



# **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

## **Code of best practices**

### **in the French Southern Lands National Nature Reserve**

#### **Foreword**

The French Southern Lands, thanks to the importance and specific features of their fauna, flora and habitats, are a sanctuary for biodiversity that has few equivalents on the planet. Crozet and Kerguelen archipelagoes, Saint Paul Island, and Amsterdam Island thus have an exceptional importance for the conservation of biodiversity.

The French Southern Lands were classified as a national nature reserve by interministerial decree of 3 October 2006. The nature reserve covers all the terrestrial parts of Crozet and Kerguelen archipelagoes, Saint Paul island, and Amsterdam island, as well as part of their territorial waters. The creation decree enacts constraining regulations imposed on everyone staying or transiting in the reserve.

These regulations are meant to set a framework for uses, in order to reconcile human activities and environmental protection. Everyone staying or transiting in the nature reserve are responsible for its protection. It is essential that everyone should integrate the importance of protecting this territory's environment and fully and continuously contribute to this goal in their daily acts.

The present chart is a code of best practices and specifies everyone's responsibilities in the framework of current environmental regulations.

People staying or transiting in the nature reserve must respect this chart when they are at sea or on land, whatever the reasons for their presence on this territory might be.

The French Polar Institute (Institut Polaire Français Paul Emile Victor - IPEV), a support agency in charge of implementing science programs in the nature reserve, and the research laboratories IPEV supports were fully associated to the creation of the nature reserve's management plan. This is why IPEV plans to join this code of best practices and draw the attention of its agents and scientists based in the French Southern Lands on the necessity of putting it into practice.

This Code must be signed by everyone entering the reserve, whether marine or terrestrial, thus engaging their responsibility in case the exposed provisions were to be flawed.

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## 1. Biosecurity

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### [Intentional introduction and dissemination of animal or plant species](#)

It is forbidden to intentionally introduce or disseminate any plant (seeds or sprouted plants) into the nature reserve.

It is also forbidden to intentionally introduce or move animals inside the nature reserve.

### [Unintentional introduction and dissemination of animal or plant species](#)

Before boarding to go to the nature reserve, everyone must proceed to a meticulous cleaning of their personal belongings in order to remove any seeds, plant fragments, insect eggs or larvae, etc. they may contain (bags and clothes need to be machine-washed, Velcro, pockets and bags must be vacuumed, shoe soles and trunks must be cleaned, etc.).

In order to minimize the risk of disseminating species around the reserve, personal belongings will be carefully checked before any trip from the base to a remote site and before landing from a ship to a remote site. Before going to a site that has no or few introduced species, the measures mentioned in the previous paragraph will have to be systematically implemented (refer to the reserve's agents in each district).

## 2. Preserving the environment

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### [Respecting fauna and flora](#)

It is strictly forbidden to harm terrestrial or marine fauna or flora, in whatever manner it may be, whatever the specimen's state of development (eggs, clutches, litters, adults, plantlets, bushes, etc.), whether inside or outside base camps.

It is strictly forbidden to export plants or animals out of the reserve, whether whole or parts of them, whether dead or alive. Collecting minerals and fossils is also strictly forbidden.

### [Respecting habitats](#)

#### [Impacts linked to trips between sites](#)

Everyone commits to limit their impact on habitats when they walk around the reserve. People must:

- systematically use the already existing and authorized paths and tracks in Crozet and Amsterdam;
- avoid zones where petrel colonies reproduce in burrows and zones where the vegetation is fragile (prefer rocky zones) in case off-piste transits are required;
- use snowshoes (particularly in Crozet and Amsterdam), insofar as possible, when transiting off-piste and on fragile or degraded track portions.

#### [Nuisances](#)

Everyone commits not to harm habitats by fire or any kind of inscription (writing, engraving or any kind of visible marks, whatever their size). It is also forbidden to trouble animal tranquility by using any kind of instrument producing noise.

### [Access to sites whose access is controlled](#)

Everyone must learn what sites of the district have controlled access and not enter them except under the conditions laid out in current regulations (access to these sites is authorized only by a prefectural decree specifying the number of people allowed to enter).

### Growing plants

Growing plants and gardening is forbidden in the whole districts of Crozet and Kerguelen, including inside the greenhouses that were formerly used for such purposes. It is forbidden to introduce plants, especially seeds.

Current regulations must be respected to grow plants in Amsterdam district (TAAF order n° 2011-12 of 17 January 2011). In this capacity, the seeds that may be grown on specific sites are provided by TAAF and grown under the responsibility of the district chief.

## **3. Limiting one's ecological footprint**

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### Separating waste

#### In base camp

Everyone must read the “waste guide” available at the base camp and respect base camp current provisions. It is forbidden to dump any kind of waste outside the provided zones (waste separation bins, dump).

#### Outside base camp

It is forbidden to abandon, leave or throw any kind of waste outside the provided zones. This waste must be separated and taken back to base camp (except for cabin waste whose management is organized directly by IPEV).

### Saving water and energy

Everyone commits to limiting water and energy consumption, be it for personal or professional activities. Everyone must thus follow all the easy tips that will help to reduce their ecological footprint.

## **4. Special provisions**

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All the aforementioned instructions are rightfully practicable to everyone for the duration of their stay in the terrestrial and marine nature reserve.

However, these instructions do not prejudice the exemptions granted by the Prefect that especially allow for scientific, technical or management missions to be carried out. They are also not practicable in case of proven force majeure.

## **5. Application**

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The present code must be signed by and is practicable to every person accommodated in the nature reserve.

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## Code of best practices in the French Southern Lands National Nature Reserve

(All pages must be initialed)

Done at:..... on.....

Last name:..... First name:.....

Status:.....

Presence in the reserve (DD/MM/YY): From / / to / /

District(s) concerned: .....

I certify to have read the present environmental policy code of best practices and accept to carry out its principles throughout my stay in the French Southern Lands National Nature Reserve.

Signature: