



RESEARCH APPLICATION FORM

All researchers wishing to undertake research at, or in association with, Shepreth Wildlife Park (SWP) must complete this Research Proposal Form, which will be reviewed by the research co-ordinator in consultation with other relevant staff.

Please complete this form electronically and return as a word document by email to: westcurator@sheprethwildlifepark with your surname & research proposal in the title of the email.

Guidance:

- All applicants must fully complete Section 1 so that we can get in contact with you throughout the application process, during approved research and after completion.
- Applicants only need to complete Sections 2 - 4 if they are relevant to the proposed research. If a section is not relevant, skip that section and move on to the next.
- All applicants should fill in Sections 5 - 8, regardless of their type of research.

SECTION 1: RESEARCHER SUMMARY

1.1	Project title	
1.2	Principal researcher name in full	
1.3	Principal researcher job title, or level of study if a student (e.g. BSc, MSc)	
1.4	Principal researcher institution/affiliation	
1.5	Students: name and email of supervisor	
1.6	Students: does your supervisor have full knowledge of this proposal and support the research	Yes / No
1.7	Principal researcher email and telephone number for the duration of the study	
1.8	Permanent email if different to above	
1.9	Name and affiliation of a secondary researcher if appropriate	
1.10	Expected start and end dates of data collection, days of attendance	

SECTION 2: DESK-BASED RESEARCH

Only answer this section if you will be using existing data, on animals, people or plants. Delete any that do not apply.

2.1	Where will the data come from? (Delete as appropriate)	• ZIMS records – animal behaviour and health data • Vet notes, faecal or blood test results, post-mortem records • Records of visitor numbers, education sessions delivered, etc. • Other (please specify in the notes below)
2.3	Notes	

SECTION 3: RESEARCH ON PEOPLE

Only answer this section if you will be collecting new data, from or about people

3.1	What type of people will be studied? (Delete as appropriate)	• Zoo visitors • Zoo staff / volunteers • Zoo students • General public • Local community at a field site • Other (please specify in notes below)
3.2	What methodology will you use? (Delete as appropriate) Exact methods should be provided in Section 5	• Questionnaires • Interviews • Focus groups • Behavioural observations (i.e., live or video recordings) • Other (please specify in notes below)
3.3	Describe any potential adverse effects, risks or hazards of the project you have identified with regards to the health and welfare of people. Explain any risk management procedures that will be put in place	
3.4	Explain fully how you intend to: (a) Keep the data collected on people secure (b) Ensure adequate consent to participate (c) Ensure anonymity/data privacy as appropriate	
3.5	Notes	

SECTION 4: RESEARCH ON ANIMALS

Only answer this section if you will be collecting new data, on live animals, or animal products

4.1	Where will the data be collected?	• Shepreth Wildlife Park only • Multiple sites (please specify in notes below)
4.2	List the common and scientific name of primary animal species to be studied	
4.3	Is the study species of conservation concern? Visit www.iucnredlist.org for the current Threat status of species	• IUCN status: Not Threatened • IUCN status: Threatened (please specify in notes below)
4.4	Do you require a specific sample size (individuals/groups) to make the project viable?	Yes (please specify in notes below) or No
4.5	Which of the following data will be collected from the animal and its environment? (Delete as appropriate) <u>*IF ANIMAL SAMPLES ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE DISCUSS PLANNED SAMPLE METHODS, STORAGE & TRANSPORT</u>	• Animal behaviour • Animal spatial location • Sound (animal vocalisations, environmental noise levels) • Climatic variables (e.g., temperature, humidity) • Enclosure or habitat (e.g., vegetation, topography) • Physical health information (e.g., thermal images, x-rays) • Animal samples* (e.g., hair, feathers, faeces) • Other (please specify in notes below)

4.6	What investigations will be made with the data? (Delete as appropriate)	Typically but not exclusively zoo-based: • Physical health (e.g., disease screening, veterinary treatment) • Psychological health (e.g., abnormal behaviour) • A welfare mitigation (e.g., enclosure modification, enrichment) • The effect of visitors on the animal(s) • The effect of an isolated event (e.g., animal enclosure move) • Enclosure usage • Social behaviour/breeding • Development or validation of new welfare indicators • Animal cognition • Pure research (e.g., evolutionary theory) • Genetics Typically but not exclusively field-based: • Location, abundance (direct or via signs and tracks) • Behaviour • Vocalisations • Validation of field equipment or techniques • Other (please specify in notes below)
4.7	Does the study propose any of the following manipulations on living animals? (Delete as appropriate) These types of research will be subject to a higher level of ethical review and must be justified in (a-c) below	Indirect manipulation: • Changing enclosure size, construction or physical complexity • Changing enclosure climate, noise, lighting, or similar • Changing social grouping • Changing diet or water access • Collection of naturally shedded fur, scales, faeces, etc. Direct manipulation: • Transport between enclosures or sites • Trapping • Handling/restraint • Collection of blood, skin scrape, attached fur, etc. • Markings for ID purposes • Health treatment, therapy, or similar • Other (please specify in notes below)
4.8	If answered YES to any type of manipulation listed above, explain: (a) Any potential adverse effects, risks or hazards of the project you have identified with regards to animal health and welfare. Explain any risk management procedures that would be put in place (and would be subject to our modification and approval). (b) Who would perform these actions (e.g., researcher, staff vet, keeper) and justify why it should be this person according to their qualifications and/or expertise. (c) How you would monitor for and minimise any negative outcomes of research.	
4.9	Does this research require Home Office Licenses?	Yes or No
4.10	Notes	

SECTION 5: RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND METHODS

Complete this section for ALL types of research.

Please be as concise as possible, using bullet points and subheadings as necessary

5.1	Please provide a brief and concise background to the research (limit to 300 words) It should be made clear what is currently not/known about the topic of interest, and why the proposed research will be a valuable scientific contribution	
5.2	Provide up to 3 key references (such as peer-reviewed articles) as evidence of background knowledge	
5.3	What are your overall study aim and objectives?	
5.4	What is your methodology (experimental design, data collection methods, planned analyses)? There is no word limit for this section, and detail is encouraged. It will significantly delay your application if we need to contact you for further methodological details. A diagram or photograph of study apparatus may be attached with your application	
5.5	Do you have any practical requirements of SWP? (Delete as appropriate) Please specify expected time(s) of day and expected days / weeks / months in the notes, as well as start date.	• No zoo facilities will be required Zoo facilities: • Zoo access during normal opening hours • Introduction to/help identifying animals • Assistance with a manipulation (e.g., enrichment) • Assistance with installing and operating equipment • Access to archived material • Access to animal records (i.e., Registrar assistance) • Special site access (i.e., outside of normal opening hours or behind-the-scenes areas) • Other (please specify in notes below)
5.6	Notes	

SECTION 6: RESEARCH ENDORSEMENT, SUPPORT IMPACT & OUTPUTS

Complete this section for ALL types of research

6.1	Has ethical approval been obtained from a University or other Ethical Review Panel? Provide the date of approval, or expected date if under review, and attach an electronic copy to your application	Yes No Not applicable
6.2	Does your research have the support/endorsement of any of the following? (Delete as appropriate) Attach any copies of letters of support to your application	• An Endangered Species Programme (EEP), European Studbook (ESB) or Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) • BIAZA Research Committee • National/regional/government conservation strategy • Professional society or body
6.3	Notes	
6.4	Expected date for final report (dd/mm/yy)	
6.5	What will be the key impacts(s) of your project? (Delete as appropriate)	• Animal health & welfare • Species ex situ conservation • Species in situ conservation • Scientific training for the researcher(s) • Other (please specify in notes below)
6.6	How do you intend to disseminate the findings of this research? (Delete as appropriate)	• University or college thesis • Technical report/grey literature • Conference presentation • Peer reviewed journal article • Blog post, podcast or social media • Other (please specify in notes below)
6.7	Notes	

SECTION 7: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Complete this section for ALL types of research

7.1	Please list any supporting documents you are including with your application e.g., ethical review evidence, letters of support, photographs or diagrams of experimental apparatus (jpegs preferred)	
7.2	Is there anything else you would like to state in support of your application?	

SECTION 8: RESEARCHER DECLARATION

Complete this section for ALL types of research

By signing here, I agree to comply with the Shepreth Wildlife Park's Research Policy.

This includes but is not limited to:

- I will comply with the instructions of the Animal Keepers at all times.
 - I will not enter any staff area or cross any barriers without prior consent.
 - I will not attempt to pet any animal, enter an enclosure with any animal, poke fingers (or anything else) through enclosure mesh.
 - I will comply with all the safety instructions displayed in the KEEPER PREP ROOM, in the event of: Fire, Animal Escape or Human Emergency, and will comply with guidelines set out in the Risk Assessments.
 - I will wear a tabard and use correct PPE if instructed to do so and will wash my hands after handling any potentially harmful materials and / or species.
 - I will not use any machinery, equipment, ladders or touch any species without prior consent.
 - I will not smoke anywhere on site.
 - I will not put any additional food, enrichment device or any other item into an animal enclosure without prior consent from the Animal Keeper.
 - I will inform a keeper if I see anything in an enclosure which might harm an animal (food wrappings, nails, glass, bottle tops etc) or if I think an animal is sick or injured.
 - I will be polite to visitors when asked questions, and endeavour to answer them if I can. If I do not know the answer I will try to direct the visitor to someone who can help.
 - I will not discuss any zoo matters away from SWP or put any information on social networking sites.
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- I hereby indemnify Shepreth Wildlife Park for all and any eventuality resulting from actions undertaken in connection with my research as outlined, and Shepreth Wildlife Park at all times fully and completely indemnified against and from all claims, actions, proceedings, loss, damage, cost and expense of any kind, including legal costs and professional fees.
 - In participating in any research activity, I accept full and final responsibility for any consequences, regardless of the severity.
 - I understand by accepting a research placement, I am agreeing to share any data and all other information with Shepreth Wildlife Park and will supply the park with a copy of my research upon completion.

Signed:

Date of application:

We will endeavour to review your proposal within two weeks of receiving your full application, but proposals requiring additional ethical review by our Ethics Committee may take longer. Please note, that if approved, your project title will be listed in the BIAZA Research database under our zoo's research activities for the year.