

AMARU CONSERVATION STANDARD (ACS) — DETAILED DESCRIPTION (EN)

The **AMARU Conservation Standard (ACS)** is a practical framework for **audit-ready conservation**: safe, ethical, traceable, and decision-useful. It is not theory and it is not “voluntourism.” ACS is a real operating system built from field projects and facility work that converts **fieldwork → data → evidence → action**.

In the Conservation Training Program, ACS defines how people are selected, trained, supervised, evaluated, and what they must deliver. In institutional services, ACS is how AMARU standardizes operations, reduces risk, strengthens compliance, and maintains quality over time.

1) Core principles (non-negotiables)

1.1 Safety & biosafety first

ACS is designed to prevent risk to people, wildlife, and ecosystems:

- mandatory induction before any operational work
- correct PPE use and clean/dirty workflows
- incident reporting and corrective actions
- quarantine/isolation logic when applicable

1.2 Welfare and applied ethics

ACS enforces **minimum stress, minimum impact, maximum justification**:

- no animal handling without authorization and a clear purpose
- every intervention must be protocol-based and safety-justified
- high-risk practices are prohibited (harassment, baiting, unnecessary exposure, unethical photography)

1.3 Evidence over narrative

ACS prioritizes what can be verified:

- complete records
- replicable methods
- conclusions that can be defended (not “nice stories”)

1.4 Traceability and accountability

Every action leaves an auditable footprint:

- who did what, when, where, and how
- controlled repositories and versioning
- role-based validation and sign-off

1.5 Deliverables-based learning

Training is measured by **technical value produced**, not just participation:

- mini-projects, curated datasets, SOP improvements, technical briefs
- clear evaluation criteria and real performance standards

2) What ACS looks like in practice (the operating system)

2.1 Induction & authorization

No one “goes straight to the field.” ACS requires:

- induction (biosafety, ethics, safety, data/media rules)
- a brief competency check
- defined roles and permission levels

Outcome: participants are authorized for specific tasks, with clear boundaries.

2.2 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Each site has SOPs tailored to its context, but aligned to the same logic:

- entry/exit rules, restricted areas, visitor management
- cleaning, disinfection, feeding, waste routines
- handling/restraint rules (where applicable) with authorization levels
- emergency response and incident workflows
- rescue support (if it occurs) under a strict chain of command

Outcome: consistent operations—no improvisation.

2.3 Audit-ready recordkeeping

ACS requires minimum daily/weekly evidence:

- logs and checklists
- effort tracking (camera traps, field routes, monitoring sessions)
- incident reports + corrective actions
- structured repository (naming rules, version control)

Outcome: real traceability, not scattered notes.

2.4 Data quality (QA/QC)

Collecting data is not enough—ACS requires validation:

- mandatory fields, consistency checks, duplicate control
- metadata standards (date, site, effort, method)
- backup and information security rules

Outcome: defensible, comparable datasets.

2.5 Field monitoring (when applicable)

For wildlife monitoring systems, ACS focuses on usefulness:

- basic effort design (why here, why this method, what question)
- technical operation (camera traps, surveys, observation protocols)
- maintenance and effort control
- descriptive analysis and reporting

Outcome: monitoring that supports decisions, not “just placing cameras.”

2.6 Information governance & communications

ACS protects projects from reputational and operational risk:

- no publishing photos/videos/locations without written permission
- sensitive site data and species information are restricted
- ethical photography rules (no flash/baiting/harassment)

Outcome: safer operations and protected credibility.

3) ACS levels (progression by track)

Level 1 – Foundations (30 days)

- SOP compliance + complete daily logs
- understands workflow, risks, and boundaries
- contributes to operations and traceability

Level 2 – Applied (45 days)

- adds a supervised mini-project and data QA/QC
- may support field trips/applied research when scheduled
- delivers a verified technical output

Level 3 – Residency (60–90 days)

- deeper continuity and expanded responsibility under supervision
- robust technical deliverable
- potential pathway to a publishable report (subject to permissions)

4) ACS evaluation (how performance is measured)

Participants are assessed with clear rubrics:

- biosafety and ethics compliance (highest weight)
- recordkeeping quality and consistency
- operational discipline and teamwork
- technical contribution (deliverable)
- communication discipline (data/media rules)

Outcome: certification that is credible—because it is earned.

5) What ACS guarantees (AMARU's promise)

- **Safe, structured operations** (no improvisation)
- **Traceable evidence** (audit-ready)
- **Transferable skills** (real-world competence)
- **Verified outputs** (deliverables, not just attendance)
- **Protected credibility** (information governance)