

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CODE OF ETHICS

“Photography is a powerful tool for inspiring people to care about our planet and its creatures.”

~ Paul Nicklen, Canadian photographer, filmmaker and marine biologist

For anyone who enjoys capturing the beauty of nature, it's key to respect and protect the image subjects above all else. Ethical nature photography aims to convey the true spirit of wildlife and landscapes without altering, disturbing or manipulating them.

By following a code of ethics, you can minimize your impact and set a positive example for ethical photography while inspiring others to appreciate and protect nature.

RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE

Never pursue, follow or bother an animal that is visibly stressed or afraid.

Always consider the impact that using a flash at night could have on wildlife, especially nocturnal species.

Minimize disruptions around breeding areas and during breeding seasons.

Don't use call recordings or bait to attract animals. This can lead to wildlife habituation which can be dangerous for both wildlife and humans.

Maintain a respectable distance from nocturnal wildlife resting during the day such as owls.

Use discretion when sharing the location of a site and wildlife, especially rare, endangered or breeding wildlife. This includes sharing information on social media. It may attract swarms of people to the area and increase stress on the ecosystem and/or wildlife.

MINIMIZE YOUR IMPACT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Follow the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

Respect area or trail closures and signage.

Dispose of waste properly, including organic matter such as apple cores. Waste can be dangerous for wildlife to consume and may draw wildlife close to trails, increasing risk of human-wildlife conflict.

Stay on trails to avoid damaging vegetation, spreading invasive species and contributing to erosion.

RESPECT OTHERS

Share the trail and outdoor spaces with other photographers, recreationalists and visitors.

Be mindful of noise and the volume of your voice as not to disturb wildlife and the experience of other photographers or visitors.

Respect the rules, laws, curfews and policies of specific areas and their staff or property owners.

SHARING OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Written information used alongside images must always be truthful and accurate.

Avoid digitally manipulating images to intentionally deceive an audience. Any considerable manipulations must always be disclosed.



Submit your favourite lake photos to the 2024 Lake Biodiversity Photo Challenge for a chance to win prizes including a photography workshop with Nikon Canada Ambassador and Kase Filters Global Ambassador Viktoria Haack. Learn more here.



**Canadian Conservation
Photographers Collective**

These guidelines are based on the Code of Ethics developed by the Canadian Conservation Photographers Collective.

Living Lakes Canada is an award-winning NGO that facilitates collaboration in monitoring, restoration, and policy development initiatives for the long-term protection of lakes, rivers, aquifers, wetlands and watersheds across Canada.

Visit our **website** to learn more: www.livinglakescanada.ca

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