|  |
| --- |
| **IACUC Module 1: Field Studies** |
| * **For studies conducted on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat.** * **If any animals are captured for study in a lab setting, these studies must be fully described in basic protocol form.** * **Please see Regulatory Guidance and Resources that follow.** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Study Logistics** | |
| Location(s) where field study will be conducted: | Bilsa Biological Reserve, Ecuador |
| Please describe the nature of the site(s) that will be used (e.g., rain forest, savannah, desert): | Low land rainforest |
| Have appropriate permits and permissions been secured?  Please describe: | I have the appropriate permit to conduct research in Ecuador for animals studies and plant collection. |
| Are special health considerations (e.g., rabies vaccination) recommended for personnel involved in proposed study?  If yes, describe procedures and status of personnel. | A rabies vaccination is recommended due to involvement of Chiroptera. Proof of vaccination is all that is necessary. I am currently vaccinated against rabies. |
| Please describe other measures that will be taken to safeguard personnel during field study: | Gloves will be worn while handling Chiroptera. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Study Procedures** | |
| Animal species (append list if lengthy): | Chiroptera order |
| Will live animals be captured?  If yes, describe method(s): | Live animals will be captured using nets. |
| Will live animals be restrained?  If yes, describe method(s): | No |
| Will live animals be transported more than 100 yards from capture site?  If yes, describe transport method(s): | No |
| Do animals receive identification or radiotelemetry devices?  If yes, describe procedures:  (Describe surgeries in Module 1) | Animals will receive a tattoo with an ID number on its wing. The tattoo is applied like a stamp. |
| Will animals be housed?  If yes, describe special care, housing, &/or feed these animals will require: | No |
| For animals that are housed, describe how animal health will be monitored and how the need for treatment or euthanasia will be determined: | N/A |
| Will animals or their environment be altered in any way?  If yes, describe changes: | No |
| Will procedures other than those described above be performed on live animals?  If yes, describe: | No |
| Will animals be euthanized?  If yes, describe method(s) | No |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Regulatory guidance**: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#591>

[**Does the PHS Policy apply to animal research that is conducted in the field?**](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#591)

If the activities are PHS-supported and involve vertebrate animals, theIACUC is responsible for oversight in accord with PHS Policy. IACUCs must know where field studies will be located, what procedures will be involved, and be sufficiently familiar with the nature of the habitat to assess the potential impact on the animal subjects. If the activity alters or influences the activities of the animal(s) that are being studied, the activity must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC (e.g., capture and release, banding). If the activity does not alter or influence the activity of the animal(s), IACUC review and approval is not required (observational, photographs, collection of feces).

Investigators are encouraged to consult relevant professional societies, available guidelines, wildlife biologists, and veterinarians, as applicable, in the design of the field studies (Guide [page 32](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=32), [Appendix A](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=161#p2001c67a9970161001)). Studies with the potential to impact the health or safety of personnel (Guide [page 18](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=18)) or the animal’s environment may need IACUC oversight, even if described as purely observational or behavioral. When capture, handling, confinement, transportation, anesthesia, euthanasia, or invasive procedures are involved, the IACUC must ensure that proposed studies are in accord with the Guide ([page 32](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=32)). The IACUC must also ensure compliance with the regulations and permit requirements of pertinent local, state, national, and international wildlife regulations. A study on free-living wild USDA-covered species that involves invasive procedures, harms or materially alters the behavior of an animal under study is covered by USDA animal welfare regulations and requires IACUC review and approval.

[**Is the IACUC required to inspect field study sites?**](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#651)

While semiannual IACUC inspections of field study sites are not required and in many circumstances are impractical, IACUCs should be apprised of the circumstances under which studies are conducted so that they can consider risks to personnel and impact on study subjects. This may be partially accomplished by written descriptions, photographs, or videos that document specified aspects of the study site. The IACUC should also ensure that appropriate permits are in place. USDA animal welfare regulations exempt areas containing free-living wild animals in their natural habitat from inspection [See [9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.31(c)(2](http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/pubs/Legislat/awabrief.shtml))].

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Resources**

**Professional Society Guidelines**

“Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals”

American Society of Mammalogists

<http://www.mammalsociety.org/articles/guidelines-american-society-mammalogists-use-wild-mammals-research-0>

“Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research”

The Ornithological Council, 1999

<http://oacu.od.nih.gov/WildBirdGuide.pdf>

“Guidelines for the Use of Live Amphibians and Reptiles in Field and Laboratory Research”

Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee (HACC) of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH), 2004.

<http://www.asih.org/sites/default/files/documents/resources/guidelinesherpsresearch2004.pdf>

“Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research”

American Fisheries Society, et al., 2004

<http://fisheries.org/docs/policy_useoffishes.pdf>

**Additional Guidelines**

“Wildlife in Field Studies”

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

<http://awic.nal.usda.gov/research-animals/wildlife-field-studies>

“Guidelines on the Care and Use of Wildlife”

Canadian Council on Animal Care.

<http://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Wildlife.pdf>

NC3Rs—based in UK

<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/wildlife-research>

Animal Ethics Infolink

<http://www.animalethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/wildlife-research>

“Guidelines for Proper Care and Use of Wildlife in Field Research”

Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases: Birds; The Wildlife Society

<http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/field_manual/chapter_6.pdf>

“Live Animal Capture and Handling Guidelines for Wild Mammals, Birds, Amphibians & Reptiles”

Province of British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/risc/pubs/tebiodiv/capt/>

“Restraint and Handling of Captive Wildlife”

Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching Ltd.

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/publications/Restraint_T1Arch.pdf>

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_