



Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

REGULATED ACTIVITY PERMIT APPLICATION

Category 2

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

NOTE: that for projects that involve handling wildlife, the permit duration can not be longer than 12 months

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). 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.

If you wish to work at a non-designated visitor landing site or beyond the agreed BAS travel limits please provide details of why this is necessary in order to meet your project aims. You should provide details of safety provisions and logistic support while you are ashore. Details of visitor landing sites can be found in the 'Information for visitors' guide on the GSGSSI website.

If you wish to take samples in an Marine Protected Area (MPA) closed area, please provide details of why this is necessary to meet your project aims. Details of the MPA closed area can be found in the MPA management plan.

3. Environmental Assessment

Category 2 permit applications are designed for projects where it is possible that activities may impact species or habitats.

Complete each of the sections describing what the potential projects would be in the absence of mitigation. Likelihood and severity should be scored as per the table.

You should then describe what mitigation measures you intend to have in place. Be as specific as you can be and if appropriate provide references demonstrating the mitigation measure follows best practice. You should then score severity and likelihood again, considering if your proposed mitigation measures reduce one or both of these.

- 3.1 Non-target effects could include disturbance of wildlife in the vicinity of the work site or that would be encountered on route; by-catch from trawl or dredge sampling; bird strike or wildlife entanglement in sampling equipment
- 3.2 Damage to habitats would be either as a direct result of your project such as digging a trench or releasing a chemical into the environment or as an indirect result such as damage to fragile vegetation types when accessing a site
- 3.3 Introduction of non-native species / disease includes things you could bring into the Territory with you from elsewhere, or that you may move around from one biologically distinct part of the Territory to another. This includes terrestrial sampling equipment and also nets and dredges etc used in the marine environment
- 3.4 Degradation of aesthetic or wilderness values e.g. changing a view, leaving signs of human presence in areas that are otherwise pristine/unvisited. This

could be as the result of installation of a piece of equipment or device or may also be as a result of path formation or incorrect management of waste

- 3.5 Impacts on target species/populations/habitats are things that happen as an intentional result of your work. For example handling penguins could cause stress to the individual reducing in reduced fitness, taking a sub-sample or a small population of marine biota may impact the local survival of the species

Examples of Environmental Assessments for terrestrial and marine projects are available on request

Waste

- 3.6 Depending on the nature of your project, you may produce waste over and above standard domestic or human waste. If your project will generate non-standard waste, please provide an estimation of the type and quantity of waste produced i.e. waste ethanol, sample by-catch, processed soil cores etc.
- 3.7 Please give details of how you plan to export waste from the Territory and who will be responsible for this. Typically, it would be your logistics provider. If you are intending to send waste materials or samples back to the UK via BAS logistics then you must liaise with the Base Commander (kpbc@bas.ac.uk) at the earliest possible opportunity on arrival at KEP. The Base Commander will advise you of the correct procedures and the relevant paperwork that you will need to complete.

Installation of equipment

- 3.8 If you are going to install any equipment at a site even just for a few days please provide details. This includes marker posts at field sites, antennae, settlement plates, monitoring devices and electronic installations. Making sure installations are marked, labelled and clearly identifiable is important so that other science parties, expeditions or tourist groups do not inadvertently cause disturbance to your project. Many projects take place over multiple seasons and installations need to be left in place after your team leaves the Territory. If there are on going space and power requirements, these should be detailed. At the end of the usable life of an installation, provision must be made for it to be removed from the Territory. Unless there is a clear plan to remove equipment, GSGSSI will not permit its installation. You should provide a letter of support from your logistics provider that they will facilitate the removal of the equipment.

Fuel

- 3.9 If you will be staying in the field, please provide details of what type of fuel you will be using and how it will be stored. If your project requires large amounts of fuel (i.e. drums rather than jerry cans or fuel bottles), you may be required to carry a fuel spill clean up kit.

4. Sample collection

- 4.1 If you are planning to kill, capture or handle a specific species of bird, mammal or fish please list the species, location, the sample type, and the maximum number of samples that have been approved by your ethical review process

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/device type	Maximum number
<i>King penguin</i>	St Andrews Bay(STA01)	Feather sample	10
<i>King Penguin</i>	St Andrews Bay (STA01)	10 ml blood sample	10
<i>Skua</i>	Salisbury Plain(SAL01)	GLS tracker	5

4.2 If you are planning to collect a sample from a marine environment e.g. from trawls, cores or dredges 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). 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.

Type of sample	Agassiz dredge	
Location	Number of samples	Total mass/volume of samples
West gully BCA	5	1 m ³

Type of sample	Neuston net	
Location	Number of samples	Total mass/volume of samples
Cumberland West Bay	3	3 l

5. 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*

If as part of your project you need to deviate from the mitigation measures outlined in Annex 2 e.g. because you require to fly over concentrations of wildlife or near to structures, please indicate why this is necessary to meet your project aims and what additional measures you will have in place.

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 1 and 3 months to process your application.

Processing fee

There is a £400 processing fee for category 2 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.

If your permit is a renewal from a previous year, providing the methodology and mitigation measures remain unchanged the processing fee is reduced to £50.

Application window

Applications should be submitted between April and June

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