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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

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**Specification for operation management of national ecotourism
attractions**

国家级生态旅游区运营管理规范

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1 Scope

This document lays down the requirements for national ecotourism attractions with respect to resources, environment, products, services, facilities, functions and management.

This document applies to areas in which tourism activities are carried out on the basis of natural ecological environments of every kind and of the human ecosystems that live alongside them.

3 Terms and definitions

3.1 ecotourism - a way of travelling that takes sustainable development as its idea, harmony between people and nature as its rule and protection of the ecological environment as its precondition, and that relies on a sound natural ecological environment and the human ecosystem living alongside it to offer ecological experience, ecological understanding and ecological education while giving pleasure of body and mind.

3.2 ecotourism resource - all those things and elements within a natural ecological environment and the human ecosystem living alongside it that can attract tourists, can be developed and used for ecotourism, and can produce economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits.

3.3 ecotourism product - the combination of tourist attractions and services offered to tourists through the development and use of ecotourism resources.

3.4 ecotourism attraction - an area with a clearly defined spatial extent, resting on ecotourism resources, whose main function is ecotourism.

3.5 national ecotourism attraction - an ecotourism attraction that reflects the advanced level of ecotourism in the country and plays a demonstrating and leading role in the development of ecotourism nationwide.

3.6 clean energy - energy that emits no pollutants and is friendly to the environment during its production and during the consumption of its products.

3.7 green purchasing - a way of purchasing that selects materials such as products of low pollution, products that can be recycled, resources that are renewable and products of low energy consumption.

3.8 habitat - the sum of the ecological environmental factors of a particular site for an individual organism, a population or a community. Note: it includes landform, topography, climate, soil and hydrology.

4 Ecotourism resources

4.1 Scale. A national ecotourism attraction should possess ecotourism resources that are large in volume or many in the number of types.

4.2.1 The ecotourism resources shall be strongly combinable in their types and the landscape shall be harmonious.

4.2.2 Animal and plant resources shall be rich, vegetation shall be in good condition, and habitat types should be numerous.

4.3.1 The ecosystem shall be strongly native. Ancient and famous trees and native local plant communities shall be well protected; harmful alien species shall not be introduced, and biological invasion shall be prevented.

4.3.2 The ecological environment shall be kept in its original state and the native habitats of the species shall be intact.

4.3.3 The human ecosystem shall be strongly native.

4.4.1 The resource bodies shall be complete and shall keep their natural form and structure.

4.4.2 The ecosystem shall be complete, and the abiotic factors such as sunlight, air, water, soil, temperature and humidity and the ecological processes shall be in overall harmony.

4.4.3 The cultural landscape shall be kept complete.

4.5.1 The conservation value of the biodiversity should be high, with rare and endangered species present.

4.5.2 The landscape within the area shall have high aesthetic, scientific research or cultural value.

4.5.3 Some of the resources shall be typical, representative and scarce, and shall have a considerable influence in society.

4.5.4 The ecological resources shall be of high recreational value and shall be able to provide a sound basis for the development of ecotourism.

4.6.1 The ecotourism resources shall have distinct characteristics and be recognisable.

4.6.2 The ecotourism resources shall be well known and understood by the public within a certain range.

4.6.3 The ecotourism resources should be well accepted by the market and should enjoy a high level of public goodwill and trust.

5 Ecological environment and culture

5.1.1 Surface water shall be clear and shall reach or exceed class III water quality of GB 3838; seawater quality shall reach or exceed class two water quality of GB 3097.

5.1.2 Air quality shall reach grade one of GB 3095 all the year round.

5.1.3 The soil environmental quality grade in the areas of visitor activity shall reach the class one standard of GB 36600.

5.1.4 The noise at the accommodation and reception facilities within the area shall meet the class 1 standard of GB 3096, less than 55 dB by day and less than 45 dB by night.

5.1.5 The quality of the light environment shall reach the three-star standard of GB/T 12454.

5.1.6 Greenhouse gas emissions should be kept within a reasonable range by the combined use of low-carbon technology, low-carbon management and increased carbon sinks.

5.1.7 Forest cover shall be kept at a high level and measures shall be laid down for the protection of primary forest and natural secondary forest.

5.1.8 Grassland shall be beautiful in landscape, and its protection and rational use shall be strengthened.

5.1.9 Rocks and caves shall be of high viewing value and shall be kept in their original state.

5.1.10 The elements of the ecosystem shall be in organic harmony and shall be kept in

their natural state.

5.2.1 There shall have been no serious event of destruction of the ecological environment within the area in the last three years.

5.2.2 Ecological environments already damaged within the area shall be restored and kept in harmony with the surrounding environment and landscape.

5.2.3 Sewage, waste oil and waste gas shall not be discharged and refuse shall not be dumped in any form directly; tourist boats in operation shall be equipped with the necessary environmental protection facilities and fitted with sewage and waste oil recovery and treatment facilities.

5.2.4 There shall be no excessive application of chemical fertilizer, pesticides or insecticides within the area. Where there is a large-scale outbreak of pests or disease and human intervention is needed, it should be carried out under the guidance of specialists in the ecological field.

5.2.5 There shall be no production activity within the area having a considerable effect on the ecological environment, and no unplanned felling of timber or other destruction of vegetation.

5.2.6 A biodiversity protection and management plan shall be drawn up and biodiversity shall be included in the monitoring. A national ecotourism attraction should have dedicated biodiversity protection staff and should engage consulting specialists.

5.2.7 Survey, recording and monitoring work shall be carried out within the area on the species, the state of the populations, the dynamic distribution and the habitats of the wild animals and plants under national and provincial protection; there shall be a spatial layout plan of wildlife corridors, and artificial corridors shall be provided at suitable places.

5.2.8 For man-made facilities within wildlife habitat areas, night lighting and noise shall be controlled, the natural darkness of the sky shall be kept, and disturbance of wildlife shall be avoided.

5.2.9 Special protection plans shall be drawn up for rare and endangered species, and the species protection measures shall be effective.

5.2.10 There shall be no hunting of wild animals or destruction of the living environment of wild animals within the area, and wildlife products shall not be sold. In connection with greening and other ecological construction projects, the living environment of protected species may be designed for enlargement into suitable habitat.

5.2.11 Before construction work within the area, an environmental impact assessment and a social impact assessment shall be carried out; pollution treatment facilities shall be designed, built and brought into use at the same time as the main works.

5.2.12 An environmental management plan for the national ecotourism attraction shall be