

# The Eco Travel Boutique – Sustainability Policy

#### 1. Our Commitment

The Eco Travel Boutique is committed to building a more ethical, responsible, and regenerative tourism industry. As a boutique agency operating across Southern and Eastern Africa, we design unique and unforgettable journeys that prioritize environmental stewardship, cultural respect, and community well-being.

This policy guides our internal practices, supplier standards, and how we engage with our travelers - ensuring every journey reflects our values and contributes positively to people and the planet.

#### 2. Vision & Values

#### **Our Vision:**

To be a leader in sustainable travel, offering a carefully hand-picked portfolio of eco-conscious experiences that leave a positive legacy on nature, wildlife, and local communities.

### **Our Core Values:**

- Nature conservation and sustainable development
- Integrity, transparency, and ethics
- Continuous improvement with joy and balance
- Passionate personal service
- Attention to detail and consistency

# 3. Environmental Responsibility

As we are an Online Tour Operator - and we aim to be paperless, our environmental footprint is minimal by design. We commit to:

- Remaining 99% paperless, with all documentation, communication, and resources shared digitally.
- Using energy-efficient and sustainable tools and platforms where possible.
- Encouraging our remote team to adopt sustainable home practices, including waste reduction, responsible energy use, and virtual collaboration tools.
- Prioritizing low-carbon options in the experiences we promote, such as rail travel, walking safaris, and lodges with renewable energy.
- Promoting carbon-conscious travel and guiding travelers toward offsetting their emissions through verified platforms.



#### 4. Ethical Business Conduct & Governance

The Eco Travel Boutique operates with transparency, fairness, and respect for all stakeholders. We are committed to:

- Complying with all relevant tourism, labor, and environmental laws in our home country and in the destinations we promote.
- Avoiding partnerships that exploit people, wildlife, or ecosystems.
- Ensuring child protection, inclusivity, and non-discrimination in all aspects of our service delivery.

The Director is solely responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy, but all collaborators are encouraged to contribute to its success.

## 5. Responsible Product & Supplier Selection

Our travel experiences are handpicked based on both quality and ethical criteria. We aim to:

- Work primarily with locally owned or community-based businesses that retain income in the destination.
- Promote **eco-certified** accommodations or experiences where possible/available, realizing that many non-certified travel products have great sustainability intiatives nevertheless
- Avoid any offerings that involve unethical wildlife interactions, environmental harm, or cultural exploitation.
- Regularly review our partners and maintain open dialogue around improving their sustainability practices.

# 6. Community Engagement

We believe tourism should benefit host communities, not burden them. Therefore, we:

- Prioritize itineraries that include cultural integrity, local employment, and community benefit.
- Support experiences that allow travelers to connect with and give back to communities in meaningful, respectful ways.
- Seek partnerships with social enterprises and conservation NGOs where relevant.

### 7. Traveler Education & Influence

Our travelers are an extension of our values. We aim to:

- Inform clients on **responsible behavior**, including wildlife ethics, water usage, plastic reduction, and cultural sensitivity.
- Provide them with practical, positive-impact tips and encourage conscious travel choices.
- Share inspiring stories and examples of how small actions can make a big difference.
- Encourage reviews and feedback that include sustainability reflections.



# 8. Monitoring & Continuous Improvement

Although we are a small-scale company, we believe in accountability. We commit to:

- Reviewing this policy **annually** to reflect our growth, feedback, and industry standards.
- Tracking sustainability-related supplier choices and traveler feedback.
- Staying informed on global sustainability frameworks and integrating best practices as we grow.

# 9. Transparency

This policy will be published publicly to demonstrate our values and commitment. We welcome dialogue and suggestions from our travelers, suppliers, and peers.