



 misool

2021 Responsible Tourism Policy





"Misool represents one of the most pristine reef systems left on earth — one of only a handful of places in the universe where biodiversity is improving rather than declining."

Dr. Mark Erdmann, marine biologist, coral reef ecologist, and Vice President of Conservation International's Asia-Pacific marine programmes

Misool Resort lies just south of the equator in Raja Ampat, Indonesia. We are surrounded by thousands of uninhabited islands and one of the most pristine reef systems on earth.

Misool's mission is to provide transformation experiences in pristine nature; hence a thriving ecosystem is the core asset of our business. We aim to safeguard our rich environment through the empowerment of local communities.

Since 2008 we have welcomed a diverse array of travellers: conservationists and nature nerds, weary city folk looking to get away from it all, snorkelling enthusiasts, expert photographers, devoted kayakers and paddle boarders, celebrities in search of a hash tag-free oasis, parents looking to bring their kids to a gorgeous, safe chain of beaches and lagoons, and scuba divers in search of untouched reefs. Our remote location, pristine natural environment and grassroots conservationist ethos combine to give our guests truly life-changing experiences.

We are proud to share our sustainability policies that we have developed to ensure that we continue to not only minimise our negative impact but have had a proven positive impact on the surrounding environment.

## Regarding Water

Our waters are truly pristine and with proper care they will stay that way. They are our biggest asset, so we strive to keep them healthy and immaculate.

The Misool Marine Reserve is a sanctuary comprising of two No-Take Zones inside which all extractive practices are banned. That means no fishing, no collecting of turtle eggs, no reef bombing, no netting and no shark fishing.

Misool and Misool Foundation initiated a strict code of conduct for boats visiting our area, including rules on anchoring and waste-management.

Our Community Recycling Project has processed 2,065 tonnes of waste since the programme began in 2014. That's waste that otherwise would contaminate our waters.

Grey and black water is treated through waste water gardens, a type of artificial wetland. The gardens processes waste water using bacteria which is naturally occurring on the roots of plants.

We do not use herbicides. We minimize the frequency of fogging to control mosquito populations by taking proactive measures. Our groundskeepers are trained to eliminate all stagnant water sources that could become mosquito breeding grounds.

We provide guests with biodegradable soap and shampoo. This minimises the toxins released into our water systems.

All shower heads and toilets are low-flow and guests and staff alike are asked to be conservative in their use of water.

60% of the water we use for our guests and staff comes from rainwater collection and the remainder from desalination units.

We regularly educate our workforce on the importance of water conservation, both at work and home.





## Regarding Land

Misool is built in nature and from nature. Our structures are elegant, functional and inspiring, complementing the surrounding rock, land and sea.

Misool Resort is built on land leased from local landowners.

The resort was built entirely from reclaimed wood which we milled ourselves; no trees were felled and no wood was purchased from lumberyards during initial construction.

Many buildings have 'alang-alang' roofing, which is made from locally-sourced grass meaning we preserve traditional skills and knowledge from the local area.

All organic waste is composted on-site and then used in our gardens.

All recyclable waste is sent to our Community Recycling Project, Bank Sampah.

We ask guests to pack carefully and leave single-use plastics at home.

Indonesia does not offer battery recycling facilities, so we ask guests to take their used batteries home with them.

We provide our guests with free, reusable aluminium water bottles. Drinking water refill stations are located around the resort as well as in each accommodation.



## Regarding People

Whether you are a new guest, returning guest, employee, partner, or community member, everyone is valued and treated with respect at Misool. Warm hospitality and attentive service blend seamlessly to create our distinctive experience.

We offer equal opportunity employment policies. We firmly uphold the rights of women and minorities.

We do not tolerate commercial or sexual exploitation in our locale.

Misool and Misool Foundation employ approximately 250 people, many of whom are domiciled in the surrounding villages.

We provide on-site English lessons and job training.

Our locally-staffed Ranger Patrol empowers the community to assert their ownership of the reefs.

The local community also reaps the rewards of increased spill-over catch in their traditional fishing grounds, sustainable employment opportunities, and lease payments.

We encourage our shareholders to reinvest profits to fund conservation programs.



## Regarding Animals & the Environment

Our animal friends were here long before we were, so we treat their habitats with the reverence they deserve. We help you to do the same, so your stay can be as guilt-free as it is tranquil.

We enforce a strict 'no-touch' policy and emphasise the importance of passive interaction underwater.

We do not allow the extraction of any natural objects, including shells, coral, orchids, etc from our location.

Guests are invited to enjoy lectures on how to respectfully interact with endangered species and the fragile marine ecosystems they'll be visiting.

The Misool Manta Project has identified over 2300 individual mantas and informs government policy and scientific research.

To protect our resident pygmy seahorses, we have created a 'Pygmy Protection Policy'; limited flashes, no filming and no strong lights on night dives.

In 2018, we banned, 'non-reef-safe' sunscreen containing oxybenzone or octinoxate. We ask guests to wear sunscreen that is 'reef-safe' to ensure that harmful ingredients do not damage or kill the corals.

The Misool Rangers guard the local beaches, which are nesting sites for two endangered turtle species. When the eggs hatch, the Rangers safeguard the hatchlings from terrestrial predators to ensure a safe passage to the sea. In 2020, our Rangers protected 52 nests and 5875 turtles eggs.

We do not allow power sports, such as jet skis or paragliding, in our area.

## Regarding Energy

Our goal is to use as little as possible while giving our guests as much as we can. We make sure we are at the forefront of clean, green energy creation and we advance our code of practice as technology develops.

In 2017 we installed a solar system to reduce onsite diesel consumption. The system is a hybrid of the existing diesel microgrid with solar photovoltaic (PV) and Li-ion batteries and is one of the largest hybrid microgrids in the Raja Ampat area.

Renewable energy powers 66% of our operations in season.

During our maintenance and refurbishment period, renewables provide 100% of our energy needs.

Low power appliances and air conditioners are installed throughout our resort, creating a very low power demand (less than 40KVA).

We have installed timer-operated lights, where appropriate.





## Regarding Food

Our expert chefs keep it simple and sustainable. Fresh ingredients from local sources go into every dish. Each dish is cooked to order with your pleasure and health in mind.

Our restaurant staff receive ongoing training and constantly deliver healthy, delicious food which is lovingly prepared.

All fish served at Misool is line-caught outside our marine reserve using environmentally sound methods with zero bycatch. We do not serve endangered fish and we seek expert guidance on the species we serve to ensure sustainability.

We do not serve prawns, as both farming and fishing methods have a devastating impact on the marine environment.

We do not serve pork out of respect for our Muslim hosts.

We source 100% of our fresh food from the local area and have our own hydroponics farm which produced 633kg of fresh food and vegetables in 2020.

We aim to reduce our carbon footprint by choosing high-quality local ingredients over imported ingredients whenever possible.

We don't use MSG or palm oil.

We are proud to offer guests the opportunity to explore tasty and local alternative protein sources that are more sustainable than beef, goat, chicken, etc.

We do our best to cater for all dietary requirements without judgment.