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Caribbean Green Globe Program Watch

<http://www.cha-cast.com/GGproperties.html>

- # Certified Properties = 46
- # Benchmarked = 58



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Note from the Editor.....

The newly revised Green Globe *Company* standard is just days away from official release. Look out for the formal announcement on the Green Globe website (www.greenglobe.org). We have omitted the "200 Standards Words..." section in this edition, to feature a description of the upcoming changes to the Standard, as prepared by Green Globe International.

Early (and we mean early!) 2007 Atlantic season hurricane predictions are warning of an above average season. In 2006, the Caribbean escaped from these storms as a result of a mild El Nino event in the eastern Pacific. This causes a warming of Pacific equatorial waters which effectively shut down the Atlantic hurricane system. Scientists are predicting a visit from La Nina (the sister) which will have a reverse effect – which favours intense activity in the Atlantic region (including the Caribbean). What can you do? Prepare! Please send your comments and feedback to us at: cast@cha-cast.com.

Notes and FAQs on the Revised Green Globe Company Standard (Version 3.0 of 2007)

Revised Green Globe Company Standard Part A:

Part A of the *Company* Standard sets out the requirements for environmental and social performance of all travel & tourism organisations that are taking part in the Green Globe program. Part A of the *Company* Standard should be read in conjunction with Part B and the relevant Sector Benchmarking Indicators.

Revised Green Globe Company Standard Part B: Self Assessment Checklist

Part B of the *Company* Standard sets out the guidelines, explanatory notes and a self assessment checklist for certification under the *Company* Standard. For organisations that are not yet ready for Certification, Part B can be used as a guide to improve sustainability and implement an environmental management approach. Part B should be read in conjunction with the Green Globe *Company* Standard Part A and the relevant Benchmarking Indicators (SBI).

There is a Part B for Micro and Small Business and Part B for Medium and Large Companies.

Q. Environmental Program, Action Plan or EMS?

Under the Green Globe Standard (Version 3.0), an Environmental Management System (EMS) is no longer required for operators with medium to low environmental risk (as determined by a risk assessment). Where an EMS is not required an Environmental Program or Action Plan must be developed. A guideline of the requirements is outlined below.

- ✦ **Small or micro businesses** with low environmental risks may have an overall environmental management. They must still meet all the criteria of

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the Standard and complete the checklist (including the risk assessment); however they may have little actual documentation of the environmental management program.

- ✦ **Medium size businesses** or small business with moderate risks shall, have a documented action plan, this may be a concise 'dot point' or table style document [which] shall set out the key actions and priorities for the organisation's environmental management [program] and commitment to Green Globe.
- ✦ **Large businesses** or those with significant environmental risks must have an Environmental Management System.

Q. Which Part B is relevant to my organisation?

"Part B for Micro and Small Business" applies to Green Globe participants that currently fit into Micro and Small Enterprise categories. "Part B for Medium and Large Companies" is for those Green Globe participants that currently fit into the Large Single Site and Large Diversified categories.

Q. I have already organized an on-site assessment under the old Standard. What should I do?

The new *Company* Standard and Certification process will be phased in over the coming months. If you have already booked an on-site assessment, please notify Green Globe International of the arrangements. Certification Assessment reports will be continued under the old system during the phase out period. This will simply mean that you will commence Certification under the new system in the following year.

Was this article helpful? Send your comments to cast@cha-cast.com.

TIP PIT....

Predictions for the upcoming 2007 Atlantic Hurricane season have already been made. Most experts predict an above average season with 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes (= Category 3 and higher). You should expect these predictions to be adjusted as we get closer to the start of the season, June 1st 2007. Preparedness should always be on your mind. Here are a few key questions for you on insurance coverage from Smith Orloff & Associates (www.smithorloff.com). Are you fully insured against:

- ✦ Losses due to "windstorms"? Ask your broker what this means for your business operation and the level of coverage in place.
- ✦ Losses due to flooding e.g. flash flooding and coastal inundation from storm surges?
- ✦ Interruption of your business for extended periods after a major tropical storm or hurricane?
- ✦ Losses to buildings including contents e.g. equipment, stock/inventory and other precious contents?

Review your policy carefully and make sure to ask check with your broker for details responses to the above questions.



Hurricane Preparedness Tips brought to you courtesy... 

Were these tips helpful? Send your comments to cast@cha-cast.com

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Sustainable Tourism (CAST)**

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Please include your name and location.
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letters for grammar and accuracy prior
to publishing.

Readers' Vent!

"Thank you very much for the GGT February 2007 issue. In Cozumel some hotels are working to create a sustainable atmosphere, last week six hotels began a program of environmental audits to be honored at the end of the process with a national certificate called INDUSTRIA LIMPIA from PROFEPA which is the Mexican official authority to verify all hotels, and industries in general, have sustainable standards." *Isauro Cruz, Manager, Asociación de Hoteles de Cozumel*

Be silent no longer. This is your chance to provide feedback or comment or to just vent. Send your comments to cast@cha-cast.com.