

# **THE REGULATIONS, CODES OF CONDUCT & PRACTICE FOR THE DUBAI DESERT CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

*(Appendix of definitions is provided at the end of the text)*

## **Article I:**

**The Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve: (DDCR):** As recognised and Constituted under Ruler's Decree [ ] of 2002, demarcated and duly surveyed under that Decree, by the Dubai Municipality, and have those boundaries as defined. (Copy of the Ruler's Decree to be attached).

## **Article II:**

**The Dubai Conservation Board: (DCB):** The incorporation of the Board for the management of the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, as recognised under Ruler's Decree [ ] of 2002, and the recognised Constitution of the Board by the legal authorities of the Government of Dubai. (Copy of the Constitution of the Dubai Conservation Board to be attached).

Under the above articles the DCB is recognised as having the sole authority over the area known as the DDCR, and, according to the aims and objectives laid out in Article 2 of the Rulers Decree, may proposed, define, specify and enforce the Regulations for all activities within this area.

## **Article III:**

### **Regulations defining activities and practices with the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve:**

Once approved by the Board and Chairman specific Regulations shall be reviewed on an annual basis, and altered only by unanimous decision of the Board, based on the compatibility with the aims, objectives, and goals of the Decree, and those of benchmarked international organisations of similar repute and standing.

These Regulations shall operate solely within The Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve boundaries, and in any event clarify, modify, update, and amend existing statutes governing Environmental and Sanctuary laws and practices within Dubai, as it pertains to the DDCR.

The Board may amend these specific Regulations, where relevant, for the protection of other Conservation areas that are allocated to it, as described in Article 2 (b) of the Decree.

The Board may, if required, make submission for additional protection, where activities, developments or other encroachment in adjacent areas are seen as a potential threat to the wildlife conservation, habitat protection, or the protection of any other natural resource, or the quality of the tourist experience within the reserve.

### **Regulations for the management of activities within the DDCR:**

These Regulations are supplied as a supplement to existing Regulations relating to the law for the protection of Sanctuaries in Dubai, and they shall apply, and be recognised as described in Article 2 (f) of the Decree.

#### **1.0. Designation and citation of the Conservation Reserve, and general land rights:**

##### **1.1. General land rights and allocations:**

- 1.1.1. The land granted under management of the Dubai Conservation Board, as defined by the Dubai Municipality and attached to this document, shall be known as The Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, or by any other name selected for recognition purposes, and shall be registered as a trade name within the U.A.E.
- 1.1.2. The borders and boundaries of the Reserve are deemed within the Reserve, and may not be changed, altered or interfered with in any way for whatever purposes, unless for the express purposes of maintaining the security and integrity of the Reserve, and ordered by the Board or its Officers.

- 1.1.3. The Reserve and the Board have no mineral or prospecting rights within the designated area. These rights remain the property of the Government of Dubai, however prospecting and extraction processes should not disturb, damage or interfere in any way with the land surfaces, or habitats within the Reserve area. Subterranean water and aquifers shall be deemed outside of such mining and mineral sources, and shall be classed as a natural resource, to be governed solely by the DCB.
- 1.1.4. Authorised access to the Reserve may only be gained only through the manned security entrances, as indicated and directed by the Board and its Officers. All other entries and entry points are deemed a transgression and subject to a fine.
- 1.1.5. Land within the Reserve may not be granted to any private or commercial body by any other government official or department, (other than those areas already officially designated), and land may only be granted by the Dubai Conservation Board, once approved by the Chairman.
- 1.1.6. Current land ownership (title deed) rights within the reserve shall be recognised only as they exist as of the signing of Ruler's Decree, and henceforth no other Department has the authority to grant additional rights without the direct permission being granted by the DCB. (Current legal land ownership has been designated by the Dubai Municipality, and has been recorded by the Board).
- 1.1.7. Ownership and legal title over land within the DDCR does not allow such owners to be free of the Regulations and stipulations as are laid down by the DCB, and as such owners and operators within the boundaries of the DDCR are subject to these Regulations.
- 1.1.8. As per current Dubai Sanctuary law no military manoeuvres may be held within the boundaries of the DDCR, and to ensure the highest possible quality of tourism experience, and disturbance the area shall remain free of all except emergency overhead air traffic.

1.2. Utilities, services and infrastructure development:

- 1.2.1. No other department, authority or agency may grant land for the development, or the passage of any external services or infrastructure requirement. Internal requirements shall only be accepted where no overhead or surface structures, utilities, or services, or any other structures may interfere with the original aesthetics, habitats, landscapes or views. All such service routings as are required shall be below ground level, along routings and routes as are advised by the Board, and installed by the appropriate Government Department, or their nominated sub-contractor.
- 1.2.2. Land allocated for the routing of utilities and services expressly for the purposes and use of the Reserve will be granted only by the Board, following specification, non-interference and aesthetic policy.
- 1.2.3. Land adjacent to the Reserve shall follow external proximity regulations, where such developments and services that may interfere with the aesthetics or the quality of the natural landscapes and habitats within the DDCR may be restricted.
- 1.2.4. Land area adjacent to, but external to the fenced Reserve boundary by fifty (50) metres shall remain under the management of the Board, and used for provision of possible future access and rights of way.

- 1.2.5. Roads and internal traffic routes, boundary fences: the relevant local authority, as instructed by the Board, shall maintain wildlife barriers, electricity supply, telecommunication routings, waste removal and service routings. (As defined under Section 1.3.7.)
- 1.2.6. All bore-wells and groundwater sources and extraction shall be registered with the Board, and these shall be monitored and regulated wherever deemed necessary.
- 1.2.7. Land rehabilitation and disturbed areas, rubble and waste removal, and cleaning of littered and polluted areas shall be the responsibility of the relevant authority, and works shall be instructed by the Board and its appointed Officers.

1.3. Access and rights of way:

- 1.3.1. Only officially recognised commercial operators and existing farmers may be allocated sites for activities. Title deed owners of land currently authorised and registered within the Reserve shall have rights of way along pre-allocated and designated routes, as are approved by the Board, through the Reserve area.
- 1.3.2. Only registered and officially authorised vehicles, owned or operated by authorised individuals or organisations shall be granted access to the Reserve using allocated entry points and recognised access routes.
- 1.3.3. Entry to the Reserve will be limited to official opening hours as shall be posted from time to time by the Board.
- 1.3.4. All vehicles requiring access to the reserve shall be required to submit an application for an Entry Permit. These permits shall only be granted to those vehicles as specifically are operated by those individuals and organisations as have the necessary land rights, commercial operating rights, or the express permission of the Board to enter the DDCR. Any vehicle without such permission, or the necessary entry permits may be refused entry to the DDCR.
- 1.3.5. The Board and its Officers have the right to deny entry, and have power of closure to those individuals and organisations that are known to have contravened the Regulations of the Reserve. This shall apply equally to those who do not have the expressed permission of the Board to enter the Reserve, or have in way damaged, degraded or interfered with natural habitats, natural resources, wildlife or flora. This shall equally apply to those or who have not paid up dues, levies, and entry fee payments as defined within the Regulations.
- 1.3.6. The Reserve, its Managers and Officers, have the right to deny entry of persons, goods, animals, materials, poisons, machinery, equipment or vehicles which it deems may be harmful to the reserve, its habitats, aesthetics, or wildlife.
- 1.3.7. Within the Reserve roads, routes and 'route channels' shall provide access.
  - 1.3.7.1. Roads refer to prepared surfaces, which may only be constructed with the permission of the Board.
  - 1.3.7.2. Routes refer to unprepared surfaces, demarcated by means of the Board's maps of the Reserve, which provide access only by 4-Wheel drive vehicles between specified points.
  - 1.3.7.3. "Route channels" refer to demarcated routes, whereby 4-Wheel drive vehicles may drive 'off-road' while remaining within the specified one hundred and fifty, (150) metre limit of the route midpoint. This shall be for the express purpose of 'entertainment dune driving' of commercial operators, and shall be limited only to pre-determined areas where vegetation shall not be disturbed or undermined by such driving.
- 1.3.8. The use of any vehicles, or any motorised equipment shall be restricted to pre-determined routes and roads within the Reserve, and driving of any vehicles outside

the boundaries of roads, or outside the boundaries of specific 'Route channels' is strictly prohibited.

- 1.3.9. It is an offence to erect any signage, or to place signs on any DDCR managed property without the permission being granted by the DCB in writing. Only signage, as is provided for by the DCB, or which has permission for erection, may be placed within or on DDCB property. Such signage includes any advertising, construction materials, direction signs, or announcements of any kind.

## 2.0. Policy on Conservation, habitat management and indigenous bio-diversity protection for the DDCR.

2.1. Restricted areas will be set aside as 'management control areas', ('MCA's'), acting as completely undisturbed natural areas, and used for academic, scientific, and research purposes only.

- 2.1.1. No mechanical and vehicular access of any kind shall be permitted, and entry on foot only shall be authorised.
- 2.1.2. It shall be an offence for any person, for whatever purpose to enter these areas unless for the expressed purpose of such research and scientific assessment as has been authorised by the Board.
- 2.1.3. It shall be an offence to enclose, fence, or subdivide such areas.
- 2.1.4. No domestic livestock shall be permitted to enter such areas.
- 2.1.5. No works or any disturbances of surface structures of any kind shall be permitted within MCA's.
- 2.1.6. These areas shall be clearly marked and published by the DCB, and demarcated on its maps as MCA zones.

## 2.2. Indigenous bio-diversity conservation:

"Indigenous" is defined as those organisms that are recognised as being historically, and naturally native residents, (or recorded as transient, seasonal migrants), within the region. This excludes any artificially introduced, (exotic) species, mutations of any species and sub-species, or escaped domestic species.

"Bio-diversity" is defined as the full range of all and every species, (plant, animal, or biological specimen) carrying recognised genetic stock characteristics, and which is free of mutations, cross-specie and sub-specie interbreeding.

- 2.2.1. The Reserve policy shall be to manage, and to protect the natural, original, historic desert environment, its indigenous fauna and flora, its natural habitats and land masses, and to act as a sanctuary which ensures that natural, biological processes remain intact, without undue interference of outside or human agencies.
- 2.2.2. The Board shall, through managed reintroduction, and through assessment of the natural process and indigenous species, manage the reserve and control populations to ensure that these populations and species remain in such balance as is commonly seen historically, and as occurs in similar natural free roaming situations elsewhere.
- 2.2.3. It is an offence within the Reserve to damage, interfere with, destroy, cut, injure or undermine in any way the natural indigenous plant life within the reserve. The reintroduction, support or artificial propagation of any plant life is an offence, unless authorised by the Board for the express purposes of reintroduction of specific indigenous plant types in pre-determined, suitable locations.
- 2.2.4. It is an offence to reintroduce, propagate or support any exotic plants within the Reserve.
- 2.2.5. It is an offence to reintroduce, support or breed, by any means, any animals, (either domestic or wild), without the express, prior permission being granted, in writing, by the DCB, or the DDCR Officers. All such reintroduced or domestic animals must be done so under written permit of the DCB, and must carry with it all authorised documentation, including import/export documentation, and veterinary certification, as is sanctioned under the Convention on Illegal trade in Endangered Species, (CITES).

- 2.2.6. It is an offence to destroy, interfere with, or participate in any activity which may in any way disturb, affect or cause any harm whatsoever to any animal, or restrict its movement through natural areas, or affect its shelter or its places of breeding within the Reserves' wildlife breeding zones.
- 2.2.7. Only those species that are recognised as indigenous shall be considered for reintroduction to the Reserve, and only then with the express permission of the Board, should it be felt these individuals will contribute to the populations already within the reserve. Similarly indigenous species, populations and individuals may be removed, in a humane and scientific manner, and with a predetermined destination, from the Reserve should it be scientifically shown that these are detrimental to the continued success of the other populations on the reserve.
- 2.2.8. The Board has the right to remove any such animal as is exotic, non-indigenous, or reintroduced by whatever means, and no such animals shall be allowed to enter the DDCR. Any animal so defined may be temporarily held within a confined area within the reserve, for humane purposes, until such time as they can be safely removed to other suitable locations.
- 2.2.9. The Board has the right to refuse entry, or remove any such plant and animal species as is seen as detrimental. To this end individual plants and animals may be classed as 'Problem species or individuals'.
- 2.2.10. Problem species, (or populations, or individuals) are those defined as 'undesirable' due to being: either exotic, injured or diseased beyond helpful assistance, or a immediate danger to humans, or interrupt natural processes beyond the norm. These species/populations/individuals shall be humanely removed, or destroyed under veterinary supervision.

2.3. Policy on land surface structures and geological formations:

- 2.3.1. No geological, geographic or other natural land feature may in any way be altered by any means.
- 2.3.2. It is an offence within the reserve to level land masses, or to artificially alter, or use mechanical equipment of any kind for such work, within the DDCR.
- 2.3.3. It is an offence to quarry, remove or disturb any natural formations without the expressed permission of the Board, and then only for such purposes, and in such an areas that does not significantly damage or alter any unique features, rare species, or alters the quality of the natural landscapes.
- 2.3.4. It is an offence to set up, maintain or have any internal fences, boundaries, walls, lines, or barriers without the permission of the Board. In any such event permission may only be granted when creation of such boundaries does not interfere with the natural structures, animal movements, or the quality of the aesthetics within the reserve.
- 2.3.5. It is the responsibility of the occupier, previous occupier, or the person or organisation responsible for such erections, to remove any materials, waste, litter, building material, fences, barriers, or obstructions as may be present. In such event as the above is not vacated then the DDCR, and its Board, may remove such items, the costs of which may then be claimed from the originator.
- 2.3.6. Such areas as have already been damaged and altered shall be repaired. This shall be completed by the relevant government department at the request of the Board, and endeavouring to return to the original landscape, with its original species complement.
- 2.3.7. Any individual, organisation, or commercial entity who causes, directly or indirectly such environmental, habitat, landscape or structural damage or alteration shall be held

liable, and may be prosecuted, bearing the full costs of action, and the costs of repair of such areas as have been disturbed.

- 2.3.8. It is an offence to litter, dump, distribute and introduce any materials, or to bring into the DDCR such materials that cause or add to the aesthetic degradation of the Reserve. Such actions would lead to prosecution, with the full costs of such action, and necessary reparations falling to the individual, organisation, or entity as has caused it.

2.4. Regulations on control of movement on materials, substances and poisons:

In the interests of habitat protection, protection and preservation of ground water, animal health and safety, and the safety of visitors in the DDCR, it is necessary to restrict certain substances, or its use, within the reserve.

- 2.4.1. It is an offence to enter the reserve with any substance which may cause, directly or indirectly, damage to natural systems, cause illness or damage to health of wildlife and other animals, or which may affect groundwater, either immediately or through accumulated affects. Permission for the importation, or use, or storage of any such substances on the DDCR shall only be granted by the Board, in writing, for specific use, and may then only be used for that specified use.
- 2.4.2. The movement of any plants, or plant materials, or seeds, into or out of the DDCR may only be permitted once authorised by the DCB, and any such vehicles as are carrying such materials shall be subject to inspections by the Board Officers.
- 2.4.3. The movement of any poisons, fertilisers, chemicals, toxins, or cleaning agents into or out of, or for use, storage or distribution within the Reserve is forbidden. Only such persons as have the specified permission form the Board may use or store such chemicals and substances within the Reserve. These persons and these premises shall be subject to proper importation certification, Dubai Municipality authorisations and such premises shall be opened for regular inspections by Reserve Officers.
- 2.4.4. Only such substances that are known and certified as bio-degradable, ecologically sensitive, and have an active efficacy period of less than 24 months shall be used within the Reserve area.
- 2.4.5. No materials that are either directly, indirectly, immediately, or which may in time endanger plants, animals, landscapes, or in any way may degrade the aesthetics of the Reserve, may be brought into the reserve. This includes plastic, nylon and asbestos, in the form of poles, rolls or as sheets.

2.5. Regulations on water, use of water bore wells, and use of water-well drilling equipment:

The reserve protects some of the last underground freshwater in the emirate. For this purpose its use for only high revenue/low consumption purposes shall be allowed.

- 2.5.1. All water bore wells, whether actively used or not currently in use, must be reported and registered with the DCB and its Officers by the originators, landowners and commercial operators.
- 2.5.2. All bore wells within the DDCR, whether or not in active and direct use may be 'capped' and sealed by the Reserve Officers, or the appointed department of the Dubai Municipality. The Board may require, or shall instruct, any water bore well to be fitted with an appropriate monitoring system, and may instruct from time to time that water volume and quality tests be carried out.
- 2.5.3. It is an offence to use, create, dig, or develop any additional bore wells within the DDCR, unless application is received, and permission is granted, in writing, from the DCB.

- 2.5.4. In the event that any well is vacated or abandoned then it is incumbent on the owner, or past owner, or that entity which originally instigated its use, to remove any such materials, pumps, lining, or pipes from the well.
- 2.5.5. The type, capacity, and specifications of any equipment, whether mechanical or civil, used for the removal of below-ground water, or its pumping or distribution, must be advised to the Board prior to its installation. Any such equipment entering the Reserve, or any such water drilling activity taking place, without prior and written permission of the DCB, will not be allowed access into the Reserve, or shall immediately be terminated by the Officers of the Reserve.
- 2.5.6. Bore well water may not be used for any form of spray or flood irrigation.
- 2.5.7. Bore well water may not be used for the irrigation of cereal or herb crops which are intended for removal from the DDCR, or for commercial sale. The Reserve's Officers may confiscate any such plants, or their products, produced in this way. The DCB and its Officers will in no way be held liable for such products once confiscated.
- 2.5.8. All bore well water used for commercial purposes must be recycled, using approved processes, equipment or soak-away, as is approved and inspected by the Reserve and its Officers from time to time.
- 2.5.9. Bore well water may be used for such fruit trees as are traditionally grown and consumed, the produce of which may be used within the Reserve, and the number of which shall be determined by the DCB.
- 2.5.10. All domestic water, used for water-borne sewage, and which is not recycled in approved methods, must be imported into the reserve by tanker, stored above ground, and removed by the same means.
- 2.5.11. The Board may introduce, with a minimum 30 days notice, any levy on all ground water use within the reserve, as it sees fit, and aimed at controlling and reducing such water consumption.

2.6. Waste, refuse and removal of materials:

- 2.6.1. It is incumbent on the individual, organisation, or entity operating within the DDCR to remove all litter, plant and animal materials, other wastes, materials, or items for disposal to sites outside of the DDCR.
- 2.6.2. Refuse, litter, wastes and other materials must be stored in such a way as they cannot accumulate, be distributed by accidental or other means, and must be transported in such a way that they cannot be distributed accidentally in transit.
- 2.6.3. Central waste collection sites shall be indicated by the DCB, and such waste as is acceptable shall be removed from such sites. These central waste collection sites shall be operated by the appropriate Dubai Municipal department, or by their nominated sub-contractors.
- 2.6.4. It is an offence to burn, incinerate, bury, distribute, or store any inorganic wastes, either intentionally or otherwise, within the DDCR.

### 3.0. Controls and specifications for all structures, construction and infrastructure within the DDCR.

#### 3.1. Locations, routings and areas for development, construction, or conducting of any activities:

- 3.1.1. The location, position and area allocated, for any development, construction or works, or for the routing, conveying or conducting of any activity, must be authorised, in writing by the DCB.
- 3.1.2. Any development, construction, or works of any kind within the DDCR must be applied for, directly to the DCB, and permission received in writing, prior to the commencement of any such works.
- 3.1.3. All plans and specifications for such works must be submitted, in full, to the Board for processing prior to any such permission being granted.
- 3.1.4. All owners of land rights, commercial operators with designated locations, developments, and approved activities are required to submit such business plans as are required by the Board in support of these activities, prior to approval being given for additional development or activities of any kind.
- 3.1.5. Land, locations, ownership rights, or permission for any activities, may not be granted, temporarily or otherwise, by any other organisation, department, government entity, local or Federal, to any other party. These rights are, as per the Rulers Decree governing the management of the DDCR, provided for at the sole discretion of the DCB.
- 3.1.6. Roads, where necessary, shall be constructed of natural materials, and shall not be made of tarmac, brick, or other such permanent materials, except where permission has been given by the Board, and then only in cases of high traffic areas, and for safety purposes. (See definitions - Section 1.3.7.)

#### 3.2. Construction and development:

- 3.2.1. Plans, for any construction, whether temporary or permanent, used as residence or otherwise within the DDCR shall be submitted firstly to the Board. If provisionally approved these plans shall be submitted to the Dubai Municipality. Once reaching final approval such plans will be resubmitted to the Board, with amendments, for final approval, and written permission from the DCB. All development plans will need to be accompanied by an environmental report, a resource usage report, a water utilisation report and a business case. In the event that any of these fail to meet Board approval, plans may be rejected.
- 3.2.2. No construction or development within the reserve may interrupt the surroundings, or the surrounding skyline, when seen from the lowest point within the surroundings.
- 3.2.3. The highest point of any construction may not be higher than Forty-five, (45) feet from ground level.
- 3.2.4. The highest point of any construction within, or visible from within, the DDCR must be lower than the minimum permissible height allowed for structures which are, by other law, required to be illuminated at night, or to carry warning signals of any kind.
- 3.2.5. No structures or construction may have any design, covering, surface covering, colour, or contain any materials which are reflective, detract, or at variance from, surrounding coloration, or have at night an illuminating effect on the surroundings.
- 3.2.6. The external use of neon, illuminating or illuminated signage, advertising boards, hoarding, bare light bulbs or unshielded electric lighting is not allowed within the reserve.

- 3.2.7. External lighting, where it has no direct visibility from surroundings, or has been instituted for safety purposes, may be authorised by the Board and its Officers.
- 3.2.8. All fences or barriers must be covered by natural materials, and excludes the use of plastic, nylon or other artificial sheeting material. In all cases where these structures are visible externally to passers-by, this material shall be specified as palm-frond *barrasti*.
- 3.2.9. It is an offence to erect, whether for temporary or permanent purposes, any structure that has not been approved by the Board.

3.3. Civil and electro-mechanical specifications:

Specifications for civil and electromechanical engineering shall follow standards enforced for any authorised, safe construction within the emirate of Dubai. These are specified in the Buildings Codes and Building Regulations, as devised and authorised by the Dubai Municipality. These specifications shall, in addition, meet the special environmentally sensitive requirements of the DDCR Regulations.

(The D.M. Building Codes are available through the Dubai Municipality).

4.0. Regulation of domestic livestock, commercial farming, and crop farming within DDCR:

(Article 2, Rulers Decree)

The DDCR is a Conservation Area, set aside for conservation purposes, and the preservation of indigenous wildlife and flora, and is to be managed according to internationally acceptable, scientific Conservation practice, and sustainable use of natural resources.

4.1. Regulation of Domestic livestock within the DDCR:

- 4.1.1. The DDCR, or the DCB, or its representatives, have the right to deny entry to the DDCR. The Board has the right to deny entry to any persons, whether owners or operators have permission or not, to any persons who are found to be in breach of the Regulations of the DDCR, if trying to enter, or leave the DDCR with any domestic or wild animals.
- 4.1.2. It is an offence to bring domestic livestock into the DDCR, and as such no animals shall be allowed to enter the reserve, for any purpose, and by whatever means, without the expressed permission, in writing, of the Board.
- 4.1.3. Where such permission is granted it shall be only for the function of supporting traditional activities associated with tourism development, for the conducting of tourism-based activities, or for livestock husbandry purposes.
- 4.1.4. The following livestock are strictly prohibited; goats, sheep, cattle, chickens, pigeons, domestic dogs, cats, donkeys or mules.
- 4.1.5. Camel, horses, and falcons shall be permitted within the DDCR, however their entry into the DDCR must be informed to the Board prior to their entry. Any live animals entering the reserve must conform to health regulations, and must carry the necessary national and international certification. (CITES certificates etc.). Any attempt to enter the DDCR without such permissions could result in the confiscation of such animals, or cause them to be impounded, or have them refused entry.
- 4.1.6. The numbers of domestic animals will be limited to each operator, resort, or farm. The numbers shall be determined by the Board, based on the impact of these animals on the surroundings through grazing, and the numbers required for tourist operations. Each separate operation or farm, or individual land owner shall be limited to:  
 Camels: A maximum of 50 adult animals, over the age of 18 months.  
 Horses: A maximum of 30 animals, over the age of 18 months.  
 Falcons: A maximum of 30 animals.

- 4.1.7. Once a commercial operation or farmer has reached the maximum permitted number of adult animals it is incumbent on the owner/manager/operation to remove the excess animals from the premises.
- 4.1.8. All domestic animals must be kept confined within the boundaries demarcated for the operation or the farm, and a handler must at all times accompany domestic animals beyond the immediate confines of a farm or demarcated area. It shall be an offence for domestic animals to roam freely within the DDCR and any domestic animals, which are found unaccompanied and free roaming within the DDCR, shall be liable for removal. In this event the Board shall have no responsibility towards owners, and shall be free of any payment or prosecution in this regard.
- 4.1.9. It is an offence to cut, remove or damage any vegetation within the DDCR for the purposes of animal feeding.
- 4.1.10. Those domestic animals as are allowed within the DDCR shall be cared for by their owners, and shall have 100% of their daily water and food supplied by their owner. It is an offence for an owner to allow animals to free-roam for the purposes of feeding, as this places unnecessary pressure on natural vegetation, and deprives free-roaming indigenous species of their nutritional sources and natural shelter.
- 4.1.11. Farmers, operators and owners shall have the volume of the feed stocks monitored on entry into the DDCR, and minimum stocks must be apparent and able to support such domestic stocks as are declared by them
- 4.1.12. Domestic animals products, such as milk, hides, and the young of domestic animals, may be removed from the DDCR. However the DCB must approve such commercial activities, and any vehicles containing such animals or products shall be subject to inspections.

4.2. Regulations for the control of plant crops within the DDCR:

In an effort to provide the necessary beautification of farms, and to ensure good farming practice while limiting the use of ground water and poisons/ artificial fertilisers, and other substances, the following regulations are provided.

- 4.2.1. Farmers, owners and operators within the DDCR shall be permitted, only within the confines of their own properties as is registered and demarcated by the Dubai Municipality, to grow such crops as is used for the feeding of their own and immediate livestock. It shall be offence to remove such fodder and plant food stocks from the DDCR.
- 4.2.2. Each farmer shall be permitted to plant, and provide water from water wells for a maximum of 40 palm trees. These may be planted within 2 metres of the boundary of the property, or within the property as demarcated by the Dubai Municipality. These trees are to be planted for aesthetics purposes.
- 4.2.3. It is an offence to grow, support or propagate cereal and herb crops within the DDCR for the express purposes of removal, or for commercial gain. All such crops as are permitted must be for the immediate purposes of the feeding of livestock within the DDCR.
- 4.2.4. It is an offence to level dunes, prepare lands, bulldoze or to remove any natural vegetation from any area outside of the immediate boundaries of any farm within the DDCR. Such area as is formally owned within the DDCR, and allocated by title by the Dubai Municipality and the DCB, may be used for the propagation of crops, provided that these crops are not to be transported outside of the DDCR, or produced for commercial sale.

- 4.2.5. Water bore wells as are used for the propagation of such crops must use a drip watering distribution system, as the use of flood and spray irrigation is not permitted with the DDCR.
- 4.2.6. The DCB may order all such bore wells as are used for such crop propagation to be fitted with the necessary equipment to monitor the use of water for such purposes.
- 4.2.7. The use of all fertilisers, poisons, insecticides, and other chemicals as are used on such plant crops is prohibited. Such chemicals as are deemed necessary will be subject to Board approval, (as provided for in Section 2.4. of the DDCR Regulations).

4.3. Demarcation, fences, confinement of land or animal stocks within the DDCR:

Animal health, safety and the aesthetic appearances of farms within the DDCR are subject to the following Regulations:

- 4.3.1. Such land as is owned by a farmer within the DDCR must be clearly demarcated, and no farming activity may be practised outside of such boundaries. Fences of such boundaries must not in any way endanger animal safety, and all fences must be covered by natural *barrasti* material. No nylon, plastic, metal sheeting, or other fencing material must be bare, or visible to passers-by.
- 4.3.2. Internal fencing and animal containment paddocks, fences, shelters or cages must conform to animal health standards, and must also maintain aesthetics. The use of plastic and nylon sheeting, reflective materials, wire, ropes and other such construction materials must be in safe order, and such materials may not be visible or in open access where they may pose any danger to animals.
- 4.3.3. It is an offence to hold, contain in cages, or to bind, or in any way trap, or to lay such traps, for wild animals within the DDCR. Any such animals, as may be deemed 'problem animals', must be reported to the Board or its Officers, who shall be the sole authority with regards to the removal of such animals.
- 4.3.4. All permanent or temporary buildings within the DDCR, for whatever purpose, must conform to the specifications as laid down by the Board. The buildings and constructions must be of minimal aesthetic standards and must be designed, have wall and roof coverings, and maintain appearances which conform to traditional and heritage-based buildings. It is an offence to have any construction of bare metal, wood sheeting, asbestos, reflective coverings, plastic or nylon.

5.0. Regulation on rights of use and occupation by commercial desert safari operations within the DDCR.

In an effort to regulate the impact on the environment of increasing numbers of vehicles and passengers in the area, to raise the level of professionalism of the industry, and to ensure the quality of the experience to the visitor, the following regulations are to be enforced within the DDCR.

5.1. Commercial safari operations and dune entertainment facilities with the DDCR:

- 5.1.1. Terms of licence: Any commercial safari and tourism operator must receive, in writing the permission of the DCB to operate, or to gain entry into the DDCR. These operators shall be determined by, and on the basis of submission of a full business and operating plan to the DCB.
- 5.1.2. The Board has the right to limit any operator, and to deny any operator entry to the DDCR. The acceptance of an operator to enter the DDCR shall be based on the operators' submissions and proposals, and on the density and capacity of the traffic allowed into the Reserve, the commercial productivity and commitment of the operator to the DDCR and its Regulations. It shall also be based on: the extent and commitment of the operator to the marketing of the destination, the safari market-

share of the operator within the destination, and their contribution to the incoming tourist industry.

- 5.1.3. Only covered 4 x 4 vehicles, conforming to D.T.C.M. standards, shall be permitted to enter the reserve carrying passengers. No motorbikes, quad-bikes, and special modified 'sand-buggies' shall be allowed within the reserve for the conveyance of passengers.
- 5.1.4. At this time only Arabian Adventures, (Emirates), has permission granted, by rights of previous granting of land allocation, to operate with the DDCR. All other operators at present are operating without permission.
- 5.1.5. The granting of permission by the DCB to any commercial safari operators to operate within the DDCR shall henceforth be done on the basis of a 24-month 'contract' concession. The DCB may within the 24-month permission period advise in writing with a minimum 6-month notice period, any operator of the withdrawal of their concession contract. In this case the Operator shall have 6-months to relocate their operations, after which future entry into the DDCR will be denied.
- 5.1.6. No unregistered safari operators, or operators holding licences outside of Dubai shall be permitted to enter the DDCR. Only those operators who have been granted expressed permission by the Board to operate within the DDCR may be permitted entry to the Reserve for commercial purposes, or for the purposes of promoting tourism to the Reserve and the Dubai destination.
- 5.1.7. No safari driver, and no passenger vehicles, shall be permitted to enter the DDCR unless they conform to the standards, and registration requirements, of the D.T.C.M. It is incumbent on all safari operators to provide identification for their vehicles, their staff and representatives, or those vehicles operated under their licence, prior to their entry into the DDCR.
- 5.1.8. Entry levies and fees will be charged to any tour and safari operator who enters the DDCR. The Board will set these fees, charges or levies from time to time, and notify all operators with a minimum of 60 days notice. Charges shall be made against all and every passenger entering the DDCR, and for each entry, or for each day, (or part thereof), spent by that passenger within the DDCR. The DCB shall notify, with 30 days notice, any changes to such charges.
- 5.1.9. The DCB has the right to deny permission for entry to the DDCR to any operator, safari driver, or vehicle. The DCB, or its representatives, have the right to levy fines, or additional charges, or to demand such payments as are necessary for the repair of any damages, against any persons or organisations as are found to be in breach of the Regulations of the DDCR.
- 5.1.10. Commercial safari operators shall be granted specific locations within the DDCR in which they shall be granted permission for the development of 'dune camps'. These camps shall conform to the building and construction Regulations, and shall be for the express purpose of holding traditional, heritage-based tourism activities and overnight visits.
- 5.1.11. The DDCR shall limit the numbers of visitors and vehicles that are allowed into the Reserve in order to limit damage to the environment, and to preserve the quality of the experience. Safari operators with permission to enter the DDCR shall be informed from time to time of these maximum permissible daily numbers.
- 5.1.12. It shall be incumbent on safari operators to provide the DDCR and its Officers with the numbers of vehicles and passengers entering the DDCR on a daily basis. These numbers shall be subject to inspection by the DCB or its Officers and representatives.

- 5.1.13. Each safari operator given permission to operate within the DDCR shall be allocated zones in which they are permitted to operate their 'dune camps' and their activities. It is an offence to operate in any other area, and the Board shall have the right to levy fines on any operator, or their staff or their representatives, should this practice not be adhered to.

5.2. Tour Operator routes, roads and 'route channels' used in the conducting of tourism activities:

- 5.2.1. The DDCR shall designate roads and routes through the Reserve that may be used for the conveying of tourism passengers. Driving off-road or away from any such routes is an offence, and fines may be levied against those not adhering to these Regulations.
- 5.2.2. Common access routes between designated locations may be used by all within the DDCR, however this must be for the expressed purposes of conveying passengers or goods between designated locations, as is appropriate for such operators, land-owners and others with permission to be within the reserve. On such common access routes and roads it is an offence to drive more than 3 metres from the midpoint of the road, or outside of the designated track.
- 5.2.3. Safari and 4-Wheel drive routes shall be designated to specific operators and only the designated Operator, Reserve Officers, and emergency traffic shall be permitted to use these routes. It is incumbent on each operator to submit such routes as they deem are required for such activity to the Board, however these routes shall then be inspected, and may be altered by the Board.
- 5.2.4. 'Route channels' shall be designated within each area designated to a commercial operator. These routes are for the express purposes of 'off-road' driving, by qualified staff and can only be conducted in specified 4-Wheel drive vehicles. ( See Section 1.3.7.)

5.3. Overnight, dining, and safari operator camps:

- 5.3.1. Only those operators with permission to run commercial operations within the DDCR shall be permitted to have such camps within the Reserve. These camps shall be designated a specific location within the DDCR, and no other locations are permitted as sites for camps, for any other activity, stopping points, or points of departure.
- 5.3.2. The location, size and capacity of such camps, their construction, coverings and materials, and the specifications of equipment, operating and health and safety standards must conform to those as designated by the DCB, and those of the Dubai Municipality, (as noted in Sections 2.0. and 3.0.).
- 5.3.3. Plans, layouts and specifications for camps with the DDCR must be submitted to the DCB, and shall be subject to regular inspections by the DCB, or a designated Municipality Department.
- 5.3.4. The DCB or their Officers have the right to close any safari camp, prevent its use, or to deny an operator access to such camps should they not meet minimum standards of operation, or if the operator is in breach of the Regulations of the DDCR.
- 5.3.5. No safari operator may operate more than 3 camps within the designated area granted to them, and only then in specific locations allocated to them.

5.4. Regulations on visitor numbers, vehicle density, and maximum carrying capacity:

- 5.4.1. A maximum of one hundred and fifty thousand, (150,000) safari-operator visitors shall be permitted to enter the reserve in any 12-month calendar year, (Gregorian calendar).
- 5.4.2. A maximum of 500 vehicles shall be allowed entry into the DDCR in any 24-hour period.

- 5.4.3. It is incumbent on any individual operator with permission to operate safaris and camps within the DDCR, to notify the DDCR and its Officers a minimum of 7 days in advance, of any date and time when they expect to operate more than 100 vehicles in a 24-hour period. Failure to do so may lead to denied access to all vehicles exceeding this number.
- 5.4.4. It is incumbent on all tour operators entering the DDCR to declare accurately the number of passengers entering the Reserve. (Passengers are defined as all those within a safari vehicle other than the driver, and excludes such staff as are granted free access to the Reserve for management purposes).
- 5.4.5. Lists of safari operator staff, and the names of their nominated sub-contractors, shall be provided to the Officers of the DDCR at regular intervals. All other persons, as are not specifically named, shall be charged entry to the DDCR at the standard as is advised to all operators from time to time.

6.0. Regulation of commercial resort and hotel operations with the DDCR:

To maintain environmental and conservation practices, and limit habitat damage and disturbance of wildlife, resort developers and operators shall be restricted within DDCR. Emirates' Al Maha Desert Resort and reserve land has been granted such permission to Emirates to operate within the DDCR, and have been granted permission for the development of 2 further resorts within the area.

The Dubai Municipality has allocated additional wildlife breeding areas to Emirates, expressly for the enlargement of such wildlife areas, and for the establishment of additional desert and heritage Resorts. This allocation is demarcated and recorded in the attached maps submitted with the Ruler's Decree on the DCB and the DDCR.

Such additional areas may be fenced for the protection of such wildlife.

6.1. Construction, development and operating of wildlife and desert Resorts within the DDCR:

- 6.1.1. The location, size and capacity of such resorts, their construction, coverings and materials, and the specifications of equipment, operating and health and safety standards must conform to those as designated by the DCB, and those of the Dubai Municipality, (as noted in the relevant parts of Sections 2.0. and 3.0.).
- 6.1.2. All construction, designs, engineering and water utilisation and recycling methods shall be approved by the DCB, and follow the Regulations for such construction, design and infrastructure development as it laid out in the Regulations of the DDCR. (Sections 1-4).
- 6.1.3. All visitors entering the DDCR shall be charged for their entry to the Reserve. These charges shall be made against the Resort operators, and rates shall be set, updated and advised from time to time by the DCB.
- 6.1.4. Lists of resort staff, and the names of their nominated sub-contractors, shall be provided to the Officers of the DDCR at regular intervals. All other persons, as are not specifically named, shall be charged entry to the DDCR at the standard rates as are advised to all operators from time to time.
- 6.1.5. It shall be incumbent on all resorts to provide the DDCR and its Officers names of visitors entering the DDCR on a daily basis. These numbers shall be subject to inspection by the DCB or its Officers and representatives.
- 6.1.6. All resorts, and wildlife breeding areas designated to these resorts, shall be operated within the Regulations of the DCB, as laid out in Section 2.2.
- 6.1.7. Visitor and guest activities conducted within Resorts and wildlife areas shall be conducted in the same manner, and shall be subject to the same conditions as those which govern tour and safari operators within the DDCR. (Section 5).

- 6.1.8. The DCB has authorised that Al Maha Desert Resort shall at this time provide the management for day to day operations of the DDCR, and shall report to the General Secretary of the Board on any items pertaining to these operations.

7.0. Enforcement of policy, the institution of fines/levies, and prosecution for illegal activities within the DDCR:

It is the intention of the DCB, in its efforts to further conservation, and to foster the understanding and the appreciation of desert habitats. The DDCR shall however enforce its Regulations in order to prevent environmental abuse, permanent damage being caused to habitats, and to safeguard the wellbeing of indigenous species. It is the intent of the DCB to provide a permanently protective desert habitat and wildlife sanctuary to such species, and therefore it shall regulate the level of activities, the density of visitor traffic, and prevent the unnecessary use of limited natural resources and water aquifers.

- 7.1. A transition period of 12 months, from date of notification on Boards' acceptance for owners and operators to remain within the DDCR, shall be granted to for those within the DDCR to make the necessary adjustments required in which to conform to the Regulations of the DDCR. In the case of buildings, lands under irrigation, areas to be rehabilitated, and other civil and construction works, a further period of 6 months shall be granted for all changes to be instigated.
- 7.2. After this grace period all such owners, operators and farms must conform to the standards and Regulations of the DDCR, as advised by the DCB.
- 7.3. In the case of minor infractions of Regulations the individual and the organisation shall be given, in writing, a formal warning of such infractions, and notification of the penalties for continued infractions. Any subsequent infractions of the Regulations will result in either/and a fine or refusal of entry to the DDCR. The value of such a fine shall be the equivalent of that which is issued for similar infractions in the City of Dubai. In addition such fines, and where damage or breach of the Regulations requires rectification works, the perpetrator and/or the owner shall also be held responsible for such repairs and rehabilitation, or the costs of such works carried out on their behalf by the DCB.
- 7.4. In cases of serious, or continuous, breaches of Regulations by individuals, title owners, or operators within the DDCR the DCB may institute legal proceeding against such persons or entities. In instances where a serious breach of Regulations occurs, the DCB or its representatives and Officers may report such breaches to the Dubai Police, and lay such charges as are relevant, against the perpetrators.
- 7.5. In cases of civil, public, or criminal prosecution the DDCR, and the DCB, its representatives and Officers act within their capacity as the organisation, and not as individuals. In such cases as is required, parties may select and nominate their legal council, and legal proceedings shall follow the court system, including the option of arbitration.

8.0. Processes for academic research, data collection, and development of educational facilities:

The DCB and the DDCR, in furthering the understanding of desert habitats and species, population dynamics, and the general resource utilisation in sustainable situations, may grant permission to persons, academic institutions, researchers and other bodies involved in the dissemination of such knowledge, access to the DDCR.

Similarly the DCB may also establish educational funds, and provide facilities, which may be used for educational purposes.

- 8.1. The DCB still maintains the right to charge for any entry to the DDCR, whether for research or educational purposes.
- 8.2. The DCB still maintains the right to deny entry, and to allocate as it deems necessary, locations and areas within the DDCR for such activity.
- 8.3. The DCB maintains the right to limit any such activity, development, and construction as it deems necessary, within the statutes of the Regulations, and within the Constitution of the Board, and the Ruler's Decree pertaining to the DDCR.

8.4. The DCB has the right to grant such permission as is required, for the conducting of legitimate research and data collection within the DDCR.

9.0. Use of funds, sponsorships, and Government funding:

The DCB is entitled to collect, manage and utilise funds for the management and development of the DDCR. These funds shall have to expressed purpose of protection of wildlife and desert habitats, the development of such facilities, services and infrastructure as is required for the DDCR, and for the conducting of research, data collection, and education purposes.

9.1. Use of Government of Dubai funding:

- 9.1.1. Such funds as are allocated to the DCB by the Govt. of Dubai shall be utilised only for the works to which they were allocated, and enumerated by the Budget of the DCB, as is submitted by the Board from time to time.
- 9.1.2. Any additional funds received by the Govt. Of Dubai, outside of those provided for within the Budget, may be allocated to additional works only by the unanimous decision of the DCB and The Chairman of the Board.
- 9.1.3. Additional funds may also be placed in Trust, and in this manner used for the development of Conservation Trust Funds, the interest of which may be used for the general operation of the DDCR. The use of any such funds must be authorised by unanimous decision of the Board, and The Chairman.

9.2. Use of Federal funding:

- 9.2.1. Such funds as may be received from Federal Government, or other government agencies, may be used for the general operation of the DDCR, or for the authorised activities of the DCB. The use of such funds must be authorised by unanimous decision of the DCB and The Chairman.
- 9.2.2. Such funds as are not allocated directly to authorised works as enumerated by the Board budget may be placed in Trust, the interest of which may be used for such works as decided by the DCB and The Chairman.

9.3. Sponsorships and other funds:

- 9.3.1. Sponsorships, and other similar funding, shall be raised by the Board and its Officers for specific, and enumerated purposes, and such sponsors and donors who have contributed shall be informed on the use, and the nature of works and developments deployed through their funding.
- 9.3.2. Sponsors shall be entitled to detailed reports and inspections of such development and funded works. The DCR shall also set parameters for sponsors and their use of DDCR materials, logos, and use of name in their subsequent marketing and promotional activity.
- 9.3.3. Such sponsorships and funding may be placed in Trust, the interest of which may be used for the general operating of the DDCR, and the activities of the Board.

9.4. Funds collected from commercial operators and visitor entry fees:

- 9.4.1. Funds collected from such activities as are authorised within the DDCR shall be banked by the Board in current account, and used for the funding of operations, manpower requirements, and for general administration purposes.

## APPENDIX OF DEFINITIONS:

Authorised persons are those who have sort and received permission, have applied and been given the necessary permits, or paid the determined daily entry fees as laid down by the DCB.

Natural Carrying Capacity: The number of wildlife animals and population density of these species that can be supported within the Reserve, without significantly damaging the flora or habitat structures. Natural carrying capacity indicates that there is little or no artificial feeding, (other than health related food supplements), and minimum number of artificial water provision points strategically located throughout the Reserve.

Ecosystem: A biological community of interacting organisms, usually in a specific location and responding to the physical forces acting on that location.

Ecotourism: Tourism directed towards unspoiled natural environments, aimed at the support of these environments.

Exotic species: Those organisms that originate in foreign locations, or have no historic connection to their present location.

Habitat: The natural location and space required by an organism, or a group of organisms within an ecosystem.

Heritage: A property, tradition, activity, or a special possession of value usually associated with a people's history or a natural location, and which is usually worthy of protection.

Historic species: An organism that can be traced through its development, in time, within a particular location.

Indigenous fauna and flora: are only those plants and animals that have been consistently and naturally recorded within the area for a period of 250 years. They must remain genetically true to specie, and sub-specie differentiation, and be devoid of cross-specie hybridisation.

Mutation: Changes caused to the genetic structure of an organism which results in that change being passed on to subsequent generations. These changes can be caused by means of radiation, chemicals, or by the crossbreeding of different strains or types of organism.

Species: A group of organisms of similar appearance that are capable of reproducing by the exchange of genes between male and female of the group. This refers to those organisms of a particular type, and not those which result from the interbreeding of types to produce hybrid individuals.

Native species: Animal and plants species that have their origins in a particular location.

Natural habitats: are those habitat types which are found in a particular location as a result of continuous prevailing climatic, geological, and biome regimes, and exclude all types which result from interference of human agents, artificial introduction of elements, nutrients, domestic animal and plant stocks.

Natural populations: A population of organisms which over time increases or decreases in the number of individuals present in that location in response to the oscillations of the physical environment around them.

Natural processes: The prevailing physical and biological forces regarded as causing and regulating the cycles of nature, the components, populations, and the individuals within a particular location.

Natural resources: Materials and substances occurring in nature which are exploited for gain. Such substances as are present may or may not be replaceable, in which case they are classified as either renewable or non-renewable.

Natural systems: Areas in which the functions of nature continue without the continuous influences of humans. The forces acting upon such systems stem solely from the prevailing physical conditions.

Sustainable management of habitats: A method of management whereby the exploitation of resources, (land, space, plants and animals, limited resources such as water), is limited in such a way as to ensure that these are never depleted. In this way sustainable development of habitats ensures that any activities, developments or use of resources may occur in a consistent manner indefinitely, without consequent degradation of the quality of the habitats, removal of key resources, or developing imbalance in natural processes.

Unsustainable exploitation: Any activity that will over time alter the quality of a natural location. This may be through the removal of natural resources, the impact of activities on the physical environment and forces in a location, or through development which restricts the natural processes present in a location.

Visitor Carrying Capacity: The maximum number of visitors which can be sustained on a daily basis without impacting on the quality of the experience, and the safety of the activity.

OR - The maximum number of vehicles that operate within the area on an annual basis, ensuring that there is no permanent damage being done to the habitat.

OR – The maximum number of visitor camps which can be accommodated within the *useable* Reserve area, ensuring sufficient land area is left available for free movement of wildlife and for conducting of activities.