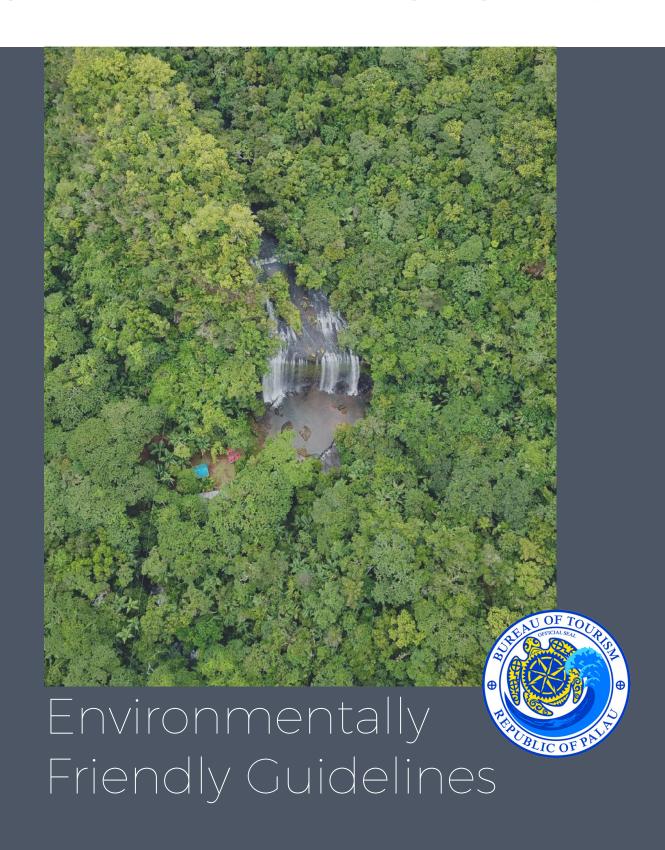
GREEN BOOTS







Green Boots Environmentally Friendly Guidelines was made possible through funding by the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

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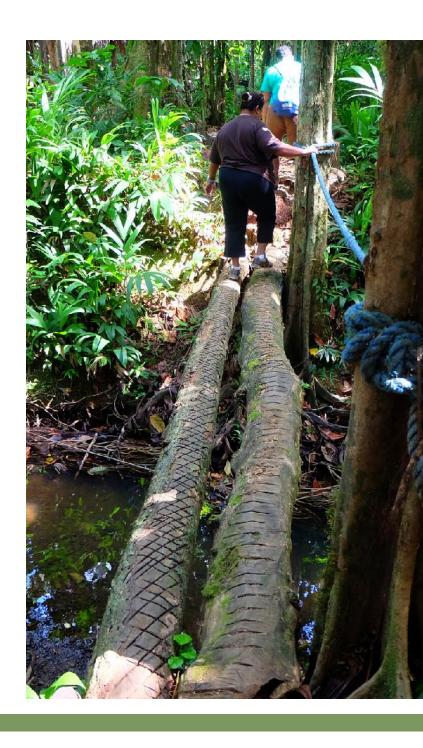
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WHAT IS GREEN BOOTS?

Green Boots is a program that promotes terrestrial tourism best practices in Palau. The guidelines provided ensure that the environment is sustainably used and continues to be a pristine tourism product and the main driver for Palau's economy.

The objectives of the Terrestrial Tourism **Best Practices are:**

1. To ensure that Palau's environment are sustainably managed in order to support healthy livelihoods, culture, and the local economy

- 2. To encourage environmentally friendly standards for the tourism industry
- 3. To cultivate a robust partnership between the national government, state government and communities, tourism sector, and non-government organizations
- 4. To uphold the reputation of Palau's tourism industry and the objective of the Responsible Tourism Policy Framework to ensure sustainability of Palau's tourism industry



"... to support healthy livelihoods, culture, and the local economy"





GREEN BOOTS | GREEN FINS

Green Boots was developed using global principles and guidelines and aligned with the Green Fins initiative.

Green Fins is an initiative that promotes environmentally friendly guidelines for marine tourism.

Together, Green Boots and Green Fins provide a complete environmentally friendly guideline for the tourism industry in Palau.





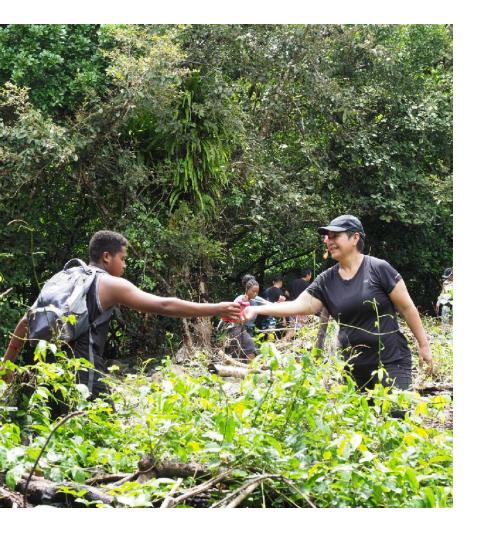


"Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves environment..

THE INTERNATIONAL **ECOTOURISM SOCIETY** TIES

The Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices are achieved through:

- 1. The development of standards that fit the ecotourism definition:
 - a. "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education (TIES, 2015).
 - b. "Environmentally responsible visiting of relatively unspoiled natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features-both past and present), that promotes conservation, has a low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations". (IUCN, 1996)



GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COUNCIL GSTC

The Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices are aligned with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) criteria, which serves as the global baseline standards for sustainability in travel and tourism. The criteria are used for education and awarenessraising, policy-making for businesses and government agencies and other organization types, measurement and evaluation, and as a basis for certification.

The GSTC criteria are globally recognized and endorsed by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Palau officially became the newest member of UNWTO in January of 2020.

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GREEN BOOTS MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROTECT AND
CONSERVE THE
ENVIRONMENT BY
ESTABLISHING AND
IMPLEMENTING
ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY GUIDELINES
TO PROMOTE A
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
INDUSTRY

PRINCIPLES OF ECOTOURISM **BEST PRACTICES**

The development of Terrestrial Tourism Best Practices, which follow the Principles of Ecotourism, unites conservation, communities, and sustainable travel

EDUCATE

Educate the traveler on the importance of conservation

MINIMIZE

Minimize the negative impacts on nature and culture that can damage a destination

LOCAL

Stress the importance of responsible business practices, which works cooperatively with local authorities and people to meet local needs and deliver conservation benefits

REVENUES

Direct revenues to the conservation and management of natural and protected areas



"Stress the importance of responsible business practices"



REGIONAL

Emphasize the need for regional tourism zoning and for visitor management plans designed for either regions or natural areas that are slated to become ecodestinations

ASSESS

Emphasize use of environmental and social baseline studies, as well as long-term monitoring programs, to assess and minimize impacts

BENEFIT

Strive to maximize economic benefit for the host country, local business and communities, particularly peoples living in and adjacent to natural and protected areas

"Developed in harmony with the environment"

COOPERATION

Seek to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental limits of acceptable change as determined by researchers in cooperation with local residents

HARMONY

Rely on infrastructure that has been developed in harmony with the environment, minimizing use of fossil fuels, conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural and cultural environment



GREEN BOOTS CODES OF CONDUCT



- 1 ADOPT THE GREEN BOOTS MISSION STATEMENT
- DISPLAY THE ADOPTED GREEN
 BOOTS AGREEMENT FOR THE
 PUBLIC TO SEE
- ADHERE TO THE TERRESTRIAL TOURISM BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES AND ACT AS A RESPONSIBLE ROLE FOR GUESTS
- SUPPORT "GREEN CERTIFIED
 BUSINESSES", PATRONIZE THE
 LOCAL ARTISINAL SUPPLY CHAIN
- 5 FOLLOW RECOMMENDED VISITOR TO GUIDE RATION AND SUPPORT SITE MAINTENANCE
- PROHIBIT SALE AND/OR DOMESTICATION OF WILDLIFE SPECIES
- 7 CONTRIBUTE TO ONGOING CONSERVATION EFFORTS, PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR CLEAN-UPS, AND REPORT VIOLATIONS AND DAMAGES

- PROVIDE ADEQUATE GARBAGE FACILITIES AND PROMOTE RECYCLING
- 9 OPERATE UNDER A 'MINIMUM WASTE' EFFORT: USE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS AND PROMOTE A PLASTIC FREE ZONE
- ABIDE BY ALL LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
- PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFINGS AND PROVIDE GUESTS WITH EXPLANATIONS OF GREEN BOOTS' TERRESTRIAL TOURISM GUIDELINES
- 12 OBTAIN CERTIFIED AND ACCREDITED TRAINING. PROVIDE SITE SPECIFIC MATERIAL REGARDING
- PROVIDE STAFF AND GUESTS WITH PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS
- PROVIDE GUESTS WITH INFORMATION ON LOCAL TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS, ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

PROMOTE A STRICT 'NO TOUCH'
POLICY AND ADHERE TO POSTED SIGNS



GREEN BOOTS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GUIDELINES



- NO TOUCHING, HARASSING OR CHASING WILDLIFE
- 8 DO NOT DISTURB VEGETATION WITH EQUIPMENT

2 NO FEEDING WILDLIFE

- 9 DO NOT COLLECT, REMOVE OR DAMAGE CULTURAL ARTIFACTS
- 3 NO HUNTING OR HARVESTING
- 10 WEAR THE PROPER OUTFIT AND GEAR
- 4 DO NOT SUPPORT ILLEGAL BIRD HUNTING
- 11 UTILIZE PROVIDED BENCHES AND TRAIL MARKERS

- DO NOT COLLECT DEAD OR ALIVE WILDLIFE
- 12 REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

6 DO NOT WALK OUTSIDE THE TRAIL

- 13 PARTICIPATE IN CONSERVATION PROJECTS
- 7 DO NOT CLIMB OR SHAKE TREES
- 14 DO NOT BUY SOIL, SAND, PLANTS OR ANIMALS

