MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

Dear Visitor,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Mana Pools, a World Heritage Site. We expect that all visitors respect the honoured status of the Park and uphold the highest ethics with respect to this wilderness area and its inhabitants. Please place a high value on this unique Park and what it has to offer.

Breach of the rules of the Park will lead to penalties and fines, being banned from the Park and having your vehicle impounded. So please read on! Note that ignorance of the rules of the Park will not be a mitigating factor.

The registered tour operators have agreed to adhere to a high stand of ethical guiding. Please do not pressure them to breach agreed protocols.

Please note that in order to protect and preserve this pristine wilderness a number of rules and regulations have been in force for many years as per the Parks and Wildlife Act (General Regulations).

Tour operators and members of the public are entitled, by law, to report anyone who breaches the rules to the Parks authorities.

Please ensure that you and ALL the members in your party are aware of these regulations which are designed to enhance and maximise every visitor’s experience.

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable stay.

GENERAL

1) Remain in your camp during prescribed hours. These hours are posted at the Park Reception: - May to July: 6.00am to 6.00pm August to April: 6.00am to 6.30pm

2) Note that all plants, animals and soils are protected and cannot be removed from the park. This includes firewood, feathers, seeds & seed pods, fruits, bones, teeth, horns, skins, flowers, insects, cultural artefacts etc.

3) Do not enter campsites for which you do not have a booking.

4) Allow animals right of way across roads and your path if walking. Do not disrupt animals that are drinking or moving towards water.

5) Refrain from any behaviour likely to disturb wildlife or other park users. In particular do not approach close to Painted Dog dens or do anything that forces animals to move when they are resting. Do not approach if other visitors are already there – they should leave soon. Avoid crowding or surrounding animals. All observers should watch from the same viewing quadrant (preferably downwind) - see diagram.

6) Photographic parties are required to adhere to all the above demands to respect animals’ space. Note that Commercial Photography is ONLY allowed with a valid Permit from ZimParks.

7) Walking is allowed entirely at your own risk ONLY if you obtain a walking permit from the Park Office. It is strongly recommended that those without considerable experience with wildlife do not walk unaccompanied. Rather hire a guide. Do not tag onto (shadow) other walking groups.

8) Feeding of animals or birds is strictly prohibited. This includes the enticing of animals using natural and locally available foods.

9) Night driving or using a spotlight to view wildlife is prohibited.

10) No generators are allowed.

11) Any commercial safari activities within the Park must be conducted by a registered Mana Pools Tour Operator. All firearms must be declared on entry to the Park and (unless carried by tour operators licensed for this Park, or their guides) must be handed in or sealed at the Park office.

FIRES & FIREWOOD

12) Note that fires are only to be made at designated braais/fireplace stands/scrapes. Fires are prohibited at any picnic site or viewpoint which does not provide this infrastructure.
13) We encourage the use of gas to preserve firewood. Dead trees form a haven or food source for many species in the wild. If you must use wood, please keep your fire size to minimum.

14) It is prohibited to collect your own firewood from the park. All firewood must be purchased at the reception.

**CODE OF CONDUCT AT CAMP SITES**

15) Be considerate to other visitors by leaving your camp site in the condition in which you would like to find it i.e. litter, ash and toilet paper free. Dispose of ash from your fire by burying it. Do not put any soil or ash into the “long-drops.”

16) Note that there are a number of Tour Operator and Exclusive public camp sites within the park and members of the public are strictly prohibited from entering or camping at these sites.

17) Report any untidy camp sites to the reception or to a Park official at the site. Take a date/time picture to show Parks staff. Post-visit penalties can be applied.

18) Music or radios can only be played through earphones/headphones (so as not to create disturbance). No speakers.

**LITTER**

19) A CARRY IN CARRY OUT policy applies. ALL non-biodegradable waste must be removed from the park. It is not unreasonable to request that “what you brought in you must take out”.

20) You will be required to show your CARRY OUT litter at the exit gate. Failure to do so will result in a $100 fine.

21) Dispose of your litter outside the Park ONLY at a designated bin in one of the TOWNS that you pass through. DO NOT use roadside or lay-by bins as these are seldom emptied.

22) If you see any litter in the park, please assist by picking it up.

23) Should you need to answer the call of nature in the bush, bury all your waste. Used toilet paper must be buried, burned or taken out of the park.

**OFF-ROAD DRIVING**

24) No driving off road under any circumstances.

25) Only drive on designated/graded roads and DO NOT FOLLOW other people’s off-road tracks – you are not entitled to break the law as they have.

26) Absolutely NO driving in riverbeds except at designated crossing points.

27) Should you become stuck in the sand at any of the river crossing points and are recovered, take care to fill in any holes you may have made.

**FISHING**

28) Fishing is only permitted with a licence which can be purchased at reception.

29) Note that a maximum of five fish may be kept per licensed fisherman per day and that NO FISH are permitted to be removed from the park.

**ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES**

30) You can be of great assistance to park management if you report any illegal activities. In the event of off-road driving, note vehicle details i.e. colour, make, registration number and the location where this occurred. Where possible take a time/dated photograph for proof.

31) All registered tour operators act as an intermediary for Parks so feel free to report any suspicious activities or incidents to them and they will guide you accordingly or take appropriate action.

32) If you hear any shots report to Parks giving the time and an estimated location.

33) Report the location of any dead animals to Parks.

34) The use of drones is prohibited.

35) No unregistered communication radios are to be used in the Park except in an emergency.

36) No recorded sounds are to be used to attract predators.

37) Foreign tour operators/guides can only operate under the permit of a local Mana Pools operator.

**NOTE** that persons found to be contravening any of the above regulations will be liable to a fine, prosecution and may be banned from entering the park.