

# Sustainability Management Plan



# RECORD OF REVISIONS

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Executive Office

Endorsed by:

Rajeshwar Rao Kalakuntla

Resort Manager

Approved by:

Patrick de Staercke **General Manager** 

Subject:

Sustainability Management Plan

#### **PURPOSE**

Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa recognizes that Earth's resources are finite and should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to long-term priorities and consequences of the ways in which resources are used. The resort aims to

The Sustainability Management Plan is created to express our firm commitment to sustainability and that the business operates in the principles of sustainable practices and that decision-making within the resort regarding its initiatives is governed by national and global environmental legislations and internal policies to achieve its objectives of improving the resort's sustainable business practices, reduce long-term negative environmental impact and stewarding the preservation of this island nation's natural resources for the future generations without compromising the quality of service it renders and financial status.

to ensure that decision making within our resort contributes to achieve its objectives, in order to improve its sustainability, reduce its long-term environmental impact and increase the welfare of its employees, guests and of the environment that surrounds us. The Sustainability Management Plan is to guide the daily operations of the business in a sustainable manner in considering the environmental, socio-cultural, quality, and health & safety issues.

# **Energy Conservation objectives**

- o Green energy utilization.
- o Reduction in amount of CO2 emissions.
- o Optimize energy efficiency of plants.
- o Reduce energy expenditure.

#### Waste management objectives:

- o Reduce water expenditure.
- o Reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste.
- o Increase the amount of waste that we recycle.
- o Improve the results obtained in previous years.

# General objectives:

- o Achieve Green Globe certification for our resort.
- o Lead the decision-making process to be more sustainable.
- Develop a business strategy based on sustainability, quality, safety & health.

# • Satisfaction goals:

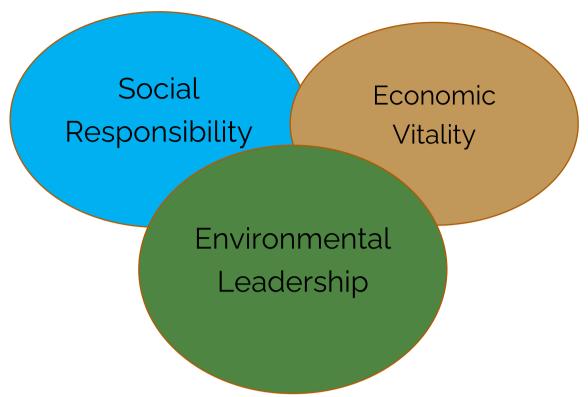
- o Increase commitment to our guests.
- o Increase in guest satisfaction measured by surveys.
- o Provide guests with information on good waste management practices.
- o Provide guests with information on the resort's CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) projects.



# • Training objectives:

- o Raise awareness of the resort's CRS (Customer Relation Service) workers.
- o All workers are aware of environmental policies.
- o Conduct Recycling training for colleagues.
- o Train a minimum of 1 department per month in sustainability initiatives implemented in the resort.





#### **SCOPE**

The scope of the Sustainability Management Plan covers all activities at departments coming under Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa, and its integration with all team members and guests, business partners, owners, other stakeholders, and the environment at large.

#### REFERENCE:

Green Globe Certification Standard and Guide to Certification.

#### VISION:

We consider Green Globe as the premier global certification for sustainable travel and tourism. Green Globe Certification offers the world's most recognized and longest running program allowing us, as one of the green leaders in the travel and tourism industry, to confidently promote our environmental credentials along with our commitment to the people and prosperity of our location.

Sustainability within Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa is defined as "carrying out its business in line with our resort's guiding principles of being conscious of global environment issues and acknowledge our responsibility towards the environment. While the well-being of our guests remains the forefront, we commit ourselves to carrying out operations in a sustainable manner, taking every step to minimize operational impact on, and preserve the environment wherever we operate."

We believe our guests, staff and environment are equally important. Our Sustainable Management Plan ensures team members, guests, business partners, owners, other stakeholders, the environment and the property are taken care of.

Our Sustainability Management Plan encompasses four key areas:

- I. **Environmental** to be actively involved in conserving resources, utilizing renewable energy to extent possible, reducing pollution, conserving biodiversity, ecosystems, and landscapes.
- II. **Socio-cultural** to be involved in corporate social responsibility actions, community development, local employment, fair trade, respect local communities, team member protection. Being involve with activities to support the local community
- III. **Quality** any activity that can sustain itself economically through creating competitive advantages within the industry with inspired service that not only meets, but exceeds guest expectations; it continues to contribute to the economic well-being of the surrounding



community through local ownership, employment, buying local products, etc. A sustainable business should benefit its team members, guests, business partners, owners, and other stakeholders.

IV. **Health & Safety** – Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa complies with all established health and safety regulations and ensures that both guest and colleagues protection instruments are in place.

# A. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

#### A1. Implement a Sustainable Management Plan:

Our resort shall establish and maintain the SMP (Sustainable Management Plan) complying with requirements included in this section.

Our properties will provide and write Policies and Procedures that:

- a) are appropriate to the nature and scale of the resort's activities.
- b) are aligned with the four key SMP areas i.e. Environmental, socio-cultural, quality and health & safety issues.
- c) include a commitment to continual improvement of the SMP
- d) include a commitment to comply as a minimum with the current applicable legislations, regulations and other requirement to which the resort subscribes;
- e) provide a framework for setting and reviewing SMP objectives and targets;
- f) are documented, implemented, maintained and communicated to all team members and leadership;
- g) are available to all interested and affected parties; and
- h) are reviewed periodically to remain relevant and appropriate to the resort's SMP.

**A2. Renewable Energy Initiatives** – Initiated projects to install Solar PV panels to supply energy for chillders.

# A3. Legal Compliance:

The Resort is licensed according to the law of the Republic of Maldives and in compliance with all relevant international or local legislations and regulations, including health, safety, labor, and environmental aspects, and insurance policies and other guest and team member's protection instruments are up to date and in order.

## A 4. Team Member Training:

Team member hiring, training, annual appraisal and performance review, at our resort are in line with the resort competencies and competency models, based on the resort believe and expectations.

We strongly believe that as a growing company it is important to follow all the processes, to achieve a healthy and balanced team, by encouraging internal development and growth.

# A.5 Customer Satisfaction

Our properties monitor guest satisfaction by receiving feedback in different ways and platforms. We strongly believe, accept and work on any kind of positive or constructive feedback provided by our guest.

Besides customer satisfaction, we also review and monitor internal quality performance and satisfaction. Some of the tools used for monitoring and reviewing the same are:

- a. Customer Comment Cards / Guest Satisfaction Survey
- b. Instant guest feedback log (Sunshine Guests Report, Vesta and Sunshine Guest Chat Group)
- c. 24 48 hours' feedback and resolution as appropriate
- d. Guest emails
- e. all 3<sup>rd</sup> party online platforms such as TripAdvisor, Booking.com and all social media channels.



# A.6 Accuracy of Promotional Materials

All communication regarding promotional material at our resort goes through the Sales and Marketing team and is in line with the company standards, local regulations and cultural norms.

We do not overpromise or mislead our guests; promotional materials are truthful and do not promise more than can be reasonably expected by guests.

#### A.7 Local Zoning, Design and Construction

Our resort are always located in an uninhabited island which have been operating as another resort previously. No local significant sites, water courses, wildlife of any sort, vegetation or residents would have been disturbed in an adverse manner.

Ongoing maintenance and repairs are performed regularly. The refurbishments, if any, include re-using as much of the original structure as possible, incorporate local design and architecture (i.e. kadjan roofing, dhoni shaped masts, coir, wood and bamboo) and renovation/interior design is always performed with the purpose of being as sustainable, energy-saving and long-lasting as possible, and includes use of environmentally sound materials.

# **A.8 Interpretative Tourism**

We inform our guests about the local environment, local culture and cultural heritage through various means; may it be electronic or something as simple as friendly dialogue with guests. As the Maldives is predominantly a Muslim country, guests are made aware of the local culture during the holy month of Ramadan as special emphasis is made on period of fasting of colleagues.

Special Maldivian themed nights are held in the main restaurant every week, Monday being the national day, in which local people wear traditional cloths and perform for the guests, and try and involve them as much as possible.

On arrival to the resort, each guest is greeted with the sound of Bodu-Beru (traditional Maldivian drums).

Various excursion packages are available within the resort to visit nearby local islands, so that guests are able to experience the real Maldives, interact with the local community and support local businesses like handicrafts, and other souvenir shops.

# A.9 Communications Strategy

We communicate with our guests and visitors to the resort and the website in a comprehensive manner. Our implementations, plans and strategy for a sustainable operation are clearly defined, as well as our involvement with the local community and other charity work.

Our sustainable operations involve our guests, example: we have placed an environment card in all the villas in order to give our guests an option whether or not they want the bed linen and/or towels to be replaced for the day, hence, providing them with an opportunity to play a direct role in water and energy conservation.

Through our "Green book", guests are informed about energy and water conservation practices, waste management initiatives and also reminded of the damage inflicted on fragile coral if one stands on them, and the need to protect the ecosystem around the island.

In the same way, guests are also politely requested not to collect or remove shells from the beach, even empty ones, as they could be the homes of hermit crabs.

#### **A.10 Health and Safety**

We follow strict environment, health and safety laws, regulations and procedures to conserve and protect the environment and create a workplace where we bring the best out of our team members whilst avoiding the risk of injury.

Team members are appropriately trained so as to make them aware of the health and safety issues while working and guests are made aware of hazards by using appropriate signage and other forms of communication.



Purchasing and operating policy for all mechanisms, equipment and facilities is that they be as environmentally friendly as possible: low emission and consuming minimum energy. Another requirement we try, and meet is to procure goods and equipment which are durable and long lasting.

We have an experienced team of engineers and technicians who maintain the facilities and equipment, so that we have constant checks on them being in good working condition. All necessary and mandatory safety requirements for the same are in order, such as Risk Assessments and use of Personal Protective Equipment.

We have engaged the services of a Food Safety Company – Nsure PVT. LTD. - who visit the premises quarterly to ensure the food safety compliance systems are in order. New kitchen colleagues are trained on safety and procedures, and must undergo a mandatory basic food hygiene course in food handling.

#### Highlights:

- Guests are made cautious by posting safety instructions in the villas and other public areas.
- Swimming pool depth is clearly marked including pictorial, NO diving signs, life-rings and notice boards.
- Basic Health and Safety training, fire training, evacuation drills are conducted regularly for team members.
- Safety stickers are placed on all full-length glass.
- All paint is environmentally friendly and lead free, with low VOC content.
- An active in-house system is in place whereby team members are trained to report any malfunctions and leaks immediately, and there is a good follow-up system to ensure the work is carried out satisfactorily.

#### A.11 Disaster Management

In the Maldives, Tsunami is a real threat, our resort take very seriously their Disaster Management plans, taking into account the three R's – Readiness; Response; Recovery.

Fire Safety: the resort uses the services of a third-party Fire company to inspect, analyses, advice, train and certify all colleagues.

Yearly drills are held involving all team members, where a real disaster is simulated, and practice responses are undertaken. All drills are observed by independent parties and observations and reports written.

#### **B. SOCIAL/ECONOMIC**

#### **B.1 Community Development**

This section is supported by the Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa CSR (Customer Service Relation) policy; the policy states that the resort recognizes its role and responsibilities in contributing to the sustainable development of the communities in which it operates. This policy aims at maximizing the return on Community Investments and their impact on the local community.

Through our community investment initiative, we have identified unique areas of involvement where we can actively support our local communities and engage in a mutually rewarding way with our stakeholders.

**Education**: Supporting initiatives focused on vocational training and skills development that improve employability in the tourism and hospitality sector. This is done by taking on interns from local educational establishments and supporting their growth and development. Further job opportunities are offered within the company.

**Healthcare**: Supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the health and well-being of local communities. We look into schemes of donating and sponsoring to the health facilities at local islands.

**Cultural Preservation**: Supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the ability of small businesses that are strategically linked to business needs to perform more effectively in order to create economic growth. We regularly buy from local producers and support local fishermen.

Environmental Protection: Supporting initiatives that help protect the integrity of the environment.



In collaboration with TGI Maldives or a similar third party, we are committed to protecting and maintaining our marine environment, chiefly our house reef, which is constantly rated as one of the best snorkeling/diving spots in the Maldives. We engage a third party to conduct yearly checks of the health of the reef, and are proud to say that until now, we have consistently maintained the biodiversity. Additionally, we have initiated a program to catalogue all the marine species that are found in our waters, which will aid in our conservation and education efforts.

We also want to support initiatives that use innovative products and services to help solve environmental problems.

#### **B.2 Local Employment**

Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa proactively supports the recruitment and development of Maldivian nationals at various managerial level positions across its operational and support functions, with a view that such Maldivian nationals will be supported, mentored and guided to grow and move into leadership positions across the company.

The element of local employment is supported by:

- Equal Employment Opportunity policy (part of the Business Ethics and Conduct Policy)
- Code of Conduct policy (part of the Business Ethics and Conduct policy)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Policy
- Workplace Health and Safety policy

#### **B.3 Fair Trade**

Fair trade within our resort is driven by the "Procedure Goods & Services" process in the Maldives wherein resorts ensures the use of right methods to select suppliers and procure goods and services at the right quality, price, time, source and delivery while protecting the company.

Our Policy:

"We at Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa ensure that all processes are done in compliance with relevant laws and consistent with ethical, social and environmental standards."

# **B.4 Local Entrepreneurs**

Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa does not engage with local entrepreneurs dealing with historical artifacts. Moreover, it is not permitted by law.

It is worthwhile to state that we do engage in organizing events and activities that portray the local culture, especially during Ramadan, Eid, and Maldives National Day. Local craftsmen and businessmen are brought are encouraged to visit our properties to enable them to enhance their living, giving guests a chance to interact with them, and learn about local cultures.

# **B.5 Respect Local Population & Culture**

As stated earlier the Maldives is predominantly a Muslim country and as such guests and team members are made aware of the local culture. All efforts are made, where applicable, that due respect is given to the local values and beliefs, and we commit to safeguarding the Maldivian culture and ensuring that the local community shares in the benefits of tourism.

# **B.6 Exploitation**

Our resort adhere in strict compliance with the Maldives Labor Law. Hence, appropriate policies are in place against the employment of children, sexual harassment and exploitation.

The element of avoidance of exploitation is supported by:

- Equal Employment Opportunity policy (part of the Business Ethics and Conducts Policy)
- Code of Conduct policy (part of the Business Ethics and Conduct policy)
- Harassment Policy
- Maldives Labor Act



#### **B.7 Equitable Hiring**

Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa promotes diversity and equality on all levels of the business, and no team member or applications are discriminated against in any way.

All positions are filled on the basis of competence. Our resort adhere to all local laws and regulations concerning labor laws, and offers conditions and wages superior to the minimum requirements.

Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa employ people of many nationalities – currently we have no less than 20 different nationalities on our properties. Women candidates are encouraged to apply across all levels of the business.

The Maldives has strict labor law related issues, which we adhere to in full.

#### **B.8 Colleague Protection**

Salaries and benefits meet national regulations, and all payments required by law into insurance and pension funds are made on behalf of all team members. Overtime is paid for hours worked beyond the established work in accordance with Maldives labor law. Weekly hours and working hours do not exceed the legal maximum established by the labor law, but being a hospitality industry at times a need might arise to work additional hours, team members are accordingly remunerated as per the policies outlined.

To further enforce team member protection at our properties, the Champion's Care Committee comprising of employees of all levels and the management hold regular meetings and assure that any concerns or ideas from any colleague is given due considerations and actioned on if possible.

#### **B.9 Basic Services**

The activities of the business have not impacted or jeopardized resources or services in the local area or neighboring communities in any negative manner. The activities of the business generate a number of secure jobs and reflect a positive influence in the community.

#### **B.10 Local Livelihood**

Since our resort are located on an independent island, and the business encompasses the entire island, its activities do not affect any of the other islands around. Access to land, water, housing, right-of-way and transport for any neighboring communities has not been impacted at all. On the contrary, the activity of the business contributes to the economy of neighboring islands by creating jobs and buying from them.

# **B.11 Bribery and Corruption**

Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa prohibits all forms of bribery, directly or through third parties, including team members from soliciting, arranging or accepting bribes.

No direct or indirect contributions to political parties, etc, is made, as a way of obtaining advantage in business transactions.

The resort will not deal with contractors and suppliers known or reasonably suspected to be paying bribes. Due diligence is undertaken in evaluating prospective contractors and suppliers to ensure that they have effective anti-bribery Program.

The element of avoidance of bribery and corruption is supported by:

- Code of Conduct policy (part of the Business Ethics and Conduct policy)
- Gift policy
- Anti-bribery and corruption policy

#### C: CULTURAL HERITAGE

Our colleagues are trained to guide guests towards the cultural sights and events and/or entertainment/restaurants that the guests are most interested in.

Local Maldivian culture and idiosyncrasies can be explained and discussed with guests, but mainly in a nice-to-know form, as the culture is significantly different from anywhere else in the western/developed part of the world, from where we have a substantial number of guests coming from.



Guests can read through the basic do's and don'ts in our inhouse Green Book through direct stream which contains the resort's environmentally conscious literature containing information on the resorts' sustainability initiatives, what they are doing for the environment and how guests can help.

Historical and archeological artifacts are not sold, traded, or displayed. Business complies with laws, standards and regulations concerning the protection of historical sites and cultural heritage.

Goods which are protected and may not be bought or taken are communicated to guests through inhouse literature.

The Maldives is a treasure of marine diversity and fragile coral, and their protection and natural growth is publicized as much as possible.

The villas and all public areas are of rustic ethnic charm and blend in naturally with the surroundings and landscape. The scenic beauty of the Maldives is enhanced through our thoughtful architecture and design of structures.

#### D: ENVIRONMENTAL

Our resort source and obtains many locally produced goods including watermelons, papayas, kurumba, bananas, and many others which have been grown organically. Freshly caught fish using pole and line method is brought directly to us just off the sea by local fishermen every day.

As much as possible, we favor suppliers who conduct their business in a responsible and ethical manner. We buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste. We prefer products which are eco-friendly, bio-degradable, made from re-cycled material and have minimum impact on the environment.

We do not use any invasive alien species in our gardens and landscapes, we also minimize the trimming and try to keep the native vegetation as undisturbed as possible. Measures are taken to prevent the introduction of pests and exotic species.

No captive wildlife, endangered species, products thereof or any form of unethical items are used, sold or allowed on our Resorts.

Our business activities do not impact on the habitat of local wildlife or plants, appropriate measures are taken to minimize noise, chemical pollution, and artificial lighting from having impact on wildlife.

Endangered species, products thereof, or items stemming from unsustainable practices are not sold, traded, or displayed on the property's grounds.

Guests are provided with information about protected areas within the properties influence zone and encouraged to visit protected areas.

Guests are provided with information on native wildlife and plant species found in the area through our Green Book.

The element of environmental protection is supported by:

- Environmental Policy
- Pollution Management Plan
- Landscaping Policy
- Biodiversity Policy
- Green Book



This concludes the Sustainability Management Plan for Emerald Faarufushi Resort & Spa in 2025.

We are fully aware that sustainability is an ongoing journey; therefore, the Sustainability Management Plan will be reviewed annually.

The resorts will continuously measure and monitor the following at planned intervals to verify that we are achieving continuous improvement in the field of sustainability:

- 1. Electricity consumption
- 2. Water consumption
- 3. GHG emission
- 4. Amount of waste generated by the resort

Our Sustainability Management Plan is supported by the following Policies and procedure along with other supporting documents:

- 5. Environmental Policy
- 6. Health and Safety Policy
- 7. Business Ethics and Conduct Policy
- 8. Waste Management Plan
- 9. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy
- 10. Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- 11. Landscaping Policy
- 12. Pollution Management Plan
- 13. Disaster Management Plan
- 14. Green Book

**Note:** This policy will be regularly reviewed and can be amended subjected to change to the local Employment Act and other Safety and Environmental Laws. During circumstances of unforeseeable impacts to business such as COVID, there could be changes and amendments to this policy reflecting the existing circumstances and government regulations at the present period.

Any amendments, deletions or modifications to this policy must be approved and signed jointly by (a) Resort Manager and (b) General Manager. Any such amendments, deletions or modifications shall supersede any **previous** policy.

