

TOURISM PRODUCT OWNERS AND CERTIFICATION BODIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON THE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The National Department of Tourism (NDT) and the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) will conduct an accreditation stakeholder workshop on responsible tourism following the launch of the National Minimum Standards for Responsible Tourism (NMSRT) in September this year. The workshop will be held on the **17th October 2011 in Pretoria.**

The NMSRT sets clear minimum criteria for responsible tourism and a transparent national accreditation process for sustainable tourism certification. It is comparable to the global sustainable tourism criteria but reflects on South Africa's challenges and priorities. Tourism product owners are required to apply standards that will promote and enhance the integrity of South Africa as a destination.

The tourism sector's vision is to position South Africa as one of the top 20 global tourism destinations by 2020. Launching the NMSRT last month, Minister said responsible tourism is about creating better places for people to live in and visit and through the application of responsible tourism practises, the tourism sector will be developed as a national priority in a sustainable and acceptable manner.

The minimum standard is a voluntary process however businesses which claim to practise responsible tourism will need to prove that their activities are in line and comply with the NMSRT criteria. Part of the criteria includes the certification and accreditation by SANAS. Those who have been certified will be recognised by government and will also qualify for privileges.

All tourism businesses that have been accredited will be issued with a certificate by an accredited tourism certification body. The NDT as the custodian of the NMSRT will work with SANAS to implement the accreditation of certification bodies.

Enquiries can be referred to:

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For more information, please visit www.tourism.gov.za

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM.

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