

# **INDUS TREE CRAFTS FOUNDATION**

## **ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES POLICY**



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## 1. Introduction:

- Indus Tree Crafts Foundation is committed to upholding the highest standards of forest management, as outlined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management (FM) standards for India. This policy specifically addresses the prevention and management of illegal activities, including poaching, hunting, trapping, and other unauthorized exploitation of forest resources within the areas under our management.

## 2. Definition of Illegal Activities:

- Illegal activities in the context of this policy include, but are not limited to:
  - Poaching: The illegal hunting, capturing, or killing of wildlife, particularly endangered species, without proper authorization.
  - Hunting: Unauthorized hunting of wildlife, including for commercial, subsistence, or recreational purposes, without following legal and sustainable practices.
  - Trapping: The setting of traps to capture or kill animals without legal permits or in violation of conservation laws.
  - Illegal Logging: Unauthorized cutting, harvesting, or removal of trees and other forest resources.
  - Encroachment: Unauthorized occupation or use of forest land for agriculture, settlement, or other purposes.
  - Illegal Trade: The trafficking and trade of illegally sourced forest products, wildlife, or derivatives.

## 3. Policy Statement:

- Indus Tree Crafts Foundation strictly prohibits all forms of illegal activities within its managed forest areas. We are dedicated to ensuring that all forest management practices are conducted in compliance with national laws, international conventions, and FSC Forest Management standards. This includes taking necessary steps to prevent, detect, and respond to illegal activities.

#### **4. Prevention and Mitigation Measures:**

- To effectively prevent and mitigate illegal activities, the following measures will be implemented:
  - Regular Patrolling and Monitoring: Conducting regular patrols and monitoring activities within forest areas to detect and deter illegal activities. This includes the use of surveillance technologies and collaboration with local communities.
  - Community Engagement and Awareness: Engaging with local communities to raise awareness about the consequences of illegal activities and the importance of sustainable forest management. This includes educational programs, workshops, and community meetings.
  - Partnerships with Law Enforcement: Collaborating with local law enforcement agencies, forest departments, and conservation organizations to enforce laws and regulations related to forest management and wildlife protection.
  - Reporting and Documentation: Establishing clear protocols for the reporting, documentation, and investigation of any suspected illegal activities. All incidents will be recorded, and appropriate legal action will be taken.
  - Boundary Marking and Signage: Clearly marking the boundaries of forest areas and installing signage to inform the public of prohibited activities and legal penalties for violations.
  - Sustainable Livelihood Programs: Supporting alternative livelihood programs for local communities to reduce dependency on illegal exploitation of forest resources..

#### **5. Response to Illegal Activities:**

- In the event that illegal activities are detected, the following response actions will be undertaken:
  - Immediate Reporting: All detected illegal activities will be immediately reported to the relevant authorities, including local law enforcement and forest departments, for swift action.
  - Investigation and Legal Action: A thorough investigation will be conducted to gather evidence and identify perpetrators. Legal action will be pursued in accordance with national laws and FSC FM national country standards.

- Restoration and Rehabilitation: Where illegal activities have caused environmental damage, appropriate restoration and rehabilitation measures will be implemented to restore the affected areas.
- Review and Improvement: Following any incident of illegal activity, a review will be conducted to identify any gaps in the existing prevention and monitoring systems, with improvements implemented as necessary.
- Indus Tree Crafts Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and wildlife by strictly enforcing this policy against illegal activities. Our commitment to sustainable forest management is reflected in our proactive approach to preventing and responding to any illegal exploitation of forest resources.

#### 6. Authorized Signatory:

*Name: Remya Devan*

*Designation: Project Manager*

*Indus Tree Crafts Foundation*



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