



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

# GLOBAL GYPSIES ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT POLICY

## **Environmentally Responsible 4WD Practices**

- Use only approved 4WD tracks; never drive on virgin sand dunes or areas of reclamation, reforestation or revegetation.
- Emphasise environmental awareness at the pre-Departure Workshop and include a copy of this Environmental Management Policy in each Pre-Departure Kit.
- Emphasise environmental awareness to clients at every opportunity.
- Demonstrate responsible environmental practices when four wheel driving, i.e., if bogged, dig the vehicle out, don't churn up tracks, be careful not to damage approaches or exit points or make "bow waves" when making river crossings, remove obstacles from tracks, etc.
- Obtain DEC approvals in advance for any areas we intend to visit over which they have jurisdiction; advise clients of their responsibilities while in these areas.
- Obtain relevant approvals in advance for any Aboriginal Reserves we intend to visit; advise clients of their responsibilities while in these areas.
- Drive at a reasonable & safe speed to suit conditions & conserve fuel – no racing through river crossings or bush tracks as the macho heroes do on the TV commercials!
- Limit number of vehicles in each convoy to minimize impact on bush tracks, bush camps & surrounds.

## **Environmentally Responsible Waste Disposal**

- Ensure clients never throw rubbish from their vehicles; include "Keep Australia Beautiful" car rubbish bags in Pre-Departure Kits.
- Encourage clients to leave their campsite neat and tidy on departure.
- Use designated camp grounds/caravan parks whenever possible.
- When making bushcamps, encourage clients to dig their "bush toilets" at least 100m downwind from camp and at least ½ metre deep using the shovel provided, and to use biodegradable toilet paper.
- Provide soak pits for run-off water from showers, hand basins, dishwashing and food preparation when in bush camps.
- Remove all rubbish from camp and dispose of it prior to departure in the facilities provided. If bush camping, take rubbish out and dispose of it in appropriate town bins.
- Squash cans for easier transport & disposal.
- Divide rubbish for recycling purposes whenever possible.

### **Environmentally Responsible Resource Management**

- Use biodegradable soap, dishwashing liquid and shampoo when bush camping and encourage clients to do the same.
- Take adequate water supplies along; try not to deplete water supplies in remote areas.
- Do not allow clients to bathe with soap, shampoo hair or wash clothes or dishes in rivers, lakes or the ocean.
- Encourage clients to bring cardboard casks of wine rather than bottles
- Do not light campfires out of season.
- When building a campfire in season, build it only in a small enclosed space in the designated area and using the firepit facilities provided.
- Fires should be built away from trees and dry bush, extinguished with water at night, and checked before breaking camp.
- If building a campfire in season, bring own wood or use only wood provided. Do not damage nearby bush.
- Only make fire big enough to do the necessary cooking or socialising – no big bonfires.
- Recycle paper in the Global Gypsies office for notes, messages, etc.
- Capture & re-use as much grey water as possible in the GG home/office.
- Participate in the Green Energy program in the GG home/office.
- Choose recycled paper for stationery and business cards.
- Use e-mails when possible to minimise paper usage.

### **Environmentally Responsible Vehicle Maintenance**

- Any disposable fluids from vehicle maintenance operations (oil, transmission fluid, etc.) to be stored in appropriate containers until reaching appropriate town disposal facilities.
- Ensure that vehicles comply with vehicle emissions standards.
- Use bio-diesel or other appropriate renewable fuels in vehicles whenever possible.
- Work towards becoming 'carbon neutral' by participating in emissions off-set programs to counter balance the climate impact of our tours.

### **Respecting the Landscape, Flora, Fauna, History & Culture**

- Research the areas we intend to visit
- Provide clients with as much information as possible about the local landscape, flora, fauna, history and culture to enrich the visitor experience and show respect for the local culture.
- Incorporate local guest speakers in the program wherever possible so they can share their localised knowledge of history, culture, flora, fauna and environmental issues, and also buy fuel & supplies in areas we visit so that we make a sustainable contribution to local communities.
- No pets are allowed on Global Gypsies safaris as they can damage the flora and fauna and are not permitted entry into parks and reserves.
- Discourage clients from approaching, touching or feeding wild birds or animals unless instructed to do so by the Guide.
- Discourage clients from taking souvenirs such as wildflowers, coral, shells, rocks, fossils, etc from areas they visit. Take only photographs & memories!
- Leave property, gates and equipment as we found them.
- Look out for small animals on the road, and if possible, stop the tour and remove them from danger.
- Provide assistance to other travelers wherever possible.