

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 7.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 1
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Application Form Scientific Research NOC

All forms of scientific research projects on the physical and biological environment in Abu Dhabi emirate must obtain an NOC from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) by submitting an application form to customerhappiness@ead.ae. All applications for a Scientific Research NOC will be reviewed on a case by case basis, following the review and assessment of a completed Scientific Research NOC Application Form.

This requirement is pursuant to federal and local legislation¹ and consistent with the provisions of the international Convention of Biological Diversity and its Nagoya protocol². The Scientific Research NOC constitutes a form of pre-informed consent for allowing access to biological resources, according to the mutually agreed terms stated in the specific and general conditions of the NOC.

The permitting of scientific research projects is a way that the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) is able to monitor and manage any possible effects of research activities on the environment and on biodiversity, balance competing uses and demands of users and create a return to conservation and science.

Prior to completing the application form, kindly read the **Technical Guidance Document for Scientific Research Permitting in Abu Dhabi Emirate** (EAD-TMBS-TG-02) available on the EAD website <https://www.ead.ae/Pages/our-services/researchers.aspx>

This application form does not apply to:

1. Incidental live or dead wildlife sighting and recording;
2. Citizen science wildlife observation & recreation/hobbyist activities (i.e. bird watching); and
3. Ecological baseline surveys carried out by EAD registered environmental consultants as part of a development or industrial project permitting requirement.

Please complete the application form, providing all required information. Part 1 must be completed by all applicants. Part 2 should be filled only if assistance, data or biological material is being requested from EAD. Part 3 should be filled if any biological material will be collected from Abu Dhabi Emirate as part of the project. Part 4 should be read and signed by all applicants.

¹ Federal Laws No.23 and No. 24 of 1999 require that research centres, scientific institutions, universities and other specialized parties shall coordinate with the authorities to study biodiversity without leading to its depletion and protect the moral, social and economic rights of the State. Any manipulation or collection of wild fauna and flora in the UAE must receive approval from the competent authorities. Abu Dhabi Emirate Law 16 of 2005 sets out EAD's mandate as the Competent Environmental Authority in Abu Dhabi Emirate mandated with implementing all Federal and Local environmental laws and with managing research, studies and programmes relating to environmental and wildlife affairs.

² The UAE signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2000 and acceded to its Nagoya Protocol in 2014. The CBD places the exploitation of biological resources and the responsibility of protecting them under the sovereign right of the country.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 2
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	------------

Contact details for EAD Customer Services in case of any questions or clarifications are:
Tel: +971 (2) 445-4777; Fax: +971 (2) 446-3339

E-mail: customerhappiness@ead.ae

Applicants will be advised if further information is required before this application can be processed. EAD will assess the application and issue an approval if they are satisfied that the application meets all the requirements. Applications will be processed within 25 working days from receipt of a complete application.

Once you are ready to submit your application, please review the checklist below to ensure that all the information necessary has been provided:

CHECK LIST

- Research proposal;
- Detailed sampling plan & protocol;
- Sampling location maps (shapefiles, JPEG, kmz);
- Evidence of qualifications, previous publications or experience;
- Written consultations with local stakeholders and land owners (if applicable);
- Residency visa copies for residents and Business visa copies for visiting researchers;
- Identification documents and CVs of research team;
- Other required authorisations or permits from other agencies when applicable (e.g. CITES permits, Export/Import permits, Civil Aviation Authority Drone permit); and
- A complete and signed Scientific Research NOC Application Form.

All efforts in putting together a detailed application are greatly appreciated and will allow EAD to effectively and efficiently process your application.

If an NOC is granted and, upon expiry, you wish to renew the NOC, you can apply for renewal with or without modification of the project upon submission of a progress report to customerhappiness@ead.ae

Please be reminded of the need to ensure no impact on the environment from your research activity. Penalties for anyone carrying out any damage or harm to man or the safety of the environment are stated in Abu Dhabi Law 16 of 2005:

- *Article (14) - It shall be prohibited for any establishment or any individual to carry out any activity that could negatively affect the lives of human beings and the safety of the environment before obtaining a license from the Agency. -The Agency inspectors may stop the activity of any establishment or prevent the use of any material, tool or device if they are used in such a manner that would endanger health and safety of man and environment. -Anyone causing by his or her action or negligence any damage or harm to man or the safety of the environment shall bear all charges and costs necessary for remedial or removal of such a damage.*

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 3
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Office use only (tick appropriate):

Research Project only		Research Project & Specimen Collection		Research Focus Area		Research category	
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Application for Scientific Research NOC

Part 1: General Information *(applicable to all projects)*

PROJECT TITLE						
RESEARCHER³	Title					
	Full Name					
	ID/Passport Number					
	Institution or Company					
	Department					
	Postal address					
	Physical address					
	Tel	W:	Mobile:	Fax:		
e-mail						
SUPERVISOR⁴	Title					
	Full Name					
	ID/Passport Number					
	Institution					
	Department					
	Postal address					
	Physical address					
	Tel	W:	Cell:	Fax:		
e-mail						

³ Non-resident individuals or research groups not affiliated with a local UAE-based institution must provide copies of their Business Visas. Tourist Visas are not acceptable for visitors aiming to conduct research in the UAE. All visiting researchers must be familiar with UAE environmental federal and local rules and regulations prior to commencing their activity. They are encouraged to obtain prior approval from EAD through a formal letter or collaborate with a local institution for research projects. They must provide all raw data collected in the country to EAD in the required format and acknowledge any local collaborators in their publications.

⁴ Most research projects for degree purposes will have an academic supervisor; however, some research for non-degree purposes may not have a supervisor, in which case it is not necessary to list a supervisor.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 4
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	------------

CO-WORKERS⁵	Title			
	Full Name			

COLLABORATORS:

If you are based outside the United Arab Emirates, please provide a copy of your business visa and give the contact details of the agency or person or institution with whom you are collaborating - N.B. this collaboration is **highly advisable** for all foreign-based applicants. Access to certain coastal and marine sites in Abu Dhabi requires a local collaborator/sponsor to enable you to obtain an authorisation from the Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority (CICPA). If you do not have a local collaborator, you may request a collaboration agreement with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi upon submitting this application.

Title			
Full Name			
Emirates ID Number			
Organisation			
Department			
Postal address			
Physical address			
Tel	W:	Cell:	Fax:
e-mail			

PROJECT LEVEL:

Undergraduate, Honours, MSc, PhD, Post-Doctoral, Research for non-degree purposes e.g. group field trips, contract research, follow-up investigation⁶, citizen science project, other (explain).

⁵ Co-workers are those who will assist with the analysis and write up of the research, and/or that may be involved with field work; all co-workers will be listed as 'nominees' on any collecting permits and can therefore collect and curate specimens/materials according to the NOC conditions. Note: Add additional rows if necessary.

⁶ Supply previous NOC and/or project registration numbers.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 5
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	------------

OBJECTIVE(S) & HYPOTHESIS:

List project objectives - be specific, concise (maximum 200 words) and provide in point form. Where a specific hypothesis is being tested then this should be stated. Projects addressing strategic research areas/questions identified by EAD will receive priority attention and potentially more support.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 6
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------

RATIONALE:

Provide a background to and rationale for the project (maximum 1000 words). State the management/research problem or information deficit, and how the project will help solve the problem. Making reference to the literature indicate the extent to which the subject has already been researched.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 7
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	------------

METHODS:

Describe the data collection and analysis methods and equipment used, with particular attention to, and justification for, (1) the type of sampling proposed (will there will be any destructive sampling?) and (2) to the requirement for the placement of short - or long term structures/traps/markers etc. in the field. Methods must conform to acceptable scientific standards.

Protected areas are sanctuaries for wildlife and a strong motivation for research that is manipulative or that in any way disturbs wildlife will need to be provided. All research should use the least invasive methods possible. Where research is not dependant on protected areas then you may be encouraged to work outside protected areas.

NOTE: Part 2 of this form must be completed if any assistance, data or voucher specimens are requested from EAD. Part 3 of this form must be completed if any live or dead organisms are to be captured/marked/collected/exported.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 8
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	------------

KEY WORDS:

Provide a comprehensive list of key words in terms of: 1. broad subject area; 2. specific subject area; 3. taxa [common names and scientific names]; and 4. Locality/geographical scope.

STUDY AREA(S):

Indicate the geographical extent of the study area; specify all Abu Dhabi protected areas where research/collection will be conducted. EAD may engage with you to identify alternative protected areas or sites to conduct the research. You may provide this information by attaching/uploading a clearly labelled and georeferenced map (shapefiles, jpeg or kmz file)

STUDY SCHEDULE:

Initial starting date for the study:

Estimated date the entire study will be complete and when final report/thesis/publication will be provided:

Estimated completion:

Estimated final report:

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 9
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	------------

FIELD SCHEDULE:

Proposed commencement date of field work:

Proposed completion date of field work:

REPORTING PROCESS:

Give brief details of the envisaged reporting process i.e. how will the project be reported (e.g. thesis, report, published paper or article).

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 10
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

ETHICS CLEARANCE (for projects involving animals):

Does your institution have an Ethics Committee? Y / N.

If yes, and if appropriate, has this research been supported by this committee? (Attach proof, explanation):

POSSIBLE SENSITIVITIES:

Are you aware of any social/cultural sensitivities or living cultural heritage issues that need to be considered? Briefly discuss these and describe how they are going to be addressed during the project.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 11
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

Part 2:

Please complete this part only if you are requesting any assistance, data or voucher specimens from EAD. If you do not require any assistance, data or specimens, please skip to Part 3.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM EAD:

Please note that all projects will be categorised and those that address EAD strategic research areas/questions will receive priority. Please also note that your request(s) for assistance may not be granted or be only partially met – it is the responsibility of the applicant to check what has been approved in the final acceptance letter and NOC.

Entry to protected area:

List the protected areas for which you would like to apply for access (entry is not guaranteed and is at EAD's discretion, entry to marine and coastal sites may also require authorisation by the Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority (CICPA)).

Manpower:

Please note that you will generally be required to be accompanied by a field ranger or other EAD staff when working in protected areas. Availability of staff is limited and this may become a limiting factor in conducting the research/sampling. Where staff is available you may be requested to offer training opportunities in return for being assisted and supported by EAD field staff.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 12
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

Data:

Do you require data from EAD? Y / N

If yes, indicate your needs in detail (type, format, etc.):

NOTE: This does not guarantee that the data requested will be provided. When data is obtained from EAD, the source of the data must be acknowledged in the resulting publication and the draft must be submitted for EAD review prior to being published. Additional conditions governing data sharing will be specified in the Data Sharing Agreement. The provision of any EAD data requires that the Data Sharing Agreement be completed and signed before any data is provided to the applicant.

Biological Material Request:

Do you require any biological material (voucher specimens or tissue samples) from EAD collections (details in Annexe I)?

Y/ N

If yes, please indicate in detail your needs (type, form, quantity, other etc.):

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 13
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

Kindly provide details of what specimens you need, their type, form, quantity and their uses:

Will these specimens/tissue samples be transported outside the UAE? Y/N
If yes, please specify the destination and the purpose of the transfer:

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 14
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

Will the sample/material be consumed, processed or modified? Y/N
If yes, please specify

*NOTE: The sharing of voucher specimens is governed by the conditions set out in the **Research Collaboration Agreement** and is specific to the strictly non-commercial uses of the associated research project. Voucher specimens must be returned to EAD in their original form. Transfer of any voucher specimens or tissue samples outside the country requires additional permission from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.*

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 16
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

Types of activity: observe, collect; capture; capture & release; mark; mark & release; keep in captivity; export; transport; possess.

Note: In the case of 'collect' indicate whether complete organisms, or samples/parts thereof, will be taken; in the case of the latter indicate which part(s) e.g. blood, leaf, toe clipping etc.

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 17
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

JUSTIFICATION FOR COLLECTION:

Justify the number of samples required. Will this have any detrimental effect on the populations from which the specimens are taken? Please give evidence (e.g. references, data on population sizes and sustainable yields) in support of your statements wherever possible. Will the collection of specimens be biased towards any sex or age group?

If you propose to collect or capture and release animals, what methods and types of trap will you use and what measures will you take to prevent habitat destruction, death or injury, introduction of disease into wild populations, and/or any other undesirable effects?

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 18
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

BY-CATCH:

Will there be any by-catch? If so, what measures will be put in place to minimize and/or make maximum use of this by-catch? What taxa will the by-catch likely consist, and give an indication of the numbers of non-target organisms that may be involved.

CURATION:

Biological specimens collected as part of a research project may not be traded and must be lodged within a registered collection/established institution. When no equipped local institution is available, the specimens may be housed overseas provided that EAD is formally informed. The overseas institutions must provide an agreement letter stating that the UAE government may request that the specimens be repatriated at any time.

Please indicate where the specimens will be deposited, and **attach a letter from the relevant UAE or overseas institution confirming that they will accept specimens that will be submitted and agree to repatriating the specimens upon request by the UAE government (in the case of overseas institutions).**

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 19
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

Part 4:

ADDITIONAL AUTHORISATIONS REQUIRED:

EAD may request proof of these additional documents at the application stage and any subsequent stage of the program, if applicable:

- *Live Specimen Import or Export or parts thereof requires an export permit from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCE)*
- *CITES listed species require [CITES certificates to be issued from the MoCCE.](#)*
- *Any activities involving Drones requires the authorisation of the [United Arab Emirates Civil Aviation Authority](#)*
- *Activities in certain marine or coastal areas require [security permits by the Critical Infrastructure Coastal Protection Authority.](#)*
- *Activities in private islands or lands require written permission from the land owner's office.*
- *Activities in culturally and archaeologically significant sites will require prior review by [the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority.](#)*

Doc ID:EAD-TMBS-RP-01	Issue Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. Date: 27.06.2016	Rev. No.: 05	Page No: 20
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	-------------

DECLARATION:

By submitting this document I (*name*) _____ declare that this application is accurate and complete; I understand that any proposed changes to the objectives, methods or timing of this study will require written approval from EAD; I understand that EAD may seek peer review of this proposal should this be deemed necessary. I understand that the project will be bound by the conditions stipulated by EAD in the NOC sent to me by EAD), including the provision of two copies of all progress reports/publications, I understand that I will be bound by all general and specific conditions stipulated in the NOC.

LIABILITY RELEASE STATEMENT:

By submitting this document I (name)release the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi from all liability and its employees, officers, directors, volunteers and agents from any and all claims resulting in any injury (including paralysis and death), illness, damages, or economic or property loss I may suffer because of my participation in this activity, including travel to, from and during the activity.

Note: An NOC may be varied or revoked if the information given in this application contains inaccuracies.

Signature (Applicant)		Date	
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This application is made pursuant to:

- Federal law No 23 of 1999 – exploitation, protection and development of the Living Aquatic Resources’;
- Federal Law No 24 of 1999 – protection and development of the environment;
- Federal Law No 16 of 2007 – concerning animal protection;
- Emiri Decrees No 18 of 2001 and No 33 of 2005 (marine protected areas);
- Abu Dhabi Law No 16 of 2005 – reorganisation of the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency;
- Abu Dhabi Law No 22 of 2005-regulating wildlife hunting in Abu Dhabi Emirate;
- All International designation applicable to the site e.g. Ramsar Site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; and
- Federal Law number (11) of the year 2002 Concerning Regulating and Controlling the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora.

Contact details for further information: EAD Customer Services customerhappiness@ead.ae