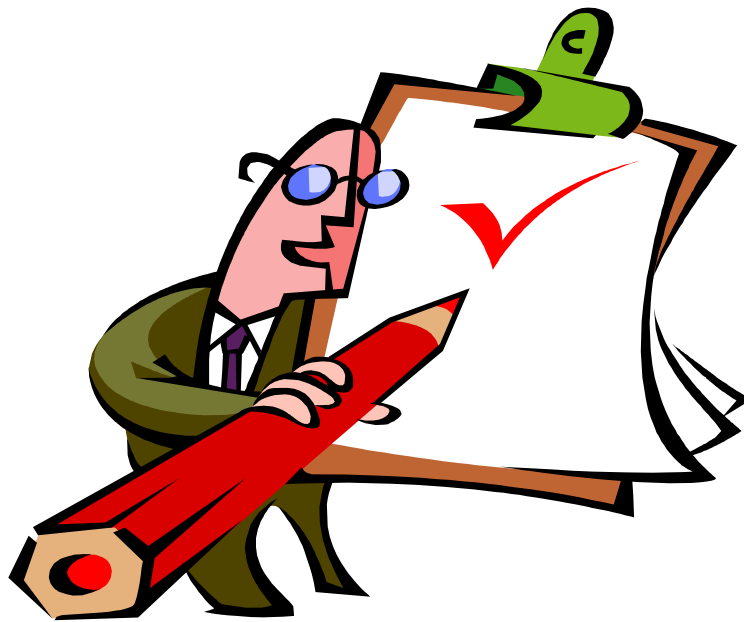


BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

*“Promoting, Protecting and Improving
Marine Tourism in the South Pacific”*



Benchmarking & Certification Checklist For

Prepared By

BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

“Promoting, Protecting and Improving Marine Tourism in the South Pacific”

Benchmarking & Certification Checklist

Name of Operation: _____

Location: _____

Contact Person: _____

Position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Scale of Operation: Micro (1 - 9 Customers/day OR 1 – 9 Full time employees)

Small (10 – 99 Customers/day OR 10 – 49 Full time employees)

Large (100 or more Customers/day OR 50 or more Full time employees)

Type(s) of Marine based activities: (Tick as many as applicable)

- Snorkeling
- Scuba Diving
- Game Fishing
- Reef Fishing
- Fish Feeding
- Boat Trips (including glass bottom boats)
- Interactive Activities (Manta Ray trips etc)
- Motorized Watersports (Jet skis, Jetboats etc)
- Other marine based activities (Specify) _____

Report date: _____

Period Benchmarked: _____ Period Certified: _____

Benchmark Expiry: _____ Certification Expiry: _____

Assessing Organization: _____

Assessor: _____

BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

“Promoting, Protecting and Improving Marine Tourism in the South Pacific”

Benchmarking & Certification Checklist Guidelines

Sectors Assessed:

1. Marine Tourism Management
2. Sustainable Boating
3. Marine Life Based Activities (including snorkeling, SCUBA, underwater explorations, seafood consumption, souvenir purchasing)
4. Staff Marine Education and Environmental Enhancement
5. Guest Marine Education and Environmental Enhancement

Checklist Instructions:

- Sector questions are on the same page number on both Checklist and Report for ease of cross-reference.
- Fill BlueStar Checklist out FIRST
- Assess operation by checking all policies on Checklist that apply, as per criteria listed below. Evidence must be seen and type noted.
- All sectors must be completed. If the operation does not carry out some activities, indicate by checking N/A (Not Applicable).
- After checklist completed, transfer results to BlueStar Report Card.

Assessment Criteria:

- Operation attains Affiliate status if the minimum requirements for Benchmarking status in each sector are not met.
- **Operation must check all Good Practices in Bold font to qualify for Benchmarked status for that policy.**
- Operation must check all Good Practices in Normal font in addition to those in Bold to qualify for Certified status for that policy.
- *Operation may optionally choose to check Good Practices in Italic font in addition to those in Bold when/where relevant to the operation to qualify for Certified status in that policy.*

Sector	Activity	Page
1. Marine Tourism Management	Marine Environment/Tourism Management Plan	5 – 8
2. Sustainable Boating	Measures in place for safe motorized and non-powered boating	9 - 10
3. Marine Life Based Activities	Best practice measures	11 - 16
4. Staff Marine Education/ Enhancement	Appropriate and adequate staff education/training	17 - 18
5. Guest Marine Education/ Enhancement	Appropriate and adequate guest education/programmes	19 - 20

Abbreviations:

MEMP = Marine Environment Management Plan

EMP = Environment Management Plan

BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

“Promoting, Protecting and Improving Marine Tourism in the South Pacific”

Sector 1

Marine Tourism Management Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
1.1 To have in place a Marine Environment Management Plan (MEMP) (or incorporated within an existing environment committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulating a MEMP encourages sustainable use of marine resources, reduces over-fishing and destructive fishing methods. 	✓ MEMP is written and addresses policies in all sectors			
		✓ Ensure that the MEMP has been drawn-up under the supervision of trained personnel or with the assistance of local NGOs or institutions and is actively enacted by stakeholders			
1.2 To have in place a Marine Environment Committee (or has been established within an existing environment committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a Marine Environment Committee ensures that decisions regarding the marine environment are taken responsibly during critical times and at other times 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted :			
		✓ Marine environment committee formed either within an existing environment committee or as a separate body			
		✓ All key stakeholders involved with the operation are well represented in the committee (e.g. community, local government etc)			

Sector 1

Marine Tourism Management Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
1.3 To ensure that the company abides by key local, national, regional and international environmental laws and regulations (e.g. Town and Country planning regulations, Health regulations) and takes into consideration recommendations proposed by the Environment Management Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abiding by key national rules and regulations ensures that the operation does not face any prosecution charges as violating such rules/regulations is a criminal offence 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted: ✓ Town and Country Planning regulations considered as appropriate			
		✓ Health Regulations considered as appropriate			
		✓ Recommendations in the Environment Management Act considered as appropriate			
1.4 To have adequate measures in place to ensure that the marine environment and associated life forms are in no way affected by land based activities. E.g. construction works, waste water run-offs, pollution of any kind etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the greatest issues affecting the marine environment are from land-based activities allowing silt, pollution and freshwater to enter the sea. Marine protection without controlling land-based activities is ineffective.. 	✓ Policy statement within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted: ✓ Adequate control measures in place during construction works and operation			
		✓ Appropriate guidelines and recommendations are observed by being part of a recognized environmentally sustainable program e.g. Green Globe or considering recommendations from “ Making Small Hotels & Resorts Environmentally Sustainable: A Simple Checklist for Fiji Operators			

Sector 1 Marine Tourism Management Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
1.5 To make a commitment to conduct initial trainings for all managers and policy makers and marine based activities staff to enhance knowledge and skills on basic coral reef ecology and policy making decisions associated with coral reefs and near shore marine environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting trainings/educating staff members and decision makers regarding the marine environment ensure the sustainability of such environment and contribute positively towards environmental and economic profitability for the operation. 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted -: ✓ All Policy-makers, activities staff have undergone suitable training e.g. Marine Tourism Education Course or equivalent			
1.6 To make a commitment to ensure annual staff training is undertaken e.g. refresher courses for same or replacement staff as in Sector 1.4 above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular trainings and education ensures that staff members are well-versed with their environment and duties, consequently contributing positively to the economic success of the operation 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted: ✓ All activities staff have undergone suitable annual training e.g. Marine Tourism Education Course or equivalent			
1.7 To ensure that customers are made aware of sustainability goals and actions (positive promotion of operation's sustainability goals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating/informing customers on the operations sustainability goals and actions fosters appreciation for the environment and encourages customers to be better informed/educated customers 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted: ✓ Appropriate mechanisms in place to promote active commitment to environmental sustainability			

Sector 1

Marine Tourism Management Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
1.8 To encourage staff members to actively take part in enforcing marine sustainability policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated/informed staff members positively contribute towards the environmental and economic success of the company by practicing/enforcing sustainability policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP 			
		Policy actively enacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular staff meeting with the Marine Environment Committee to discuss/highlight issues pertaining to the marine environment are conducted 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Recognition or award schemes to show appreciation of contributions to the marine environment by dedicated staff members are in place</i> 			
1.9 To make a commitment towards annual monitoring programs for coral reefs and near-shore marine environments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring helps provide valuable data which could be used to make effective management plans and decisions relating to the marine environment Establishing baseline surveys and subsequently carrying out annual monitoring helps establish outbreaks/ seasonal patterns and assists in identifying abnormal algal overgrowths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP 			
		Policy actively enacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Annual monitoring are carried out by trained staff/ other independent resource persons 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Annual reports are produced to relevant authorities on the state of the marine environment 			

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Sector 2

Sustainable Boating Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
2.1 To observe appropriate codes of conduct regarding sustainable boating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercising appropriate codes of conduct towards sustainable boating will reduce adverse impacts on the marine environment. 	✓ Policy statement written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy enacted: ✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding boating activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources			
		✓ Coral reefs, sea grass beds, other places of marine ecological significance are avoided when launching, boarding or poleing boats			
		✓ Boat captains look out for live coral when poleing boats across reef			
		✓ 30cm clearance between vessel and seabed is allowed on all tides			
		✓ Markers or buoys are placed to aid boating, walking or poleing			
		✓ Guests are briefed pre and post activity			
		✓ <i>Educational materials are available to aid staff & guests on boat handling techniques (charts, posters etc)where appropriate</i>			

Sector 2

Sustainable Boating Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
2.2 To take care to minimize damage to marine wild life and ecosystems while carrying out any boating activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poorly conducted or irresponsible boating practices can cause severe damage to coral reefs, sea grasses, mangroves and other marine environments. 	✓ Activities are planned around tides			
		✓ Appropriate speeds are observed while traveling in low water areas, rivers, channels, reefs etc			
		✓ Guest educational materials are available to create awareness on potential negative impacts			
		✓ <i>Boat or vessel launching sites with minimal amount of marine life are marked</i>			
		✓ <i>Moorings/buoys are in place for anchoring boats in ecologically sensitive areas</i>			
		✓ <i>Moorings/buoys are regularly rehabilitated and maintained</i>			
2.3 To adequately train staff members to conduct emergency procedure/first-aid in the event of accidents/ mishaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly trained and competent staff can prevent accidents from happening in the water and on the boat by identifying problems and rectifying these in time. Proper in and out of water training and appropriate equipment use can save lives. 	✓ Trained and experienced staff are recruited			
		✓ Staff members have satisfactorily undertook appropriate First Aid courses e.g. Red Cross etc			
		✓ Refresher courses are conducted regularly (every year or when there are staff turnovers) (Note frequency)			
2.4 To make staff/guests aware of the potential impacts of boating activities to the marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating staff/guests on sustainable boating techniques reduces potential damage to the marine environment 	✓ Staff educated to actively partake in sustainable boating techniques			
		✓ Guests encouraged to practice “safe and sustainable” boating techniques			
		✓ Educational materials provided for staff/guests to enhance knowledge on good practices for boating			

BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

“Promoting, Protecting and Improving Marine Tourism in the South Pacific”

Sector 3

Marine Life Based Activities Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
3.1 To take care to avoid deliberate or regular intrusions into marine life habitat which may cause significant disruption to foraging, territorial or breeding behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine environmental degradation and loss of marine biodiversity due to human impacts is an issue affecting all regions of the world. 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted: ✓ Unnecessary intrusion into marine environment avoided			
		✓ Activities such as dredging discouraged			
		✓ Educational/awareness materials to promote marine sustainability are available			
		✓ <i>Markers/buoys are placed in areas of ecological significance</i>			
3.2 To effectively regulate any marine life feeding program to ensure minimal damage to marine life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeding of wild marine life may result in changes to their dietary behavior, feeding patterns as well as reproductive behavior. 	✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted: ✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding marine life feeding are obtained from reliable and reputable sources			
		✓ Feeding activities are discouraged OR			
		If feeding is to be carried out: ✓ Appropriate feed stuff are given			
		✓ Feeding is restricted to twice/week or less per week			
		✓ Feeding sites are rotated			
		✓ Feeding is carried out by appropriately trained staff members			

Sector 3

Marine Life Based Activities Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert ified	N/A
3.3 To effectively regulate any form of snorkeling trips (free/ guided), SCUBA diving, underwater exploration etc:					
3.3.1 To have in place appropriate codes of conduct to minimize damage to marine life while undertaking activity in 4 above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irresponsible or inexperienced snorkellers and divers regularly crush and break corals and other reef dwelling organisms with fins, equipment and body parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy statement within MEMP or existing EMP 			
		Policy actively enacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding snorkeling activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No-contact policy is in place 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Environmental awareness briefings for tourists and marine enthusiasts are conducted prior to activities 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Snorkeling/diving sites are appropriately marked 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Buoyancy refreshers are conducted for scuba divers</i> 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Buoys placed at resting spots</i> 			
3.3.2 To have trained snorkel guides/staff to ensure that the environment sustains minimal damage while such activity is being carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriately trained staff/guides ensure that guests practice responsible snorkeling at all times in an effort to minimize damage to marine life/environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appropriate snorkeling training for activities staff is conducted e.g. Marine Tourism Education Course or equivalent 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appropriate snorkeling programs in place for guests e.g. "Responsible Snorkeller" program etc 			
3.3.3 To have available appropriate learning materials for staff/guests to enhance knowledge and experience while interacting with wild life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed staff and guests exercise responsibility whilst using the marine environment and interacting with life forms. In doing so they help sustain the marine environment and at the same time appreciate the marine environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Books, videos, pamphlets, posters, etc, of commonly seen marine life are available and on display 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff and guest programs and activities in place with an educational and skill enhancing component are in place 			

Sector 3

Marine Life Based Activities Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
3.4 To effectively regulate specialized interactive forms of activities or other underwater exploration activities (Swim with Manta Rays, Sharks, Turtles etc)					
3.4.1 To have in place proper codes of conduct and to have these enforced while interacting with marine life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrusive or irresponsible methods of marine wildlife viewing can potentially harm and even kill popular animals, such as whales, dolphins, manatees, dugongs and marine turtles. 	✓ Policy statement within MEMP or existing EMP			
		Policy actively enacted:			
		✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding specialized interactive activities obtained from reliable & reputable sources			
		✓ Chasing, surrounding or intimidating marine animals is avoided			
		✓ Key local, national, international and traditional rules and regulations are observed at all times			
		✓ Riding animals is avoided at all times e.g. turtles, dolphins			
		✓ Littering is prohibited at all times			
	✓ Feeding wild animals is appropriately regulated, see Sector 3.3				
3.4.2 To have adequately trained staff to over-see and ensure that guests and marine life forms are in no way threatened by each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriately trained staff/guides ensure that guests practice responsible viewing habits at all times in an effort to minimize damage to marine life/environment 	✓ Adequate trainings for activities staff are offered in that particular activity			
		✓ Appropriate programs are in place for guests and staff. e.g. Marine Tourism course			
		✓ Refresher courses are conducted for staff annually or with staff turn-over			
3.4..3 To educate staff and guests on the impacts of such activities on marine life forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed staff and guests exercise responsibility in marine environment and interacting with life. In doing so they help sustain the marine environment and at the same time appreciate the marine environment 	✓ Books, videos, pamphlets, posters etc of commonly seen fish, invertebrates etc are available and on display			
		Staff and guest programs and activities which have an educational and skill enhancing component are in place			

Sector 3

Marine Life Based Activities Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
3.5 To effectively regulate any form of recreational fishing activities (Game/ Reef)					
3.5.1 To have in place proper codes of conduct and to have these enforced while being involved in any recreational fishing activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrusive or irresponsible methods of fishing activities pose a danger to stock depletion or possibly change the entire food-web structures if not managed/controlled effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy statement within MEMP or existing EMP 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy actively enacted: ✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding specialized interactive activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Key national, international regulations as well as traditional protocols pertaining to recreational fishing in the area are observed 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marine pollution from fishing gear is prevented 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A catch-and-release fishing policy is enacted 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fishing activities are limited to a maximum of twice/week per site 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Fishing grounds are rotated</i> 			
3.5.2 To have adequately trained staff member(s) to conduct/supervise such activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriately trained and informed staff ensures that guests practice responsible fishing practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Educational posters/pamphlets on the impacts of unsustainable fishing are on display 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff are adequately trained to conduct and supervise such activities 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Refresher courses conducted annually or with staff turn-over 			
3.5.3 To educate staff and guests on the impacts of such activity on marine life forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased knowledge and identification skills in staff and guests can help to ensure that informed decisions are made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Books, videos, pamphlets, posters etc of commonly seen marine life are available and on display ✓ Staff and guest programs and activities which have an educational and skill enhancing component in place. 			

Marine Life Based Activities Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
3.6 To effectively regulate serving of rare or endangered and threatened seafood to ensure sustainability of such activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The over-harvesting of marine resources for seafood poses a serious threat to the health of near-shore and coral environments. • Removal of key components of an ecosystem leads to adverse/ irreversible changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP 			
		<p style="text-align: center;">Policy actively enacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding specialized interactive activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Key national, international regulations as well as traditional protocols pertaining to seafood consumption are observed 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ecologically sustainable practices are supported 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Guests are educated to be informed customers 			
3.7 To effectively regulate trade in ornamental souvenir items to ensure sustainability of such activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The over-harvesting of marine resources as ornamental souvenirs poses a serious threat to the health of near-shore and coral environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP 			
		<p style="text-align: center;">Policy actively enacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding specialized interactive activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Key national, local and international regulations as well as traditional protocols pertaining to export of endangered species are observed 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Selling and purchasing of marine ornamental souvenirs is avoided at all times 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Guests are educated to be informed customers 			

Marine Life Based Activities Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
<p>3.8 To effectively regulate handling and managing wild marine animals in captivity to ensure sustainability of such activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many animals do not survive when kept in captivity • Keeping captive animals encourages their removal from the wild and this may affect sustainable wild population 	<p>✓ Policy statement is written within MEMP or existing EMP</p>			
		<p>Policy actively enacted:</p> <p>✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding specialized interactive activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources</p>			
		<p>✓ Key local, national, international regulations as well as traditional protocols pertaining to the rearing of wild animals in captivity are adhered to.</p>			
		<p>✓ Marine animals kept in captivity are done so with adequate support and information from recognized sources on correct feeding and rearing techniques</p>			
		<p>✓ Marine animals are from a proven sustainable source</p>			
		<p>✓ <i>Do not keep wild animals in captivity</i></p>			
<p>3.9 To have in place proper codes of conduct and appropriate measures to regulate any other forms of marine based activities to ensure sustainability of such activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mismanaged use of the marine environment may lead to severe and adverse damage. • This may include loss of habitat, species and the economic loss in business as a result of a degraded environment 	<p>✓ Appropriate information and guidelines regarding specialized interactive activities are obtained from reliable and reputable sources</p>			
		<p>✓ Key local, national, international regulations as well as traditional protocols pertaining to the type of activity are observed</p>			
		<p>✓ Policies and guidelines are regularly reviewed.</p>			

BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

“Promoting, Protecting and Improving Marine Tourism in the South Pacific”

Sector 4 Staff Marine Education and Environmental Enhancement Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
4.1 To make educational materials and programs available explaining the basic ecology of coral reefs and near shore marine ecosystems to staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed/educated staff members positively contribute to the environmental and economical success of the operation 	✓ Appropriate materials & programs in place to assist staff in expanding their knowledge & skills e.g. Marine Tourism Education course or equivalent			
		✓ Posters and charts are in place as a visual guide to assist staff members in learning general marine biology aspects			
		✓ Annual refresher courses are conducted for staff or with staff turn-over			
		✓ <i>Staff members are encouraged to share and participate in local and traditional knowledge</i>			
4.2 To have in place a scientifically valid and appropriate marine ecosystem monitoring and enhancement project with active staff involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving staff members in such projects enables them to appreciate the marine environment and therefore contribute positively towards environmental and economical success of the operation 	✓ Appropriate & scientifically valid monitoring & enhancement programs are proposed & designed			
		✓ Appropriate & scientifically valid monitoring & enhancement programs are developed and supported			
		✓ Partnerships are developed with scientific support organizations			
		✓ Staff are actively encouraged to participate in such projects			
		✓ Award or recognition programs to encourage staff members to participate in such projects are in place			
		✓ <i>Fish wardens are established and trained for the operation and adjacent areas.</i>			

Sector 4 Staff Marine Education and Environmental Enhancement Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
4.3 To have in place an educational/enhancement programme for staff to promote economic development, poverty alleviation and stakeholder health, social and spiritual well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging staff members to participate in such programs promotes appreciation of their environment, educates staff on the impacts of daily marine activities on the marine environment and helps uplift living standards Informed/educated staff members positively contribute to the environmental and economical success of the operation 	✓ Local community involvement in planning, implementing and running of reef and coastal projects is encouraged			
		✓ Financial benefits from marine enhancement programs are directed to community development schemes			
		✓ <i>Improvements to community facilities such as schools, hospitals, community halls etc are supported</i>			
		✓ <i>Improvements to local health care/ education, transportation schemes etc are supported</i>			
		✓ <i>Stakeholders/community are supported in small business training and establishment of trust funds and /scholarships</i>			

BlueStar Coral Reef Friendly Tourism

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Sector 5 Guest Marine Education and Environmental Enhancement Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
5.1 To make available educational materials & programs to explain the basic ecology of coral reefs and near shore marine ecosystems to guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed/educated guests positively contribute to the environmental and economical success of the operation • Educational materials greatly enhance the visiting experience of guests. 	✓ Appropriate materials & programs in place to encourage guests in expanding their knowledge & appreciating the marine environment			
		✓ Posters or charts in place as a visual guide to assist guests in learning and interpreting general marine biology			
		✓ Practical and responsible marine use programs are offered			
		✓ <i>Guests are encouraged to share/participate in local/traditional knowledge</i>			
5.2 To have in place a scientifically valid and appropriate marine ecosystem monitoring and enhancement project with active guest involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving guests in such projects enables them to appreciate the marine environment and therefore contribute positively towards environmental and economical success of the operation • Such projects enhance the visiting experience of guests 	✓ Appropriate & scientifically valid monitoring & enhancement programs are proposed & designed			
		✓ Appropriate & scientifically valid monitoring & enhancement programs are developed and supported			
		✓ Partnerships are developed with scientific support organizations			
		✓ Opportunities for guest participation are provided as & when appropriate			
		✓ <i>Award/recognition programs to encourage guests to participate in such projects are in place</i>			

Sector 5 Guest Marine Education and Environmental Enhancement Checklist

Policy	Issue	Good Practice	Bench- marked	Cert- ified	N/A
<p>5.3 To link guest participation in educational or enhancement programs to community economic development, poverty alleviation & stakeholder health, social & spiritual well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging guests to participate in such programs promotes appreciation of the environment, educates guests on the impacts of daily marine activities on the marine environment and helps foster positive rapport between guests and locals 	<p>✓ Opportunities are provided for guests to contribute funds to supplement active marine conservation projects</p>			
		<p>✓ <i>Trust funds or equivalents are established to which guests pay a set fee for certain marine activities</i></p>			
		<p>✓ <i>Marine Parks are established with user-entry fees.</i></p>			
		<p>✓ <i>Mangroves or other endangered species are sponsored as part of conservation efforts</i></p>			
		<p>✓ <i>Other (Specify)</i></p>			