

National Criteria for Eco-Friendly Camp

Jordan





الجمعية الملكية لحماية البيئة البحرية
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“National Criteria for Desert Eco-Friendly Camp”

On September 2012, The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) has signed an agreement with The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Public Action Project for Water, Energy and the Environment (PAP), where USAID is providing the financial support to JREDS over eighteen months to implement the Green Key/ Desert Eco-Camp program in Wadi Rum and Wadi Musa.

Green Key/ Desert Eco-Camp is conducted as a certification programme intending to increase the awareness of the owners, staff, stakeholders and clients of their potential for action towards environmental and sustainability issues.

The programme to help camps develop and implement an eco-label is a new environmental initiative and the first of its kind in the world. It is designed to help camp managers and owners make management decision using the limited natural resources without affecting the tourists' experience and without decreasing the camps' profit.

Green Key pursues four goals:

- Environmental and Education for sustainable development of the owner, the staff, the stakeholders (suppliers etc.) and the client.
- Reduction of the impacts of the facility.
- Economical management as a reduction of consumption induces a reduction of costs.
- Marketing strategy with the promotion of the label and the facilities awarded.

The criteria are divided into the categories:

- Imperative to be fulfilled in every Green Key camp.
- Guideline (G)/optional: designed to be part of the point system.

“Environmental Management”

- Environmental manager should be appointed.
- The Management/owner must be involved in the process of environmental development.
- The camp must formulate an environmental policy.
- The camp must formulate objectives and an action plan for constant improvement.
- All documentation concerning the Green Key must be kept and maintained in a binder ready for inspection.
- The camp must comply with the national environmental legislation and camps license requirements.
- The environmental manager must ensure that the Green Key criteria are reviewed annually.
- The surroundings of the camp must not be polluted and/or present a major risk for the health and the safety of the guests.
- Camps should be licensed.
- Active collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the region is established (G).



“Staff Involvement”

- The management/owner must hold a meeting/s with the staff periodically in order to brief them on issues concerning existing and new environmental initiatives.
- The environmental manager and other staff-members assigned with environmental duties must receive training on environmental issues.
- The environmental manager to ensure all employees have the knowledge about the negative effects of the camp's activities on the environment as well as their knowledge of ways to minimize such effects.
- The camp has a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, covering the areas of Labor Equity and Environmental Education (G).

“Guest Information”

- The Green Key award must be displayed in a conspicuous place.
- The camp must keep the guests' involved and informed about its environmental activities and encourage guests participation.
- The camp must inform guests on restricted and forbidden conducts within protected area such as, hunting.
- Information material about Green Key must be visible and accessible to the guests; including the camp's website.
- Reception staff must be in a position to inform guests about the current environmental activities and undertakings of the camp.
- Signs about energy and water savings and waste management should be visible for guests and staff (e.g. lights, heat, taps, showers, etc.).
- The camp provides their guests with the opportunity to evaluate the environmental actions undertakings (questionnaire, link to homepage, etc.).

“Water”

- Camp must document the total water consumption and source of water.
- Camp must clearly display a message that water taps are not for drinking purpose.
- Newly purchased toilets must be a dual flush and not allowed to flush more than 3/6 liters per flush.
- Water leakage from taps, showers and water tanks is not allowed.
- Water flow from showers must not exceed 8 liters per minute.
- Water flow from taps must not exceed 7 liters per minute.
- Waste water shall be discharged into sanitary sewer system unless it is not available at the camp, in which event the waste water shall be discharged into a properly constructed septic tank and tile drain field or other proper device of suitable design, size and material approved by responsible organization.
- Watering plant must either in the morning or at evening.
- Camp must conduct and document regular inspections of water tanks to ensure cleanliness and safety, and water taps and toilets to control leakage.
- Swimming pool is not allowable.
- Grey water tank should be available and water should be reused for different purposes(G).



“Energy”

- Energy (electricity, Diesel and gas) consumption must be continuously registered.
- Camp should install and use at least one renewable energy source.
- Camp must show the willingness to replace all old conventional electrical appliances with new renewable energy ones.
- At least 75% of the light bulbs are energy efficient (CFLs, LED, or labeled lamp).
- Refrigerators, cold stores, heating cupboards and ovens must be equipped with intact draught excluders.

In case the camp is connected to the electrical grid:

- The use of just one single switch for the entire camp is not allowed, therefore, control switch for power supply to be installed for each space (tent, living room, bathrooms, etc.).



“Waste”

- Camp and surrounding areas must be kept clean.
- There should be enough number of bins/container within camp border.
- The camp must sort waste into categories (Paper, glass, metals,...etc.) that can be handled by the private waste management facility.
- Transportation of waste to landfill must be within two days as maximum.
- If the local governmental waste management facility do not collect waste at or near the camp, then the camp must ensure safe transportation of its waste to the nearest appropriate collection point accredited by the local authority.
- instructions on how to separate and handle waste must be easily available to the staff and guests in an understandable and simple format.
- Disposable cups, plates and cutlery must not be used.
- Organic waste should be re-used as animal feed.
- Single dose packages for soap ,shampoo, etc. are either not used, reduced or packaged in material that can be recycled.
- There must be a signs showing waste separation areas.
- Guests must have inside tents the possibility to separate waste into the categories that can be handled by the waste management facilities (G).



“Washing and Cleaning”

- Newly purchased chemical cleaning products and products for washing have a national or internationally recognized eco-label or are not allowed to contain agents that are listed in Green Key's "Requirements related to cleaning and washing articles in Green Key establishment".
- Disinfectants must only be used where it is necessary.
- Paper towels and toilet paper are made of non-chlorine bleached paper or are awarded with an eco-label.
- An explanation on the needs of using wash machines in efficient way shall be fixed in rooms or laundry sites.
- Newly purchase washing machine should be environmental friendly.



“ Food and Beverage ”

- Camp must purchase more than 50% of product from local supplier.
- Kitchen must be kept clean.
- Cook pans must be kept clean.
- Kitchen must be kept clean from insects and rodents.
- Food refrigerator temperature must be set not more than (4 degree) C° for meat and vegetables.
- Meat must be stored in refrigerator/freezer.
- The place of storage of food and beverage must be separate from the warehouse containing detergents and other chemicals.
- Food store must be well vented.



“Indoor/Outdoor Environment”

- Smoking is not allowed inside tents and closed area.
- The use of firewood in the camp is restricted to only wood from licensed “Mahtab”.
- Regulations for minimal and/or restricted car use must be notable.
- Parking area must be available and placed away from campsite.
- Gardens shall be planted by native plant species.
- Activities that pose sonic or visual pollution are not allowed.
- Camp must hide and isolate all electrical wiring to not pose visual pollution.



“Green Activities”

- The camp must sponsor at least one green activity in the local area.
- The camp provides activities for raising awareness, focused on sustainable development, environment and nature in or around the campsite.
- Encourage the use of modes of transportation that can carry a large number of guests and staff.



“Buildings”

- Concrete establishment must not exceed 25% of campsite area.
- Local element must be used for construction .
- Buildings must not negatively impact the surrounding environment by changing or adding to the ecosystem.
- Surrounding environment must be taken into consideration during design.
- Mitigation measures to the risks that might happen during the construction must be taken into consideration.
- New construction must be placed away from adjacent mountains.
- Painting must suite the surrounding environment.
- Water pipes and lines must be hidden to insure maintaining the visual dimension of the landscape.



“Safety”

- Contingency plan must be available and staff is well-trained to implement it.
- First aid kit must be available at the camp.
- Staff must be trained on first aid procedures.
- Distinguisher must be available.
- Adopt environmentally friendly practices to control pest organism.
- Hazardous liquid chemicals must be stored avoiding sunlight and leaks that can damage the environment.
- There must be channels and structures for storm water drainage.
- Hazardous liquid chemicals must be stored in the appropriate locations avoiding sunlight and ensure no leakages of these materials to the environment.
- Electrical wires must be hidden.

