources or for public safety, such as signs identifying trails and distances, will be permitted. - The park must evaluate the need for trailhead information waysides that could serve visitors using trails. - Design standards for these signs should be established in a park sign plan. • No obtrusive signs will be allowed, only signs that are low to the ground and constructed of natural materials. • Educational signs at intersections of the main trails may be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only signs necessary to protect wilderness resources or for public safety, such as signs identifying trails and distances, will be permitted. • The trail network must be simply marked with painted rocks following a color coded mapping system. • Trail information, special advice, and instructions must be mentioned in the ecotourism guide brochures. • Maps and directional signs at the beginning of the main trails and footpaths for self-guided tours should indicate horseback, camel trekking, or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information, special advice, and instructions must be mentioned in the ecotourism guide brochures. • Maps and directional signs at the beginning of the main trails and footpaths for self-guided tours should indicate horseback, camel trekking, or hiking trails as well as the length of the trail and the average time it takes to walk its full length. - Use of international symbols and graphics to avoid multiple language on displays. - Interpretive waysides will be kept to a minimal level (or number) on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps and directional signs at the beginning of the trails and footpaths for self-guided should indicate all kinds of trails as well as the length of the trail and the average time it takes to walk its full length. - Interpretive signs provided to explain focal points of vegetation, rock formations, habitats, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps and directional signs at the beginning of the trails and footpaths for self-guided should indicate all kinds of trails as well as the length of the trail and the average time it takes to walk its full length.. - Interpretive signs provided to explain focal points of vegetation, rock formations, habitats, etc.

5. Product Standards...

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	<p>at intersections of the main trails may be provided, explaining the concept of the loop trails and the sensitivity of the resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The park must evaluate the need for trailhead information waysides that could serve visitors using trails. - Use of international symbols and graphics to avoid multiple language on displays. Interpretive waysides will be kept to a minimal level (or number) on backcountry trails. - Signs detract from the wilderness character of the 	<p>provided, explaining the concept of the loop trails and the sensitivity of the resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail information, special advice, and instructions must be mentioned in the ecotourism guide brochures. - Use of international symbols and graphics to avoid multiple language on displays. - Interpretive waysides will be kept to a minimal level (or number) on backcountry trails. - Signs detract from the wilderness character of the natural area or make the imprint of man and management 	<p>hiking trails as well as the length of the trail and the average time it takes to walk its full length.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The park must evaluate the need for trailhead information waysides that could serve visitors using trails. - Design standards for these signs should be established in a park sign plan. - Use of international symbols and graphics to avoid multiple language on displays. - Interpretive waysides will be kept to a minimal level (or number) on backcountry trails. 	<p>backcountry trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signs detract from the wilderness character of the natural area or make the imprint of man and management more noticeable are not allowed. - signs should be compatible with their surroundings and be the minimum size possible - Signage including: trailhead signs showing level of difficulty; signs with mileages, warnings and hiking times. 		

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
	<p>natural area or make the imprint of man and management more noticeable are not allowed.</p> <p>- signs should be compatible with their surroundings and be the minimum size possible</p> <p>- Signage including: signs at archaeological sites to educate visitors about sensitivity, and to demarcate boundaries; and medical aid.</p>	<p>more noticeable are not allowed.</p> <p>- Signs should be compatible with their surroundings and be the minimum size possible</p> <p>- Signage including: signs at archaeological sites to educate visitors about sensitivity, and to demarcate boundaries; and medical aid.</p>	<p>- Signs detract from the wilderness character of the natural area or make the imprint of man and management more noticeable are not allowed.</p> <p>- Signs should be compatible with their surroundings and be the minimum size possible</p> <p>- Signage including: trailhead signs showing level of difficulty; signs with mileages, warnings and hiking times; signs that describe energy expenditure</p>			

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			and water loss required; signs showing cost of rescues and medical aid; signs with proper camping techniques; and			
LANDSCAPING	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping of the site reflects the character of the surrounding natural environment or another natural system which is the focus of the product • Where clearing has occurred, it has not affected the viability of local populations of rare or threatened species of flora and fauna. • There are no declared weeds on site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping of the site reflects the character of the surrounding natural environment or another natural system which is the focus of the product • Development and ongoing use of the site(s) has involved minimal clearing of native vegetation and has avoided disruption to wildlife movement and breeding patterns. • There are no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping of the site reflects the character of the surrounding natural environment or another natural system which is the focus of the product • Development and ongoing use of the site(s) has involved minimal clearing of native vegetation and has avoided disruption to wildlife movement and breeding patterns. • There are no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and ongoing use of the site(s) has involved minimal clearing of native vegetation and has avoided disruption to wildlife movement and breeding patterns. • Where clearing has occurred, it has not affected the viability of local populations of rare or threatened species of flora and fauna. - Locally available native species of

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and ongoing use of the site(s) has involved minimal clearing of native vegetation and has avoided disruption to wildlife movement and breeding patterns. • No residual pesticides or herbicides are used. • During site development a specific program should be implemented to protect vegetation • All disturbed areas have subsequently been re-vegetated with naturally occurring native species reflecting the surrounding ecology -Only locally available native 	<p>declared weeds on site•No residual pesticides or herbicides are used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during site development a specific program should be implemented to protect vegetation <p>(eg survey of major trees, contractor education and penalties for damage);</p> <p>-Only locally available native species of flora will be allowed for limited landscaping.</p> <p>(see RSSTI Encyclopedia of Native Plants to the Red Sea Region)</p>	<p>declared weeds on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No residual pesticides or herbicides are used. • During site development a specific program should be implemented to protect vegetation <p>- Locally available native species of flora will be encouraged.(see RSSTI Encyclopedia of Native Plants to the Red Sea Region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some exotic (or native but not locally occurring) plant species are allowed as part of the landscape planning and design. <p>- Gray water and treated wastewater</p>	<p>flora will be encouraged.(see RSSTI Encyclopedia of Native Plants to the Red Sea Region)</p> <p>- Gray water and treated wastewater to be used in irrigation of landscape.</p>

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			species of flora will be allowed for limited landscaping. (see RSSTI Encyclopedia of Native Plants to the Red Sea Region)		to be used in irrigation of landscape.	
LODGING FACILITIES	Not applicable.	<p>Camp grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one camp ground is permitted with maximum capacity of 10 tents (according to Ecotourism Development Plan). - Camping is at-large except in very rare cases where campsites may be temporarily designated for resource protection. 	<p>Ec lodges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permitted only on the designated sites of Qul'an and Sharm Al -Loly - Site location of the lodges must be set at least 150 m away from the nearest water drainage patterns and from the boundary of the restricted zone. - Buildings should utilize local construction techniques, recycled or locally-produced materials, local 	<p>Ec lodges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In designated lots only - Maximum of 50 rooms, located in a minimum number of 25 separate cabins or tented units. - Site location of the lodges must be set at least 150 m away from the nearest water drainage patterns and from the boundary of the restricted zone. - Buildings should utilize local 	<p>Two types of lodging facilities are allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eco-hotels (minimum of 50 rooms and maximum of 99 rooms) - Eco-resorts (minimum of 100 rooms and maximum of 250 rooms) - Both types must adopt Best Practices in design, construction and operations. 	<p>More conventional. type of hotels and resorts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989. - These facilities are more conventionally oriented towards beach and family recreation - Recommended adoptions of Best Practices in design, construction and operations.

5. Product Standards...

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			<p>craftsmen, and cultural images wherever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures and building must be painted in colors that do not sharply contrast or conflict with the landscape. - Provide building forms and images in harmony with the natural environment. - Camping in designated areas, unless during emergency situations. 	<p>construction techniques, recycled or locally-produced materials, local craftsmen, and cultural images wherever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures and building must be painted in colors that do not sharply contrast or conflict with the landscape - Provide building forms and images in harmony with the natural environment. - Camping in designated areas, unless during emergency situations. 		
SITE DISTURBANCE	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum (almost zero) clearing of native vegetation. - minimum (almost zero) disturbance to wild life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - landscaping is undertaken using native locally occurring species - where cleaning had occurred, it has not affected the visibility of local population of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and on going projects on the site shall involved minimal disturbance to cultural heritage - landscaping is undertaken using native locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and on going projects on the site shall involved minimal disturbance to cultural heritage - where cleaning had occurred, it has

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			- where cleaning had occurred, it has not affected the visibility of local population of rare or threatened spices of flora and fauna.	rare or threatened spices of flora and fauna.	occurring spices - where cleaning had occurred, it has not affected the visibility of local population of rare or threatened spices of flora and fauna.	not affected the visibility of local population of rare or threatened spices of flora and fauna.
INFRASTRUCTURE	Not applicable. - Persons visiting these areas must bring their own water supply, batteries, satellite phone, GPS unit, emergency medical equipment	- Limited infrastructure located along primary and secondary routes. - Water tanks, electricity (from PV panels), and wastewater holding tanks, composting/dry toilets and fixed communications stations provided at Ranger Stations. - All solid waste removed from site and deposited in designated areas.	- Limited infrastructure located along primary and secondary routes. - Water tanks, electricity (from PV panels), wastewater holding tanks, composting/dry toilets and fixed communications stations provided at Ranger Stations and designated camping areas. -All solid waste dumping is not allowed within the park boundaries. Solid waste must be disposed at designated sanitary	- Fixed infrastructure at ecolodge sites, including water supply (3 days storage), electricity (PV panels with storage, LPG for cooking, solar hot water heating, radio communications, and emergency medical equipment.	- Water, sanitation, solid waste and energy infrastructure to follow “Best Practices” applicable to site and scale of eco-resort.	- Water, sanitation, solid waste and energy infrastructure to follow “Best Practices” applicable to site and scale of hotel and resort complexes. - All centralized desalination, sewage treatment, and power generation facilities require completion of EIA Screening Form B.

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			dumps outside the park.			
AIR QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions - using of LPG, natural gas, or ethanol-based fuel -prohibiting smoking in all areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions - using of LPG, natural gas, or ethanol-based fuel -prohibiting smoking in all areas - Outboard motors, motorbikes, and other small motorised vehicles use electric, diesel or four stroke rather than two stroke motors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions - Using of LPG, natural gas, or ethanol-based fuel - Prohibiting smoking in any vehicles, vessels, or aircraft, or in any buildings used by guests - Steam & heat emissions are totally prohibited. - No solvents are used and dry cleaning is not offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions -prohibiting smoking in any indoor areas used by guests. - There are minimum heat and steam emission allowed. -No solvents are used and dry cleaning is not offered. - Emissions should not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Solid particles (0.25gm-3); b) Carbon monoxide (1gm-3); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions - prohibiting smoking in any vehicles or vessels. - Emissions should not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Solid particles (0.25gm-3); b) Carbon monoxide (1gm-3); c) Hydrogen sulphide (5mgm-3); d) Sulphur trioxide (0.2gm-3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoiding chlorofluorocarbon [CFC] emissions - All air emissions must meet or not exceed the Egyptian air quality standards

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ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
				c) Hydrogen sulphide (5mgm-3); d) Sulphur trioxide (0.2gm-3).		
WATER SUPPLY & CONSERVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No irrigation is undertaken in this zone - No use of ground water - Water services and facilities is limited to drinking water only - all potable (drinking) water used is carried into natural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No irrigation is undertaken in this zone - No use of ground water - Water services and facilities is limited to drinking water only - all potable (drinking) water used is carried into natural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tap aerators; - low flow showerheads; - grey water reuse; - composting toilets or /removal of waste; - Showers only (not baths) provided in all institutes. - low water gardens (e.g., locally occurring native 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small sinks (less than five liters); - tap aerators; - low flow showerheads; - grey water reuse; - composting toilets or /removal of waste; - showers only (not baths) provided in all institutes. - automatic turn-off taps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tap aerators; - low flow showerheads; - grey water reuse; - reuse of treated sewage effluent; - dual/low flush toilets; - composting toilets or /removal of waste; - Showers only (not baths) provided in all institutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tap aerators; - grey water reuse; - reuse of treated sewage effluent; - dual/low flush toilets; - composting toilets or /removal of waste; - showers only (not baths) provided in all institutes. - automatic turn-off taps

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low water gardens (e.g., locally occurring native - no wash down of large areas (sweep/vacuum instead); - water use limiting measures (e.g., the “bucket shower”); - guests given a water budget for personal use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - automatic turn-off taps - low water gardens (e.g., locally occurring native plants, drip water systems); - no wash down of large areas (sweep/vacuum instead); - water use limiting measures (e.g., the “bucket shower”); - guests given a water budget for personal use - guests are encouraged to reuse cloth towels before laundering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low water gardens (e.g., locally occurring native - guests are encouraged to reuse cloth towels before laundering
WASTE WATER	Not applicable	Not applicable	- Waste water at least receive secondary treatment	Public toilets facilities that have sustainable waste water treatment are used	-free disposal in remote areas is only used where there is no wastewater	- Removal of all hazardous or toxic substances, oil and grease from waste

5. Product Standards...

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			- free disposal in remote areas is prohibited	where available	treatment and available and minimum impact practices are implemented	water
VISUAL IMPACT	Should be zero	Should be zero	- Building forms are compatible with the landscape - development, trails, roads,.... etc is screened by landscape	- Height of building and construction are below tree lines or part of the landscape	- Colors and reflectivity of surfaces shall be compatible with the landscape	- Colors and reflectivity of surfaces shall be compatible with the landscape
LOCAL COMMUNITY / CULTURE	- basic products shall be purchased locally - conservative dress shall be applied to match with local culture - People shall not be photographed in some or all situations	- local guide are employed to present local significant attractions - conservative dress shall be applied to match with local culture - People shall not be photographed in some or all situations	- conservative dress shall be applied to match with local culture - People shall not be photographed in some or all situations	- People shall not be photographed in some or all situations		

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
NOISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machines and equipments shall be selected based on a low noisy level. - Noisy power generators are prohibited - vessel engines are not allowed - Service and maintenance facilities are prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machines and equipments shall be selected based on a low noisy level - Noisy power generators are prohibited - vessel engines, are not allowed - Service and maintenance facilities are prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound insulation minimizes noise from plant equipment, machinery and air conditioning. -campsites have separate areas for large groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound insulation minimizes noise from plant equipment, machinery and air conditioning. - Service and maintenance facilities shall be as far as possible from public spaces. -campsites have separate areas for large groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service and maintenance facilities shall be as far as possible from public spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise shall be limited to the level set by law. - Service and maintenance facilities shall be as far as possible from public spaces.
OTHER RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitation only with authorization, and with orientation and accompaniment by licensed guide. - The guide-to-group size ratio never exceeds 1 to 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitation only with EEAA authorization, and with orientation and accompaniment by licensed guide. - The guide-to-group size ratio never exceeds 1 to 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitation only with authorization, and with orientation and accompaniment by licensed guide. - Authorizations for activities and facilities inside the park by EEAA and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitation only with authorization, and with orientation and accompaniment by licensed guide. -Authorizations for activities and facilities by TDA; subject to EIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitation outside “built-up area” with orientation and accompaniment by licensed guide. -All significant vegetation must be preserved. This includes all littoral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction within small wadis must be temporary or flood protected. - No construction will be allowed in the areas subject to high and moderate risk floods.

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The maximum size of a visiting group will depend upon the fragility of the surroundings. - Authorized vehicles only. - All authorizations by EEAA. - No new roads or tracks. - Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited. However, the use of backpack stove is permitted - Trash must be packed carried out. Burning or burying of trash or toilet paper is prohibited - Feeding, touching, teasing, frightening, or intentionally disturbing wildlife is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The maximum size of a visiting group will depend upon the fragility of the surroundings and the season. - Unauthorized vehicles - No new roads or tracks. - Only Light construction for monitoring and control stations will be permitted. A shoreline buffer of no less than 500 meters from the highest high-tidal waterline - Pets are not allowed - Unattended food must be stored properly to prevent access by wildlife. - Trash must be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> within coastal strip (first 5 km) by TDA & EEAA. - Approval of ecolodges inside park by EEAA and TDA (within the 5 km coastal strip); also subject to EIA approval by EEAA. and by TDA for ecolodges outside park boundaries. -No natural vegetation should be damaged. -Topographical features greater than 2 meters in height may not be altered without special permission. -No land movement is allowed without permission. -Natural drainage must be maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> approval by EEAA. -Approval of ecolodges by TDA; subject to EIA approval by EEAA. -All significant vegetation must be preserved. This includes all littoral vegetation within the 200 meters setback area, rare and threatened species (such as Acacia sp.), as well as, characteristic vegetation of the site. -Topographical features greater than 5 meters in height may not be altered without special permission. -Land movement must be minimized and not produce erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vegetation within the 200 m setback area, rare and threatened species (such as Acacia sp.), as well as, characteristic vegetation of the site, which are not part of the construction area. -Topographical features greater than 5 meters in height may not be altered without special permission. -Land movement must be minimized and not produce erosion. -Natural drainage must be maintained. -Building and road access may not alter existing contours by more than two meters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All significant vegetation must be preserved. -Topographical features greater than 5 meters in height may not be altered without special permission. - Land movement must be minimized and not produce erosion. -Natural drainage must be maintained. - A beach walk must run parallel to coastline in all hotel and commercial areas, and public beach access maintained. - No lodging facilities are permitted on coastal strip areas fringed

5. Product Standards...

ZONE	CORE ZONE (Strict Natural Zone)	BUFFER ZONE (Premium Wilderness Zone)	TRANSITION ZONE – FLAT AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) INSIDE PROTECTED AREA	TRANSITION ZONE – MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (Ecotourism Zone) OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREA	LOW INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (Coastal Eco-Resort Zone)	MODERATE INTENSITY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
	<p>prohibited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unattended food must be stored properly to prevent access by wildlife. <p>required to employ minimum-impact climbing techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of power tools to install bolts or other hardware is 	<p>packed carried out. Burning or burying of trash or toilet paper is prohibited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disposing of human waste within 100 m of a water source, high-water mark of a body of water, or a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited. <p>Rock climbing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climbers are required to employ minimum-impact climbing techniques. - The use of power tools to install bolts or other hardware is prohibited. All hardware must be removed upon finishing the route. - Recreational fishing is permitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Building and road access may not alter existing contours by more than 1 meter. <p>Total cut and fill must be equal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All investors active within this zone will have to sign a mandatory covenant with the EEAA and TDA indicating detailed development and management restrictions for each site [to be developed]. -Pets are not allowed - Unattended food must be stored properly to prevent access by wildlife. Improper food storage is prohibited - Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Natural drainage must be maintained. -Building and road access may not alter existing contours by more than two meters. -Total cut and fill must be equal. - Unattended food must be stored properly to prevent access by wildlife. Improper food storage is prohibited - Unattended food must be stored properly to prevent access by wildlife. Improper food storage is prohibited - Pets are not allowed - Wood or charcoal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Total cut and fill must be equal. -Only native species of flora will be allowed in any gardens and landscaping. -A natural (made of natural material) beach walk (without artificial lighting) will run parallel to coastline at the setback line linking all coastal facilities. Public beach access will be maintained. -A strategic environmental impact assessment will be required for each of the two low intensity development zones. -No lodging facilities are permitted on 	<p>by shallow reef flats inadequate for swimming or with access only to deep water subject to high energy wave action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building and road access may not alter existing contours by more than 2 meters. - Total cut and fill must be equal. - According to minister decree No. 80 / 1989.

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			<p>However, the use of backpack stove is permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trash must be packed carried out. Burning or burying of trash or toilet paper is prohibited - Disposing of human waste within 100 m of a water source, high-water mark of a body of water, or a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited. -All activities inside Wadi El Gemal National Park to be in accordance with Law 102 / 1983 and Law 4 / 1994 and other relevant legislation <p>Rock climbing</p>	<p>fires are prohibited. However, the use of backpack stove is permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trash must be packed carried out. Burning or burying of trash or toilet paper is prohibited - Recreational fishing is permitted 	<p>coastal strip areas fringed by shallow reef flats inadequate for swimming or with access only to deep water subject to high energy wave action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No individual building block may have a dimension greater than 30 meters. -The set back zone will be maintained as a natural buffer zone, with no construction or disturbance of natural features, habitats or vegetation. Only beach activities and traditional fishing will be allowed. 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climbers are required to employ minimum-impact climbing techniques. - The use of power tools to install bolts or other hardware is prohibited. All hardware must be removed upon finishing the route. 			