A close up of a sign

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**R7h**

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FIELD RESEARCH PROJECTS, INCLUDING ETHNOBOTANICAL STUDIES**

Ethnobotany is the study of a region's plants and their practical uses through the traditional knowledge of local culture and people. South Africa is actively engaged in bioprospecting activities that involve the exploration of biodiversity for commercially valuable genetic resources and biochemicals, which may also apply to some ethnobotanical studies. Intellectual property rights and benefit-sharing arrangements are important issues in some ethnobotanical studies. Ethnobotany falls under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 10 of 2004 (which developed the Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations, which came into force on 1 April 2008. The regulations govern the utilisation of indigenous biological resources /or associated traditional knowledge targeted for bioprospecting to commercialise the end product through permitting systems.), because it includes 1) systematic search, collection or gathering of such resources or making extractions from indigenous biological resources; 2) utilisation for purposes of any information regarding traditional uses of indigenous biological resources by indigenous communities; or 3) research on, application of, development or modification of any such traditional uses of the indigenous biological resources. Ethical Codes of Conduct or Guidelines for research involving indigenous genetic and biological resources and/ or their associated

traditional knowledge fall in the context of bioprospecting. Therefore, ethnobotanical studies candidates should apply for ethical clearance using this application form.

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| **INSTRUCTIONS**   * The application must be typed. * This form must be submitted with a R7a. |

1. **PROJECT DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Start date and anticipated completion date.** | |
| **Start:** | **Completion:** |
| **2. Will you be collecting ethnobotanical data through interviews?** | |
| YES/NO | |
| **3. If yes, indicate where the ethnobotanical data will be stored.** | |
|  | |
| **4. Will you be collecting voucher specimens?** | |
| YES/NO | |
| **5. If yes, indicate where the voucher specimens will be deposited/stored.** | |
|  | |
| **6. Is your research focusing on a targeted species?** | |
| YES/NO | |
| **7. Is the target species in any of the red data lists?** | |
| YES/NO/NA | |
| **8. If yes, indicate the red data list.** | |
|  | |
| **9. If red-listed, do you have a collection permit from the relevant conservation department?**  (If yes, please attach a copy of the memorandum of intention for permit application where needed) | |
| YES/NO/NA | |
| **10. Do you need research participation consent from informants?** (If yes, attach consent form) | |
| YES/NO | |
| **11. Does your study require a Bioprospecting permit under the Biodiversity Act, 10 of 2004?**  (If yes, please explain why and add your memorandum of intention for permit application) | |
| YES/NO/NA | |

1. **SIGNATURES**

I have considered the design of this project. This is the most effective and feasible protocol with the lowest impact on the animals and the environment. This work is being conducted according to the ethical standards accepted in this field of research.

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**Applicant’s Name** **Signature Date**

**Other researchers involved in this project:**

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

Name and Surname Signature Date

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Name and Surname Signature Date

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Name and Surname Signature Date

**Project supervisor** *(Applicable for Student Projects)*

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Name and Surname Signature Date

**Research Ethics Committee resolution:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Approved** |  |
| **Not Approved** |  |

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Name and Surname Signature Date

Chairperson, REC