



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION  
Republic of Maldives**



**PRESIDENT OF MALDIVES GREEN RESORT AWARD  
GUIDELINES & INFORMATION**

The Republic of Maldives with over 1190 islands offers a unique natural setting for tourism. Today, this natural environment through tourism attracts over 70 percent of the foreign exchange earnings and about 30 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the Maldivian economy. With the potential to develop tourism further in the islands and to increase growth of tourism annually, protecting the natural resources are essential for a sustainable tourism industry and for the benefit of the country as a whole.

His Excellency the President Maumoon Abdul Gayyoom; while addressing the country to commemorate the World Tourism day and Visit Maldives Year in 1997 to celebrate 25 years of sustainable development of tourism in the country, emphasised on the need for environmental protection in the tourism industry. In the same meeting, an annual award by the President of the Maldives for the most environmentally outstanding tourist resort was revealed by the Minister of Tourism.

President of Maldives Green Resort Award is a prestigious, one of its kind in the country, specially designed to the tourism industry. The award aims to generate environment consciousness and reward good practices of the resort hotels. At the same time this award provides an objective for the resort management and thereby facilitates sustainable development of tourism in the country. The overall effort will involve creating awareness, initiation of environmentally beneficial projects and giving due consideration to the environment and the local people in the development and operation of resorts.

President of Maldives Green Resort Award is awarded to the resort operators and management only. There is a limitation on the number of awards awarded at a given year and the Ministry of Tourism reserves the right not to present an award for a given year, or to revoke the award from the recipient. The award is presented to the recipient at the annual national function to celebrate the Tourism Day.

The winner of the President of the Maldives Green Resort Award receives the Green Resort Award Shield and a soft copy of the Green Resort Award logo for their promotional activities.

## **AWARD CRITERIA**

The following general areas are evaluated to be considered for the award;

- Compliance and adherence to existing laws and regulations
- Over-all environmental commitment
- Initiating environmentally beneficial projects
- Taking the environment into account in planning and development
- Environmentally-sound management practices
- Participation in environmental campaigns and programs
- Creating environmental awareness and marketing the tourism product
- Environmental record keeping and reporting

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The President of the Maldives Green Resort Award is open to all tourist resort hotels operating in the Republic of Maldives.

## **APPLICATION METHOD**

Applications for the President of Maldives Green Resort Award may be submitted to the Ministry via mail or electronic mail addressed to [info@maldivestourism.gov.mv](mailto:info@maldivestourism.gov.mv) directly by the management of the resort or nominated by another. The submitted application should consist of the filled questionnaire (also available from the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation) and a letter from the applicant. Any other attachment notes and relevant materials to support the application for the award, such as photographs, leaflets, newspaper clippings, video recordings, etc. should be sent to the Ministry within a week of submission of the application.

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

All applications must be received to the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation by 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005 (Monday), before 2:30 pm to ensure full and fair evaluation of submissions. Official deadlines will be strictly observed.

## **EVALUATION**

The evaluation period for The President of the Maldives Green Resort Award is from July (previous year) to July (present year). All applications received will be acknowledged receipt from the Ministry of Tourism. Applications are reviewed by an Award Evaluation Committee comprising of public and private sector. Short-listed resort hotels and their initiatives will be selected for a further field inspection.

## **GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines will help to understand our environmental policy and help the resort management to fill the application for the award.

1. **Participation in the national and international environment campaigns and programs-** Annual programmes are organised by the Government, non-governmental organisations and the international community to protect and enhance the environment. By participating in such programmes we can create awareness on protection and sustaining our environment, and promote a sustainable industry.
2. **Initiating environmentally beneficial projects-** Carrying out projects, which involve new technology and innovative ideas to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment in the operation of the resort, indicates the commitment of the management.

3. **Environment friendly marketing and promotion of the Maldivian product-** Protecting the environment produce quality, and an up-market product that will prove easier to sell. It is also essential to inform guests and tour operators on the environment friendly policy and product of the resort.
4. **Information collection, compliance and reporting to the Ministry to measure the environmental performance-** Certainly reporting the status and management measures taken are important to assess the results.
5. **Conservation of species and areas, including for scenic aesthetics-** An area remaining unspoiled is important for nature-based tourism. Hence, conserved areas in the resort and efforts to conserve the flora and fauna will bring better results and will be a rewarding attraction for the guests.
6. **Energy conservation-** Measures taken to conserve energy, such as on electricity, water, fuel etc. will assist to cut costs. Most energy saving devices can be introduced immediately without enormous changes by using a plan to invest for gradual replacement of energy costing devices. Investments on energy conservation should be looked into so that there will be cost cuts in the long run.
7. **Solid waste management-** Consider the amount of solid waste generated in the island, and if this could be reduced consider the cost cuts that would be gained. Most of the solid waste coming into the resort is via the packaging. Plans to minimise solid waste (e.g. from excessive packaging) will relieve the management of unwanted waste transfer expenses and working hours.
8. **Sewage and effluent management-** Understand the problems of improper sewage disposal methods, the outfalls and their effects, the aquifer pollution and long-term effects. If the resort is treating wastewater and sewage, the type of treatment and recycling of water will be helpful.
9. **Control of emissions-** Emissions from power generation, boats, vehicles and the noise generated will require to be minimised for the convenience of guests and enhance the living environment. How the resort controls and minimises pollution of air, water and the seas (from used oils etc.) is equally important.
10. **Exercise due regard for the interest of local population, including history, tradition, culture and their future development-** An industry that does not respect the culture, history and traditions of a society and that does not assist in their development will find conflicts. On the other hand if the industry enhances the environment of the local populace and their living by providing opportunities, they would welcome growth and prosperity of the industry. This is also essential to maintain a hospitable culture that secures future tourism growth.
11. **Provision of environmentally healthy standards for the staff and guest-** The people who serve the resort guests require to be motivated, lively and hospitable to offer a competitive and excellent service. Hence investments on improving the living and built environment (services and facilities of the staff) is a guaranteed worthwhile investment.
12. **Sensitising guests and staff to the importance of environmental protection-** Create awareness, through displays, management action and supporting programmes. Knowing what the resort does and what the resort could do to protect the environment and to keep it unspoiled is the first step to minimise environmental damage.

