

Coral Reef Sustainable Destinations

Approaches for Local Action Strategies:
Recreational Use and Misuse



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Palau's Rock Islands: a commitment to sustainability



Photo by Koror State Department

- Community involvement
- Committed to reducing impacts
- Sustainable Financing
- Increased sustainable best practices
- Strong management
- Tourism returning benefits

Coral Reef Sustainable Destination Model



Photo by Katherine Chaston, Koror State Government, Palau

Integrated response to unmet capacity needs

- Resource management
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Community involvement

Leverages opportunities for change

- Existing mandate for protection
- Community desire
- Locally solvable challenges



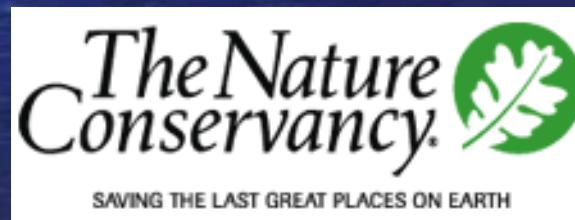
Coral Reef Sustainable Destination Model

CRSD	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Changing Business Practices	First steps of education program	Dive operators, tourists, bulk purchasers	50% adoption	80% adoption Self-regulation	Full compliance & expansion
Conservation Alliances	Process to build alliances started	trained Community support, collaborative projects	Active community	Private/MPA conservation strategies	MRP ambassadors
Sustainable Financing			Stakeholder process	Adoption of user fees, transparent	User fees & other revenues
Reducing Threats	Mooring plan & stakeholder process	Mooring installation	Maintenance, education, patrolling, illegal fishing reduced	Illegal fishing stopped	
Effective Management	Surveys, mgt plan started	Mgt plan adopted	Rules posted, visitation monitoring	Mgt plan updated, 2 yr monitoring, w/ volunteers	Monitoring info used, tourism mgt tools (CC, LAC)
Benefit-Sharing		Alternative livelihood training	Tourism sector hiring locals	Benefits to community quantified	Micro-enterprises supported by tourism sector

CRSD Rock Islands Example

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Partnership



CRSD Progress

- New collaboration between private sector, government, and NGOs
- Plan for zoning for South Lagoon Management Area
- Proposal for increased tourism fees
- Better educated tourists
- Increased use of sustainable business practices



Environmental Rules

Sam's Tours
Palau Technical Divers
Planet Blue Sea Kayak Tours

Protect our Environment

- Do not throw anything overboard
- Recycle aluminum cans & batteries

Protect our Coral Reefs

- Kick carefully with your fins
- Use reef hooks as instructed
- Avoid touching reefs or walls
- Secure all gear close to your body
- Do not sit, stand or walk on corals

Protect our Marine Life

- Do not touch marine life
- Do not feed fish while diving
- Avoid overturning rocks and corals
- Do not take shells or corals from the ocean

Preserve our Historical Wrecks

- Do not harass marine life
- Do not touch or remove artifacts
- Move around slowly and carefully
- Avoid creating fin-wash or silting
- Avoid making physical contact with wrecks

Help Keep Palau Beautiful!



Next Steps

Rock Islands:

- Finalization and implementation of Management Plan, zoning and user fee
- Launch of tour guide training and certification
- Ongoing conservation projects
- Secure new funding



Next Steps



CRSD Model:

- Testing components in PNG, Fiji, & Mesoamerica
- Selected application within LAS: Recreational Use and Misuse
 - Hawaii
 - Florida
 - Potential application in Guam, Saipan, USVI, PR



Thank You