



## TOOL 3: GSTC CERTIFICATION BODIES & RECOGNISED STANDARDS

GSTC accredits certification bodies and recognises sustainability standards.

The following table illustrates examples of GSTC accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) and GSTC recognised standards:

GSTC accredited Certification Bodies	GSTC Recognised Standards for destinations
<b>For destinations:</b> EarthCheck Green Destinations Vireo	EarthCheck, Green Destinations, Vireo
<b>For industry:</b> Bureau Veritas Control Union United Certification Systems Limited Travelife for Tour Operators Vireo	

**Accreditation** of a CB means not only do they use the GSTC criteria listed above as the foundation of their standards but also that their certification process is competent and neutral. This always necessarily includes an adequately trained 3rd party independent auditor who visits the applicant on-site.

**Recognition** of a standard means that GSTC recognises that the standard a CB uses complies with and/or includes the GSTC Criteria. With other words, all GSTC recognised standards are based on the four pillars of the GSTC Criteria: Environment, Social, Cultural, and Management principles. Certification process is not assessed in this case.

Besides the above mentioned GSTC Recognised standards for destinations, GSTC recognises also more than 30 standards for tour operators and hotels.