



# STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF NATURE TRAILS

NATURE TRAIL CLEANING AND CLEARING, INSTALLATION OF  
INFRASTRUCTURES, MARKINGS AND SAFETY ICONS/SYMBOLS,  
INFORMATION BOARD, FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Nature trails in Seychelles are highly frequented by both locals and tourists. It is therefore imperative that before any trail is made official and be promoted on various social media platforms and other promotional channels, they are well maintained and have all necessary trail amenities that will guide a person undertaking a nature walk or hiking. Well maintained trails will ensure easy access to the hiker or trekker and allow them to enjoy their journey and the natural environment without getting lost, sustaining major injuries or be stranded.

First and foremost, the nature trail should have a unique name that will distinguish it from other nature trails on the islands. As much as possible there should be uniformity in the layout and design of certain infrastructure amenities and information being disseminated.

To ensure general upkeeping of the nature trails, the following needs to be carried out to facilitate access to this trail.

## **1. CLEANING AND CLEARING OF NATURE TRAILS**

- All overgrown plants blocking the access and impeding movements of hikers/trekkers should either be cut, trimmed or well pruned.
- Wherever there are earthen paths, these should be cleared and well flattened and levelled.
- Thick accumulation of dead or dry leaves that can render the trail slippery should be removed.

- Where feasible, any obstacles that can cause a person to trip and fall should be removed.

## **2. TRAIL SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURES**

- Where feasible, rocks or small wooden pillar edging should be installed at both sides along the trail path.

- Safety railings (strong ropes supported by metal beams or metal railings) should be installed at all areas where there are ravines and cliffs.

- Where there are small rivulets or marshes, small bridges or raised boardwalks should be installed for people to cross over them. Durable materials or preferably recyclable that blends with the natural environment should be used.

- Where there are steep areas along the trail, especially uphill, proper trails steps (preferably made of natural durable and recyclable materials) should be installed.

## **3. DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE AND MARKINGS**

There should be

- Directional signposts in the form of arrows should be well placed along the trail to show correct direction to hikers/trekkers.

- Where arrows cannot be installed clear colour markings preferably in yellow can be used at conspicuous places e.g., on stable granite boulders, and other permanent natural vegetation. However, these should be regularly inspected in case they are worn, faded or vandalised.

- If markings are placed on granite boulders or vegetation such as trees, regular verification needs to be done to ensure that the markings are still visible, or the boulders, trees have not fallen.

·It is also important that at different stage of the trail not exceeding 100 metres apart, there should be a small signboard indicating the number of metres left before reaching the summit of the trail and vice versa.

·If there are areas with extraordinary views or other features, signage to indicate direction to the viewpoints/features can be provided.

#### **4. SAFETY ICONS/SYMBOLS**

Appropriate safety icons/symbols should be installed at the following areas: -

·Where there are paths bifurcating from the main trail to prevent tourists from going off trail.

·Part of the trail where it is slippery

·Steep areas

·Cliffs and ravines

·Granite rock caves

·Streams and marshy areas where bridges or boardwalks cannot be installed

#### **INFORMATION BOARD**

A main standard information board should be installed at the beginning of the trail. The following information needs to be available on the information: -

·Name of the trail

·Full name and contact details (including any hotline /emergency numbers) of the

entity managing or who has adopted the trail and other stakeholders involved.

- Map of the trail

- Level of difficulty and approximate time it will take to complete the trail both going and coming back.

- Other safety advice such as the category of persons who should not be going on the trail. For example, elderly persons with prior medical conditions, children etc.

- Disclaimer notice

### **ADDED FACILITIES**

- Consideration can be given to providing viewpoints at areas with extraordinary views. A small kiosk, sitting area, viewing platform may also be considered.

- At different stage of the trail where there is interesting flora/fauna, or historical sites, a small board with information on the species of flora/fauna/heritage values may be installed.

### **MAINTENANCE**

- Regular inspection of the trail needs to be carried out to check the state of all infrastructures, (especially after heavy rainfall and strong winds) as follows: -

- Information boards, steps, boardwalks and bridges if available, directional signposts, markings, safety railings etc

- Where necessary, maintenance or replacement of the damaged infrastructures needs to be done.

Prepared by the Tourism Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, in collaboration with the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority and the Environment Department, Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment.

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