

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSING OF APPLICATION RELATING TO RIVER BASED ECO-TOURISM ATTRACTIONS

DEFINITIONS:

Ecotourism: - is the controlled use of protected natural areas, historical sites and cultural heritage, ensuring economic and social benefits for the nation as a whole and individual communities in particular while guaranteeing the integrity and conservation of these areas and educational encounters between visitors and locals, as well as natural and cultural phenomena. (Source: Office of the Prime Minister – Tourism)

Nature Based Tourism: - is the non-consumption enjoyment of natural habitats or visits to undeveloped green environment. It does not necessarily operate in harmony with, nor ensures the sustainability of the physical environment, and cultural characteristics of a local community. (Source: Office of the Prime Minister – Tourism)

1. River Rafting Authority

Applicant must send a letter of enquiry to the River Rafting Authority in the offices of Tourism Development Planning Company to address the following:

- a. Is the proposed river gazetted for this type of attraction?
- b. Does the River Rafting Authority have any issues with the proposed attraction?

Applicant must submit copy of the River rafting Authority's approval.

2. Water Quality Test Results.

The applicant is to submit the results of six continuous weekly water quality samples which must be taken at the start and end of the proposed reach (distance of tour) of the river. The tests should be done for faecal coliform.

3. Project Description

The applicant is to provide a detailed description of the project to be undertaken and should include but not limited to the following.

- a. A map (scale 1:50,000) delineating the proposed reach to be used.
- b. Actual distance of the river to be used.
- c. State any existing uses of the river which should include the proposed reach (distance of tour), and upstream and down stream of this reach. (Uses should include but not limiting to dams, wells, hydro power plants, residential, commercial, agricultural and any other attractions).

4. **Property**

Where the applicant seeks to have the proposed attraction established, proof of ownership (land title or lease agreement) must be submitted.

5. **Buildings and sewage system**

- A proper description of existing facilities and the current type of sewage system used if any. This is to be accompanied with a schematic layout.
- For sewage system applicants must note that ***septic tanks and absorption pits will not be permitted within 100 meters of the river or any other water body.***
- In cases where holding tanks will be used to store sewage applicant must state what is the storage capacity, frequency at which it will be emptied, who is the contracted cesspool emptier and in which sewage treatment plant it will be emptied.
- A copy of the letter from the National Water Commission stating whether or not permission is granted for the above is to be submitted.
- If permission is denied and also the attraction is less than 100 meters from the river bank, then the applicant will need to submit approved designs for a sewage treatment system. (Suggested system can be constructed wetlands which provide tertiary treatment).

6. **Solid Waste**

Applicant should indicate how the solid waste generated will be treated and disposed of. A letter from National Solid Waste Management Authority must be submitted indicating whether or not permission is given to have it placed in the municipal dump.

7. **Local Approvals**

Applicant must submit a copy of any local (Local Planning Authority & Local Health Department) approval.