

RESEARCH POLICY

Serengeti-Park Department of Research (SPDR) operates, supports and promotes scientific research projects that are vital to the conservation and welfare of animal species in the Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH (also referred to here as the “wild animal Park”) and of those species at risk of extinction in the wild.

The following principles apply to the operation of the Serengeti-Park Department of Research:

1. All research must be compatible with the overall vision of the Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH and relevant to its mission to be innovative and goal oriented towards the future.
2. All research undertaken must be for the satisfaction of the biological and conservation requirements of the specific animal or species group, and/or in improving the environment that best suits the species.
3. Research may be undertaken through study of the Living Collection at the wild animal Park, through the involvement of personnel at the wild animal Park, and/or through collaborative efforts in other institutions that also improves the welfare of animals in our care.
4. All research to be undertaken in association with the wild animal Park must be assessed and approved prior to commencement to ensure scientific and ethical validity, to ensure that welfare of animals is not compromised, and must adhere to the appropriate Germany and EU legal requirements, as well as the Research Standards and Research Strategy of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA).
5. Research aims to be benign (i.e. not likely to have a significant adverse lasting impact on the subjects, harmless and short in duration), non-invasive, and focuses mainly on issues of conservation, animal welfare and management.
6. Researchers filming or photographing animals as part of the approved project must be aware to avoid capturing members of the staff and public unless written and signed consent is granted prior to the beginning of the project and submitted to the SPDR. Please contact i.azogu@serengeti-park.de for advice, if this issue arises.
7. All researchers are required to cover any costs generated by their approved projects, including the supply of materials and/or organization and transport of samples or equipment. Please advise the SPDR if the research project is supported by an EEP or group such as the EAZA Research Committee.
8. Collected samples are only to be used for purposes stated in the approved application documents. Any unused samples must be properly disposed of, according to standard procedures for the disposal of animal waste.
9. Samples collected at the wild animal Park are, and will remain, its property. Thus, samples may never be used for commercial purposes and may not be passed on to third parties without prior notification and approval by the wild animal Park’s review team. If this need arises, please contact i.azogu@serengeti-park.de one month in advance.
10. It is the responsibility of the researcher(s) to ensure that the appropriate CITES regulations are followed for transporting samples outside of the EU.

11. Any changes made to the project after the research has been approved needs to be reported and approved by the wild animal Park's review team before the changes are implemented.
12. Research visitors and collaborators are encouraged to present their research findings to the staff of the wild animal Park, where appropriate.
13. All research carried out must be reported in full and the SPDR advised, in advance, of publication plans. This would allow the SPDR to see the manuscript prior to publication, where possible.
14. The SPDR encourages publication of findings in peer-reviewed journals or conference proceedings. Copies of any publication resulting from research conducted at the wild animal Park are to be provided.
15. All reports, including conference presentations and peer review journal publications, should fully acknowledge the Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH.

* If possible, and depending on the nature of the project collaboration, individual staff contributing to or supervising research projects could be acknowledged through co-authorship of any publications as well as by name in the relevant section of reports. This would be according to criteria defining the role of authors and contributors. See link: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

16. In the case of doubt about authorship or acknowledgments, the wild animal Park's review team are to be consulted for mutual agreement before starting the project and subsequent publication.
17. By signing the research proposal form, the researcher(s) agrees to provide the SPDR with an electronic and hardcopy of a formal report, which may or may not include digital copies, film footage, sound recordings, photographs properly annotated to allow for independent interpretation. These reports must be logged with the SPDR upon completion of a study.
18. The SPDR is to be immediately informed if results reveal important data that would have a direct impact on the welfare and husbandry of the animals sampled.
19. **Project supervision:** Researchers are advised that wild animal Park employees do not have academic supervisory duties, unless agreed upon as part of an official collaboration with the wild animal Park.
 - i. Students who are not eligible for supervision by wild animal Park staff are encouraged to develop their research proposal with their academic supervisor, and upon project approval at the wild animal Park, to continually seek academic advice from them for the duration of the project to ensure a suitable outcome.
 - ii. For students that are eligible for supervision by wild animal Park staff, the level of supervisory input will be outlined and agreed upon by all parties prior to commencement of the project.
 - iii. All researchers (e.g. student(s), supervisor, principle investigator, co-investigator) on the project must sign the Research Proposal form. By signing the form, they agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Research Policy.
20. **Research Pass:** To access the Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH for the duration of the approved project and within the normal opening hours, all researchers must obtain a Researcher's Pass. This may come in the form of a formal written document and/or a printed name tag with picture ID. In addition to site access, the Researcher's Pass entitles the researcher to a ZIMS360 Taxon Report for their study species, a brief introduction and an opportunity to ask questions of the SPDR, veterinary department, biologists and/or keepers. The Research Pass gives access to the wild animal Park for the duration of the project or for a maximum of 12 months, whichever is shortest. A new Pass is to be requested if a project lasts longer than 12 months and a progress report is required

at the end of each year. The Research Pass must always be available to show wild animal Park staff upon request when in the wild animal Park for the project.

21. The safety of visiting researchers, volunteers and staff must always be ensured. As such, the Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH reserves the right to postpone or terminate a research project in cases where the wild animal Park is dissatisfied with the conduct of the researcher, for health and safety reasons, and for non-compliance with the Research Policy.
22. The researcher agrees with Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH to indemnify and keep indemnified Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH for any loss, damage or liability suffered by Serengeti Park Hodenhagen GmbH resulting from a breach of any terms of this Research Policy.
23. The researcher must inform the wild animal Park's review team immediately when and if it becomes clear that they are unable to complete the project.
24. Please ensure wherever possible that the research application is written in lay terms.

We aim to review your application within four weeks of receipt but may be delayed due to the volume of applications received. So please submit in advance, keeping in mind the planned start of your study. Following completion of the review process, you'll be contacted by email to let you know the outcome of your application. Please note that incomplete applications will be discarded.

Thank you for your interest.