

## **Sustainability policy of Savannah Explorers Limited**

## **Purpose**

Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to minimizing its impacts on the environment, growing sustainably and inspiring others to take action. As part of that commitment, this Policy establishes some principles relating to best practices in safari and adventure holidays sector.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all Savannah Explorers' team as well as Savannah Explorers' partners whenever possible.

The Sustainability Coordinator and management team are responsible for implementing the company's sustainability policy.

## **Sustainability management & legal compliance**

### Sustainability commitment

At Savannah Explorers Ltd we are committed to growing our business in a sustainable manner. We recognize that the environment, communities and cultures within which we operate are vital to the success of our business. Responsible travel is one of our company's core values, we aim to maximize the positive effects that tourism can have on individuals and local communities, while minimizing the negative social, environmental and economic impacts.

We will use the Travelife platform to report on our sustainability progress and to monitor and evaluate progress. We are committed to (publicly) communicating our sustainability performance (by means of the Travelife report) every two years.

### Sustainability management & legal compliance

Savannah Explorers Ltd commits to continuous improvement of sustainability practices, including the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our sustainability policy, with dedicated personnel and resources to achieve our sustainability goals.

Savannah Explorers Ltd follows all local, regional and national as they relate to human resources, human rights, children's rights, land rights, environmental management, wildlife, and land use. We follow a Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics, including a zero-tolerance policy for corruption, bribery, forced labor, and discrimination.

## **Internal management: social policy & human rights**

### Employees

- We recognize that our employees are our biggest asset for delivering meaningful travel experiences to our customers. Therefore, we maintain a clear human resource policy to ensure:
  - Legal compliance in all regards
  - A safe, healthy, and welcoming workplace
  - Fair contract conditions including fair compensation
  - Training opportunities including trainings on topics of sustainability, sexual harassment and exploitation in the workplace and in the industry
  - Participation in the sustainability planning activities

- Inclusion and equal opportunity for all employees, particularly with regard to compensation, promotion, distribution of benefits, and professional development opportunities.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd supports both career-related and job-related professional development activities.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to the principle of fair and equal pay for like work and for work of equal value for all its employees, and contractors, regardless of gender/sex, race, national origin, marital status, age, religion.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to fostering a safe, healthy, and inclusive work place/work culture where all employees are able to perform their duties/to recognise their potential.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to a zero-tolerance policy for acts of bribery, corruption, discrimination, and violation of human rights, including forced labour, human trafficking, and all rights of children.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd further expects this commitment from all partners and suppliers.

## **Internal management: environment**

### Environmental management of office operations

- Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to managing environmental impact as an integral part of our operations. It is our policy to assure the environmental integrity of our processes and products at all times by:
- Continuously seeking opportunities to improve our environmental performance by establishing objectives and targets, measuring progress, and reporting our results, including but not limited to energy, water, paper, and carbon.
- Practising a waste hierarchical approach to always reduce, reuse, and recycle commodities and products instead of waste, particularly waste to landfill.
- Promoting participation and communicating our commitment to responsible environmental management by promoting environmental responsibility amongst our employees and stakeholders and soliciting input from them to better achieve our environmental goals.
- Minimising pollution including light, noise, and any soil, water, or air contaminants, and avoiding use of any toxic or hazardous substances.

### Carbon management of office operations

- Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and endeavours to reduce the amount we travel as much as possible by:
  - Offering housing close to the office to the staff.
  - Allowing remote work whenever possible and suitable for the business.

### Land use

- Savannah Explorers Ltd offices are located in a suburban area and abides by all local land use laws, respects local cultural and natural resources in our business operations, and favours sustainable architecture and design.

## **General suppliers policy**

- Savannah Explorers Ltd is committed to sourcing its products and services responsibly, avoiding harmful impacts on society, culture and nature as much as possible. We expect the same level of engagement and commitment from our suppliers.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd prefers to work with partners that share the company's commitment towards sustainability. This means that we prefer partners that have a written sustainability statement as an integral part of their business policy and/or a clear sustainability policy in place.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd prefers to work with suppliers in the destinations that are locally owned or managed, use local and seasonal products and services and benefit the local community by hiring locally and equitably and by providing fair working conditions.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd requests its suppliers to adhere to the following responsible business practices:
  - Complying with all local, regional, national and international regulations
  - Respecting all human rights including labour rights, children's rights, and women's rights
  - Committing to fair employment conditions
  - Following anti-corruption, anti-bribery, anti-extortion, and anti-discrimination policies
  - Protecting children from (sexual) exploitation through tourism
  - Protecting the environment and natural resources
  - Acting in the best interest of local communities
  - Protecting the interests of Savannah Explorers Ltd
- Following a zero-tolerance policy, Savannah Explorers Ltd will immediately terminate any relationships with suppliers that violate our policies/the Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics, specifically through acts of bribery, corruption, discrimination, and violation of human rights.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd raises awareness amongst its suppliers to adopt sound social and environmental practices, and to minimise their carbon footprint.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd actively collaborates with suppliers to improve their sustainability performance. We encourage our suppliers to continuously learn about sustainability and provide/support this learning whenever possible.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd maintains open lines of communication with our suppliers and partners and encourage feedback from our stakeholders at any time and on any topic, particularly sustainability.

## **Inbound partner agencies**

- Savannah Explorers Ltd only works with partner agencies that adhere to the company's Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics.
- In the entire process of developing and operating our travel packages, Savannah Explorers Ltd expects partner agencies to act in the best interests of the surrounding communities and environment as well as our guests.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd provides partner agencies opportunities for sustainability learning and management, including free access to the Travelife online learning and reporting platform.

## **Transport**

- Savannah Explorers Ltd only works with transport providers that adhere to the company's Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics.
- When selecting transport for guests and business related travel, Savannah Explorers Ltd commits to choosing the most environmentally friendly options available for travelling to, from, and within the

destination – taking into consideration security, distance, price, route, and comfort.

- Savannah Explorers Ltd has implemented clear guidelines for reducing GHG emissions from transport and selecting the most environmentally friendly transport options, including the following measures:
  - Preferring ground transport over air transport for short-haul travel destinations
  - Avoiding in-destination flights as much as possible
  - Using appropriate vehicle sizes for group sizes and purchasing most efficient vehicles available
  - Training drivers on eco-driving techniques

## **Accommodations**

- Savannah Explorers Ltd only works with accommodations that adhere to the company's Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics.
- In the accommodation selection process, Savannah Explorers Ltd considers the sustainability practices of an accommodation by taking into account their sustainability management and social and environmental footprint.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd favours the selection of accommodations that respect and protect land use, as well as respectfully highlight elements of local architecture, customs and traditions

## **Activities & Excursions**

- Savannah Explorers Ltd only works with excursion providers that adhere to the company's Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics.
- All excursions and activities run by or on behalf of Savannah Explorers Ltd respect local customs, traditions, cultural integrity, and natural resources.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd commits to not offering any excursions that harm humans, wildlife, environment, or natural resources such as water and energy.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd gives preference to excursions and activities that benefit local communities, respect animal welfare and support environmental protection.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd has clear guidelines/Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics in place for environmentally and culturally sensitive excursions offered by or on behalf of the company. These guidelines are actively communicated to guests as well as distributed and implemented by excursion providers and guides.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd provides excursion and attraction providers opportunities for sustainability learning and management, including free access to the Travelife online learning and reporting platform.

## **Tour leaders, local representatives, and guides**

- Savannah Explorers Ltd commits to hiring qualified local guides, porters, drivers or other local staff, paying them living wages and providing safe and fair working conditions. We expect the same from our suppliers that are hiring local staff on behalf of Savannah Explorers Ltd.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd understands that guides are the intermediaries between the guests and the socio-cultural and environmental context of the destination, conveying the appropriate behaviour to them. Therefore, we make sure that all guides hired by or leading tours on behalf of Savannah Explorers Ltd are trained regularly and knowledgeable in the sustainability topics of the destination.
- Our guides are specifically trained on the critical issue of sexual exploitation of children in tourism.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd provides guides with learning opportunities on sustainability topics including providing free access to the Travelife online learning platform.

## **Destinations**

### Sustainable destinations

- Savannah Explorers Ltd prefers to work in destinations that have committed to sustainability as an integral part of community and destination development.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd aims to send visitors to secondary or lesser-known tourist areas to avoid overtourism.
- Savannah Explorers Ltd does not support destinations that have a questionable human rights track record.

### Contribution to local communities / local economic network

- Savannah Explorers Ltd commits to positive contribution to the destinations in which we operate, by:
  - Sourcing locally and responsibly, and supporting local and traditional arts and culture
  - Encouraging guests to shop responsibly and educating them about illegal/prohibited/forbidden souvenirs
  - Collaborating with other local tourism stakeholders [including local government, other tourism businesses, academia, community groups] to further the sustainable tourism development of the destination
  - Respecting and advocating for all human rights (i.e. children's rights, women's rights, labour rights, etc.) as well as land rights

### Environmental stewardship in destinations

- Savannah Explorers Ltd commits to environmental stewardship in the destinations in which we operate by:
  - Ensuring natural resources remain intact
  - Educating guests about the principles of responsible travel and responsible visitor behaviour

## **Customer communication and protection**

### Privacy

- Our customer protection is our priority. Therefore, we maintain a clear privacy policy – available here <https://www.savannahexplorers.net/team/privacy.html> - to ensure
  - Legal compliance in all regards
  - Customers and their data are protected
  - Customers know how their information is being used

### Marketing and communication

- Savannah Explorers Ltd strives to be truthful in all situations and at all times. We offer products and services that do what we claim in our communications.
- We honour our explicit and implicit commitments and promises.
- We are anti-greenwashing and stand behind our sustainability claims 100%.
- We endeavour to be inclusive and representative in our marketing, and to always take into account cultural, religious, and ethnic sensitivities.

### Sustainability communication

- Customers are informed about the social and environmental impact of their journey, and are educated about the sustainable choices they can make, including transparent communication on:
  - Certified accommodations
  - Compensation of their trips CO2 emissions
  - Activities and excursions that benefit the local communities and environmental protection
  - Responsible shopping and illegal souvenirs

### Customer experience

- The company aims for all customer experiences to be positive, and follows strict health and safety, marketing, and excursion policies to ensure customer satisfaction. These policies cover specific topics of (but not limited to):
  - Health and safety
  - Emergency procedures
  - Privacy
  - Group numbers
  - Greenhouse Gas emissions and offsetting
  - Transport
  - Shopping
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Children in tourism
  - Satisfaction and complaints
- Savannah Explorers Ltd maintains open lines of communication with our customers and encourages feedback at any time and on any topic, particularly sustainability.

### **Contact / Responsible person**

All staff are responsible for the ownership and undertaking of this policy.

All staff are responsible for the promotion and implementation of this sustainability policy within their departments.

The implementation of this policy will be lead by the Sustainability Coordinator, Roberto De Sibi, who can be reached at [info@savannahexplorers.com](mailto:info@savannahexplorers.com)

### **Effective date**

This policy is effective from 06-NOV-2023.

### **Revision history**

This policy will be revised by 06-NOV-2024