SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

JAGUAR RESCUE CENTER

Version 2 · Revised November 2026 · Replaces the 2023 version

1. What we mean by sustainability

A sustainable organization creates economic, environmental and social value in the short and long term, contributing to the wellbeing and progress of present and future generations, both in its immediate surroundings and on the planet as a whole.

Such organizations have goals that go beyond maximizing short-term economic profit:

- Creating wealth in their surroundings.
- Ecological integration in all their activities.
- Goals guided by social justice and solidarity.
- Pursuing human progress in every sphere, with respect for human rights and fundamental ethical values.

To create lasting value, an organization must meet the needs not only of its clients and owners but of all its stakeholders. That is why the JRC seeks to foster a culture of sustainability that involves all its stakeholders.

2. Mission, vision and values

Mission

Established in 2008, the JRC is an organization dedicated to helping wild animals in need. With uncompromising care and love, we rehabilitate injured, sick and orphaned animals and restore their health so they can return to their natural habitat. We currently rescue and care for more than 1,400 wild animals every year.

Through educational outreach, we promote environmental awareness and a harmonious relationship between native wildlife and the community that must protect it.

Vision

The JRC aims to keep growing as a center for animal welfare and a hub of scientific research, attracting scientists from all over the world to study the unique ecosystems of Costa Rica's Caribbean coast.

Values

Our work is built on three core values: science, compassion and transparency. Our mission is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), and contributes to the global 30×30 biodiversity framework.

Jaguar Rescue Center
COSTA RICA

3. Our surroundings

The canton of Talamanca differs from the rest of the country. Most of its population, around 55%, is Indigenous. Unemployment is very high, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women and young people, and income levels are among the lowest in Costa Rica. Basic services such as water, electricity and telephone have limited reliability due to the size and characteristics of the area. A large part of the canton is protected as national parks and reserves.

The threats facing wild animals are linked to human development: habitat loss from new construction, road expansion and roadkill, untreated waste, water pollution, electrocution on uninsulated power lines and transformers, and dog attacks. Environmental awareness is therefore essential to move towards sustainable development in a region with such fragile and valuable ecosystems.

4. Our stakeholders

We have identified three types of stakeholders:

- Essential, without whom the JRC could not exist: employees, volunteers and strategic partners.
- Contractual, with whom we have a formal relationship: visitors and clients, donors, suppliers and subcontractors, and financial institutions.
- Contextual, who give credibility to our work and defend common goods such as the environment: local communities, public administration, universities and the scientific community, NGOs and conservation networks, professional associations and the media.

5. Our commitments to each stakeholder group

Stakeholder	How we involve them
Employees and volunteers	Local employment, fair working conditions and full coverage by the national social security (CCSS) and occupational insurance (INS). Training in animal welfare, biosafety and sustainability from induction. Health screening days with the CCSS.
Visitors and clients	Educational guided tours of the sanctuary, with no direct contact with the animals. Truthful information about our commitments and no printed promotional material.
Donors and strategic partners	Transparency in the use of funds and impact reporting. The JRC receives no government funding, so its work depends on this support.
Suppliers	Preference for local suppliers with good environmental practices, such as eco-friendly cleaning products and local natural cosmetics in our shop.

Local community	JRC Community environmental education program in schools and at the JRC Community Hub, beach and forest clean-ups, and collaboration with social organizations and Indigenous communities of Talamanca.
Public administration	Compliance with the requirements of SINAC, SENASA and the Ministry of Health. Shock-Free Zone program against wildlife electrocutions, with ICE and MINAE.
Universities and scientific community	Agreements with universities and support for research projects in biology, veterinary medicine, conservation and sustainable tourism.
Networks and alliances	Member of the Global Rewilding Alliance, CATCCAS (South Caribbean Chamber of Tourism and Commerce) and the Explore Puerto Viejo Chamber. Biosphere sustainable tourism certification.

6. Sustainability principles

Ecology and animal welfare

- Protecting ecological systems and conserving the environment as an integral part of all our activities.
- Protecting natural reserves that sustain biodiversity, such as La Ceiba primary forest reserve, and partnering with other organizations to expand protected areas and create biological corridors.
- Recovering endangered wild species and ecosystems.
- Ensuring the highest welfare for wild animals in our daily operations.
- Complying with all Costa Rican regulations relating to animals.
- Using water, land and forest products sustainably and minimizing the use of non-renewable resources.
- Preventing pollution and reducing, reusing and recycling waste.
- Energy efficiency and a transition to clean, renewable energy.
- Choosing suppliers with the best environmental practices.

Social responsibility and human rights

- Eliminating discrimination in all its forms, including on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, language, or national, ethnic or social origin.
- Supporting local, national and global civil society.
- Protecting the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association.
- Respecting and supporting international human rights within our sphere of influence.
- Creating quality local employment.

Jaguar Rescue Center
COSTA RICA

Education

- Environmental education for all of society, so that everyone can actively contribute to sustainable development.

7. Communication and review

This policy is shared with all employees and volunteers during their induction and is published on our website. JRC management reviews it every year, or sooner if our activities or surroundings change significantly.

Approved by: Joan Garolera Pérez

Position: Administrative & Accounting Manager

Signature: _____ Date: _____