Sustainable Destination Selection

At ACME Voyages, we are committed to integrating sustainability into every stage of our destination selection and product development process. Our policy ensures that environmental, social, and cultural sustainability aspects are systematically considered when evaluating and promoting destinations. This approach is fully aligned with the Travelife Sustainability Criteria and supports our mission to promote responsible and meaningful travel experiences.

Policy Statement

ACME Voyages selects and promotes destinations that demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, community participation, and cultural preservation. We aim to minimize negative tourism impacts while enhancing local benefits and visitor satisfaction.

Integration into Company Processes

1. **Destination Assessment:**
   Before adding any new destination or route to our programs, our product and operations team conducts a sustainability evaluation that includes:

   o   Availability of eco-friendly infrastructure (traffic-free zones, proper waste management systems).

   o   Local community involvement in tourism-related activities.

   o   Environmental protection measures and adherence to government regulations.

   o   Potential to diversify tourism flows away from overcrowded areas.

2. **Supplier Collaboration:**
   We work only with local suppliers (hotels, guides, transporters) who share our sustainability vision. Preference is given to suppliers certified by

credible eco-labels or those demonstrating responsible practices such as energy saving, waste reduction, and fair employment.

3. **Staff Awareness and Training:**
   All product managers and destination planners are briefed on sustainability standards and trained to include these criteria in their decision-making and contracting processes.

4. **Continuous Monitoring:**
   Our operations team reviews destinations annually to assess ongoing sustainability performance and visitor feedback. Destinations that fail to maintain responsible practices are reviewed and may be replaced by alternatives.

Concrete Examples of Implementation

1. **Alternative Destinations:** Promoting towns like Bundi and Mandawa instead of only Jaipur and Jodhpur to reduce over-tourism and support local economies.

2. **Low-Impact Transport:** Encouraging tuk-tuks, bicycles, or walking tours in Udaipur, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh to reduce traffic congestion and emissions.

3. **Eco-Certified Accommodations:** Partnering with eco-certified resorts in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan that use solar energy, LED lighting, and water-saving measures.

4. **Community-Based Tourism:** Supporting village homestays and local cooperative lodges in Rajasthan, Assam, and Kerala where tourism income benefits local families directly.

5. **Waste Management Practices:** Partnering with hotels, houseboats, and tour operators that implement proper waste segregation, recycling, and sewage treatment.

6. **Cultural Preservation:** Including traditional craft workshops, folk performances, and heritage tours to support artisans and local traditions.

7. **Off-Season Visits:** Scheduling trips during off-peak periods to reduce pressure on tourist hotspots and local infrastructure.

8. **Eco-Friendly Activities:** Offering nature walks, wildlife observation, bird-watching, and kayaking instead of motorized or high-impact activities.

9. **Traveler Education:** Providing pre-tour briefings and materials to clients on sustainable practices, local customs, and responsible behavior.

10. **Renewable Energy Usage:** Selecting accommodations and facilities using solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and LED lighting to minimize carbon footprint.

11. **Water Conservation Measures:** Promoting suppliers that implement rainwater harvesting, low-flow fixtures, and water reuse systems.

12. **Local Sourcing:** Encouraging hotels and restaurants to source food and products locally, reducing transport emissions and supporting local farmers.

13. **Responsible Wildlife Tourism:** Partnering with wildlife sanctuaries and national parks that follow ethical wildlife viewing guidelines, avoiding disturbance to animals.

14. **Community Engagement Programs:** Supporting local environmental or social projects, such as beach clean-ups or school initiatives in destinations we operate.

15. **Sustainable Transport Planning:** Using shared transport or hybrid vehicles for intercity travel wherever possible to reduce emissions.

16. **Reducing Paper Usage:** Digital itineraries, e-tickets, and QR-based guides are promoted to reduce paper waste.

17. **Monitoring Supplier Compliance:** Annual audits and checklists ensure that local suppliers maintain sustainable practices consistently.

18. **Promoting Eco-Tourism Certifications:** Encouraging local suppliers to obtain Travelife, Green Key, or other eco-certifications to maintain industry standards.

19. **Responsible Marketing:** Highlighting sustainability achievements in our communications without exaggeration, promoting authentic and responsible tourism.

20. **Inclusive Tourism:** Ensuring that destinations and tours are accessible, respectful, and socially inclusive, benefiting all community members.

Through these measures, ACME Voyages integrates sustainability into the heart of our operations, ensuring responsible tourism practices that protect destinations, support communities, and provide meaningful experiences for travelers. Sustainability is fully embedded in our destination selection, supplier partnerships, staff training, and client engagement, making it a measurable and auditable part of our business.