

Captive Animals

As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism, we encourage our tourism partners to improve their sustainability performance by providing them with the guidance below.

- ✦ Ensure applicable legal **permits** (including for wildlife breeding and trade)
- ✦ Ensure **insurance** for participants and team is in place
- ✦ Identify **health & safety risks**, implement management systems, and provide appropriate safety equipment
- ✦ Ensure enough team members are available in case of **emergency**
- ✦ Monitor activity **area conditions** (including weather) in advance & during the activity
- ✦ Be familiar with activity area and ensure that **navigation and communication** tools are in good working order
- ✦ Maximise local **economic benefits** through employment and purchasing
- ✦ Avoid single use & disposable items, provide adequate **waste** collection facilities for safe disposal, and pick up rubbish found along the way
- ✦ Use **eco-friendly products**, e.g., for cleaning purposes
- ✦ Be **waterwise** and take pro-active measures to use water sparingly
- ✦ Minimise **energy** used in the activity as part of a climate action strategy
- ✦ Provide **information in advance** about your sustainability actions, activity accessibility, what to expect, and what to bring with
- ✦ Keep detailed records (**stocklist**) of animals, including where and how wildlife were acquired (removal from the wild or from captive breeding prohibited, unless part of a conservation programme), and their destination / death ("canned hunting" / similarly inhumane destinations prohibited)
- ✦ Provide best practice in **animal welfare** – "Five Freedoms" – freedom from hunger & thirst, discomfort, pain / injury / disease, fear / distress, and freedom to express normal behaviour
- ✦ Ensure **caretakers** are suitably equipped, trained, and experienced to provide best practice care
- ✦ **Behavioural needs** are provided for, e.g., intra-species socialisation needs, and species separation as required (e.g., to prevent predator-prey stress, and conflict due to aggression)
- ✦ Animals are not **prematurely separated** from their young
- ✦ Training does not involve **food deprivation**
- ✦ Monitor **physical health** of all captive animals, providing veterinary advice / care as needed
- ✦ Animals are **not drugged or mutilated**, unless for veterinary / similar care, e.g., safe medical treatment, de-horning, etc.
- ✦ **Contraception**, if deemed appropriate/ necessary, is based on veterinary advice
- ✦ **Euthanasia**, if deemed necessary, is administered humanely, ideally by a veterinarian
- ✦ Do not remove wildlife from **enclosures** unless for welfare purposes, e.g., husbandry, veterinary, enrichment / similar
- ✦ **Prohibit practices** not aligned with best practice for captive wildlife, e.g., wildlife 'selfies', encouraging unnatural behaviour, walking with predators or elephants, riding elephants or ostriches, swimming with cetaceans, feeding live vertebrate prey, and tactile interactions with infant predators, great apes, bears, sloths, cetaceans, crocodiles, or alligators

Captive Animals (continued...)

- Wildlife **release** programmes conform with IUCN / equivalent guidelines
- **Screen participants** ahead of time to make sure that the activity is suitable for their age and level of ability
- Manage **group size** to minimise impacts and ensure a safe guide : participant ratio
- Obtain written confirmation, e.g., via **indemnity**, that participants are aware of activity risks
- **Brief participants** about do's and don'ts, safety (including safe viewing proximity), what to expect, applicable conduct, logistical considerations, hazards to be aware of, not disturbing / removing flora and fauna, and rubbish collection and disposal, before the activity starts
- **Share information** about local nature, culture, relevant species conservation status (if applicable), and relevant authorities responsible for captive animal welfare
- Share information about **social development / conservation projects** that participants may want to support
- Participate in conserving activity area **integrity**; notify authorities of concerns and participate in rehabilitation projects

