



CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1. PROMOTE THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES IN ON AND OFF-ROAD CONDITIONS.**
- 2. ABIDE BY ALL LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND SET AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.**
- 3. CONSIDER AND RESPECT OTHER HUMAN BEINGS, CULTURES AND ENVIRONMENTS; BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL IN EVERY WAY.**
- 4. ALWAYS BE ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE AND ASSIST IN EDUCATING AND PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY MINDED BEHAVIOUR BY ALL ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE ENTHUSIASTS.**
- 5. "TREAD LIGHTLY", STICK TO EXISTING TRACKS, STAY CLEAR OF SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS AND AVOID DISTURBING NATURE IN ANY WAY.**
- 6. ABIDE BY THE WELL-KNOWN PHRASE "TAKE ONLY PHOTO'S AND LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS" THUS PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE.**
- 7. PLAN AND PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE EMBARKING ON ANY TRIP; GATHER INFORMATION, RESPECT RULES AND REGULATIONS AND OBTAIN PERMISSION WHERE NEEDED, BEFORE ENTERING PROTECTED, CONTROLLED OR PRIVATE AREAS.**
- 8. BE AN AMBASSADOR TO YOUR CLUB, COUNTRY AND OFF-ROAD ENTHUSIASTS IN GENERAL!**

NOTES ON CODE OF CONDUCT

By compiling a condensed code of conduct we must understand what the broader meaning and implications of certain statements are, especially as far as the environment is concerned. The following might help in understanding the complexity of our involvement especially as far as the environment is concerned.

The general public considers off-road vehicles as destructive, but this is not true! Irresponsible and/or uneducated drivers, not aware of or not abiding by the code of conduct, cause this perception and this is the main reason why all 4x4 owners should join a club or association and being made aware of the consequences for themselves and others if they don't abide by the rules.

Tread Lightly - On Land

Apart from the normal interpretation of these words, this well-known international phrase stands for the following:

- **T**ravel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.
- **R**espect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.
- **E**ducate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.
- **A**void sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, meadows, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage.
- **D**o your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

Nature And Routes

- If you want to experience and enjoy what nature has to offer you must be prepared to take up the responsibility of protecting and conserving this natural heritage.
- Choose your route, your equipment and your destination with the welfare of the wilderness in mind.
- Do not drive into or walk over eco-sensitive areas. In some areas very fragile vegetation exist which can take many years to recover after trampling.
- Do not drive on beaches, dunes and areas adjacent to beaches that are home to many animals including small mammals, birds, turtles, etc.
- Stick to existing tracks and avoid making new tracks that others may follow. Remember that a track doesn't automatically confer the right of way - so ask if in doubt.
- Do not drive in two-wheel drive on low-traction surfaces if you have the option of four-wheel drive as wheel spin can cause surface damage that in turn will contribute to erosion.
- Obtain permission from owners of the land and/or permits from the relevant authorities as required in protected or controlled conservation areas.
- Leave items of interest (e.g. plants, animals, mineral specimens, etc.) where you find them, so that others may enjoy them as well. By cutting or painting messages on tree trunks and rocks, disturbing or removing anything - you are in contravention of this rule.
- Prevent veldt fires. If you smoke, take care - when finished crush out your smoke and place the dead butt in your refuse bag. This is especially important if you smoke filter tipped cigarettes as filters are made of synthetic materials and do not decompose.
- Ensure that your vehicle does not have any fuel, oil or other leaks.

Wildlife

- Allow wildlife the right of way - stop, switch off and wait if necessary.
- Avoid disturbing animals and birds, particularly those with young or in nests. Shining bright lights on birds in nests may make them abandon their nests.

- Drive with caution and be prepared for birds and other animal in or alongside the road that may fly or run into your path. If a bird or other animal flies or runs across your path, be aware that others may follow.
- Leave any seemingly lost animals well alone, considering that their parents have probably hidden them on purpose in order to return and fetch them later.
- In addition to contravening the nature conservation ordinance, feeding wild animals can be dangerous to you and the animal. Feeding an animal may lead to dependency and the animal may become a nuisance and a danger to people, eventually having to be eliminated.
- Noise pollution not only scares wild animals, it is objectionable to others seeking solitude.

Camping

- In sensitive areas, campsites have usually been developed to reduce impact on the environment, use them and their facilities - set places to make fires, toilets, etc.
- Consider others that may be camping near you. They may be camping to get away from noise of people, so allow them and yourself to hear the sound of the bush at night.
- When setting up camp in areas where there are no developed campsites, select a site away from animal tracks and water holes.
- Do as little camp "improvements" as possible. Do not break off branches from trees, shrubs or bushes. If you have to do any cleaning at your campsite, scatter the cleared stones and branches back over the area when you leave. Try to leave no trace of your having occupied the area.
- Where applicable, use only the wood provided for your fire and use it sparingly - not to be wasted on large bonfires. Do not make fires on roots of trees, observe fire restrictions, especially in highrisk areas, and do not chop down trees for firewood. Never leave a fire unattended. Before you leave camp, make sure the fire is out and bury the ashes.
- Take all your litter with you and leave the campsite clean, so that others may enjoy using it after you.
- If the water supply is a stream, do not use soaps and detergents in it. Wash clothing and dishes away from streams rather than in them. Use biodegradable soap and afterwards, pour the soapy water on the ground to allow the soil to filter out the soap.
- Do not dispose of toxic substances in the wild.
- If you "have to go" and no facilities are available, dig a hole as deep as possible, away from any water source where applicable, and fill afterwards. Bury the minimum amount of toilet paper and burn the rest if there is no fire hazard. Where holes cannot be dug, cover with rocks.

If you have any comments and/or suggestions as to what should be altered or added to the above - please contact us at info@jeepclubsa.co.za to enable us to set a standard worth following by all off-road enthusiasts.