	TITLE: <b>SUSTAINABLE EXCURSION POLICY</b>		
	TYPE: <b>POLICY</b>		Document No.: ES-PL-16
	PREPARED BY: Sustainability Officer		Status: CURRENT
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## **SUSTAINABLE EXCURSION POLICY**

Our company is committed to ensuring excursions are organized sustainably.

One of the most visible aspects of our company’s sustainability to our clients can be found in the arrangements of excursions. Hence our company takes care of developing and executing excursions in a fully sustainable manner. We will give strong preference to destinations that follow sustainable practices throughout all aspects of their tourism offer and see it as our role to guide destinations towards this.

Wherever possible, all staff will pursue the following goals and adhere to the specified principles when involved in organizing excursions.

### **Scope**

The Policy will be part of the Sustainability Policy. The policy is applicable to the excursion activities conducted by our company and all employees will follow these guidelines disclosed in this document.

The Policy is effective immediately after approval by the Managing Director and circulation to staff. The Policy will be formally reviewed every 2 years to ensure its relevancy. The Managing Director or an officer delegated with such authority must approve any deviations to this Policy.


### **Sustainable Excursion Principles**

Our sustainable approach to sensitive places and cultures is primarily based on the following principles:

#### **1. Positive excursions**

Our company will ensure excursions take place in the most positive way possible and to the best benefit of local people and cultural and natural heritage. We will avoid excursions that

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harm humans, animals, plants, natural resources (e.g. water, energy), or which are socially/culturally unacceptable.

## 2. Fair Excursions

The excursion activities of our company are in compliance with legally base spatial planning, protected area and heritage regulations and destination management strategies of local, regional and national authorities. The excursions also fully respect human rights and child protection.

## 3. Human-biodiversity connect

In applying a sustainable development perspective, we should recognize the close links and interdependence of biological diversity and local cultures within the socio-ecological systems of many protected and culturally important places. This means any activity aiming to achieve sustainable development will necessarily have to take into consideration the interrelationship of biological diversity with the cultural context.

## General Sustainability Considerations

Voyagers considers the following important general elements of sustainability in excursions:


- Where applicable, preference is given to excursions that are operated on the basis of acknowledged and controlled excursion standards.
- We encourage our staff to take an active interest in sustainable tourism and we do guide them accordingly so they can put it into practice.

### Sensitivity to cultural heritage

- In sensitive cultural sites (e.g. indigenous villages), heritage sites or ecologically sensitive destinations, skilled and certified guides will guide our guests.
- The company intends to include into packages and promote to clients excursions and activities that directly involve and support local communities. For example, by purchasing services or goods, traditional crafts and local (food) production methods, and visiting local projects.
- Our company supports initiatives that improve the relationships between accommodations and local producers, among which the production and distribution of local food products and souvenirs etc. (e.g. initiatives to improve quality level, logistics, transport)

### Sensitivity to natural heritage

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- The company intends to include into packages or promote to clients, excursions and activities that support local environment and biodiversity (e.g. visiting protected areas, environmental protection projects).
- Our company will ensure operations of excursions within national and local sustainability standards. All national parks and conservation areas in Zambia area managed with a controlled sustainability standard by the respective regional forest authorities and wildlife wardens. We ensure that our clients are aware of and comply with relevant rules and regulations.
- Any disturbance of natural ecosystem is minimized, rehabilitated, and there is a compensatory contribution to conservation management.
- Our company supports environmental and biodiversity by paying the permits entrance fee to national parks and conservation areas. Where possible, we will provide other means of support.


#### **Sensitivity to animals**

- Our company does not offer excursions and attractions in which captive wildlife is held, except for properly regulated activities in compliance with local, national and international law. In case of living specimens of protected and wildlife species these are only kept by those authorised and suitably equipped to house and care for them humanely.
- Excursions that include interactions with wildlife comply with relevant (e.g. Travelife) codes of conduct. Taking into account cumulative impacts, they do not lead to any adverse effects on the viability and behavior of populations in the wild.
- Wildlife species are not harvested, consumed, displayed, sold or traded, except as part of a regulated activity that ensures that their utilization is sustainable and in compliance with local, national and international law.

#### **Preference for Local Tour Leaders**

- Key tour leaders, local representatives and guides, contracted by the company, are appropriately qualified and are trained regularly.
- Tour leaders, local representatives and guides are informed on the relevant aspects of the company's sustainability policy and are expected to comply with it.
- We acknowledge local tour leaders for their destination knowledge and we encourage them to enhance this by offering them guidance and training on sustainability and the destination.

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- Tour leaders, local representatives and guides inform clients on relevant sustainability matters in the destination (e.g. protection of flora, fauna, cultural heritage, resource use), social norms and values (e.g. tips, dressing code and photography) and human rights (e.g. sexual exploitation).

### Sustainability through a long-term perspective

- We aim to achieve sustainability across all excursions and destinations in Zambia through a long-term perspective. In our effort:
- We communicate our sustainability objectivity and requirements to our excursion providers, equipment providers and destination representatives.
- Where contracts with suppliers are in place, basic sustainability clauses are included (e.g. child labour,, anti-corruption and bribery, waste management and protection of biodiversity).
- Providers for sensitive excursions or destinations, which are integrated into packages or offered through partners, receive and implement documented guidelines and/or codes of conduct in order to minimize enjoyment. The guidelines are documented with the collaboration and consent of relevant NGOs and the affected community.

### Sustainable Destinations


Our company gives preference to destinations, which clearly pursue sustainability elements.

Our company follows these practices when selecting new selections:

- In selecting new destinations, the accessibility through more sustainable means of transport is considered.
- Sustainability aspects in destinations are considered in the selection process of new destinations (e.g. traffic-free areas, sustainable city planning, proper waste management infrastructure and community participation). Possibly alternative non-mainstream destinations are offered.
- Destinations in which tourism leads to structural negative local effects in terms of biodiversity, waste; sanitation; human rights and healthcare, water, energy and food availability are not selected (unless the company's involvement results in clear counter balancing effects).

### Sensitive Excursions Checklist

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Our company has made an inventory of environmentally or culturally sensitive excursions, which are offered across Zambia. The below table indicates which sensitive excursion types we offer, and if their organisation involves third party.

In our execution of these excursions we are well aware of our behavior and aim to do so as sustainably as possible and with utmost care for the site.

Sensitive Excursion Checklist	Organized directly by our company	Organized by our company, equipment provided by third party	Fully outsourced to third party
<b>Culture-based Activities</b>			
Tangible cultural heritage (buildings, statues, etc.)			
Intangible cultural heritage (dance, food, ceremonies etc.)			
<b>Nature-based Activities</b>			
Trail running			
Mountain climbing			
Jeep safari			
Motor biking			
Bungee Jumping			
<b>Fresh water based activities</b>			
Rafting			
Fishing			
Swimming			
Canoeing			
Row boating			
Motorized boating			
<b>Community-based activities</b>			
Visiting traditional communities			
Visiting indigenous people			
Slum tours			
Visiting schools			
Visiting orphanages			
<b>Animal Activities</b>			
Horse riding			

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Captive animals (e.g. zoos)			
Wild animals in natural habitat			

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