



in
collaboration
with
**LOWER ZAMBEZI
TOUR OPERATORS
ASSOCIATION**



MANA POOLS NATIONAL PARK CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VISITORS

Welcome to Mana Pools National Park and World Heritage Site. All visitors are expected to respect the honoured status of this unique National Park and uphold the highest ethics with respect to its wilderness and wildlife values.

Please note that to protect and preserve this pristine wilderness a number of rules and regulations have been in force for many years via the Parks and Wildlife Act (General Regulations). In addition, this CODE OF CONDUCT, compiled by ZimParks and stakeholders, is designed to enhance every visitor's experience during their stay in the park.

When you sign the arrival register, you will be deemed to having familiarised yourself with this CODE OF CONDUCT. Please seek any clarification from reception staff before you leave the office or at any time during your visit.

Breach of the park rules will lead to: a fine of up to \$1,000, being banned from the park and/or having your vehicle impounded. So please read on! Ignorance will not be a mitigating factor.

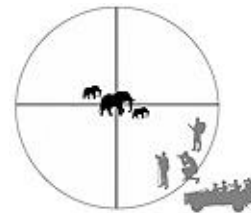
The registered tour operators have agreed to adhere to a high stand of ethical guiding. Please do not pressure them to breach agreed protocols. They, and members of the public are entitled, by law, to report anyone who breaks the rules to the park authorities.

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable stay.

GENERAL

- 1) Remain in your camp during prescribed hours. These are: May – July 6.00pm to 6.00am. August – October 6.30pm to 6.00am.
- 2) No driving off road under any circumstances. You may park your vehicle within 10 meters of either side of a designated road.
- 3) Unaccompanied or unguided walking is restricted to the flood plain (no riverine or thick bush walks) and is allowed entirely at your own risk ONLY if you obtain a walking permit from the park office. Unless you have considerable experience with African wildlife you should not walk unaccompanied. Rather hire a ranger or guide. Do not tag onto (shadow) other walking groups.
- 4) Do not enter campsites for which you do not have a booking.

- 5) Allow animals right of way at all times if driving or walking. Do not disrupt animals that are drinking or moving towards water.
- 6) Refrain from any behaviour likely to disturb wildlife or other park users. Do not approach closer than 30 meters to elephants, lions, painted dogs or animal dens. Do not do anything that forces animals to move when they are resting. To avoid overcrowding at wildlife sightings, respect the following limits – A MAXIMUM OF 5 VEHICLES AT A TIME or A MAXIMUM OF 12 PEOPLE WALKING. Be courteous and move off after a maximum of 20 minutes if other visitors are waiting their turn. Avoid surrounding animals. All observers (on foot or in a vehicle) should watch from the same viewing quadrant (preferably downwind) - see diagram.



- 7) 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.
- 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) 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.
- 12) 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

- 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. Firewood is on sale at the reception.

- 15) 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.

CODE OF CONDUCT AT CAMP SITES

- 16) Be considerate to other visitors by leaving your camp site in the condition in which you would like to find it i.e. FREE of litter, ash and toilet paper. Dispose of ash from your fire by burying it. Do not put any soil or ash into the "long-drops." Do not bury litter as honey badgers and hyenas will unearth it. Take it out of the park for safe disposal.
- 17) Report any untidy camp sites to the reception or a Park official. Take a date/time picture as evidence. Post-visit penalties can be applied.
- 18) Members of the public are strictly prohibited from entering or camping at tour operator or exclusive public camp sites within the park, without a permit. They may be asked to produce the permit.
- 19) Music or radios can only be played through earphones/headphones (so as not to create disturbance). No speakers
- 20) Riding on the exterior of vehicles is strictly forbidden except for registered Tour Operators.

LITTER

- 21) A CARRY IN CARRY OUT policy applies. ALL non-biodegradable waste must be removed from the park. Do not bury litter as honey badgers and hyenas will unearth it. It is not unreasonable to request that "what you brought in you must take out". You may be required to show your CARRY OUT litter at the exit gate. Failure to do so will result in a \$100 fine.
- 22) If you see any litter in the park, please assist by picking it up for safe disposal.
- 23) 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.
- 24) 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

- 25) No driving off road under any circumstances. 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) If you get stuck in sand at a river crossing and are recovered, fill in any holes you may have made.

FISHING

- 28) Fishing is only permitted with a licence which can be purchased at the reception. 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.
- 29) No fishing is permitted in the inland pools.

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 ZimParks so feel free to report any suspicious activities or incidents to them and they will guide you or take appropriate action.
- 32) If you hear any shots please report to ZimParks giving the time and an estimated location.
- 33) Report the location of any dead animals to Parks.
- 34) The use of drones is prohibited unless you have a permit. All drones to be declared at the reception.
- 35) No unregistered communication radios are to be used in the Park except in an emergency. You are required to advise ZimParks if your vehicle and those of your party are fitted with such radios.
- 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 contravening any of the above regulations WILL BE SUBJECT TO ONE OR A RANGE OF THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES: a fine of up to US\$ 1,000; impoundment of your vehicle; instruction to leave the Park, which will also include a ban on entering any other National Park in Zimbabwe for 12 months. Your full details will be entered on a data base which will be held at national level.

Please be advised that due to an increase in insensitive behaviour by certain persons in recent years, which has impacted on wildlife as well as visitor experiences, ZimParks and concerned stakeholders will now pursue compliance of the park rules and this CODE OF CONDUCT with renewed determination.