

# **Our mission at The South African Animal Sanctuary Alliance (SAASA)**

Our mission is one of education and understanding, and to meet these objectives, we strive for all guests who having visited any of our sanctuaries, (Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and the Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary) to leave with a greater understanding of the primates, birds, apex cats and wild animals in general and to understand the threats and challenges they are facing.

One of our main areas of focus is to educate the public about the adverse effects of keeping wild animals as pets, in terms of both their physical and psychological wellbeing.

Also important, is to create visitor awareness about the rapid decline of natural habitats due to logging, mining, agriculture and urban sprawl. We encourage the visiting public to buy goods wisely, purchase only what is sustainable, to avoid products made from animal parts, or those that result in the cutting down of trees to manufacture, all the way to avoiding the purchase of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics that were tested on animals.

SAASA is constituted under Section 21 of the Companies Act as a PBO 2000/000667/08. We are a body which strives to improve the lives of captive animals including primates, birds, apex cats and any other wild animals. We simultaneously strive to challenge and change legislation which allows and/or supports the trade in wild animals, or the holding of wild animals as pets. SAASA does not subscribe to any form of animal exploitation, we oppose the practice of charging clients for, or allowing clients to touch, ride, or walk wild animals on leashes and any other form of exploitation of wildlife.

## **OUR MISSION IS:**

- To encourage understanding of and a commitment to the conservation of wild animals including primates, birds and apex cats.

- To communicate the need for healthy natural habitats; and recognition of the wild animals need for interdependence of people, their natural environment and its component resources.
- We are committed to reaching and engaging the largest number of people possible to enable them, through knowledge and understanding, to develop the motivation and skills to make informed choices about their lives in relation to the sustainable use of the natural resources around them.

The South African Animal Sanctuary Alliance (SAASA) provides wild animals in our care with a stable environment, one with permanence and where there is no exploitation. We aggressively oppose any form of wildlife trade.

At SAASA, care far exceeds what is required in the regulations regarding animal welfare. All SAASA sanctuaries are most importantly, places which are conducive to the wellbeing, both physically and emotionally of the wild animals in our care. At SAASA we strive to achieve an effective balance between conservation and economic reality. Our sanctuaries are therefore often tourism driven in order to be financially sustainable. A safari at any of our sanctuaries is much more than just an unforgettable forest and wildlife adventure; it is the vehicle that allows you to become part of what we do for the wild animals in our care.

It is because of sanctuaries such as Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Jukani which go beyond idealism, and who strive to do something positive, that we can look forward to a more optimistic future.

We follow the principals of Fair Trade.

## **TRANSPARENCY:**

We take responsibility of the mechanisms of our establishments, we hold ourselves accountable to our shareholders, our staff and our visitors.

- Our sanctuaries are owned by shareholders who are all like minded conservationists, and the animals in those sanctuaries fall under the principals enshrined in SAASA as laid out here-in
- Our staff and our shareholders have full access to any information which may concern them.
- The financial activities and position are reflected in the Annual Financial Statements of the three sanctuaries, and available to anyone with a vested interest. SAASA itself is a Non Profit Organisation, but also has Annual Financial Statements produced and these are open to any persons with a vested interest in SAASA including employees of the sanctuaries.

## **FAIR SHARE:**

Our policy for procurement, employment, staff remuneration and benefits are based on giving everyone equal opportunity and a fair share of the pie. The share is always relative to contribution.

- We undertake pay a fair price for our procurement
- We undertake to pay fair wages to our staff
- We undertake to abide by the Laws that govern the country, and pay our fair share of dues.

## **SUSTAINABILITY:**

Our sanctuaries in SAASA strive to be open and transparent in that we;

- Practice what we preach
- We improve the lot of our staff by training and educating them so they become better capable to take advantage of life opportunities.
- Support the local community and the area in general by directing our spend into the area around us, especially local disadvantaged communities
- Encourage local disadvantaged communities to become productive in our procurement needs, and bring them into the main-stream by creating a market for their products.
- To use natural resources with respect, and only make sustainable use of them.

## **FAIR SAY:**

Our sanctuaries are not Top Down, but Bottom Up, and we therefore encourage ideas and contributions to the development and management of the sanctuaries.

- Staffs both junior and senior are encouraged to make suggestions on the running of the sanctuaries.
- Staff are encouraged to also make suggestions about their own situation both at work and at home.

- We maintain a staff representative for dialog with senior management on issues that are not business related.

## **RELIABILITY:**

Our sanctuaries have been built upon the basis of best practice, this is not only in terms of our engagement with our clients and our staff, but also best practices related to the animals in the care of our sanctuaries.

- We insist on continuity of our best practice policy
- We are committed to constantly maintaining the highest level of service and delivery to our clients, our staff and our suppliers
- We spare no effort in maintaining a safe environment for our staff to work in, and for our visitors to enjoy.
- As a further commitment to responsibility we carry adequate indemnity.

## **RESPECT:**

We encourage all those involved in SAASA including visitors and staff to show the utmost respect and courtesy to all aspects of human rights, to;

- Acknowledge and respect culture, religion and differing beliefs.
- Promote an understanding and tolerance of other cultures and beliefs.
- Create and maintain a safe working environment for staff and visitors alike.

- Protect junior staff and maintain a strict child labour policy within the organisation at procurement level.
- Promoting gender equality, and maintain a fair HIV/Aids awareness policy.
- Use natural resources sparingly and sustainably, and be ever cautious about what you do with resources after you have used them, and find ways of reusing and recycling waste.
- Treat the fauna and flora with respect,
- Do not subject wild animals to abuse like petting, leash-walking or riding.
- Don't trade in wildlife or in anyway support the trade in wildlife artefacts'