CODE OF CONDUCT

RULES FOR ETHICAL ELEPHANT TOURISM

Conservancies: Torra, Doro !Nawas, Twyfelfontein, Sesfontein, Anabeb, Puros, Greater Omatjete Elephant Management Group

As guides operating in areas home to endangered desert-adapted elephants, it's essential to uphold practices that ensure the safety and well-being of both wildlife and communities. This region is unique, with elephants coexisting alongside rural populations, yet human-elephant conflict remains a significant threat to their survival. To prevent elephants from becoming habituated to humans—a behaviour that can lead to dangerous encounters and ultimately the culling of 'problem animals'—strict rules must be implemented and enforced. By prioritising these guidelines, you can contribute to a safer environment and help secure the future of these remarkable animals.

BY SIGNING THIS CODE OF CONDUCT, I WILL COMPLY TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

ON ELEPHANT DRIVES IN THE RIVERBEDS:

- We brief our guests beforehand on the CoC, and the reason behind it.
- We do a vehicle check before the drive to minimise the risk of breakdown in the riverbed and engage in 4x4.
- We always keep a safe distance of more than **70 meters** away from elephants.
- We always drive away if elephants approach our vehicle. We never let an elephant get close enough to touch our vehicle!
- We always keep an escape route for ourselves AND the elephants.
- We only stay 20 minutes at a sighting and then leave the elephants at peace.
- We do not drive faster than elephants usually walk (5-8 km/h).
- We make sure there is a maximum of 3 cars at a sighting.
- We do not drive in convoys of more than 3 cars.
- We do not take any unauthorised community guides along.
- We tip-toe into the elephants' home and must not influence their behaviour. *If newborn calves are present, we take extra care and stay far away.*
- We do not leave our car when around elephants.
- We do not walk towards elephants.
- We do not drive behind elephants.
- We do not take fruits or bread along on a game drive.
- We stay quiet.
- If elephants seem stressed, we drive away.
- When entering the Huab river area, we sign in at De Riet Tourist Information Centre.

CAMPING & FOOD

- We do not camp in the riverbed.
- We do not organise breakfast/lunch where elephants walk.
- We do not let elephants access any human food or refreshments.
- We do not leave vegetable or fruit waste in open bins where wildlife can access it.
- We do not leave food in our tent.
- We do not go on elephant drives with fruits in our car.
- We pack our food in metal boxes or hand it in at the reception until returning from our drive.
- We take our trash away with us.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Guides must promptly report non-compliance to their manager with supporting evidence. Managers then escalate the issue to TOSCO.

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Name and company *Date and signature*