

Amphibian Survival Alliance Code of Ethics

1. PURPOSE

This Code of Ethics serves to articulate the moral and ethical principles that guide all personnel within the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), including Secretariat members, volunteers, interns, contractors, Global Council members, and partnering organizations. These principles are intended to inform and shape ethical decision-making as we collectively work towards a sustainable future for amphibians and their habitats.

2. SCOPE

The Code of Ethics encompasses a wide range of areas, including professionalism, conservation practices, collaboration with partners, scientific research, community engagement, policy advocacy, and transparency. It provides a clear set of guidelines that foster integrity, respect, transparency, and accountability in all actions.

3. PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

- 3.1 They will demonstrate professionalism, honesty, and integrity in all their actions, promoting ethical behavior within the partnership and in their interactions with external stakeholders.
- 3.2 They will uphold the highest standards of scientific rigor, transparency, and accountability in their research, conservation activities, and advocacy efforts.
- 3.3 They will strive to maintain a positive and respectful working environment, valuing diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities.
- 3.4 They will avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any potential conflicts that may arise in their roles within the partnership.
- 3.5 They will act in the best interests of amphibian conservation and the partnership, avoiding personal or organizational gain that may compromise the partnership's objectives.

4. CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

- 4.1 They will prioritize the conservation of amphibian species and their habitats, implementing evidence-based conservation strategies.
- 4.2 They will actively engage in habitat protection, restoration, and management activities, focusing on areas that are critical for amphibian populations.
- 4.3 They will advocate for sustainable practices in land use, water management, and development activities to minimize the negative impact on amphibians and their habitats.
- 4.4 They will promote the principles of ecosystem-based management, recognizing the interconnectedness of amphibians with other species and ecological processes.
- 4.5 They will strive to address the root causes of amphibian declines, including habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and invasive species, through proactive conservation interventions.

5. COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

- 5.1 They will actively collaborate and cooperate with each other, sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise to achieve common conservation goals.
- 5.2 They will engage in joint projects, initiatives, and research programs, fostering effective communication and coordination among partners.
- 5.3 They will actively seek opportunities for collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, academic institutions, local communities, and indigenous groups, to leverage collective expertise and resources.

5.4 They will respect the autonomy, roles, and contributions of partner organizations, valuing their diverse perspectives and approaches to amphibian conservation.

5.5 They will promote a culture of cooperation, trust, and mutual support, recognizing that shared goals and collective action lead to greater impact in amphibian conservation.

6. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

6.1 They will support and promote scientific research focused on understanding the ecology, biology, and threats faced by amphibians.

6.2 They will ensure that research activities are conducted with the highest ethical standards, considering the well-being and welfare of amphibians involved.

6.3 They will encourage the use of scientifically rigorous methods, data sharing, and peer-reviewed publications to enhance the knowledge base and inform conservation actions.

6.4 They will promote the use of evidence-based decision-making, incorporating scientific research and monitoring data into conservation planning and management.

6.5 They will support capacity building and professional development opportunities for scientists and researchers, fostering a strong scientific community dedicated to amphibian conservation.

6.6 They engaged in lab work and research with amphibians prioritizing the welfare and well-being of the animals involved in their studies, ensuring compliance with animal welfare regulations and guidelines.

6.7 They will use appropriate and scientifically justified methods for handling, sampling, and studying amphibians, minimizing any potential harm, stress, or discomfort to the animals.

6.8 They will obtain the necessary permits and approvals for their research activities, following established protocols and guidelines to ensure the ethical and responsible use of amphibians in scientific research.

7. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

7.1 They will develop and implement educational programs and outreach initiatives, where relevant, to raise awareness about the importance of amphibians and their conservation.

7.2 They will engage with schools, communities, and the general public where relevant, providing accurate information and promoting responsible behavior towards amphibians and their habitats.

7.3 They will support the dissemination of accessible and culturally appropriate educational materials where relevant, aiming to inspire and empower individuals to take action for amphibian conservation.

7.4 They will actively collaborate with local communities, indigenous groups, and relevant stakeholders to integrate traditional ecological knowledge and cultural perspectives into education and outreach activities.

7.5 They will promote environmental literacy and the understanding of the value of amphibians as indicators of ecosystem health and biodiversity.

8. ETHICAL ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES

8.1 They will engage with local communities, indigenous groups, and stakeholders in an ethical, inclusive, and culturally sensitive manner.

8.2 They will respect the rights, customs, and cultural heritage of local communities, seeking their free, prior, and informed consent in decision-making processes that affect them.

8.3 They will ensure that community engagement is based on principles of equity, mutual respect, and benefit-sharing, fostering collaborative partnerships and empowering local stakeholders.

8.4 They will prioritize the involvement of indigenous communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of conservation initiatives, respecting their traditional ecological knowledge and customary practices.

8.5 They will actively support capacity building and socioeconomic development opportunities that align with amphibian conservation objectives, contributing to the well-being and sustainable livelihoods of local communities.

9. ADVOCACY AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- 9.1 They may engage in advocacy and policy activities to influence decision-making processes and promote policies that support amphibian conservation.
- 9.2 They will advocate for the incorporation of scientific evidence, best practices, and the precautionary principle in environmental policies and legislation.
- 9.3 They will strive to strengthen legal frameworks and regulations related to amphibian conservation, including the protection of critical habitats and the regulation of trade in amphibians.
- 9.4 They will promote international cooperation and collaboration to address transboundary conservation challenges and ensure the sustainable management of shared amphibian populations.
- 9.5 They will respect the diversity of perspectives among partners and stakeholders, striving for consensus while recognizing the importance of expressing dissenting opinions when necessary.

10. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 They will establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of conservation actions, adapting strategies based on scientific evidence and feedback.
- 10.2 They will regularly monitor and assess the status of amphibian populations and habitats, using standardized protocols and indicators to track progress towards conservation targets.
- 10.3 They will promote the sharing of monitoring data and lessons learned within the partnership, facilitating adaptive management and continuous improvement of conservation efforts.
- 10.4 They will support research on the impacts of conservation interventions, seeking to enhance the understanding of effective strategies and the identification of emerging threats.
- 10.5 They will foster a culture of learning, reflection, and innovation, incorporating new knowledge and insights into conservation planning and implementation.

11. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 11.1 They will maintain transparency and accountability in their actions and operations, ensuring open and honest communication with partners and stakeholders.
- 11.2 They will provide accurate and accessible information on the partner's activities, including its governance structure, decision-making processes, and financial management.
- 11.3 They will adhere to the principles of responsible fundraising and use of funds, ensuring that resources are used efficiently, effectively, and in alignment with the partnership's objectives.
- 11.4 They will report on progress, achievements, and challenges, sharing outcomes and lessons learned with partners, stakeholders, and the wider public.
- 11.5 They will be open to external scrutiny, inviting independent evaluations and assessments of the partner's activities to promote transparency and ensure accountability.