



Green Destinations 2025 Top 100 Stories

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By registering to the Green Destinations 2025 Top 100 Stories competition, participants accept the following Terms and Conditions:

1. Definition and interpretation

- 1.1. Competition: The Green Destinations 2025 Top 100 Stories competition
- 1.2. Services: includes all services provided by Green Destinations to participants registered to the 2025 Green Destinations Top 100 Stories competition: i.e. Top 100 training, Top 100 evaluations, Top 100 communication.
- 1.3. Top 100 Training: refers to all services provided by Green Destinations for participants that have registered to the 2025 Green Destinations Top 100 Stories as part of the Top 100 training program: i.e. access to the online course composed of pre-recorded video, access to live training sessions organized with experts and Q&A sessions
- 1.4. Top 100 evaluations: refers to all services provided by Green Destinations for participants that have registered to the 2025 Green Destinations Top 100 Stories competition evaluations (for STEP 1: Sustainability Check and STEP 2: Good Practice Story)
- 1.5. Top 100 communication: refers to all communication services provided by Green Destinations for participants that have registered to the 2025 Green Destinations Top 100 Stories competition: i.e. creation of a Destination Report upon completion of the Step 1: Sustainability Check, promotion of their Good Practice Story upon selection to the Top 100 list, promotion of their destination when selected to the Top 100 list, coordination of the creation of their Good Travel Guide section when they have passed STEP 1: Sustainability Check.

1.6. ACP: Green Destinations Awards and Certification program

2. Scope of the Green Destinations 2025 Top 100 Stories Competition

- 2.1. The Competition can only be joined by entities that are eligible for participation:
 - 2.1.1. Municipalities (includes towns, cities and rural communities)
 - 2.1.2. Islands
 - 2.1.3. Protected areas
 - 2.1.4. Countries or regions smaller than 50,000 sq km
 - 2.1.5. Members of Green Destinations' Awards and Certifications program
- 2.2. The name that the entity uses to register:
 - 2.2.1. Should indicate the geographic name (name of region, town, municipality, island, valley, protected area)
 - 2.2.2. Should be the English translation (e.g. 'National Park' instead of 'Parque Nacional'); unless the entity is internationally marketed under the local translation
 - 2.2.3. Can be accompanied by a specification or marketing indication (e.g. 'Dark Sky Alqueva'). Green Destinations reserves the right to remove the marketing indication when considered as not appropriate or too long.
 - 2.2.4. The name of the destination used as submitter of the Good Practice Story must be the same as the destination name which is registered in the ACP program or for the sustainability check.
- 2.3. Joining the Competition will include Top 100 evaluations and Top 100 communication for the 2025 edition. Upon completion of the competition, the services will not be renewed automatically
- 2.4. Top 100 training will be provided to the destination upon reception of the payment of the Top 100 Fee (see point 7. Fees for more information)
- 2.5. Registration to the Competition does not guarantee successful selection to the 2025 Green Destinations Top 100 Stories list
- 2.6. Any data shared with Green Destinations in relation to the Competition:
 - 2.6.1. Will not be subject to confidential treatment (unless agreed otherwise)
 - 2.6.2. May be used by Green Destinations for communication with the destination
 - 2.6.3. May be used to promote the destination without restriction or further consent by the destination
- 2.7. Top 100 participants who are not part of the Green Destinations Awards and Certification Program (ACP) are only allowed to be selected to the Green Destinations Top 100 Stories list twice. If a Top 100 participant has already been selected twice and wants to join the Competition again, they must join the Green Destinations Awards and Certification program.
- 2.8. Considering the infliction of atrocities against peaceful people in various countries, participation in any Green Destinations program is currently suspended for:

- 2.8.1. Any entities that are subject to international sanctions imposed by the UN, the EU and the USA
- 2.8.2. Any government-related entities from Russia, Belarus, Syria, Iran, China (PRC), Myanmar, North Korea, Afghanistan, and Eritrea. For more information, see the Statement on Peace, Universal Human Rights and Justice on the [Green Destinations website](#).

3. Participant categories

- 3.1. 1st Year Participants
 - 3.1.1. Entities that have never participated before
 - 3.1.2. Destinations that have participated before 2019 (not included) and not since then
 - 3.1.3. Entities that have participated in 2024 as 1st year participants and were not selected to the list
- 3.2. 2nd Year Participants
 - 3.2.1. Entities that have participated once between 2019 and 2024 (included) and were selected to the list
 - 3.2.2. Entities that have participated in the 2024 Top 100 as 2nd year participants but were not selected to the list
- 3.3. ACP-Engaged Participants
 - 3.3.1. Entities in ACP-Engagement phase who pass a positive ACP-Technical Check ('ready for audit') before the Step 2 submission deadline (3 June 2024) may proceed as 'ACP Participant' (see 3.4).
 - 3.3.2. Entities in ACP-Engagement phase who cannot pass the ACP-Technical Check before Step 2 submission deadline shall join the Top 100 as regular participant (Step 1 required)
 - 3.3.3. 2nd and 3rd Year Participants who are in ACP-Engagement phase but will not pass the Technical Check before the Step 2 submission deadline may join the competition for a 3rd time.
 - 3.3.4. NB: A supported Top 100 application is part of the standard Engagement package for destinations preparing for a GD Award or Certification
- 3.4. ACP Participants
 - 3.4.1. Entities that have already undergone a sustainability audit as part of Green Destinations' Award & Certification Program (ACP) are exempt from submitting a sustainability check (Step 1) and may submit a story for free as part of their ACP Membership.

4. Step 1 (Sustainability check) requirements

- 4.1. 1st Year Participants: Step 1 requirement will be to self-report on 15 criteria, 60% needed to pass
- 4.2. 2nd Year Participants: Step 1 requirement will be to self-report on 30 criteria, 60% needed to pass

- 4.3. 2nd and 3rd Year ACP Engaged Participants: Step 1 requirement will be to self-report on 30 criteria, 60% needed to pass
 - 4.4. 1st year ACP Engaged Participants: Step 1 requirement will be to self-report on 15 criteria, 60% needed to pass
 - 4.5. ACP Participants: Step 1 can be skipped
- 5. When the Top 100 Participant successfully completes Step 1: Sustainability check, of the Competition**
- 5.1. The Top 100 participants will receive a destination report, including their score on the Core Criteria and a scorecard to use for the publication of scores.
- 6. When the Top 100 participant is selected to the 2025 Top 100 Stories list**
- 6.1. The Top 100 participants will be featured on the Green Destinations website, with a link to their Good Practice Story
 - 6.2. The Top 100 participants will receive a Top 100 certificate and logo
 - 6.3. Green Destinations will actively work to promote the Top 100 participants through partner organisations. Photos, videos and the writer's contact information shared by the Top 100 participant as part of the program may be shared with such partner organisations
 - 6.3.1. Partner organisations must use the images and videos in correlation with the name of the Top 100 participant and their Good Practice Story.
 - 6.4 No more than 10 stories can be selected per country (more stories may be submitted per country but only the 10 highest scoring stories will be selected.
- 7. Fees**
- 7.1. Fees published (excluding VAT) to participate in the 2025 Competition:
 - 7.1.1. 700€ for destinations in high-income countries
 - 7.1.2. 350€ for destinations in low and middle-income countries
 - 7.2. Green Destinations is responsible for Dutch VAT. The top 100 participants outside of the Netherlands but in the European Union are responsible for VAT regulations in their own country
 - 7.3. Top 100 participants may be eligible for the "Fee Waiver Program". There are a limited number of spaces available in the program for destinations with exempted fees. Green Destinations reserves the right to grant or deny fee exemptions when requested by the destination.
 - 7.4. Top 100 participants that are part of the Green Destinations Award and Certification Program or affiliate programs (e.g. Slovenia Green) that enrolled in the training as part of their 2024 Top 100 participation but did not get selected to the 2024 Top 100 list, will receive a fee waiver for their participation in the 2025 competition.

8. Payment

- 8.1. Payment will be done through the Green Destinations payment platform by credit or debit card
- 8.2. Alternatively, if the Top 100 participants cannot pay through credit or debit card, an invoice can be issued by Green Destinations to the destination
- 8.3. Participation, access to the GD resources, and evaluation of any submission can only be facilitated once payment is received
- 8.4. If a 1st or 2nd year Top 100 participant has registered and paid but did not submit or pass Step 1 (Sustainability Check) or did not get selected to the top 100 list, the fee can be used for participation in the next edition of the Competition.

9. Complaints

- 9.1. Any complaints are to be addressed to top100@greendestinations.org.

10. Liability

- 10.1. Green Destinations is not liable for any loss of business or revenue that could come because of joining the program
- 10.2. Green Destinations is not liable for any amount of money that the Top 100 participant might demand from them as recompensation for loss of business or revenue; consequently, the cap for monetary liability is zero
- 10.3. Green Destinations is not liable for any type of damages the Top 100 participant might come across after or during the purchase and use of the program
- 10.4. The Top 100 participant is not entitled to a refund once they have accessed any of the services provided in the Competition: Top 100 training, Top 100 evaluation or Top 100 communication.
- 10.5. Not being selected to the 2025 Top 100 list does not entitle the Top 100 participants to a refund of registration fees.

11. Intellectual property

- 11.1. All logos used and displayed by Green Destinations in any of its products, services or events are part of the Green Destinations brand and can, therefore not be used by outside parties unless explicit approval for use is given by Green Destinations
- 11.2. The services are the intellectual property of Green Destinations and, therefore should not be replicated in any way unless explicit approval is given from Green Destinations
- 11.3. If Green Destinations' intellectual property is violated by a Top 100 participant, Green Destinations reserves the right to remove any deal between Green Destinations and the Top 100 participant and terminate its participation in the Competition.

12. Confidentiality and personal data

- 12.1. Top 100 participants are obligated to follow European GDPR rules
- 12.2. By registering for the Competition, the Top 100 participant gives permission to Green Destinations to use personal data as part of their participation in the Competition. This data will be shared internally by Green Destinations and with key partners for the best benefit of the Top 100 participant
- 12.3. When the Top 100 participant benefits from the exemption of fee, and Green Destinations assigns a sponsor to their participation in the program, some personal data may be shared with the sponsor. Prior notification will be sent to the Top 100 participants by Green Destinations
- 12.4. The submitted Good Practice Story contact information can be shared with third parties for promotion of the story.

13. Termination

- 13.1. If the Top 100 participant is found to have broken any of the terms and conditions mentioned in this document, Green Destinations reserves the right to terminate services with said Top 100 participant
- 13.2. The Top 100 participant can terminate their participation in the Competition at any time for any reason. However, in that case, said Top 100 participant will not be entitled to a refund unless agreed otherwise.

14. Force majeure

- 14.1. If Green Destinations is prevented from delivering the services, as identified in the Competition description, due to any unexpected or exceptional circumstances beyond its control, Green Destinations shall be relieved of any liability incurred under the agreement to the extent to which the fulfilment of its obligations thereunder is thereby prevented or frustrated.

15. Choice of law and jurisdiction for any lawsuits and legal disputes

- 15.1. Dutch law applies to these Terms and Conditions.

16. Severability

- 16.1. If any one of these clauses is found to be void or inapplicable, the remaining clauses shall nonetheless apply.