



Description and  
Construction, utilization and grading criteria  
For Eco-lodges in Iran

**Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organization  
(ICHTO)  
Department of tourism  
December 2014**

**Description and construction, utilization and grading criteria for Eco-lodges in Iran**

Edit	Confirm	Approve	Distribute
Tourism services control & evaluation department and national cooperation and agreements office	Department of tourism	Head of Iran cultural heritage, handicrafts and tourism organization (ICHTO)	- State departments for cultural heritage, handicrafts and tourism - technical standards identification system

**Objective:**

The objective of preparing this document is to organize eco-lodges in Iran, protecting native and traditional culture, increasing tourism products and creating a new kind of tourism destinations and attractions.

**Scope:**

Cultural heritage, handicrafts and tourism organization (ICHTO) and all the eco-lodges in the country

**Definition:**

The Eco-lodges are residential places in natural and native areas with maximum environmental consideration, compatible with local architecture, historical environment, and natural features of that area. These places will prepare a basis for developing tourism market with an acceptable quality in maximum interaction with local communities and climate diversity.

**Documents:**

- The guideline for establish, repair, complete, grade and rate of tourism facilities and operation supervising.
- Instruction for eco-lodges establishment and operation.
- Comments and suggestion of eco-tourism specialist and interested parties.

**Minimum necessary requirements for eco-lodges standards:**

The minimum necessary requirements for an eco-lodge to be qualified in an adequate degree are having a level of services and facilities that:

- a) Should be compatible with native architecture
- b) Meet the environmental necessities
- c) Provide secure accommodation

The eco-lodges are classified in 3 grades, A, B or C according to the acquired scores in evaluation process. In this process the issues will be evaluated in three general criteria as follows:

- a) Constructional issues, facilities and services and other related issues, 30% of total score
- b) Human resources issues, health and safety and other related issues, 30% of total score
- c) Sustainability issues, environmental observations and cultural aspects and other related issues, 40% of total score

All the allocated proportions should be considered carefully in scoring process.

**Score evaluation:**

In evaluation process, the scores are ranged between 0 to 10 based on level of quality and favorability.

In eco-lodges with grade C, the minimum score for each issue should not be less than 1 and the mean of total score should be at least 2.

In eco-lodges with grade B, the minimum score for each issue should not be less than 4 and the mean of total score, should be at least 5.

In eco-lodges with grade A, the minimum score for each issue should not be less than 7 and the mean of total score should be at least 8.

The top grade can be awarded to the eco-lodges that provide facilities and services above the criteria limit of classification or perform very special activity for tourism sustainability.

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No.	Description	Grade			Consideration
		A	B	C	
1	Following this guideline for design and establish of any kind of eco-lodges in the country, is obligatory from the date of approval.	*	*	*	The eco-lodges that have been established before the date of approval of this guideline will be qualified by the grading commission.
2	<b>Pre-agreement level:</b> The Request for change or establish an eco-lodge should be discussed in the state committee of tourism planning, before referring to planning and finance deputy of ICHTO for the primarily approval. This committee is in charge for determining the need of state for eco-lodges. It's members are as follows: - State deputy for tourism - State deputy for planning and finance - State eco-tourism expert - One of private sector agent introduced by consulting the state director general.	*	*	*	In the case that state committee of tourism planning rejects the request, the ICHTO is not responsible for providing any kind of facilities for the applicant, but it doesn't mean that the applicant cannot re-submit the request.
3	<b>Necessary documents and process for primarily approval:</b> - A written request submitted by the applicant for establishing the eco-lodge - A formal copy of ownership certificate - Location sketch map - The report prepared by state committee of tourism planning referred to technical committee - Check and approve the location of the requested place and primarily approval by the deputy of planning and finance <b>Note1:</b> the eco-tourism expert should attend in the technical committee meeting. <b>Note2:</b> primarily approval for historical buildings and cultural heritage should be under agreement of cultural heritage deputy and other related departments. Protecting the historical and spiritual values of the monument should be considered strictly in providing physical and necessary spaces.	*	*	*	1- One eco-lodge can consist of two or more residential complex, if they all have one management system and also easy access to each other. 2- It is possible to establish two or more eco-lodges with different objectives and grades in one management system, if their activities have no negative impact to each other.
4	<b>Operation license process :</b> -After construction process, a temporary operation license will be issued according to the requested grade for 6 months. - Extension of the temporary license to 3 years will be done after standardization and grading commission approval.	*	*	*	
5	<b>The location of eco-lodge:</b> The place of an eco-lodge should not be located in service, commercial and residential areas in the city comprehensive map.	*	*	*	- In special cases, it is possible to locate the eco-lodges in the places other than allowed ones such as historical plazas, archeology yards and typical places of the cities by the permission of state

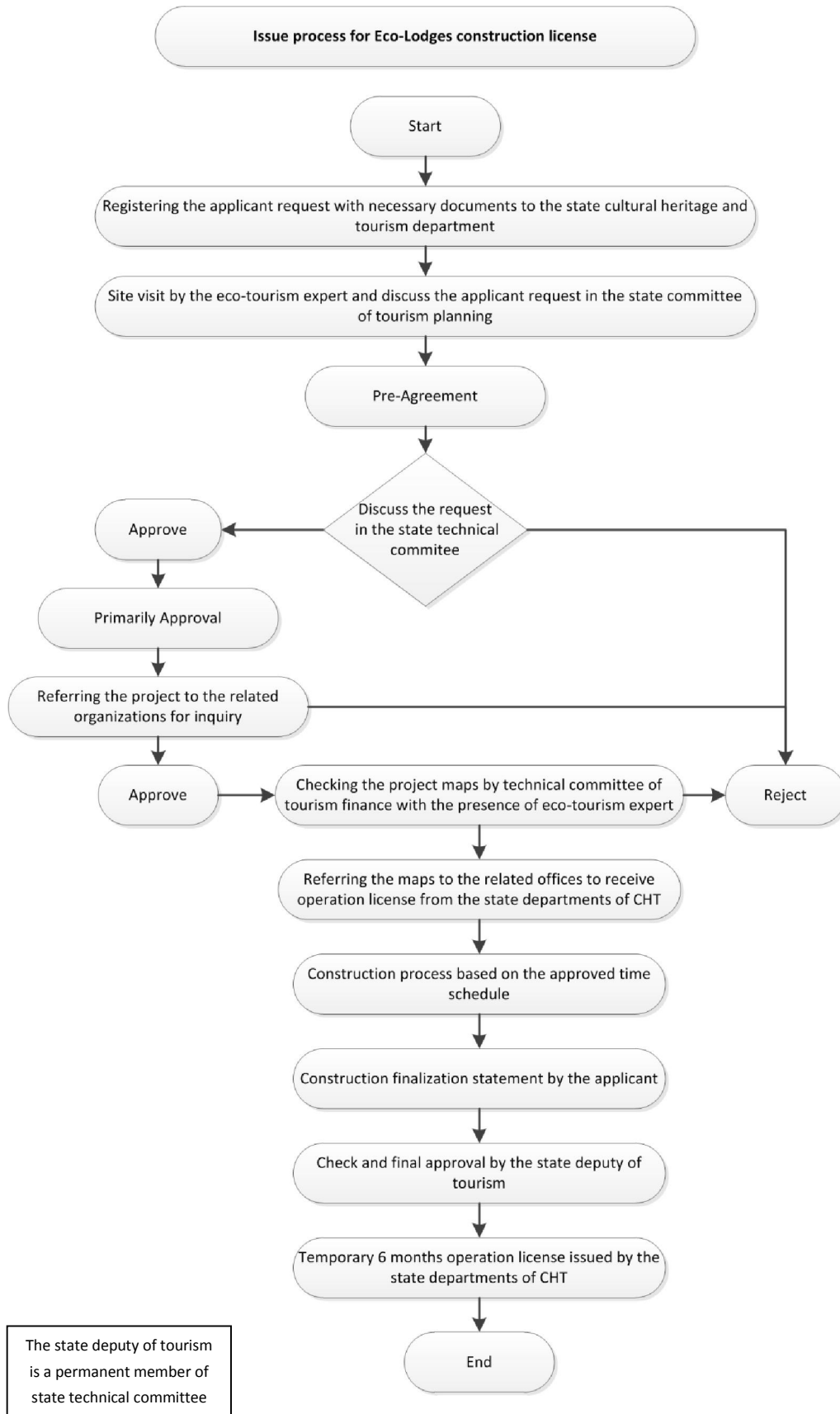
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	<p><b>Note1:</b> The place of eco-lodge should be far from the noise area and installations such as military bases, hospitals, car services centers, schools and gas stations.</p> <p><b>Note2:</b> Having the primary agreement of related organization for eco-lodges depending to the case is necessary.</p>				committee of tourism planning and if having the required indices.
6	The minimum residential units for each eco-lodge are:	8	6	4	<p>1- In special cases, particular location and issues, these numbers can be changed by submitting a justification report from eco-tourism expert approved by technical committee.</p> <p>2- A residential unit in this case is a place with a capacity of 4 persons normally.</p>
7	All eco-lodges should have specific plans for recycling management and optimum reuse of waste water. The existence and establish of eco-lodges should not lead to environmental pollution in any cases.	*	*	*	
8	Eco-lodges should have effective systems for saving water resources such as automatic water taps, waste water management and etc.	*	*	*	
9	Lighting system in eco-lodges should be based on energy saving and besides providing enough light for the guests, have minimum pollution effects in the area.	*	*	*	
10	Heating and cooling systems in eco-lodges should have the minimum negative impact on the environment, besides providing the necessary comfort for the guests.	*	*	*	For this reason, designing of eco-lodges should be more energy efficient using recent technologies to have the maximum isolation.
11	Allocating suitable places for serving foods for the guests including restaurants and dining rooms.	*	*	*	
12	Having a special place for serving traditional tea (tea room)	*			
13	Ability to serve foods in the rooms	*	*		
14	Having a place for showing and selling handicrafts and local productions	*	*		
15	Having the access to communication services	*	*		-In the case of existing of necessary infrastructures
16	Ability to use internet in the rooms	*			
17	Active in protect and introduce native culture	*	*	*	
18	Active in protect the natural environment	*	*		
19	Effective plan for biodiversity protection and presenting tourism products based on cultural, natural and biodiversity values.	*			- Biodiversity protection plans such as private preserves and etc.
20	Presenting eco tours using certified tour leaders by ICHTO.	*	*		
21	Applying modern energy systems to	*			

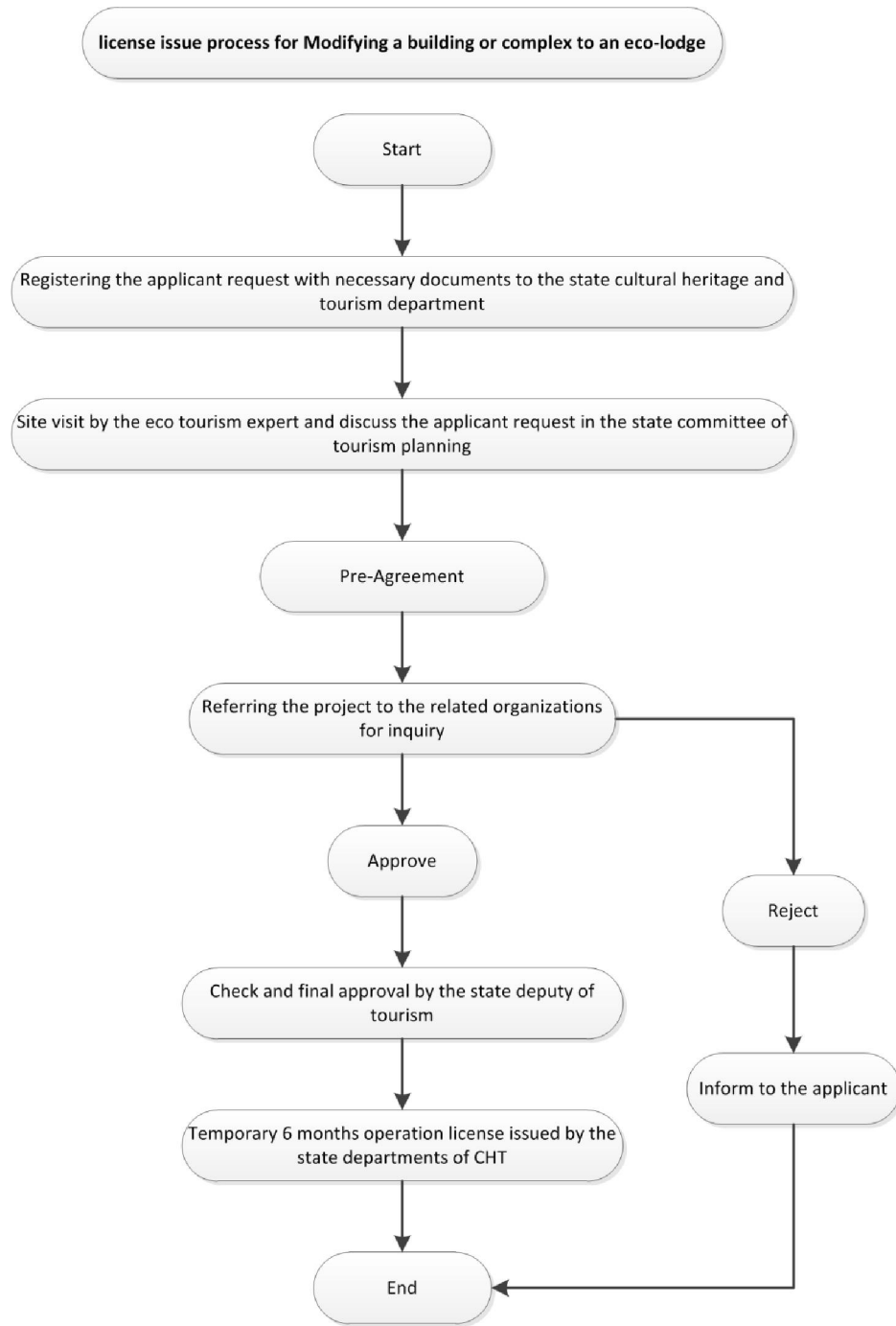
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No.	Description	Grade			Consideration
		A	B	C	
	provide energy from renewable resources.				
22	Toilets and bathrooms	*	*	*	1- It is necessary for grade c eco-lodges to have at least one bathroom complex with minimum 3 toilets for each two residential units. 2- In grade B eco-lodges, there should be at least 3 bathroom complex besides separate toilets and bathrooms for at least one third of the rooms. 3-All the rooms in grade A eco-lodges should have separate toilet and bathroom.
23	Following health and cleanliness rules all over the eco-lodge, such as kitchen, rooms, toilets and etc.	*	*	*	All the employees should have the health certification card.
24	Using the native and local clothing for all of the employees by looking to the health and safety guidelines.	*	*	*	Providing the chance for tourists to wear on local and native clothing and involving them in local events can be effective in eco-lodges attractiveness.
25	Allocating a suitable place for praying	*	*	*	
26	Serving local and traditional foods and beverages and native table design by looking to the tourists taste and also health directions.	*	*	*	
27	Provide necessary information for the tourists about natural and cultural environment of the area by different methods like brochures, signs, photos, posters, show rooms and etc.	*	*	*	
28	Identify and reporting the risks related to eco-lodges operation in the area and preparing a management plan for any necessary actions in the case of emergency considering the location of eco-lodge in the nature that are generally far from the health and relief centers	*	*	*	All the eco-lodges personnel should be familiar with first aids instruction and have a valid certificate from the related organizations.
29	Observing Islamic Republic of Iran rules and laws and informing the tourists about the host values and manners	*	*	*	It is necessary for eco-lodges operators to inform the tourism about the rules and manners, politely and respectfully in the time of promotion and selling the services and provide a good relationship between the guests and local people.
30	It is necessary for all the eco-lodges personnel to pass related educational courses and have a valid certificate.	*	*	*	The educational courses topics are defined by department of education of tourism deputy and all the personnel should pass these courses in certified institutes and receive a valid certificate.

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