



Anti-Trafficking and Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Plant Species Policy

Purpose

Species Saviour Initiative (SSI) is committed to protecting Somalia's biodiversity and cultural heritage by combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife and plant species. This Policy affirms SSI's zero-tolerance stance toward any involvement, facilitation, or negligence that enables the trafficking of wildlife, plant products, or their derivatives.

Scope

This Policy applies to:

- All SSI staff, volunteers, and board members.
- Community custodians, harvesters, and local networks engaged with SSI projects.
- SSI's contractors, suppliers, and delivery partners.
- Any donors, collaborators, or government partners working with SSI programs.

Definitions

- **Wildlife Trafficking:** The illegal poaching, collection, transport, trade, or sale of wild animals or their parts/products (such as skins, bones, or live specimens) in violation of Somali national laws, Puntland State wildlife regulations, and international conventions such as CITES.
- **Illegal Plant Trade:** The unlawful harvest, transport, sale, or export of plants and their derivatives (such as frankincense resin, timber, or live specimens), particularly of species protected under Puntland forestry laws, Somalia's biodiversity and environmental regulations, or international conventions like CITES.
- **Derivatives:** Any product or material originating from wildlife or plants, including but not limited to meat, hides, ivory, horns, resins, seeds, or live specimens used for replanting, ornamental, or commercial purposes.
- **Ilaaliye Protectors:** Community custodians engaged by SSI in Puntland and other regions to monitor, protect, and anonymously report wildlife and plant trafficking activities in high-risk zones.
- **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):** An international agreement between governments, to which Somalia is a party, designed to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- **Somali Legal Framework:** Refers to applicable federal and Puntland State laws, including but not limited to forestry, wildlife, biodiversity, and environmental protection regulations, which collectively prohibit illegal exploitation, trafficking, and trade in natural resources.

Policy Statement

SSI will:

1. **Prevent** the misuse of SSI resources or programs in activities linked to illegal trade in wildlife or plant species.
2. **Support enforcement authorities** (including Puntland Maritime Police Force and other law enforcement agencies) by sharing intelligence, data, and research findings relevant to tackling trafficking.
3. **Promote community-based protection** by empowering local custodians (“Ilaaliye Protectors”) and raising public awareness on the impacts of trafficking.
4. **Strengthen compliance** with international conventions (CITES, CBD) and Somalia’s national laws on biodiversity, forestry, and wildlife protection.
5. **Reject partnerships** with any individuals or organizations directly or indirectly involved in the trafficking of wildlife or plants.

Prohibited Activities

SSI strictly prohibits all SSI Staff, Partners, Contractors, and Community Custodians from engaging in the following:

1. **Trafficking in Wildlife and Plants:**
Engaging in the illegal hunting, harvesting, collection, transport, trade, or sale of protected wildlife, plants, or their derivatives in violation of Somali federal law, Puntland State regulations, or international conventions such as CITES.
2. **Collaboration with Illegal Traders:**
Directly or indirectly supporting, protecting, or facilitating activities of poachers, traffickers, or illegal exporters of wildlife or plant resources.
3. **Use of Forced or Exploitative Labor:**
Employing forced, child, or exploitative labor in conservation, harvesting, or restoration work.
4. **Document Confiscation or Misuse:**
Withholding, destroying, or misusing identification, permits, or community land-use agreements required for legal conservation and livelihood activities.
5. **Misleading Recruitment Practices:**
Using deceptive or fraudulent practices in recruiting staff, custodians, or volunteers, including failing to disclose clear information about roles, wages, risks, or working conditions in a language understood by the individual.
6. **Non-Compliant Partners or Contractors:**
Collaborating with traders, middlemen, or contractors who do not comply with Somali labor, conservation, or environmental protection laws.
7. **Illegal Fees:**
Charging recruitment, placement, or monitoring fees to community members, custodians, or local protectors (Ilaaliye) engaged in SSI’s programs.
8. **Unsafe Conditions:**
Providing unsafe working or living conditions for SSI staff or partners, or housing arrangements that do not meet Somali safety and welfare standards.
9. **Failure to Provide Written Agreements:**
Where required, not providing employment contracts, volunteer agreements, or

partnership documents in a language understood by the individual, outlining key terms such as roles, wages, benefits, risks, and conservation responsibilities.

All agreements with SSI Partners, Contractors, and Community Custodians will include clauses prohibiting these activities, ensuring alignment with Somali laws and international conservation standards.

Implementation Measures

- **Monitoring & Data Gathering:** Collect, analyze, and share information on trafficking hotspots, routes, and actors through field teams and technology-enabled systems.
- **Community Engagement:** Train and support local informants to anonymously report trafficking activities.
- **Awareness & Advocacy:** Deliver campaigns through mobile cinema, schools, and media to highlight the consequences of trafficking.
- **Partnerships & Collaboration:** Work closely with law enforcement, border authorities, and international coalitions to detect, disrupt, and prosecute traffickers.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training for SSI staff, community partners, and government counterparts on identifying, documenting, and preventing trafficking.

Reporting & Whistleblowing

All SSI staff, partners, and community members must immediately report suspected trafficking incidents to SSI leadership through established confidential reporting channels. SSI will escalate credible cases to relevant national and international enforcement agencies.

Consequences of Violations

- **For SSI Staff or Volunteers:** Disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- **For Contractors/Partners:** Immediate suspension or termination of contracts and collaboration.
- **For Community Custodians:** Loss of recognition and exclusion from SSI-supported programs.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if required, to reflect changes in legislation, trafficking trends, and best practices in conservation.