

20 YEARS OF A SET OF UNIQUE POLICIES



Over the past 20 years, we have developed some unique policies. For example, as far as we are aware, we are the only volunteer / citizen science organisation that is vegetarian. Our non-growth policy is pretty unique too, we believe, in the sector or in the commercial world at large.

Here is a list of our key policies.

Although these days the terms "volunteering" and "voluntourism" are much used and abused, we at Biosphere Expeditions are committed to running real citizen science wildlife conservation research expeditions to all corners of the Earth. Our projects are not tours, photographic safaris or excursions, but genuine research expeditions and citizen science wildlife conservation projects. We promote sustainable conservation and preservation of the planet's wildlife by forging alliances between scientists and the public.

Our goal is to make, through our work, an active contribution towards a sustainable biosphere. At Biosphere Expeditions we believe in empowering ordinary people by placing them at the centre of scientific study and by actively involving them out in the field, where there is conservation work to be done.

We always work in close conjunction with local people and scientists, and try our best to ensure that the fruits of our expedition work benefit our local helpers, their society and the environment they live in. Adventure,

remote locations, different cultures and people are part and parcel of our expeditions, but also the knowledge that you will have played an active role in conserving part of our planet's biosphere.

We exist for those who, through their hands-on work, want to make a difference to the survival of the particular species or habitat under investigation, and to the world at large. We invite everyone to come and join us out in the field, at the forefront of conservation, to work, learn, experience and take responsible guardianship of our biosphere.

To achieve this, Biosphere Expeditions will wherever possible • collaborate with reputable scientists, research institutions and educational establishments (wherever possible from the host nation) who are experts in their field • collaborate with organisations and businesses which operate in an ethical and/or sustainable way • operate in an ethical and sustainable way, minimising negative impacts on local cultures, environments and economies • publish results and recommendations based on collaborative work together with those who helped gather data and draw conclusions.

OVERALL



Biosphere Expeditions believes that, as humans, we have designed an economy that is dependent upon endless growth. We have also designed an economy that generates incremental profits by constantly increasing productivity. Endless growth on a finite planet is an unhealthy and unsustainable mathematical impossibility. Cancer is perhaps the best analogy to endless growth. It grows until it kills the body that hosts it. Therefore Biosphere Expeditions is not committed to growth. We want to do a limited number of projects

and we want to do them well, making a difference to our partners and local communities on the ground as well as the wildlife and habitats that support them. We want to retain full control of our processes and actions, with our left hand knowing what our right hand is doing. If there is growth, we will make sure that it is sustainable and necessary, which means it should be based on local demand and conservation need. Our economic decisions will be based on this maxim.

NON-GROWTH



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VEGETARIAN FOOD



Biosphere Expeditions is all about animal conservation and research on, or caring for, animals in its broadest sense. Because of this, Biosphere Expeditions will offer through its catering no animal meat (including fish) on expedition. In addition, the United Nations (alongside many other studies) has identified vegetarianism as one of the major ways to reduce impact; it has also concluded that

a global shift toward a vegetarian or vegan diet is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change. In line with all of the above, Biosphere Expeditions will only offer a vegetarian diet wherever possible on expedition.

More background information on this is on www.biosphere-expeditions.org/vegetarian.

ENVIRONMENT & EMISSIONS



All Biosphere Expeditions activities make a contribution to protecting or improving the environment. Formal environmental assessments and appropriate resulting actions are an integral part of Biosphere Expedition's environmental policy.

Biosphere Expeditions always aims to minimise the effects on the environment of all its activities. Expedition participants are fully briefed on all aspects of this and told how to minimise their personal and the mission's impact on the environment. Where possible, all paper and other recyclable materials are recycled. Water and energy efficiency are always under consideration and where possible efforts are made to minimise energy

usage. In order to reduce environmental impact, all expeditions are vegetarian.

Biosphere Expedition also works with Climate Care, who encourage people to repair the damage they do to the environment every time they fly or use other fossil fuel-burning means of transport. All our expedition team members are encouraged on a voluntary basis to make a donation to Climate Care based on the damage their travel to the expedition base has done. This donation is paid into a fund that invests in projects that reduce emissions, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency. Biosphere Expeditions then covers the carbon debt incurred whilst the expedition is actually in the field.

SOCIAL



Briefings before the start of the mission and leaders during the mission highlight relevant social issues and offer best practice examples to team members.

All missions are developed with local partners and scientists, as well as community representatives where appropriate. This consultation serves to minimise negative impacts on local cultures. This is often devel-

oped through a more complete integration into local communities, by working alongside them to achieve a conservation objective.

Biosphere Expeditions publishes results and recommendations based on collaborative work together with those who helped gather data and draw conclusions.

SPONSORSHIP



Biosphere Expeditions actively encourages and seeks out support from companies whose activities have a direct connection to Biosphere Expeditions' research and conservation work through provision of products and/or services that can support this work. This includes manufacturers of outdoor & research equipment, IT, vehicles, or providers of services such as transport, training, education or PR/marketing. Biosphere Expeditions also approaches grant-giving bodies and trusts whose funds are not derived from environmentally destructive activities.

Biosphere Expeditions does not accept support from the following:

- Corporations whose activities, services or products come with a persistent and large-scale negative impact

on the environment. These include oil, gas, logging, mining and other such companies, which Biosphere Expeditions judges to fall into this category.

- Corporations whose activities, services or products come with a persistent and large-scale negative impact on human health or welfare. These include tobacco, alcohol, some food production & processing and other such companies, which Biosphere Expeditions judges to fall into this category.

- Corporations who Biosphere Expeditions judges to obtain their revenue by unethical means or who have a record of unethical conduct.