

Sustainable Seychelles Recognition and Certification (SS)

Information Sheet

Overview

Sustainable Seychelles Recognition and Certification (SS) is an initiative aimed at promoting and recognizing sustainable practices within the tourism sector. This initiative is applicable to accommodations, restaurants, and tour operators across the Seychelles. The goal of the programme is to foster environmental stewardship, support local communities, and ensure sustainable business practices that contribute positively to the Seychelles' economy and ecosystem.

Recognition

This entry-level recognition serves as a stepping stone for businesses starting their journey towards sustainability. Participants must meet initial sustainable practices, which include basic environmental conservation measures, community involvement, and sustainable management practices. Being recognized provides visibility and promotes the business as environmentally conscious to tourists and industry partners. It also prepares businesses for the more rigorous full certification.

Certification

Sustainable Seychelles Certification is designed for businesses that demonstrate a higher level of commitment and implementation of sustainable practices. It requires a comprehensive adherence to advanced sustainable practices in environmental management, social responsibility, and economic viability. Certified businesses gain a competitive advantage through enhanced marketing opportunities, potential for increased tourism, and alignment with global sustainability standards. Full Certification also signals to customers a serious commitment to protecting the environment and supporting local communities.

Eligibility

All licensed tourism accommodations, restaurants and tour operators can participate in the programme.

Application

Businesses who are interested in certification should submit an application to the Tourism Department.

To be awarded for recognition, The Tourism Department contacts tourism businesses to evaluate their sustainability performance. Businesses who have not been contacted but who are interested in the recognition programme should notify the Tourism Department.

No application fee is charged for businesses wishing to form part of the recognition programme. A fee is applicable for certification.

Evaluation and Audit

The business' sustainability practices are assessed based on the SS standards and the scoring system. Upon receipt of notification of interest for SS recognition, the team responsible for SS certification organizes the assessment.

Scoring and Award

To earn the Sustainable Seychelles certification, business needs to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability through both mandatory and optional practices. Points are awarded based on the assessment of the business's sustainability practices. The total score determines the recognition level achieved by the business (Level 1, 2, 3) or full certification. In addition to the minimum score, businesses must meet all mandatory criteria to obtain full certification.

Award Levels

Recognition			Sustainable Seychelles Certified
Level 1 Blue Recognition	Level 2 Bronze Recognition	Level 3 Silver Recognition	
			

Businesses achieving between 15% to 19% of the total score	Businesses achieving between 20% to 24% of the total score	Businesses achieving between 25% to 29% of the total score - Businesses achieving a score above 30% of the total scoring but not fulfilling the processes for full certification will be awarded level 3 recognition (Silver Recognition)	- Businesses achieving a minimum score (30%) or above of the total scoring and fulfilling the processes for full certification i.e • Fulfil all the “must” criteria • Score an additional six points in any area will be eligible for Sustainable Seychelles certification.
- Level 1 recognition signifying that a business has demonstrated a basic commitment to sustainability practices.	- Level 2 recognition represents a moderate level of commitment with some attempt at incorporating sustainability practices within the businesses’ operations.	- Level 3 recognition indicates that a business has implemented a significant number of sustainability practices.	- Full certification represents a high level of commitment and implementation of sustainability practices.

Recognition

Businesses are awarded Sustainable Seychelles Certification or Recognition at the appropriate level. Businesses that qualify are issued a certificate with the level achieved clearly indicated.

Validity of award

The award is valid for 2 years from the date of issue. Businesses are subject to reassessment to ensure ongoing compliance with the sustainability standards.

Continuous Improvement:

The Program actively promotes continuous improvement among businesses. For those fully certified, they earn additional points by scoring 10% more points scored in their last assessment. For those who have achieved recognition they are encouraged to strive for higher recognition levels. The business may request an upgrade to their achieved level by putting in a formal request by letter or email to the Tourism Department.

Support and Resources

Tourism Department offers support and resources to all participants, including guidelines and assistance in implementing sustainable practices. This support is designed to help businesses at every step of their sustainability journey, from initial assessment. For more information, please contact sstl@seychelles.com