



Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

REGULATED ACTIVITY PERMIT APPLICATION

Category 1

Guide for applicants

Who needs to apply for a permit?

If you are visiting South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands for a purpose other than tourism, a Regulated Activity Permit (RAP) may be required.

There are three categories of application depending on the complexity of your project. This will ensure that environmental assessments are scalable and commensurate with the potential impacts of activities and appropriate safety and search and rescue provision is in place.

If you are unsure if you need a permit, or what category of permit application you need, please contact us at permits@gov.gs.

Help filling in the form

1. Applicant details

The applicant should be the person who is responsible for the project. They will be the main point of contact for the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) and will be responsible for ensuring that all of the permit conditions are adhered to.

2. Proposed activity

2.1 This is the title that we will use to identify your project. It should be short but descriptive.

2.2 Indicate what is the main purpose of your project. Tick all that apply

2.3 List the personnel who will be visiting the Territory as part of the project. If team members will have different roles or only certain individuals are authorised to undertake certain tasks, please indicate this after the name.

NOTE: If you do not know the names of everyone who will take part in the project, you can list job titles instead. However, in this case, for skilled jobs i.e. operator of specialist equipment, or where animal handling is involved, you should attach a skills specification as part of your supporting documentation

2.4 These should be the dates that you intend to be within Territory and are actively engaged in the proposed activity.

2.5 Give details of who will be providing logistic support for your project. If you are working from a cruise ship this should be the vessel operator. If you are chartering a yacht this should be the name of the skipper. If your work is

supported through GSGSSI, British Antarctic Survey (BAS) or other large institution, please give the name of the main contact that is co-ordinating your visit. You should attach a letter of support from your logistic provider indicating that they are willing and able to support your project. For ship based projects the vessel must either be in position of a 'Visitor Permit' or for non-tourist vessels the vessel operator should complete Annex 1.

- 2.6 If your project is based at King Edward Point (KEP) it is important that we assess if you are likely to need any technical support from the staff based there. Depending on the nature and duration of the support you require, you may be charged (contact rjstr@bas.ac.uk for details).
- 2.7 Detail the main aim of your activity, the methods you will employ, the locations of field sites and a rough itinerary (including number of days needed at each location). You should provide details of visitor landing sites in full and using the five-digit descriptor in the 'Information for visitors guide' e.g. STA01. If your project is part of a long-term study, then please provide a brief outline of what activities will take place on a month-to-month basis. The more information you can provide the better as it will help us to assess how feasible your project may be and if it is compatible with other activities that may be going on at the same time.

3. Environmental Assessment

Category 1 permit applications are designed for projects that are undertaken in recognised visitor areas and where there is a low risk of their being any environmental impact.

Complete the check list to confirm you will be able to meet the environmental requirements. If you are not able to meet ALL of these requirements, you may need to complete a category 2 application

4. Sample collection

- 4.1 If you are planning to collect samples of know species of plants, invertebrates or birds and mammals that are already dead i.e. carrion or if the sampling does not involve animal handling e.g. faecal samples by hand please list the species, location, the sample type (e.g. leaf sample, whole organism etc), and the total number of samples from that species/collection location.

Use a separate row for each collection event e.g. If you are collecting multiple species from the same site, use a line for each. If you are collecting the same species from multiple sites use a line for each. e.g

Species	Location	Sample type	Number
<i>Poa annua</i>	St Andrews Bay(STA01)	Whole leaf	10
Tussock beetle	Grytviken (GRY01)	Individual	30
King Penguin	St Andrews Bay (STA01)	Faecal sample	20
Brown Skua	Sorling Valley	Pellet	15

- 4.2 If you are planning to collect a sample from a habitat please list the type of sample, location, number of samples and total mass/volume of samples from that location (this should be a maximum). E.g.

Type of sample	Lake sediment core	
Location	Number of samples	Total mass/volume of samples
Gull lake (GRY01)	1	Max 10 kg
Block Lake (HUS01)	1	Max 10 kg
Crean Lake (FOR02)	1	Max 10 kg

Type of sample	Vegetation community (1 individual of each species present in 1 x 1 m ² quadrat)	
Location	Number of samples	Total mass/volume of samples
Salisbury Plain (SAL01)	3	Max 1kg

If you are collecting more than one type of sample, complete a new table for each. This can be appended to the application if necessary.

5. Use of UAV's

UAVs may only be flown for the purpose of work. i.e. as part of an approved science or media project and under strict conditions.

Everyone wishing to use a UAV for the purpose of work i.e. science or media should *contact Air Safety Support International enquiries@airsaftey.aero to apply for permission under the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Ordinance*

Please also complete Annex 2 to indicate you will be able to comply with the list of mitigation measures.

6. Follow-up/Reporting

This section is intended to help GSGSSI keep track of citable research that has taken place in the Territory. Please ensure that where it is not a breach of copyright any publications or reports arising from this fieldwork are forwarded to GSGSSI.

Providing they are not CITES listed, permission to export samples from the Territory can be granted alongside the collection permit under the condition that precise details about what has been collected are submitted to GSGSSI within 28 days of the project end date.

Please note that if you are hoping to use BAS logistics to ship your samples back to the UK you should complete Annex 1.

If you are submitting additional documentation in support of your application, or appending any information to your application e.g. lists of participants, maps,

diagrams, additional environmental assessment forms etc., please provide details in the space provided.

Time scale for processing

Depending on the nature of your project it will take between 2 to 6 weeks to process your application.

Processing fee

There is a £50 processing fee for category 1 permit applications. This includes the fees for any permits issued under the Wildlife and Protected Areas ordinance. If you believe this fee should be waived please provide written justification.

Application window

Applications may be submitted at any time

Where to send your application

Completed applications should be sent to permits@gov.gs

Notes on Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance

Under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 (as amended) it is an offence to interfere with (and therefore materially sample) any native-mammal, -bird, -invertebrate or -plant (sections 6, 8 and 9) and to retain whole or part specimens of such wildlife (section 10), except during fishing operations (assuming all reasonable precautions had been taken to avoid injury to wild birds and mammals (section 12 (5)).

The Marine Protected Areas Order 2013 prohibits: bottom trawling; fishing within no-take zones; bottom fishing in benthic closed areas or where the depth of seabed is less than 700m or greater than 2250m; pelagic fishing in pelagic closed areas; and, fishing for Antarctic krill in the closed season.

A permit can be granted to undertake otherwise illegal activities if they are for scientific, research and educational purposes, to conserve or restore habitats or preserve public health and/or safety under section 21 (6). Under section 21 (7) such permits can only be granted if conditions are in place so that the diversity of native species and the balance of natural ecological systems are maintained, no more samples are taken than is necessary to fulfil the purpose of the permit, and even then that no more animals are killed or captured from a local population than could reasonably be expected to be replaced in the following breeding season. When reviewing permit applications the Commissioner will also consider the Marine Protected Areas Order.

Under section (14 (1)) of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (WPA) it is an offence to export wildlife (including all animals and plants, living and dead). Except for fish, or krill - and then only if a relevant licence has been granted under fishing legislation. A separate Export Permit is required for applicants who wish to remove wildlife, in whole or part, from the Territory.

Under 11(1) of the WPA It is an offence to release, or allow to escape into the wild in the Territory any animal or plant of a non-native species. All reasonable steps should be taken to avoid introduction of non-native species.

This is a summary of relevant legislation. For the full text please go to www.gov.gs