

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NATURE TOURISM COMPANIES

Article 2, Decree Order 651/2009

Annex I

I — Corporate responsibility — Companies organising nature tourism activities:

- 1) Are responsible for the behaviour of their clients during the nature tourism activities they carry out and it is their responsibility to ensure that environmental best practices are met, by supplying information at the start of the activity and by accompanying the group;
- 2) Whenever their programmes take place within protected areas, they must comply with the requirements set out in the respective nature sports charters, land planning and other regulations, namely regarding the activities permitted, loads carried and the seasons recommended for them to take place;
- 3) They must respect private property, by requesting authorisation from the owners to cross and or use their properties and making sure that all their recommendations are fulfilled, namely with regard to opening and closing gates;
- 4) When creating their activities they must make sure that when these take place they totally respect the local inhabitants, their way of life, traditions, property and resources;
- 5) They must ensure that the technicians responsible for accompanying the groups in nature areas have the proper training and profile to carry out that role, with regard to both information on natural resources and the principles of their conservation, concerning both group management and entertainment;
- 6) They are jointly responsible for safeguarding and protecting natural resources and when operating in protected areas and other nature areas, must inform the ICNF, I.P. (Portuguese Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests), or other authorities responsible for protecting the environment, of any irregular situations detected in these areas;
- 7) They are direct players in the sustainability of protected areas and other areas of natural value and must, whenever possible, use and promote the local services, culture and products;
- 8) They must act courteously towards other visitors and groups who are in the same places, so that everyone may enjoy the natural heritage.

II — Best environmental practices — In all nature tourism activities:

- 1) Noise and disturbance to the wildlife must be avoided, especially in locations for shelter and reproduction;
- 2) Fauna-watching must be done at a distance and preferably with binoculars or another appropriate type of equipment;
- 3) No food must be left in the countryside, nor fed to the wild animals;
- 4) Animals, plants, mushrooms or geological samples must not be removed;

- 5) When injured wild animals are found, whenever possible, they must be collected and handed over to the ICNF, I.P., or to SEPNA (National Republican Guard's Nature and Environment Protection Service), or the situation reported to the said organisms for them to be sent to recovery centres or other appropriate places of shelter;
- 6) Environmental accidents or violations encountered must be swiftly communicated to SOS Ambiente e Território (SOS Environment and Territory), to the ICNF, I.P. or to SEPNA;
- 7) Any rubbish or waste produced must be collected and deposited in the appropriate places;
- 8) Fires may only be lit in duly authorised places;
- 9) Regardless of the kind of activity, if it involves any travelling, the existing paths and tracks must be used;
- 10) All signs must be respected.