



## **Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands**

### **WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS ORDINANCE 2011**

### **Wildlife and Protected Areas (Specially Protected Areas) Order 2022**

## **POLICY – ISSUE OF PERMITS TO ENTER THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS**

### **Summary**

This document sets out the policy of the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) in relation to the issue of permits under Section 20(3) of the 2011 Ordinance for entry to the South Sandwich Islands which is prohibited under Section 7 of the 2022 Order.

### **Objective**

To set out the procedure under which the Government will consider the test of “Special Circumstances” as set out in Section 20(3) of the 2011 Order to be met to allow a permit for entry to South Sandwich Islands to be issued. It sets out the information required from the applicant for a determination to be made, the timelines for applications to be determined and information required from applicants on conclusion of their visit if the permit was to be approved.

### **Policy**

1. Entry to the South Sandwich Islands will only be granted under Special circumstances. Those activities which the Government consider meet the threshold of Special Circumstances are:
  - I. Activities we can be shown as necessary to meet the conservation objectives for the SSI, including an assessment of: -
    - The population of species, including information on location, distribution and population trends
    - Factors affecting the populations, including breeding success, disease, predation and diet
    - Where entry is required to SSI to assess such information in relation to species occurring in the Marine Protected Area surrounding SSI
  - II. Work related to the assessment of seismic and volcanic activity, including any effects of biodiversity
  - III. Other scientific work to which information from SSI is likely to provide significant new knowledge in the areas of ecology, geology, glaciation and the effects of climate change
  - IV. Work that will significantly improve the wider public knowledge and perception of SSI.
  - V. Any other matters that the Commissioner feels is significant enough to

warrant a permit to be granted.

2. Applicants who wish to access the South Sandwich Islands should apply to the Government through the Regulated Activity Permit system available [here](#), at least 56 days before the anticipated date of landing. Applicants should clearly outline how they are meeting one or more of the categories in Section 1 above. Applicants should also provide the following information: -
  - I. a clear description of the project aims, objectives and methods (including areas of operation, and logistical support details).
  - II. The names and occupations of all those who will land.
  - III. An environmental impact assessment with planned measures to minimise and/or remediate any impacts.
3. The Government will endeavour to make any decision on a permit application within 28 days of the receipt of sufficient information on which to make that decision
4. When deciding whether to grant a permit to enter SSI, the Government will consider how closely the planned activities align with the special circumstances outlined in section 1 and to what extent environmental risk has been mitigated. Only projects where it can be demonstrated that the environmental risk, including the risk of introduction on non-native species, has been reduced as far as possible towards near zero will be granted permission to access SSI. In addition, applicants will need to demonstrate how they will ensure, preferably through a health and safety plan, how they will minimise risk to any personnel.
5. It should be noted that a decision on a grant of a permit to enter the South Sandwich Islands under this Order will be made before any decision on additional permits required to undertake activity. It is also without prejudice to the issue of any permission to enter the Territories that may be required.
6. Any fee for such a permit will be levied in accordance with any notice issued in the Gazette under Section 21(5) of the Wildlife and Protected Area Ordinance 2011.

### **Review**

This policy can be reviewed at anytime but must be reviewed within 5 years of it coming into force.

Chief Executive Officer

Email: [ceo@gov.gs](mailto:ceo@gov.gs)

Phone +500 28214