



## BACK TO THE SOURCE TOURS

# Sustainability Initiatives and Action Plan Policy

### Introduction

Back to the Source Tours is a leading eco-friendly tour operator in East Africa, dedicated to promoting responsible tourism practices that respect the environment, empower communities, and preserve cultural heritage. We believe that travel can be a powerful force for positive change, and we are committed to operating in a way that minimizes our impact on the planet and maximizes our positive contributions to local communities.

### Directors' Involvement and Vision

Our directors are passionate advocates for responsible tourism and actively participate in industry-wide initiatives and assessments. We maintain close relationships with wildlife conservation organizations and work collaboratively to protect Uganda's diverse ecosystems and endangered species. This deep understanding of environmental and social issues informs our tour development and operational processes.

### Our Sustainability Initiatives:

Back to the Source Tours has implemented a comprehensive sustainability program encompassing various aspects of our operations:

#### Environmental Protection:

- **Carbon Offsetting:** We offset all carbon emissions generated by our tours through partnerships with carbon offset programs.
- **Eco-Friendly Transportation:** We prioritize fuel-efficient vehicles and explore alternative transportation options like cycling, hiking, and walking whenever feasible.
- **Waste Reduction:** We minimize waste generation through responsible packaging choices and on-site waste management practices.
- **Water Conservation:** We implement water-saving measures in our office and encourage responsible water use among our guests and partners.
- **Conservation Partnerships:** We collaborate with local conservation organizations to support their efforts in protecting wildlife and habitats.

#### Community Empowerment:

- **Supporting Local Businesses:** We source goods and services from local communities whenever possible, promoting economic development and cultural exchange.
- **Community-Based Activities:** We integrate community-based experiences into our tours, allowing guests to interact with local people and learn about their way of life.
- **Education and Training:** We provide training and educational tools for local community members, empowering them to benefit from tourism initiatives.
- **Cultural Preservation:** We respect and celebrate local cultures and traditions, incorporating them authentically into our tours. We also inform our guests prior to arrival.

#### Off-the-Beaten-Path Experiences:

We offer unique and authentic experiences that take travelers beyond the typical tourist destinations. This not only reduces the impact on popular sites but also allows guests to discover the hidden gems of East Africa and connect with local communities in a meaningful way.



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### Do's and Don'ts (For Travelers):

#### Do:

- Choose eco-friendly transportation options like bicycles, hiking, climbing, and walking activities.
- Conserve water and energy by taking shorter showers, turning off lights when not needed, and minimizing waste.
- Respect local customs and traditions by dressing modestly and refraining from taking photographs without permission.
- Support local businesses by purchasing souvenirs and handicrafts from local artisans.
- Leave no trace: Dispose of waste responsibly and avoid littering.
- Learn about and appreciate the local culture and environment.
- Be mindful of your impact on wildlife and avoid activities that harm or disturb animals.

#### Don't:

- Bring or use plastic bags or single-use plastics.
- Purchase souvenirs made from endangered species or unsustainable materials.
- Engage in activities that exploit or disrespect local communities or wildlife.
- Litter or pollute the environment.
- Offer money or gifts to children without consent from their parents or guardians.
- Take photographs without permission, especially of individuals or sacred sites.
- Be disrespectful of local customs and traditions.

### For Travel Agents:

#### Do:

- Promote responsible tourism practices and educate your clients about the importance of sustainability.
- Partner with eco-friendly partners
- Offer tours that support local communities and conserve the environment.
- Provide accurate information about tour destinations and responsible tourism practices.
- Encourage your clients to pack light and minimize their environmental impact.
- Be transparent about the sustainability practices of your partners and the impact of tourism on local communities and the environment.

#### Don't:

- Promote tours that exploit local communities or harm the environment.
- Offer misleading or inaccurate information about tour destinations.
- Partner with those who do not adhere to responsible tourism principles.
- Encourage unsustainable behaviors among your clients.

### Conclusion:

Back to the Source Tours is committed to responsible tourism and believes that travel can be a powerful force for good. We invite you to join us on a journey to discover the beauty of East Africa while respecting and protecting its environment and communities. By working together, we can ensure that tourism contributes to a sustainable future for Uganda and its people.