



# Ethical Travel Policy

Play Action International is committed to providing ethical travel opportunities that respect individuals, communities, cultures, and the planet that we all share. This policy outlines the commitment that Play Action International has to ethical travel and the initiatives and procedures that are taken to ensure this commitment is a reality.

## Protecting our planet

There is an urgent need for all organisations to work in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner to ensure we can protect the most incredible playground imaginable... planet Earth itself! When it comes to the student fundraising sector, we are proud to say that with the support of our volunteers, trekkers, staff, and suppliers, Play Action International is leading the way.

### 1. Carbon Neutral Flights

We invest in carefully chosen environmental projects in Uganda to offset the entire carbon footprint of your flight to Uganda and thus neutralise the impact of your air travel. Feel great before you even land in Uganda knowing your flight is carbon neutral.

### 2. Soaking Up CO2

Whilst you are in Uganda soaking up the sun building amazing playgrounds, you will also be planting trees to soak up CO2 for years to come and providing much needed shelter for local children to play safely.

### 3. Riverbank Conservation

With our base in Uganda located on the banks of the awe-inspiring River Nile in Jinja, we are committed to supporting our local riverbank restoration project which includes community-led planting of indigenous trees on the riverbank, riverbank beekeeping for alternative income, and sensitisation/support to riverbank land owners to ensure the protection of this critical eco-system.

### 4. Reducing Plastic

We are working closely with our local activity suppliers and sub-contractors to reduce the use of single use plastics such as found in water bottles.

From using FSC certified printers for things like flyers to recycling old truck tyres for our playgrounds... we are passionate about finding as many ways as possible to lead the way in reducing the environmental impact of international treks and development programmes.

## Respecting communities

Play Action International works in partnership with each community ensuring their wishes and requests are respected. Each community Play Action International works with, is a request from that community.

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From there we work together to design a programme that suits the desires of that community. This is done through multiple community consultations which include everyone from the elders to the children themselves.

Throughout a volunteering programmes we ensure there is constant open dialog between the members of the community and our local organisation, enabling us to identify any issues, big or small and work together to resolve them.

Prior to a volunteering programme taking place, we provide information sessions for the community members about what they might expect from hosting a group of volunteers, we cover everything from cultural differences to customs and taste in food. These sessions allow broad conversations and debate to help understand possible differences.

## Responsible volunteering

Play Action International is committed to ensuring our volunteer placements are created responsibly and that our volunteers act responsible by being given the information and guidance they need to do so.

Volunteers are provided training in a broad spectrum of topics that can help them to understand their role and how to carry out this role responsibly. Play Action International takes the acts of the volunteer very seriously and whilst on projects the leaders are there to help guide the volunteers in making sure their behaviour is always appropriate.

## Equal opportunities

Play Action International recognise that everyone has a contribution to make to our society and a right to equal opportunity. We have a commitment to:

- Creating an environment in which individual differences and the contributions of all our staff, volunteers, members, and beneficiaries are recognised and valued.
- Every employee, volunteer, member, and beneficiary are entitled to be part of an environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.
- Training, development, and progression opportunities are available to all staff/volunteers.
- Equality is good management practice and makes sound sense. Breaches of our equality policy will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings or membership disqualification.

We believe that our opportunities are open to everyone, and so we work to provide equal representation, cultural understanding, and an adaptive manner of working to ensure we are inclusive to all. Each time we

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work with our volunteers we take a personal approach to ensure we are able to support them in a way that enables them to gain the full experience of our volunteering project whilst also having a huge impact on children in Uganda.

## Animal welfare

Play Action International has a commitment to animal welfare, we ensure that any activity we promote has an equal commitment to animal welfare. We promote volunteers going on safari to contribute to the protection of the wildlife through their park fees. The volunteers also stay at Ugandan Wildlife Education Centre, a place that is dedicated to the education of protecting wildlife.

## Economic impact

Play Action International volunteering experiences are designed to economically benefit the destination of travel. We work to make sure that all our activity providers, and materials providers are based in Uganda and that we promote the country as a positive place to travel to. Below are some of the ways we are committed to supporting the local economy:

- We do not take any material donations from the UK that we can purchase from Uganda.
- Our team is made up from majority local people that fit all types of roles.
- The materials we use to construct the playgrounds and run our different programmes are all sourced locally to ensure a local economic benefit.
- The partners we work with are based in Uganda and adhere to ethical travel policies.
- We promote local tourism and encourage volunteers in country to spend locally.

We are constantly looking at way to improve our services and provide an even more ethical travel experience, if you have any concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can reach us at [volunteer@playactioninternational.org](mailto:volunteer@playactioninternational.org).

**Policy Dated**  
30th August 2020

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