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**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 a local culture and people. South Africa is actively engaged in bioprospecting activities which involve the exploration of biodiversity for commercial valuable genetic resources and biochemicals, which may also be applicable in 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 utilization of indigenous biological resources /or associated traditional knowledge targeted for bioprospecting with an intention to commercialize 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) utilization 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 falls 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 * The following documents must be attached: * Proof of Registration (If applicable) * Registration of the Project **(R1)** * Approved Project Proposal * FHDC Recommendation letter * Letter of information and consent (Appendix **B**) (If applicable) * Conflict of interest form (Appendix **C**) (If applicable) * Other information being supplied to participants * Other documentation necessary for the RECs to make an informed decision regarding the research. * Recommendations (With all relevant signatures) |

**INITIATING DEPARTMENT:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DEPARTMENT** | **Submitted** | **Day** | **Month** | **Year** |
|  |  |  |
| **……………………………….**  **Recommended** |  | | |
| **Authorized by: Head of Department** | | | |
| **FACULTY** | **Submitted** | **Day** | **Month** | **Year** |
|  |  |  |
| **………………………………**  **Approved** |  | | |
| **Authorized by: (Faculty Executive Dean)** | | | |

1. **TITLE OF PROJECT** (Max. 50 characters including spaces)

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|  |

1. **DETAILS OF APPLICANT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title (e.g. Dr)** |  |
| **Surname and full name** |  |
| **Student / Staff Number** |  |
| **Faculty** |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Cell No** |  |

1. **SUPERVISOR’S DETAILS (if applicable)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title (e.g. Dr)** |  |
| **Surname and full name** |  |
| **Student / Staff Number** |  |
| **Faculty** |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Cell No** |  |

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, and in my opinion, this is the most effective and feasible protocol that has 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

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

Name and Surname Signature Date

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

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