EARTH CONNECTION, MEXICO

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY
PART 1: STATEMENT OF INTENT

This is the health and safety policy statement of Earth Connection Centre Biological Reserve, Mexico.

Our health and safety policy is to:

- prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health
- manage health and safety risks at our Ecosystem Restoration Community
- provide clear instructions and information, and adequate training, to ensure staff and earth restorers are competent to do their work
- ensure that staff and earth restorers have access to personal protective equipment
- consult with our staff and earth restorers on matters affecting their health and safety
- provide and maintain a safe Ecosystem Restoration Community and equipment
- ensure safe handling and use of tools
- maintain safe and healthy working conditions
- implement emergency procedures, including evacuation in case of fire or other significant incident
- review and revise this policy regularly

Signed: _____________________________  

Paul Morris

Print name: _____________________________

Date: 6 September 2023
PART 2: RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Overall and final person responsibility for health and safety:
   Paul Morris

2. Day to day responsibility for ensuring that this policy is put into practice:
   Juan Manuel Ortiz Carrillo, Site Manager

3. To ensure health and safety standards are maintained/improved, the following people have responsibility in the following areas:
   - Paul Morris – safety, risk assessments, consulting employees, accidents, first aid and work-related ill health
   - Paul Morris – monitoring, accident and ill-health investigation, emergency procedures, fire and evacuation
   - Juan Manuel Ortiz Carrillo – maintaining equipment, information, instruction and supervision, training

4. All employees and earth restorers should:
   - cooperate with supervisors and managers on health and safety matters;
   - take reasonable care of their own health and safety; and
   - report all health and safety concerns to an appropriate person (as detailed above).
PART 3: ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Risk assessment
- We will complete relevant risk assessments and take action.
- We will review risk assessments when working habits or conditions change.

Training
- We will give staff and campers a health and safety induction and provide appropriate training (including how to use tools, how to plant and how to avoid risks from wildlife).
- We will provide personal protective equipment or demand that campers bring adequate personal protective equipment. (gloves, proper jungle footwear, eye protection, hearing protection, water container)
- We will make sure suitable arrangements are in place for employees who work remotely.

Consultation
- We will consult staff routinely on health and safety matters as they arise and formally when we review health and safety.

Evacuation
- We will make sure escape routes are well signed and kept clear at all times.
- Evacuation plans are tested from time to time and updated if necessary.
Safety items to bring along:
- Biodegradable sunscreen and bug repellant (make sure to wash them off before entering the cenote)
- Sturdy footwear (jungle with cactus and other spiny trees)
- Gloves (spines may still penetrate be careful)
- Eye protection (for machete work or construction)
- Ear protection (for construction or getting a good night sleep)
- Water container (hydration needs to be maintained to prevent heat illness)
- Long pants, long sleeve shirt (for jungle work and sun protection)
- Hat, bandana

Considerations
- Hot humid weather - if not used to the heat take it slow until you acclimatize
- Strong sun - “the sun is hot” Mayan saying. Use sunscreen if you have low melanin
- Biting creatures including mosquitoes, ticks, Chaga beetle
- Poisonous snakes - don’t touch
- Spines and thorns
- Skin irritating plants - chaya, little leaf vine
- Sharp tools, machete...
- Cenote is 7m down with 8-32m deep water
- If not used to doing physical work take it slow until you acclimatize, wear gloves to protect your hands from blisters.
- Minor cuts should be checked and treated