

AFRICALÉ TRAVEL & LEISURE

Sustainability Report 2026

First reporting period — May 2026 | Next update: May 2028

At Africale, our mission is to create authentic, tailor-made journeys across Southern and Eastern Africa and Oceania that connect travellers with the true spirit of each destination. We believe travel should leave a lasting positive impact — for local communities, for wildlife, for cultural heritage and for the environment. Through responsible tourism practices and strong relationships with local partners, we are committed to designing meaningful experiences that respect the places we operate in, support their people, and contribute to their long-term sustainability.

Our goal is to help travellers not only discover extraordinary destinations, but to experience them with curiosity, respect and a genuine sense of responsibility.

Our Journey in Numbers

<p>~50</p> <p>tailor-made journeys per year</p>	<p>~300</p> <p>travellers per year</p>	<p>15</p> <p>African countries</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>founded in Cape Town</p>
<p>37</p> <p>accommodation partners assessed (South Africa)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>activity providers assessed (South Africa)</p>	<p>5%</p> <p>of each journey donated to community projects</p>	<p>20+</p> <p>years of field experience (Alessandro Gilli)</p>

What We Have Done: 2026 Foundations

In the first half of 2026, Africale has made significant progress in formalising its sustainability programme. The following actions have been completed:

Policies and Documentation

- Sustainability Policy — updated and expanded, covering all core sustainability dimensions
- Health & Safety Policy — covering office safety, field operations and emergency procedures
- Equal Opportunities Policy — covering non-discrimination, dignity at work and B-BBEE context
- Supplier Code of Conduct — covering animal welfare, community respect, child protection and CITES compliance
- Guide Engagement Agreement — formalising the terms of engagement for independent guides

- Freelance Consultancy Agreement — formal written agreement for freelance consultants
- General Terms & Conditions of Sale — updated with privacy policy, consent mechanism and cancellation schedule

Client Communication

- Pre-Departure Guide — updated with a dedicated “Travelling Responsibly” section
- Post-trip Client Feedback Questionnaire — 15-question bilingual (IT/EN) Google Form with sustainability section
- Google review link integrated into post-trip communication

Supplier Assessment

- Accommodation Sustainability Inventory — 37 South Africa accommodation partners assessed across seven sustainability dimensions
- Activities Sustainability Inventory — 18 South Africa activity providers assessed
- Travelife co-branded Codes of Good Practice prepared for all relevant sensitive excursion categories

Certification

- Africale has formally begun the Travelife sustainability certification process, targeting Travelife Partner status

Giving Back: Community and Conservation

Africale donates 5% of the value of each journey to support initiatives in its operating destinations. Current supported organisations:

- Rainbow for Africa — improving access to healthcare and education across Africa
- Association of Volunteer Missionaries (AVM) — supporting a school for over 330 children
- Sunbirds Lodge Chobe — a women-led lodge supporting vulnerable women from the local community

Sustainability Action Plan 2026–2028

The following actions have been formally entered in the Travelife Action Planning tool and will be monitored by the Sustainability Coordinator with annual review by the full Africale team.

- Add a dedicated illegal souvenirs section (CITES/IUCN Red List) to the pre-departure guide
- Send the Sustainability Quick Scan and Supplier Code of Conduct to all active accommodation partners in South Africa
- Share the Supplier Code of Conduct and co-branded Codes of Good Practice with all active excursion and activity providers in South Africa
- Collect and file training certificates and credentials from all active South Africa guides

- Launch an Instagram series highlighting local artisans and cultural products featured in Africale itineraries, starting with sweswe fabric and Mnandi Textiles in Observatory, Cape Town
- Draft a written emergency protocol covering four core scenarios: medical emergency, vehicle breakdown in remote areas, wildlife encounter, and natural disaster
- Add a dedicated paragraph on donation opportunities to the pre-departure guide, with information on Rainbow for Africa and Association of Volunteer Missionaries
- Add sustainability indicators to written itinerary proposals, highlighting suppliers with strong sustainability performance
- Add international flight sustainability guidance to the pre-departure guide
- Add a note on sustainable in-destination transport practices to the pre-departure guide
- Develop a simple HR Policy adapted to Africale's freelance and independent partner model
- Introduce an annual team satisfaction survey for all active consultants and partners
- Formalise Africale's digital-first approach to all client and marketing communications
- Develop and distribute an internal environmental guidance document to all team members and partners
- Develop a Partner Agency Sustainability Policy for destinations where Africale operates through local incoming partners
- Conduct an annual sustainability review meeting with the full Africale team
- Prepare and distribute an annual sustainability update to all team members and active partners
- Formally add all assessed destinations to the Travelife certification scope at the May 2028 reporting cycle

Our Commitment to Responsible Travel

- We only operate in destinations where we have lived and worked directly — no intermediation, no guesswork
- We do not offer elephant riding, lion walks, cub petting, trophy hunting or any exploitative wildlife experience
- We prefer locally owned accommodation and ground operators, keeping tourism revenue within local communities
- We guide clients towards authentic local crafts and away from products derived from protected or endangered species
- We inform every client about responsible travel practices before departure and reinforce this throughout the journey
- We are pursuing Travelife Partner certification as formal recognition of our sustainability commitments

“For those who travel, from those who truly travel.”

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