



The mark
of Best Practice

FAIR TRADE TOURISM GOOD
PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR CAPTIVE
WILDLIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA

2018

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION	3
Five Pillars	4
• Legal Compliance	
• Wildlife Conservation	
• Animal Welfare	
• Human Safety	
• Transparency	
TYPES OF CAPTIVE FACILITIES	12
• Sanctuaries	
• Orphanages	
• Rehabilitation Centres	
• Zoos and Aquaria	
SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY	16
• Elephants	
• Lions	
• Cheetah	
• Wild Dogs	
• Whales and Dolphins	
• Ostriches	
• Crocodiles	
• Primates	
• Birds	
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TOUR OPERATORS	30
BIBLIOGRAPHY	34

INTRODUCTION

AS TOURISTS INCREASINGLY BECOME AWARE OF THE NEED TO BE RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLERS, MANY ARE ASKING ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF THEIR VISITS TO DESTINATIONS.

Along with concern about environmental and social impacts, 71% of tourists state that they want to buy holidays from companies that care for animals. Yet every year, up to four million tourists support wildlife attractions that are bad for animal welfare or wildlife conservation. Global research conducted by Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (Wildcru) indicates that only about 1 in 90 captive animals are in facilities that are beneficial for their welfare and conservation. According to Wildcru, 2-4 million tourists who visit captive wildlife attractions per year are contributing to animal welfare abuse and declines in species' conservation, yet 80% of them are unaware of their negative impacts.

Fair Trade Tourism believes that, managed responsibly, captive wildlife facilities can play a positive role in tourism; educating visitors about conservation, rehabilitating injured and abandoned wildlife and supporting genuine conservation efforts in the field. Managed badly however, they are guilty of abusing animals for entertainment, exploiting visitors while risking injury, and negatively impacting on wildlife conservation.

A major issue in South Africa is that captive wildlife legislation is confusing and sometimes contradictory, and exploitative practices have been allowed to flourish. Compounding the confusion is the many different types of captive wildlife facilities, making it difficult to discern between a genuine conservation operation or sanctuary and one that simply exploits animals for profit. Tourists have the opportunity of visiting or supporting

sanctuaries, refuges, breeding centres, educational centres, endangered species centres, rehabilitation centres, orphanages or zoos, and usually have no idea what these terms mean. This enables fees or donations to be elicited from visitors who believe they are helping protect wildlife when animals are actually being traded for profit.

Fair Trade Tourism understands that many animal welfare and conservation groups would like the captive wildlife industry to cease. We wish to make it clear that producing these guidelines does not mean that we endorse keeping wildlife in captivity; it simply reflects our intent to help mitigate the negative impacts of a global sector that attracts up to 10 million visitors a year.

The enclosed guidelines focus on five pillars: legal compliance, wildlife conservation, animal welfare, human safety and transparency. At their core are Fair Trade Tourism's certification criteria, which are aligned to Global Sustainable Tourism Council standards. These guidelines introduce the legislative environment, describe different types of captive facilities and highlight issues around specific wildlife species in captivity, namely elephants, lions, cheetah, wild dogs, whales and dolphins, ostriches, crocodiles, primates and birds.

We encourage the travel industry to adopt these guidelines. By doing so, you will be helping to protect the welfare of animals and also their conservation status in the wild, while protecting visitors from injury and exploitation.

FIVE PILLARS

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THESE GUIDELINES, THE FOLLOWING TERMS APPLY:

- A WILD ANIMAL IS ANY ANIMAL THAT HAS A LARGE PROPORTION OF ITS POPULATION LIVING WILD IN ORIGINAL HABITAT AND WHERE BREEDING IS SUBJECT TO NATURAL SELECTION.
- CAPTIVITY IS A SITUATION WHERE AN ANIMAL IS DEPENDENT ON HUMANS FOR ITS DAILY EXISTENCE, OR IS CONTAINED IN AN ENCLOSURE OR FENCED PROPERTY THAT IS TOO SMALL FOR IT TO SUSTAIN ITSELF.

Fair Trade Tourism has based these guidelines on five pillars:

- 1) legal compliance,
- 2) animal welfare,
- 3) wildlife conservation,
- 4) human safety and
- 5) transparency.

A facility should comply with all five pillars in order to be classified as good practice.

01

Legal Compliance

In South Africa regulations around captive wildlife fall between two government departments, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. With policy set by two different departments and permits issued by provincial authorities who differ in their approach, there is little consistency in regulation and in some provinces captive wildlife is hardly regulated at all.

Performing Animals Protection Amendment Act

Captive facilities that exhibit animals for entertainment need to comply with the Performing Animals Protection Act (PAPA) and apply for an annual licence. This stipulates that an animal health and welfare plan must be drawn up per species, signed by the facility veterinarian, and daily inspection of animals must be documented.

The Animal Protection Act 1962

This Act covers wild animals, birds, and reptiles that are in captivity or under the control of humans. It lists prohibited acts of cruelty, such as causing suffering due to confinement, chaining or tethering, abandonment, unnecessarily denying food or water, keeping in a dirty or parasitic condition, or failing to provide veterinary assistance. The NSPCA is a statutory body that is empowered to enforce this Act.

Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations

TOPS Regulations were promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, which stipulates that a permit is required to possess, breed, hunt, catch, import or export, translocate or trade in threatened or protected species listed under TOPS.

CITES

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Trade in animal species is permitted when CITES stipulates that this will not adversely affect wild populations

GUIDELINES

- The facility should be in possession of all relevant international, national and provincial legal permits for keeping wildlife.
- The facility should comply with national and international laws relevant to the trade in wildlife and plant species OR products made from wildlife and plant species.

02

Wildlife Conservation

The ethical debate over zoos and aquariums and the trade-off that is made between animal welfare, conservation, scientific research, education and entertainment, is complex and unclear. There are cases where captive facilities have helped save endangered species by keeping them safe from poaching or habitat destruction, rehabilitating wildlife, undertaking captive breeding programmes and providing funding for conservation programmes in the wild.

Some wildlife scientists believe captive and wild populations should be viewed as linked, and that an exchange of animals and DNA is required for long term viability. They believe concerns about animal welfare should be balanced against broad conservation aims and that captive animal research will increasingly inform the needs of wild populations. However, many conservationists also fear that the captive wildlife sector has negative impacts on conservation through illicit capturing of wild animals and by masking the illegal trade. In South Africa, there are credible reports of wild lions, cheetahs, wild dogs and elephants being captured for incarceration or trade, while throughout Africa the illegal trafficking of apes, reptiles and birds for the captive market occurs on a monumental scale.

A responsible captive facility will support genuine wildlife conservation efforts, if not through releasing or rehabilitating wildlife, then through well-planned environmental educational programmes and direct support for species in the wild.

GUIDELINES

- The facility should not have obtained animals from the wild, unless for a demonstrable and justifiable conservation need, or for legitimate rescue purposes.
 - If the facility has obtained animals from the wild, it should have the necessary legal permits, as well as endorsement from a recognised conservation organisation or programme.

- Animals that have been rescued should be rehabilitated and released back into the wild, unless the animal has been permanently damaged or is otherwise unable to sustain itself in the wild. There should be a determined date for release back into the wild.
- The facility should not breed or trade unless for declared conservation objectives, verified by a recognised, independent conservation authority (excluding CITES).
- A declared sanctuary should not engage in wildlife trade or breeding activities, nor allow contact between animals and visitors.
- The facility should keep an up-to-date record of all animals in its care, including their history and destination or death.

03

Animal Welfare

An animal is considered to be in a reasonable state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour and is not suffering from pain, fear or distress. Reasonable animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, good nutrition, humane management and enrichment. Living conditions should cater for the specific needs of the animal, providing opportunities to dig, climb, run, swim and interact as part of a social group. Failure to address these needs can contribute to abnormal behaviour, disease and early mortality. Restricting movement, training using punishment or negative reinforcement, forcing an animal to perform unnatural behaviour, modifying normal physiology to reduce handling risk, or removing offspring just after birth, can also cause severe and lasting distress.

GUIDELINES

- The facility should subscribe to the Five Freedoms associated with good animal welfare: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; freedom to express normal behaviour, and freedom from fear and distress.
 - The facility should have a written policy, available to the public, specifying how it supports good animal welfare in terms of feeding, housing, health, enabling appropriate behaviour, and providing protection from fear & distress.
 - The facility should have sufficient staff experienced in animal husbandry.
 - The facility should engage a qualified veterinarian to conduct on-site checks at least twice a year to ensure the good health of animals

- The condition of the animals should be checked on a daily basis by trained and experienced staff.
- The facility should have clear protocols in place to ensure disease is not transmitted between humans and animals.
- The facility should ensure that animals are not encouraged to behave in a way that is not natural and / or innate to their species for entertainment purposes.
 - Unnatural behaviour includes being ridden, constrained or tied down, or made to lie, sit, kneel, walk, fly or perform tricks for entertainment.
 - Animals should not be drugged, physically modified or manipulated in any way to make them safe for handling or for use as photographic props.
- Animal-human contact, including feeding of animals, should be avoided.
 - If any human-animal contact takes place, this should be for a defined, limited time period, under strict supervision of a qualified person
 - The animal must be able to move away from the interaction if it chooses.
 - The public should not be involved in the direct handling of young, dependent animals.
- Animals should not have been removed from parental care prematurely (before being weaned) to perpetuate breeding or tourism activities.
- The facility should not feed its animals with live vertebrate prey.

04

Human Safety

Each year in Southern Africa, a number of people are badly injured or killed by wildlife in captive facilities. To mitigate this risk, thorough safety protocols need to be in place to protect visitors and staff and to define acceptable behaviour in the proximity of the wildlife by implementing a visitor code of conduct. A responsible facility will have insurance that covers the facility and visitors against liability for damage or injury caused by any animals, in addition to public liability insurance. Contact with potentially dangerous animals, including the Big Five Animals (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhino) predators, hippo, great apes, large monkeys, poisonous snakes and crocodiles, should not be permitted.

GUIDELINES

- The facility should minimise the risk of human injury by having a comprehensive safety protocol in place.
 - A visitor code of conduct should be in place that prioritises visitor safety.
 - The facility should have insurance against liability for any damage or injury caused by animals.
 - The facility should make a record available of any deaths or injuries by animals.
- The facility should not permit members of the public to come into contact with dangerous species. These include the following species listed as Hazard Category 1 in the ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) Animal Welfare Guidelines:
 - Lions, leopards, cheetahs, caracal, exotic big cats, elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffe, great apes, large monkeys, buffalo, poisonous snakes and crocodiles.
 - Prohibited contact includes feeding but excludes contact required for veterinary purposes.
 - Contact with other animal species should be subject to a risk assessment.

05

Transparency

Captive wildlife tourism is big business and facilities often go to lengths to portray themselves as doing credible work for conservation in order to strengthen their marketing appeal. Many facilities claim the cubs that they allow tourists to pet are orphans, when instead they have been removed from their mothers specifically for display and petting shortly after birth. Many claim they are preparing wildlife for release, when this may not be the case. Some facilities display eco-labels or claim affiliations to conservation NGOs that are fictitious or created by the facility itself. For the average tour operator or traveller, it is very difficult to distinguish who is genuine and who is not. Many facilities ask for donations to help save their animals, yet they may be trading and making profits from the very animals they are asking donors to fund or adopt. Absolute transparency is required from captive wildlife facilities to avoid tourist being deceived and exploited.

GUIDELINES

- The facility should declare whether it is a for-profit or non-profit business. If it is a non-profit business, it should publish details of how donations are spent.
- The facility should make it clear whether it engages in wildlife breeding or trade by communicating this in its public literature, such as its website.
- The facility should make its studbooks available on request.
- The facility's conservation claims should be endorsed by an independent conservation body that is nationally or internationally recognised.
- The facility should have publicly available records of animals released into the wild, as well as the survival rate of released animals.

TYPES OF CAPTIVE FACILITIES

01

Sanctuaries

A sanctuary is a facility in which a permanent captive home is provided for wild animals that would be unable to sustain themselves if released. Their primary focus is to provide life-time care. There are a few dozen genuine wildlife sanctuaries in Africa where animals that have previously been abused, injured or abandoned are given a permanent home and animal welfare is a priority. A true sanctuary does not allow any breeding or commercial trade in its animals, does not allow public interaction with the animals in its care, and should not replace animals that have died. True sanctuaries not only home and rehabilitate wildlife for life, but try and raise awareness of the plight of these animals in the wild.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID “sanctuaries” that cannot tell you where each animal has come from, where animal numbers fluctuate or where animals disappear without sound explanation.

VISIT true sanctuaries where each animal’s history is articulated, where no breeding or trade takes place and where visitors are kept a healthy distance from the animals.

02

Orphanages

Orphanages are designed to treat and rear indigenous wild animals in situations where they have been genuinely orphaned, and they should not allow interaction with the animals in their care. Due to the rhino poaching scourge in South Africa, several rhino orphanages have been set up to care for rhino calves whose mothers have been killed by poachers, with the intention of eventual release. Many orphanages invite supporters to “adopt” an orphan. This is generally a notional adoption and a successful fundraising tactic that can result in hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised. In South Africa, lion and cheetah cubs are often called orphans but they are almost never genuine – they have invariably been bred in captivity and deliberately removed from their mothers at a few weeks old. Unethical operators then portray them as orphans and exploit them for adoption and / or cub petting.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID “facilities where lion or cheetah cubs are portrayed as orphans, or where the touching of orphaned animals is allowed.

SUPPORT rhino or elephant orphanages where the facility is able to provide a detailed report of where the orphan came from and where the animals are free from stressful human interactions.

03

Rehabilitation Centres

Rehabilitation facilities are meant for the treatment and recovery of sick or injured indigenous animals and should not allow public interaction with these animals. There are a number of genuine rehabilitation centres in Africa, which take in injured or abandoned wildlife, provide veterinary care and prepare the animal for release back into the wild where possible. What causes confusion is that many of these centres take in volunteers to help cover costs and some introduce display animals as an added attraction for visitors to cross-subsidise their rehabilitation work. A genuine rehabilitation centre will be associated with a registered veterinarian, the identification of animals being treated under veterinary conditions will be clear and visitors will not be allowed to have access to these animals. A responsible facility will work to a structured rehabilitation programme, with a timeframe set for release of an animal back into the wild.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID "visiting a rehabilitation centre if visitors are allowed to play with or touch the animals being rehabilitated.

SUPPORT rehabilitation centres that have proper veterinary facilities, a strong educational focus, and do not allow visitors to touch the animals being rehabilitated or interfere with the veterinary process.

03

Zoos and Aquaria

The argument for zoos is that they educate the public, give people who can't afford to travel to wild places a chance to see wildlife and are important centres for conservation and research. Proponents argue that modern zoos and aquaria have a mission to educate visitors about wildlife conservation and biodiversity decline and fundraise for field conservation. An example is the global Association of Zoos and Aquaria (AZA) whose accredited zoos and aquariums spend +\$160 million on conservation initiatives annually. Zoos can help save species by keeping them safe from poaching or habitat destruction, rehabilitating wildlife and undertaking captive breeding programmes, which have saved some endangered species from extinction. However, with zoos responsible for keeping hundreds of thousands of animals in confinement, there is increasing concern over animal welfare. The reality is that few animals bred in captivity are released into the wild and surplus animals can end up being traded with other zoos or killed. Reports of animals in under-funded zoos suffering from neglect, injury and malnutrition add weight to the growing opposition to traditional zoos and aquaria. There is particular antipathy to keeping elephants and large carnivores, and cetaceans such as whales and dolphins, in captivity.

A genuine zoo should be geographically and financially accessible to all levels of the public, play an education and advocacy role, support conservation goals and only breed a limited number of animals in compliance with national breeding plans. Globally there is a move to improve conditions in zoos, with large natural enclosures replacing the often small barren cages of the past, and with an increasing focus on animal welfare and enrichment.

Responsible aquaria also focus on environmental education by providing public lectures, hosting school trips and granting free access to disadvantaged children. They rescue and rehabilitate marine species, conduct beach clean ups, fund marine conservation research and help conserve Marine Protected Areas. This conservation work would not be possible without the contribution of paying visitors.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID zoos where animals are kept in cramped enclosures with little or no shelter or natural vegetation, as well as marine parks with cetacean (dolphin and orca) performances.

SUPPORT zoos and aquaria with large natural enclosures which allow for free movement, and where there is a focus on environmental education and animal enrichment.

SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY

01

Elephants

Elephants are highly intelligent, social and emotional. They need stimulation, enrichment and the freedom to behave naturally. Elephants do badly in captivity and often suffer physical and psychological disorders, high infant mortality and reduced longevity. Unnatural social grouping, lack of space and stimulation can lead to skin and foot ailments, infectious diseases, arthritis and circulatory problems as well as stress-induced swaying and pacing. Their unsuitability to captive living is indicated by an average life span in zoos of 17 years, compared to 56 years for a wild elephant.

Captive elephants used for elephant-back riding or human interaction must be trained and subjugated to ensure they obey human commands; in almost all cases this involves harsh techniques such as bull hooks, electric prods, sticks spiked with nails, starvation tactics, sleep deprivation and space confinement. Contrary to public perception, most captive elephants in Southern Africa were wild caught and removed from their family herds. Of some 126 elephants in 26 captive facilities in South Africa, 98 were reportedly born in the wild. Tourists are usually told that these animals have been rescued from elephant culls in South Africa or Zimbabwe.

From a human safety point of view, captive elephant facilities are problematic, with more people killed or injured from elephants in captivity than any other animal. In southern Africa, since 2001, 17 people have been injured or killed by elephants in captivity. There are still more than 10 elephant-back riding operations in the region however the growing outcry is leading to this activity being phased out. In 2017 Lonely Planet agreed to stop promoting elephant rides altogether.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID facilities where elephant-back riding is offered, or where visitors are allowed to have physical interaction with elephants, including bathing, feeding, brushing or walking, or where elephants are used as props.

VISIT facilities where elephants can be viewed in natural or semi-natural circumstances, preferably by vehicle.

Lions

Habitat destruction and human-lion conflict has led to a catastrophic drop in wild lion numbers in Africa, declining from around 50,000 in the 1950s to around 20,000 today. Paradoxically in recent years, the number of lions in South Africa has been exploding but not for reasons that promote their conservation. There are now 7,000 – 8,000 lions held in captivity in South Africa, almost all of them bred for hunting or the lion bone trade.

Nearly 200 captive lion facilities exist in South Africa, many of which allow the petting of lion cubs and walking with young lions by tourists, activities that generally form part of an opaque and lucrative life-cycle of abuse. Lion cubs are taken from their mothers at a few days or weeks old and handled by visitors or volunteers who pay to care for them, believing they are orphaned. At around 6-months old, these cubs often go on to be used in Walking with Lions experiences and at about 18-months old, when they become too dangerous to walk with, they are generally sold off for canned lion hunting or the lion-bone trade. There are however a few exceptions where hand-reared lions that have interacted with the public continue to live out their lives in captivity.

With the captive lion sector so lucrative, its participants are fiercely protective of their trade. Many captive lion facilities claim they are promoting conservation through research, promoting genetic variation, establishing bio-banks or preparing lions for release into the wild. Some produce scientific papers to back up these claims. Yet there are no credible scientific reports of captive lions thriving in the wild. Not only are captive-bred lions often genetically compromised, but attempts to introduce hand-reared lions into game reserves have proved hazardous as they no longer fear humans. Nor is there a need for captive-bred lion releases as South Africa's game reserves breed sufficient numbers of lions for reintroduction purposes. Wildlife NGOs say captive lion facilities play no positive role in wild lion conservation and pose a threat to wild lions by promoting the lion bone trade and poaching of wild lions.

Lastly, interacting with captive lions is inherently dangerous – the Endangered Wildlife Trust has recorded 24 captive lion attacks in South Africa since 1996, resulting in the deaths of 11 people.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID captive lion facilities that allow breeding of lions, petting of lion cubs and / or walking with young lions.

SUPPORT true lion sanctuaries where lions that have previously been abused, injured or abandoned are given a permanent home, there is no breeding or touching, animal welfare is a priority, and there is information on where each lion has come from.

Cheetah

The captive cheetah population is growing in southern Africa with +700 cheetahs kept in about 80 facilities. However, wild cheetahs face huge threats from habitat destruction and human-wildlife conflict. There are +1,000 free-roaming cheetahs in SA while the total African cheetah population is in serious decline with only +10,000 remaining. Many captive facilities claim to be supporting cheetah conservation by providing new genetic material for breeding and by releasing cheetahs into the wild. However, a pitifully small number of captive cheetahs have been successfully introduced in the wild, and most are sold to zoos and wealthy individuals offshore. There are credible reports of wild cheetah being captured and smuggled out of South Africa with the sanction of CITES permits designated for trade in captive cheetah. The trade in King Cheetah is especially lucrative as a single animal can sell for \$50,000 - \$60,000. Conservation officials say wild cheetah are also sometimes trapped and used to supplement the bloodlines of captive cheetahs.

However, nearly all captive cheetah facilities claim to be doing conservation through education, supplying zoos or rescuing animals from conflict situations. Some promote the use of livestock guarding dogs on farms to avoid cheetah, leopard or jackal predation, and educate the public on the plight of wild cheetah. Some keep ambassador cheetahs which they use to educate visitors and take to schools to raise awareness about the threat to wild cheetah populations. More controversially, ambassador cheetahs are sometimes used as photographic props at fashion shows, weddings and corporate events.

Although cheetahs in the wild are not known to attack humans, there have been an increasing number of cheetah attacks in captivity in recent years. The Endangered Wildlife Trust has recorded 15 cheetah attacks in captive facilities since 2009, including one fatality.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID facilities where touching of cheetahs is allowed, or where cheetahs are used as photographic props.

BE WARY of facilities that breed or trade cheetahs – ask lots of questions.

SUPPORT facilities where there is no touching allowed, where enclosures are large and semi-natural, where there is a strong emphasis on education, and where wild cheetah conservation programmes are supported and vetted by a recognised conservation organisation.

Wild Dogs

Wild dogs are classified as endangered as they have disappeared from much of their original range. There are about 450 free roaming wild dogs in South Africa but only an estimated 5,000 remaining on the continent. Wild dogs are highly mobile and need an extensive range in their natural habitat, with habitat destruction their greatest threat. The Endangered Wildlife Trust says that the captive breeding and keeping of wild dogs is not a viable conservation strategy and there are reports that free-roaming wild dogs have been caught and placed in captive facilities. There have been very few successful, long-term re-introductions into the wild using captive-bred dogs, mostly because they lack the skills needed to survive in the wild.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID captive facilities that breed wild dogs, especially if they make misleading conservation claims about introducing dogs into the wild.

A vertical strip on the left side of the page shows a close-up of animal fur, likely from a bear or similar large mammal, with a mix of light brown and dark brown tones. The fur is thick and textured.

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST URGES VISITORS TO CAPTIVE CARNIVORE BREEDING FACILITIES TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What is the plan for the long-term future of the animals in this facility?
- Why are cubs not being raised by their mothers?
- What happens to the facility's cubs when they grow up?
- If they are released into larger wildlife areas, where are these and can the facility provide documentation to prove a viable, ethical and successful release process?
- If the facility is breeding, do they have a management plan that determines responsible husbandry and management of all stock?
- Do any of the 'stock' have the opportunity to live out their natural lives, or are they hunted or bred with again?
- What happens to the facility's surplus animals?
- Can the public inspect the record books of the facility
- If these animals become part of another breeding programme, for what purpose?

Whales and Dolphins

There is growing global consensus that keeping whales and dolphins in captivity is unacceptable on animal welfare grounds. These highly intelligent animals, which live in complex social groups in the wild, often develop heightened aggression and live shorter lives in captivity due to poor nutrition and tough training regimes.

The documentary films *Blackfish* and *The Cove* shone a spotlight on the abuse and exploitation by marine parks where orca and dolphin performances are big business. Yet hundreds of dolphins continue to be captured from the wild to stock tourist attractions around the world, a practice decried by animal welfare groups and the public alike.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID dolphin shows; the training of these intelligent animals to perform unnatural tricks on command should not be supported.

SUPPORT aquaria that focus on education and awareness of the marine world, research and proactive marine conservation programme

Ostriches

Ostrich farms are commercial facilities where ostriches are bred for their skins, eggs and feathers and meat, and they are marketed as such, unlike commercial predator farms which are often promoted as breeding cats for conservation. Visitors pay to learn about the ostriches' life cycle and are often allowed to handle ostrich chicks and ride on ostrich backs.

Amidst glowing global opposition to riding activities on animal welfare grounds, some ostrich farms outside Oudshoorn in South Africa have taken the decision to discontinue ostrich-back riding, citing this as an ethical and necessary step for the tourism industry. However some of the country's major ostrich farms still offer riding activities.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID facilities where riding of ostriches or the holding of chicks is allowed.

SUPPORT facilities where there is no touching allowed and where you can view ostriches on foot, by vehicle or ox-drawn cart in semi-natural surrounds.

Crocodiles

Crocodile farms are commercial ventures that sell crocodile leather and meat largely for export markets, with many crocodile farms hosting tourists to supplement their income. Crocodile farming is believed to have reduced illegal poaching and trade of wild crocodiles, with wild crocodile populations increasing fourfold in the last 35 years. However welfare considerations need to be taken into account, as crocodiles are known to suffer from stress. According to the London Bioveterinary group, aggressive individuals can dominate other crocodiles in confined spaces, preventing them from moving around.

There are claims that crocodiles in captivity can develop wounds from fighting, abnormalities and deformities because they can't walk or swim, and bacterial infections from their water being occupied by too many animals. In South Africa, visitors can choose to be submerged in cages to view crocodiles underwater or fly over crocodile enclosures on a zipline. Safety considerations are a concern, and a guide was killed by a crocodile at a captive facility in 2017.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID crocodile farms where crocodiles are kept in very confined or artificial spaces, or where there is no published protocol on safety precautions.

Primates

A few dozen primate facilities exist in Africa; some are pure sanctuaries, others are rehabilitation centres where injured primates from the local area are treated and released back into the wild, and some exist purely for commercial tourism. Many are a combination of these, which makes discerning their conservation value difficult. Primate facilities that allow breeding and trading are potentially detrimental to primate conservation as trade is endangering many primates' existence in the wild. Over half of all primates traded legally are taken from the wild; +3,000 great apes, including orangutans, gorillas and chimpanzees, are lost from the wild every year due to illegal trade. Particularly concerning is the fate of the chimpanzee, which could be extinct in the wild in the next 20 years; up to 10 adults are slaughtered in the wild to obtain one infant chimpanzee for trade. A responsible captive facility will not permit any trade or allow any physical interaction with its primates.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID facilities where breeding or trading is not expressly prohibited.

SUPPORT facilities where:

- injured or abandoned primates are genuinely treated and rehabilitated for release into the wild.
- primates are given a home for life and where no breeding or trading takes place

Birds

The illegal trade is a major contributor to the depletion of wild bird populations in Africa, particularly for the African Grey parrot. This is the most heavily traded wild bird in the world, with up to 65% of parrots captured in the wild perishing before reaching their destination. It is unclear what role bird-parks play in this trade, however one South African facility is reported to have captured flamingo chicks in the wild. There are animal welfare issues too – the handling of birds, birds dying in captivity and the tethering of raptors during displays are cited as welfare concerns.

FAIR TRADE TOURISM ADVISES

AVOID facilities where:

- breeding or trading is not expressly prohibited.
- the public is allowed to stroke birds or where shows and flight demonstrations do not show obvious respect for the birds.

SUPPORT facilities where:

- injured birds are treated and rehabilitated for release into the wild if possible.
- birds are given a home for life and where no breeding or trading takes place

SUGGESTED QUESTIONNAIRE TO CAPTIVE WILDLIFE FACILITIES

Bad Practice			
Be Wary - Ask More Questions			
Good Practice			
Legal Compliance			
Does your facility possess the relevant legal permits that accurately define the purpose of your facility?	Yes	No	N/A
Does your facility trade in any wildlife species or products?	No	Yes	N/A
If your facility trades in endangered or threatened wildlife or products made from endangered or threatened species, does it have CITES and any other necessary permits?	Yes	No	N/A
Wildlife Conservation			
Has your facility ever obtained animals from the wild?	No	Yes	
If you have obtained animals from the wild, do you have the necessary permits?	Yes	No	N/A
If you have obtained animals from the wild, do you have endorsement from a recognised conservation organisation?	Yes	No	N/A
If you have obtained animals from the wild, is this for rescue and/or rehabilitation purposes?	Yes	No	N/A
If you have obtained animals from the wild, have you reintroduced those that can be rehabilitated back into the wild?	Yes	No	N/A
If your facility has obtained animals for rehabilitation purposes, is there a defined time-period for their release?	Yes	No	N/A
Does your facility engage in wildlife breeding?	No	Yes	
Does your facility engage in wildlife trade?	No	Yes	
If your facility engages in wildlife breeding or trade, is this supported by an independent, nationally recognised conservation organisation?	Yes	No	N/A
Do you keep an up-to-date registry of all animals in your care, including their history, death certificates and the destination of animals leaving the facility?	Yes	No	N/A

Animal Welfare			
Does your facility have a written policy on how you support the Five Freedoms associated with good animal welfare?	Yes		
Has your facility ever been warned or charged for suspected animal welfare violations?	No	Yes	
Does a qualified veterinarian conduct on-site checks at least twice a year to ensure the good health of your animals?	Yes	No	
Are your staff-members trained and experienced in animal husbandry?	Yes	No	
Is the condition of your animals checked on a daily basis by suitably trained personnel?	Yes	No	
Do you keep detailed health records of your animals?	Yes	No	
Are there clear protocols in place to prevent the transmission of disease between humans and animals?	Yes	No	
Are animals required to act in a way that is not consistent with natural behaviour e.g. performing tricks, being ridden, constrained or tied down, or made to lie, sit, kneel, walk or fly on command for entertainment purposes?	No	Yes	
Are animals drugged, modified or manipulated in any way to make them safe for handling or use as photographic props?	No	Yes	
Is there a code of conduct around photography with animals, which discourages selfies or posed photos with animals?	Yes	No	
If any human-animal contact takes place, is this for a defined, limited time period, and under strict supervision of a qualified person?	Yes	No	N/A
If any human-animal contact takes place, can the animal freely move away from the interaction?	Yes	No	N/A
Are there any activities that involve the public in the direct care or handling of young dependent animals?	No	Yes	
If breeding occurs at your facility, are any offspring removed from their parents for tourism display or interaction?			N/A
Are any animals at your facility fed live vertebrate prey?	No	Yes	

Visitor Safety			
Do you have a risk assessment in place, plus strict policies & procedures, including safety barriers, to prevent injury to visitors?	Yes	No	
Do you have a visitor code of conduct in place that prioritises visitor safety?	Yes	No	
Do you have insurance against liability for any damage or injury caused by animals?	Yes	No	
Has any animal caused serious injury or death to a visitor at your facility in the past 24 months?	No	Yes	N/A
Do you permit visitors / volunteers to have contact with lions, leopards, cheetah, exotic big cats, caracals, elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffe, great apes, large monkeys, buffalo, poisonous snakes, crocodiles, giraffes?	No	Yes	N/A
If you permit visitors / volunteers to have contact with any animals, has a risk assessment been conducted for this?	Yes	No	N/A
Transparency			
If you seek donations from the public, do you have a registered charity and provide details of how donations are spent?	Yes	No	N/A
If you engage in wildlife breeding or trade, is this clear in your literature?	Yes	No	
Do you have a visitor education programme with clear objectives?	Yes	No	
Do you have a published conservation policy with clear objectives?	Yes	No	
Do you specifically support conservation programmes in the wild?	Yes	No	
Are your conservation claims verified by a nationally recognised, independent conservation body?	Yes	No	N/A
Do you make your studbooks available to the public?	Yes	No	
If you release animals into the wild, do you have publicly available records of such releases that also record the survival rate of the released animals	Yes	No	N/A

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