Tourism is one of the most promising drivers of growth for the world economy. The size and reach of the sector makes it critically important from a national resource perspective. Even small changes toward greening can have important impacts (United Nations Environment Programme/UNEP 2011). Like all sectors, the tourism sector can have adverse environmental, economic and social effects. These impacts are mostly linked with the construction and management of infrastructure such as roads, airports, and of tourism facilities, such as resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops, golf courses, and marinas. Poorly managed tourism can put immense pressure on an area and lead to soil erosion, increased air, soil and marine pollution, natural habitat loss, depletion of natural resources, increased pressure on endangered, and high greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

On the other hand, tourism has the potential to contribute to environmental protection and resource conservation by creating public appreciation of the environment and to spread awareness of environmental problems. If efficiently planned and managed, tourism could in the long run prove to be a supportive economic and political force for conservation.

In light of the importance of tourism in sustainable development, the National Department of Tourism (NDT) has developed the Tourism Resource Efficiency Programme (TREP). This programme is designed to provide information to tourism businesses on how they can achieve resource efficiency. The NDT partnered with the National Cleaner Production Centre – South Africa (NCPC-SA) to promote resource efficiency in tourism. The programme aims to help tourism businesses identify and implement operational efficiency measures that lead to long-term savings and improved competitiveness. The programme seeks to align with national government policies and objectives, and to provide tools and methods for Tourism businesses to achieve resource efficiency. The programme is based on the proven methodology of the National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPC).

The NDT encourages tourism businesses to participate in the programme by providing training and technical assistance. The programme is designed to be flexible and adaptable, with a focus on practical, cost-effective solutions. The programme is designed to be accessible to all tourism businesses, regardless of size or location. The programme is designed to be inclusive, with a focus on empowering local communities and promoting sustainable tourism development.

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The National Cleaner Production Centre – South Africa (NCPC-SA) promotes the implementation of resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) methodologies to assist industry to lower costs through reduced energy, water and materials usage, and waste management. The NCPC-SA has partnered with the National Department of Tourism (NDT) to promote resource efficiency in the tourism sector. The programme seeks to align with national government policies and objectives, and to provide tools and methods for Tourism businesses to achieve resource efficiency. The programme is based on the proven methodology of the National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPC).

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Resource efficiency can be achieved through the implementation of key five (05) phases:

Phase 1: Planning and organization
• The Management of the tourism businesses should commit to and prioritize resource efficiency;
• A resource efficiency Project Team should be set up;
• An Environmental Policy should be developed by the business; and
• Planning for the RECP Assessment should be conducted.

Phase 2: Pre-assessment / Quick scan
• Provide a company description;
• Develop a Process Flow Chart;
• Conduct Walkthrough / Site Inspection; and
• Determine focus areas for assessment.

Phase 3: Detailed assessment
• Collect data on resource use and waste;
• Identify RECP Options;
• Water efficient technologies, efficient flush toilets:
  - Stealth 0.8 GPF Toilet:
    - 3 Litres per flush
    - 3.3 m3/y at 3 flushes per day
  - New Designs:
    - 1.5 Litres per flush
    - 4.0 m3/y at 3 flushes per day
• Alternative sources of energy:
  - Hybrid solar water heater:
    - 480 kWh/month
    - R264.00/month @ R0.55/kWh (Estimates)
• Efficient technologies:
  - Use energy efficient air conditioning systems;
  - Use energy efficient cooking stoves;
  - Gas stove
    - New Designs
    - Old designs
• Waste recycling and disposal:
  - UVO 012 423 9460
  - Environment.

Phase 4: Feasibility analysis
• Technical Analysis:
  - Determine technical soundness - get technical advice;
  - Determine back up/maintenance; and
  - Assess durability.

• Financial Analysis:
  - Determine the cost of implementation;
  - Determine payback time; and
  - Determine rate of return on investment.

• Environmental Analysis:
  - Determine environmental benefits - less pollution, less waste, energy savings, etc.;
  - Potential green certification; and
  - Compliance with environmental legislation.

Phase 5: Implementation and continuous improvement
• Prepare an Action Plan;
• Implement RECP Options;
• Monitor & Evaluate Performance; and
• Sustain RECP Activities.

To find out more about the Tourism Resource Efficiency in Tourism, visit the following websites:
• www.tourism.gov.za
• www.ncpc.co.za
• www.unep.org

For more information or to provide feedback on the brochure, please contact the Tourism Greening and Climate Change Sub-unit on (012) 444 6510 or e-mail nmakamu@tourism.gov.za.

Phase 2: Pre-assessment / Quick scan
• Pro - assessment / Quick scan
  • Determine RECP options
    - Efficient lighting systems, LEDs:
      - 40W Incandescent bulb
      - 11W CFL
      - 7W LED
    - Waste recycling and disposal
    - New Designs
    - Old designs
  - Cleaning and Sanitation
  - Maintenance

Phase 3: Detailed assessment
• Identify RECP options
  • Water efficient technologies, efficient flush toilets:
    - Stealth 0.8 GPF Toilet:
      - 3 Litres per flush
      - 3.3 m3/y at 3 flushes per day
    - New Designs:
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