

# TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS



## GUIDELINES ON CANOEING AND KAYAKING SAFARIS



## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Canoeing/kayaking is the act of paddling a canoe /kayak which requires special paddle for moving along the surface of a body of water such as lake, river and sea. Kayaking is differentiated from canoeing by a sitting position of the paddler and by having two bladed on the paddler instead of one. This activity may be undertaken in National Parks with water bodies. It is an environmental friendly activity which contributes to the diversification visitors activities.

Thus, these guidelines are developed to ensure smooth operations of the activity as well as to enhance visitor experience.

## **2.0 AREAS WHERE THE ACTIVITY CAN TAKE PLACE IN THE PARK**

2.1 Canoeing/kayaking will be operated in the areas as stipulated in the respective parks GMP. Pre-allocated launching, drop-offs and pick up sites will be established in the collaboration with the operator

2.2 The site for the operation of the activity will be identified as stipulated in the respective park GMP.

## **2.0 NUMBER OF CANOES/KAYAKS**

The number of canoes/kayaks will be determined according to the GMP of the respective park.

## **4.0 PERMITS AND LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

The operator shall:

- i. Have a valid TALA license;
- ii. Have a clean business record;
- iii. Ensure that the safaris are conducted in a safe, quality and orderly manner that comply with General Management Plan (GMP); and
- iv. Have a valid public liability insurance cover.

## **3.0 TYPE OF COMPETENCE AND NUMBER OF STAFF REQUIRED FOR THE ACTIVITY**

- i. Use well trained professional Tanzanians guides only.
- ii. There shall be one qualified guide per group.

## **6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION ISSUES**

- i. Canoeing/kayaking shall be done in environmental friendly manner in the sense that all kinds of pollution of whatever nature will strictly prohibited.
- ii. Damaging of bank side vegetation is strictly prohibited when launching or landings.
- iii. Canoes/kayaks facilities shall be packed in approved sites.

## **7.0 SAFETY, SECURITY AND HEALTHY CONSIDERATION ISSUES**

- i. Pre-launch briefing shall be conducted before commencing canoeing/kayaking
- ii. The operators shall provide life jackets, spare paddles, whistles, knife, hand pump for removing water, flyers, helmet, GPS, rescue slings, first aid kit, paddling gloves, sun glasses, equipment repair kit (tool box), paddling clothes and any other professionally required equipments for canoeing and kayaking to all users for security purposes.
- iii. TANAPA may provide armed ranger to accompany visitors during canoeing/kayaking at the stop-over and camping sites.
- iv. Visitors under the influence of alcohol or any drugs will not be allowed on canoeing/kayaking safaris.
- v. Only children above 7 years will be allowed to conduct canoeing/kayaking activity and shall be accompanied by adults. No two children will be allowed in one canoe/kayak.
- vi. Those under medication or with medical history are advised not to participate in water sports. For certain cases, they must inform the guide of their condition and must also carry along with their medication in case of emergency.
- vii. If visitors have occupied several canoes/kayaks shall stay in group during canoeing/kayaking activity preferably under the supervision of a guide.
- viii. A minimum distance of viewing wildlife from a Canoe/kayak will be 50 meters.
- ix. The operator shall obtain weather forecast before set out canoeing/kayaking activity
- x. The operator shall provide a reliable communication systems and emergency evacuation programme.

- xi. There shall be a register kept at the launching areas indicating among other entries, columns for the number of trips, participants and signatures for a TANAPA guide and operator whenever applicable.
- xii. All guides shall be knowledgeable on first aid, canoeing/kayaking skills, swimming, water rescue, and wildlife and group dynamics.

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

- i. Canoeing/kayaking shall be carried out during the day, from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- ii. Maximum allowed time for canoeing/kayaking is 3 hours only per trip.
- iii. The canoe/kayak shall have a minimum of two seaters.

## **9.0 PAYMENT MODALITIES**

- i. Visitors 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 will be charged according to TANAPA tariff structure as may be reviewed from time to time.

## **10.0 INDEMNITY FORMS**

All visitors must fill and sign Indemnity forms before canoeing/kayaking.

## **11.0 BOOKING AND RESERVATIONS**

- i. Booking may be made directly through TANAPA or operating company.
- ii. In the event the canoeing/kayaking is operated by the private company, the park shall be provided with the information at least 12 hours before commencing the activity.

## **12.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Regular monitoring shall be carried out to see if the activity complies with the operating agreement and TANAPA legislations. Annual evaluation will also be carried out to assess the

impact of the activity and recommend effective mitigation measures or suspension of the activity.

**Conservation Commissioner  
Tanzania National Parks**