

The Archipelago Cape Verde Environmental Policy Statement

We have long been interested in the environment and the issues that affect it. We feel also that the guests, who come for a holiday with us, tend to have a similar interest. With these points in mind we decided to formulate an environmental policy and action plan for Archipelago Cape Verde. The aims of our policy and action plan are to benefit the environment, the fauna and people of Cape Verde and the guests that come for a holiday with us. We hope that you feel our ideas are worthwhile.

We first tried to identify the major environmental impacts of our tours and came up with the following list:

- ◆ rubbish created by extra visitors to the islands
- ◆ pollution caused by burning of fuel by aircraft, buses, boats and taxis involved in tours
- ◆ extra imports to the islands caused by the demands of running the tours
- ◆ contributing to reduction in the water table of the islands
- ◆ influences on the local culture
- ◆ wear and tear of footpaths around wildlife habitat

We then tried to come up with an environmental policy statement that showed our commitment to eliminating or reducing to a minimum, the affects of the above.

We are committed to the following policies:

1. Buying local produce whenever possible and fair trade tea and coffee
2. Recycling wherever possible.
3. Cutting down on paper use wherever possible and reducing waste
4. Communicating our environmental policies to our employees and clients.
5. Regularly assessing our environmental performance and improving our environmental policy.
6. Contributing to conservation projects which help preserve the flora and fauna on the islands.
7. Contributing to social projects which give back something to the people of the islands.
8. 2007 review of office practices.
9. Long term aim for environmental awareness and responsible travel

One On tour, we will recommend that when buying produce in supermarkets and restaurants, you choose home grown products e.g. the delicious local fruit, fish and wines. If you take any of our guided walking, we shop mainly at the local market for the meals we provide. This will help cut down on exports and not only aids the Cape Verdean economy; it also reduces the use of fuel in shipping/flying foreign produce over. In the office we try to buy, where possible, Fair Trade teas, coffee and other products.

Two In our UK office, we regularly reuse paper if only one side is printed on, especially for the numerous faxes we send out. All true waste is taken to recycling sites regularly.

Three We try to order just the right number of brochures when having them printed. It saves us money but more importantly it helps to cut down on the felling of trees. When having brochures printed we make sure the paper is from sustainable forests. We inevitably have a few left over and these are sent for recycling.

Four It is most important that our employees and clients know of our environmental policies as the policies stop working if nobody knows about them. We try to give our clients ideas about how to help the environment in the pre departure information booklet we send out to everyone travelling with us. Also, all our staff are informed of our policy during their interview and induction. We also have twice yearly meetings where staff can raise any issues that concern them and implement feedback from clients.

Five We regularly assess our environmental performance by taking note of newspaper, magazine and TV/radio articles on the environment, to see if there are ways we can use the

information they contain to improve our own operation. We try to incorporate new ideas to improve our environmental action plan. We regularly assess our environmental performance by listening to our clients' comments on the way we run our tours.

Six We donate annually to **NATURA 2000** and specifically to their Loggerhead turtle project on Boavista. Marine turtles are among the most endangered species on the planet and tourist development and local fishing are threatening their survival on Boavista. Natura 2000, through a team of scientists and volunteers, carry out essential work studying and protecting the turtles especially during their breeding period in the summer.

Seven As well as conservation issues, Cape Verde has significant social problems due to poverty, lack of prospects and emigration. We feel it is important to give something back to such a wonderful country and contribute annually to 4 social projects around the archipelago; a remote kindergarten on Santo Antao, a medical centre on Fogo, an education project on Santiago and a children's drop in centre on Sao Vicente. We also encourage our clients to donate to these causes where possible.

Eight In 2007 we reviewed how the office was run looking at how we can reduce waste, save energy costs recycle more. We now try to **RE-USE PAPER**, in the fax machine or for note paper, do duplex printing where possible and ask ourselves whether we need to print certain documents. **ENERGY SAVING**, all computers are now switched off in the evening, lights turned off when not required, curtains and windows are closed in the winter to keep the heat in and heating is on timers and monitored on a daily basis. **RECYCLING**, we try to recycle everything – paper, plastics, tins, carrier bags, toner cartridges, card and old computers. We have reduced our weekly waste to one small bag a week.

Nine We have a simple goal to implement a few changes every year and take on board new ideas from staff and clients. Our long term aim is to reduce our environmental footprint by reducing use, recycling and conveying our ideas and policies to clients and suppliers. In 2008 we started offering a voluntary carbon offsetting scheme for clients and we offset all our staff flights when travelling for us on business.