

# TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS



## CHIMPANZEE VIEWING GUIDELINES



## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Chimp viewing/tracking is an activity that offers an opportunity for visitors to locate Chimps in free ranging habitats through designated trails. Chimps are man's closest living relative sharing about 98% of genes. Hence, Chimps are susceptible to most human infectious diseases e.g. human cold and flu viruses can be fatal to chimpanzees.

Therefore, these guidelines are developed to guide the implementation of the activity, ensure the wellbeing of the chimps and enhancement of visitor's experience.

## **2.0 AREAS FOR THE ACTIVITY**

The areas of operation will be as specified in the GMP of the respective park.

## **3.0 SAFETY AND SECURITY**

All viewers and trackers Must:

- i. Maintain a distance of at least 10m from the Chimps at all time in order to minimize risks of disease transmission.
- ii. Wear masks over the nose and mouth whenever Chimps are spotted.
- iii. NOT eat or drink whenever Chimps are spotted.
- iv. NOT leave personal belongings on the ground or where they are accessible to the Chimps.
- v. Cover nose and mouth in the urge of coughing or sneezing to reduce chances of germs transmission.
- vi. Not track the chimps if affected with infectious diseases.
- vii. Be older than 12 years of age
- viii. Keep voices low while tracking.
- ix. NOT mimic the calls of Chimps as this will disturb them.
- x. NOT point at the Chimps, make any sudden movements or have direct eye contact as they may perceive this as an act of aggression.
- xi. Stay in a tight group when near the Chimps, and try to sit or squat rather than standing, as this minimizes disturbance. Also be sure that your group does not completely surround the Chimps.
- xii. Move to the nearest tree, stand up and hold on tightly to the trunk in the event that a chimp charges (don't panic or run).

- xiii. Not make any sudden movements if the chimps move closer than 10m (Simply back away slowly).
- xiv. Not use flash cameras.

NB: Although Chimps have been habituated for many years, they remain with wild characters. Please always follow instructions from your guide as these written guidelines may not be exhaustive to avoid doing anything that may antagonize them.

#### **4.0 DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS**

- i. Tracking group must not exceed 6 people (including a guide) in Mahale and 5 people in Gombe, at a time.
- ii. Chimp tracking is between 0800hrs to 0600hrs
- iii. Maximum viewing time per group is one hour.
- iv. Five and three groups of visitors per day will be permitted in Gombe and Mahale respectively.

#### **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- i. Trash in trash out (TITO) system shall apply.
- ii. DO NOT use perfume, smoke or spit during chimp viewing.
- iii. No one is allowed to ;
  - a. Cut or set fire to any vegetation or otherwise damage any object in a park.
  - b. Introduce any animal or vegetation in the park.
  - c. Remove from the park any animal or vegetation whether alive or dead.
  - d. Destroy or deface any object whether animate or inanimate.
  - e. Disturb other visitors

#### **6.0 PAYMENT MODALITIES**

- i. Clients/ tour operators shall pay applicable fee using Government electronic payment gateway (GePG-MoF), online, bank and mobile or any other approved means of payments. Guests/Visitors may reserve and make all the payment online through online TANAPA Portal available on website **[www.tanzaniaparks.go.tz/onlineportal](http://www.tanzaniaparks.go.tz/onlineportal)**.
- ii. Fees for the activity shall be in accordance to TANAPA tariffs as may be reviewed from time to time.
- iii. Fees once paid are non refundable.
- iv. Payments may be done at the point of payment of the respective park before commencement of the activity through Master or Visa cards

## **7.0 INDEMNITY FORMS**

All visitors must fill in and sign Indemnity forms before conducting Chimps viewing activity.

## **8.0 BOOKING AND RESERVATION**

Booking should be done directly to the respective parks (Gombe, Mahale) at least 12 hours before commencing Chimp viewing activity.

## **9.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Regular monitoring shall be carried out by park management to see if the activity complies with the operating guidelines and TANAPA regulations. Park management shall also conduct annual evaluation to assess the impact of the activity and recommend effective mitigation measures.

Review of the guidelines shall be carried out regularly as may deem necessary.

**Conservation Commissioner  
Tanzania National Parks**