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## Cape Karoo International - Animal Welfare Commitment

Cape Karoo International (CKI) is a processor of domesticated ostriches (*Struthio camelus var. domesticus*) and a leading entity in the worldwide ostrich industry. Cape Karoo International recognizes the impact of its global activities on the animals under its care, its workforce, the environment, and the communities in which it operates.

- **Our Vision:** Establish Cape Karoo International as the preferred processor for ostrich farmers, and globally the preferred supplier of high-quality South African ostrich products.
- **Our Mission:** To create an environment where shareholders (ostrich farmers), personnel and clients can all prosper in a sustainable way.
- **Our Values and strategic direction:** The company's values are combined in our slogan **Quality with Integrity**. We are committed to process our products in a way that ensures sustainability of the raw material sources, as well as the environment. Together with this, CKI has adopted best practices to ensure that all ostriches we receive are handled in a humane manner compliant with animal welfare regulations.
- Cape Karoo International is committed to manufacture and supply safe and legally complying quality products to its customers.

### Animal Production

Cape Karoo International is owned by 250 producers, who operate on 340 registered ostrich farms. All ostrich farms must be registered (registration number is issued) in terms of national legislation and Veterinary Procedure no 4 (VPNO4): **“Standard for the Requirement, Registration, Maintenance of Registration and Official Control of Ostrich Compartments in South Africa”**. This procedure regulates the ostrich industry bio security and the movement of ostriches between registered farms and processing facilities. All ostrich farms are annually inspected by national government veterinary officers as to ensure that it complies with the VPNO4 procedure.

The registration of farms (compartments) is a key aspect as to assure the complete traceability of an ostrich through its life cycle.

Cape Karoo International and its producers are co-operating with researchers and organizations within the private and national government agricultural sector to develop a high-quality, sustainable production industry. The focus on parameters such as animal welfare, which includes breeding, rearing, and veterinary health is key to this interaction.

From 2018, the ostrich industry has worked with its customers and stakeholders to develop a Standard and Certification Scheme covering ostrich production (**SAOBC 1001: Ostrich Production - Requirements**).

Cape Karoo International has a contractual relationship with its producers that animals will only be accepted for processing if full traceability is confirmed and that animals have spent their complete life cycle on registered ostrich farms that have been audited by an independent third-party against the standard and certified as meeting national and international legislation as well as the stipulated animal welfare requirements.

The key is that all animals are treated humanely, their behavioral needs are met, and that the five recognized animal freedoms are respected:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst – ready access to clean water and a healthy diet to maintain good health and vigor

CapeKaroo International (Pty) Ltd  
Reg. No.: 1998/011059/07

Directors: JH Delpont (Chairman) Dr HF de Wet (Managing) JF Biggs HG Bosman  
IP Grobler PJ Hopkins CM Meyer JP Schoeman JH Terblanche  
Secretary: J Smit

- Freedom from discomfort – providing a suitable environment for the animals which includes shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease – by prevention, rapid diagnosis, and treatment
- Freedom to express normal behavior – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and the company of other animals of its own kind
- Freedom of fear and distress – ensuring conditions and care which avoid mental suffering.

Competent and compassionate stock people are closely involved with the handling of ostriches and participate in regular training. Administrative and technical staff are trained, aware of aspects relating to animal welfare and effective traceability.

The superior quality of our products starts on the farm and at the processing plant. Care and respect for the animals and the natural environment are crucial in ensuring that we can produce high-quality products and add value for our customers, our consumers, and our owners.

### **Animal Processing**

CKI ensures that all ostriches are handled in a humane manner and in accordance with EC 1099, the EU standard on the protection of animals. CKI processing plants are independently audited annually as per EC1099, to verify animal welfare compliance from the point of off-loading to stunning and processing. In addition, processing plants are also independently audited by a third-party organisation as part of the industry Animal Welfare Certification scheme.

All our processing plants have trained animal welfare officers, who, together with the on-site official government appointed veterinarian, has oversight of the welfare of ostriches on the site and manages compliance with animal welfare standards.

### **Tannery**

CKI tanneries are members of the Leather Working Group and subscribes to its Vision and its Mission.

CKI is continuously taking steps to protect employees and customers health by maintaining a stringent protection policy on chemical management by complying with the EU REACH restricted substance list.

REACH(Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) is a regulation of the European Union, adopted to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals. It also promotes alternative methods for the hazard assessment of substances to reduce the number of tests on animals.

### **Feathers**

Ostrich feathers are an integral component of ostrich production. The harvesting of ostrich feathers is strictly monitored. The harvesting of ostrich feathers must be undertaken as described in the SAOBC Standard: (Ostrich Production – Requirements.)

### **Employees**

The company further conducts biannual third-party social responsibility audits to independently assess working conditions, monitor worker safety, and health. The company complies with national labour laws and industry agreements with labour unions representing employees. CKI is committed to ensuring employees' rights, freedom of association, working conditions and their right to improve their skills and opportunities in the company. The company is continuously training employees in aspects relating to animal welfare, sustainability, and animal rights.

## **Animal Welfare**

The company is a member of the South African Ostrich Business Chamber (SAOBC), the entity responsible for auditing and certifying that farms comply with the South African Industry Code of Conduct for the Commercial Production of Ostriches. This code covers all aspects of animal welfare throughout the life cycle of the ostriches. Biannual audits (as per SAOBC Standard: Ostrich Production – Requirements) at farms and processing facilities are conducted by an independent international organization to establish compliance with the industry Code of Conduct.

## **Traceability**

As a supplier of exotic leather, adherence to traceability requirements from our customers is paramount. South African domesticated ostriches do not require surveillance under the CITES convention. This means that South African ostrich leather can be traded without any movement constraints to all countries in the world.

CKI ostrich leather is 100% traceable from grower to finished leather. This is achieved through co-operating with the South African Ostrich Business Chamber, who is responsible for tracking and authorizing the movement of all ostriches throughout their entire life cycle. This is done by means of a permit system and animal tags which are linked with a CKI microchip with serial number once processing commences.

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability is the processes which means “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.” (Brundtland Commission)

Cape Karoo International believes that commercially sustainable business is based on the three pillars of sustainability, namely: economic, environmental, and social. Good animal health and welfare are not just operational requirements for our farmers/owners but a business practice that ensures we meet and exceed both direct customer and final consumer expectations. We do realize that consumer demand for higher welfare standards continues to grow, and meeting these demands is an essential element of our supply chain.

The company is actively investing in renewable energy resources ie. solar power and biofuels. The South African ostrich industry monitors its carbon footprint impact on the ostrich supply chain, with assistance from government research entities.

## **The Future**

As a major contributor to the economic activities of communities in the ostrich production regions Cape Karoo International is aware of its responsibility connecting the wellbeing of all parties associated with the ostrich supply chain.

Cape Karoo International is committed to a positive alliance between nature and creativity.