

Guidelines for grant of permission for Scientific Research for Wildlife in and around Protected Areas of Gujarat State.

1. Introduction:

Scientific Research is backbone of conservation of Wildlife. It is crucial for better understanding of Ecosystems, their functions, ecological status, threat perceptions of various species and their habitats. The field managers could be immensely benefitted by the outcome of Scientific Research of the Protected Areas. It shall help them in taking appropriate conservation and management actions. The Protected Areas also serve as “Control Sites” or “Source Sites” for comparing a large number of environmental and ecological parameters vis-a-vis human influenced ecosystems, communities and individual species often called “Sink Sites” in the surrounding areas of the Protected Areas. It is highly desirable to encourage Researchers, Institutions, individuals to undertake basic as well as applied Research in Protected Areas.

National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) guidelines envisage to give priority to Research Projects having the objectives of measuring biological diversity, monitoring the status of indicator / flagship / threatened species of flora and fauna, and their breeding biology. In addition, applied research is very useful in helping overcome specific management problems in Protected Areas. Moreover, Multi disciplinary integrated research encompassing scientific and Socio-economic aspects related to Protected Area management also needs to be encouraged.

2. Wildlife Research:

- 2.1 Wildlife Research is defined here as research conducted by qualified scientists, including social scientist, or by assistants / students working under their supervision or Protected Area Managers. Wildlife research may also be conducted by qualified wildlife enthusiasts and conservationists.

2.2 **Duration of Wildlife Research:**

On the basis of anticipated duration of study specified in the proposals, Wildlife Research may be categorized as following.

Sr. No.	Duration of Study	Wildlife Research
1	Up to Six Months	Short term Research
2	More than Six months up to two years	Medium term Research
3	More than two years	Long term Research

3. **Processing of Research Proposals and grant of permission:**

3.1 Under existing laws the Chief Wildlife Warden is authorized to permit research in Protected Areas. In case of Research that involves capture, handling and collection of biological samples from any species listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, the award of permission would lie with the Director (Wildlife Preservation), Government of India (Additional Director General (Wildlife) and Director, Wildlife & Preservation, MoEF&CC). In all cases the proposal should be submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat State with a copy of the same to the Additional Director General (Wildlife), MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.

3.2

3.2.1 The proposal should contain synopsis, objectives, methodology, literature review, work plan, budget, source of funding, duration, expected outputs and terms of reference.

3.2.2 The proposal will be evaluated by a 'Research Technical Committee' (RTC) consisting of Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat State as Chairman, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Research and Training, Member Secretary, Gujarat Biodiversity Board and the Chief Conservator of Forests / Conservator of Forests in charge of the Protected Area as members. The Technical Committee may also invite additional 'Subject Specialists' as 'Special Invitee', if felt necessary.

- 3.2.3 The RTC should normally meet at least once in a quarter and consider proposals received at least 15 days prior to the date of meeting. The Committee would also suggest the areas of research relevant to management decisions with respect to different Protected Areas of the State.
- 3.2.4 However, a Research Project which has been approved by Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Department of Biotechnology, and other Scientific Department of the State / Central Government would not be required to be reviewed by the Technical Committee. Chief Wildlife Warden/Director, Wildlife Preservation would pass necessary orders in such cases to grant access.
- 3.3 The research objectives and methodologies used shall be decided by the researchers according to their own priorities / reliable interests, in the case of independently funded wildlife research projects. In case of manipulative or interventional studies, the methods used must be in accordance with existing management practice. Research questions in case of Wildlife Research projects sponsored by the State Government (Wildlife Wing of Forest Department) shall be arrived at in consultation with the respective Protected Area Managers. Conclusions and recommendations should be discussed with the Protected Area Managers to ensure the field applicability of the studies.

4. Criteria for scrutiny of Research Proposals:

- 4.1 Permission for research works in National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserve shall be granted only for those Research Project which are approved and sponsored by Research Institutions / Colleges / Universities / Scientific Organizations owned or recognized by State Governments or Government of India, hereinafter referred to as 'Institutions'.

- 4.2 Permission to carry out research in Lion Landscape as well as Great Indian Bustard areas shall be granted only when the Chief Wildlife Warden is convinced that it is needed for conservation of Lion and Great Indian Bustard and associated Biodiversity and not as routine.
- 4.3 The outcome of the Research activities should aim to assist in the protection, conservation and management of Protected Areas as stated in the Management Plan and is undertaken in consonance with the existing National Wildlife Action Plan.
- 4.4 In case of research that involves capture, handling and collection of biological samples from any species listed in Schedule–I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the award of permission would lie with the Director (Wildlife Preservation), Government of India (Additional Director General (Wildlife) and Director, Wildlife & Preservation, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change). In all cases the proposal should be submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden with a copy of the same to the Additional Director General (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India.
- 4.5 As a general principle, no collection of sample material shall be permitted. If it is required for scientific analysis, the researcher may apply citing specific need for collection [type of material, quantity, schedule of species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the method of sample collection etc.] and the Chief Wildlife Warden may decide collection of specimen/material/derivative etc on case to case basis.
- 4.6 Permission shall be accorded as per provisions outlined under Section 12, 17B, 28 and 35 (8) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as the case may be. Non invasive techniques will be encouraged for collection of samples for genetic / molecular and other disease surveillance related research projects.

5. Time frame for grant of Permission:

- 5.1 Proposal for short-term research (<6 months) shall be processed and the decision communicated by the Chief Wildlife Warden within a period of two months if it involves one PA.
- 5.2 If the short-term research involves several PAs and/or administrative forest divisions, the Chief Wildlife Warden shall process and communicate decisions within a period of three months.
- 5.3 Proposal for medium and long-term research (>6 months) shall be processed and communicated by the Chief Wildlife Warden within a period of three months. In case of proposals whose coverage is beyond Protected Area site, a maximum of four months may be taken to process and communicate the decision.
- 5.4 In case a research proposal is rejected or any modifications suggested, either by the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Director of Wildlife Preservation, Government of India and Additional Director General (WL) and Director, Wildlife Preservation, MoEF&CC, the reasons for such rejection / suggestions should be communicated to the researcher as per (5.1)-(5.3) above from the date of receipt of proposals.

6. General Conditions for grant of permission:

- 6.1 No permission shall be granted to foreigners or Non Resident Indian or institutions owned by foreigners or Non Resident Indian unless the project has been sanctioned and permission is issued by Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of External Affairs / Ministry of Home and by National Biodiversity Authority as referred in the Section 3 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in advance.

- 6.2 The study team shall be permitted entry into the Protected Area accompanied with proper forest guides / staff / eco development committee members as the case may be. Amount shall be fixed from time to time for such services rendered by them.
- 6.3 The Protected Area Manager shall also issue photo Identity Card to the Researcher or his assistants valid during the period of the study.
- 6.4 The permission granted for entry in the Protected Area will not be transferable.
- 6.5 Movements of the researcher and or his assistants in the PA shall be recorded in a log book to be maintained by him which will be submitted to the Protected Area management every month.
- 6.6 Movement at night shall be allowed only if it is part of the approved research project. A schedule for such movements shall be developed in consultation with the management authorities and shall be permitted accordingly by Protect Area management authorities.
- 6.7 If photography is involved during the course of Research work or collection of biological resources, copies of the photographs with identity of plants/animals shall be sent to Deputy Conservator of Forests or Wildlife Warden as the case may be, who shall maintain a register for this purpose.
- 6.8 The Institution shall be held liable for any damage or loss caused due to the action of negligence or otherwise of the members of the research team. The Institution/ Researcher shall make good to Government in Forest Department for any loss caused and for the destruction or damage to any forest produce, wildlife, forests or the environment. The loss will be assessed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, and his decision shall be final.
- 6.9 Individuals / Institutions conducting research inside Protected Areas will not publish any information, other than on their research subject, about the

National Park to any person or authority without the express permission from Chief Wildlife Warden. They will also observe intellectual property rights as required by law.

- 6.10 Results of Research shall not to be transferred to any person without approval of National Biodiversity Authority as referred in Section 4 of the Biological Diversity Act subject to applicable under Section 5.
- 6.11 Prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board shall be necessary for obtaining biological resources for commercial utilization, bio-survey* and bio-utilization* as referred in Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (* means survey or collection of species, sub species, genes. Components and extracts of Biological Resources for any purpose that includes characterization, inventorization and bioassay).
- 6.12 Research proposal which are of shorter duration may be granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden on receiving the recommendation from Protected Area Manager.
- 6.13 Research project proposal which are medium and long term duration recommended by Protected Area Manager shall be put in RTC for discussion and approval.
- 6.14 The medium and long term research proposals, if felt necessary, will also be sent to one subject specialist for his/her opinion and recommendation on the research proposal.
- 6.15 The opinion and suggestions, if any, provided by RTC while considering the project, the project proponent shall have to modify the outline of Research work accordingly before the grant of permission is allowed by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

- 6.16 As a general principle, no collection of sample material shall be permitted. If it is required for scientific analysis, the researcher may apply citing specific need for collection [type of material, quantity, schedule of species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the method of sample collection etc.] and the Chief Wildlife Warden may decide collection of specimen/material/derivative etc on case to case basis.
- 6.17 Permission shall be accorded as per provisions outlined under Section 12, 17B, 28 and 35 (8) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as the case may be. Non invasive techniques will be encouraged for collection of samples for genetic / molecular and other disease surveillance related research projects.
- 6.18 The Researcher shall furnish a Security / Caution Deposit and the Fee for the study / research work as approved by the Government.
- 6.19 The Chief Wildlife Warden has the full discretionary powers to grant, suspend or reject permission to regulate the field works related to the research project with respect to time and space in view of the protection and management problems in the Protected Areas.
- 6.20 The Chief Wildlife Warden may at his discretion grant extension to the period of permission on request from the head of the Institution, if there are sufficient reasons to believe that the field works could not be completed due to reasons beyond the control of the researchers/institution.
- 6.21 Since Wildlife Institute of India acts as the national nodal agency and repository on wildlife research, it would be obligatory on the part of researcher / research organization to provide a soft and hard copy of his data/ report / findings / thesis etc. to Wildlife Institute of India who in turn would make it available on their website for easy access by the stakeholders / researchers.
- 6.22 In case of violation of any of the conditions mentioned herein, the security deposited will be forfeited by the Government without prejudice to other legal proceedings. The Researchers of Central and State Government are exempted

from payment of the fees and security deposit for research work. But the other procedural formalities for submission of application shall be followed.

- 6.23 The safety of the permit holders while visiting the PA under permit will be their own responsibility and the Government of Gujarat or any of the offices of the Forest Department, Gujarat State shall not be considered responsible for any loss to them, their team members or both or to any property.
- 6.24 Permission under Biodiversity Act, if applicable, should be obtained separately from Gujarat Biodiversity Board.
- 6.25 A separate permission shall be required to be taken from concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests for the entry in PA during closed period.

7. Miscellaneous Regulations:

- 7.1 The permit holder shall not carry or kindle fire in any part of the PA.
- 7.2 The permit holder shall not carry any firearms or poisonous substance inside the PA without the written permission of the concerned PA superintendent.
- 7.3 Parking of vehicles will be allowed only on the prescribed parking plots.
- 7.4 Within the limits of PA, permit holders will have to conduct their work as silently as possible. Making loud noise and group singing is strictly prohibited.
- 7.5 Feeding the animals and birds is prohibited.
- 7.6 No person shall disturb or damage or destroy in any manner, the habitat in the PA.
- 7.7 Chasing / Capturing / Teasing animals shall be punishable as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

8. Fees / Security / Caution Money:

8.1 Caution Deposit:

No.	Researcher / Photographer	Amount to be collected*
1.	Students : MSc.,/B.Sc., etc.,	Rs. 500
2.	Ph.D. Scholar	Rs. 1000
3.	Research Organization	Rs. 5000
4.	Project oriented Research work sanction by Government of India and others	Rs. 25,000
5.	Foreigners	USDollar 1000
6.	Photography Priced – Publication – Photography Commercial photography and priced publication on material and	Rs. 5000

* The caution deposit amount will be refunded to the researcher/Institute on submission of final report to the Principal Chief Conservator of forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and also to the PA manager concerned.

8.2 Fees:

The following amount will be charged as fees for research work (Non-Refundable) as approved by the Government.

Sl. No	Researcher / Photographer	Amount to be collected
1.	Students: MSc./B.Sc. etc.,	Rs. 500
2.	Ph.D. Scholar	Rs. 1000
3.	Research Organization	Rs. 5000
4.	Project oriented Research work sanction by Government of India	Rs. 25,000
5.	Foreigners	USDollar 1000

Application Form

Photograph
(stamp Size) to be
affixed.
Photograph to be
Signed by Head
of Institution.

APPLICATION FORM PART – A

1.	Full particulars of the applicant.	
2.	Name	
3.	Address (Permanent, Official & Mailing)	
4.	Whether three stamp size photographs of the applicant is enclosed. (one of which to be affixed in this application in the manner indicated and space provided).	
5.	Brief particulars of the project approved by the Institution (Enclose copy of the project approved by the Institution).	
6.	Institution and researchers to be involved.	
7.	Objectives of the research programme.	
8.	Budget	
9.	Funding source (details to be given)	
10.	Details of the biological resources and / or its by- products to be accessed and full information on the following.	
a.	Identification (scientific name)	
b.	Specific site of collection or source.	
c (i)	Date of collection	
c (ii)	Date of visit.	

d	Details of the parts of biological resource to be assessed.	
e	Quantity to be assessed	
f	Known uses (published and unpublished) of the genetic resource and for its by-products to be accessed.	
11	Proposed use of the biological resource to be accessed, it is meant for scientific research, education or any other use).	
12	Details of licence fees, royalties, price and other compensations offered for the resources.	
13	Proposed systems and modalities for Department about identification, research and other findings and the use of biological	

PART – B
UNDERTAKING

I/We hereby undertake that the accessed biological resources, the details of which are given in Column 3, shall be utilized only for the purpose specified in Column 4, filling which I/We shall be liable under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Date:

Place:

Signature of the Applicant.

Counter Signature of Head of Organization