



## **GUIDELINES FOR ETHICAL PRACTICES IN THE FIELD FOR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IN SINGAPORE**

Core Principle: Respect nature first. Perfect the shot second.

### **1. Habitat & Environment**

1.1 Do not destroy or damage the environment or habitat where photographic subjects are located, such as removing branches, leaves, stones.

1.2 Where possible, stay on existing roads, marked trails, and paths, and keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

1.3 Observe boundaries of nature and comply with the existing signages, and never enter restricted zones and follow the park's guidelines

1.4 Do not litter in the field.

### **2. Subject Welfare**

2.1 Learn and understand the subject's behaviour and be mindful of their signs of distress.

2.2 Maintain a respectful distance from wildlife. If a subject displays signs of stress, either switch to a longer lens or leave the area immediately.

2.3 Never use food/bait to lure wildlife from their hiding places or to manipulate them into better poses for photographs.

2.4 Do not force a subject into an unnatural environment or any other actions that deliberately disturb animal for the sake of a good photograph. Be mindful of resting animals, especially nocturnal species like owls.

2.5 Exercise discretion before publicising the presence of a rare subject, evaluate the potential disturbance and impact to the subject and its environment.

### **3. Nesting birds**

3.1 Maintain an appropriate distance from nests, nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, weaning dens and feeding sites. For such sensitive site, the use of blinds and remote trigger is encouraged to minimise disturbances

3.2 Do not use birdcall playback devices at nests as this can disrupt natural breeding behaviour and cause unnecessary stress to nesting birds.

3.3 Delay the sharing and publication of nesting bird photographs until after the chicks have successfully fledged



3.4 Never handle or touch nests, eggs, chicks or their immediate surroundings. Do not remove some branches/foilage as doing so may expose the subject to predators.

#### **4. Photographic Accessories**

4.1 Use flash and other artificial light sources sparingly, and whenever possible, use only diffused light for close-up images.

4.2 Clamping accessories such as Plamp may damage some plants. Assess the strength and fragility of plant stems before applying any equipment.

4.3 Drones are prohibited in many parks and nature reserves. Follow all local aviation and park guidelines and apply for a permit if required.

#### **5. Individual Behavior**

5.1 Practice common courtesy when in contact with other photographers. Position yourself to avoid interfering with others' shots.

5.2 Keep your voice low in order not to disturb the subjects, other photographers and general site visitors.

5.3 Inform others respectfully to stop them from engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Report inappropriate behaviour to the relevant authorities when necessary.

5.4 Contact NParks Board or Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES) if you come across a wild animal that is sick, injured, trapped, or in distress. Keep a safe distance while awaiting professional assistance.

5.5 Always respect instructions by authorities who are on site to ensure orders.

5.6 Do not cause obstructions to other park users and always give way to emergency or other maintenance vehicles

5.7 Do not enter private properties without permission from the owners.

#### **6. Post-processing**

6.1 Avoid manipulation and ensure honest representation of the environment and subject in post processing.