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| **LEAVE BLANK—FOR IRB USE ONLY** | | |
| To obtain IRB review of a research project at ATREE, submit this completed form with attachments (if required). For guidelines on completing this application, please consult Section III of the Terms of Reference of the ATREE-IRB available on the ATREE-IRB website. |  | Exempt from IRB Coverage |
|  | Approved Under Expedited Review |
| IRB Number & Date Received: |  | Approved by the Board |
|  | Modifications Required |
| ATREE Animal and Plant Ethics Committee Approval ID: |
|  |  | Application Denied |

# Part I: Study Information

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| Contact Information and Overview | | |
| Project Investigator: |  | |
| Email Address: |  | |
| Co-Investigator(s):  *[Name, email address]* |  | |
| Funding Agency: |  | |
| Nature of the study  [*select one*] |  | Ph.D. Thesis |
|  |  | Faculty Research |
|  |  | Other [please explain in 80 characters] |
| 1. What is the title of your study? | | |
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| 1. What is the purpose of this study? (upto 200 words)   *[Provide a clear and accurate statement of the scientific purpose and objectives of the research. If there are different phases or modules in the proposed project involving different participants, clearly state these phases or modules.]* | | |
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| 1. Please describe your research questions and research methods (upto 300 words) | | |
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| 1. Does the study involve any of the following?  * *[Please tick human subjects even if you have no interviews/surveys but will be using intrusive technologies such as drones, camera traps, geotagging establishments]* * *[In case of animal subjects or plant specimens please fill and attach the ATREE Animal Ethics Committee form]* * *[If your research involves human and animal subjects or plant specimens, please tick all applicable boxes and fill this form and the ATREE Plant & Animal Ethics Committee form]* | | |
|  |  | Animal Subjects (lab testing, capture and release in the wild etc.) |
|  |  | Plant Specimen collection |
|  |  | Human Subjects |
| Informed Consent and Recourse | | |
| 1. Who is eligible to participate in this study? Please listgroups you deem to be vulnerable (including but not limited to women, children, low income, dalit and indigenous peoples) if applicable. What makes them vulnerable ? (upto 100 words) | | |
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| 1. Please describe the recruitment procedures that you will use for your study including how and where potential participants will first be made aware of the project. (upto 100 words) | | |
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| 1. What methods will you use to ensure informed consent? *[Please explain if the consent will be verbal or written and why]* (upto 100 words) | | |
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| 1. What will the participant/respondent be asked to do? (upto 100 words)  * *If the research involves questionnaires, surveys participant observation or interviews, describe the type of questions that will be asked or the topics that will be covered]* | | |
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| 1. Will the study involve the use of temporary deception[[1]](#footnote-1) as a research protocol? If so, please provide the following in your response: (upto 200 words totally)    1. Adequate justification for the use of temporary deception as a research protocol    2. A description of the manner of temporary deception and how the deception will take place    3. A description of whether the temporary deception results in any increased risk to participants    4. An indication of whether the temporary deception may affect a participant’s willingness to be included in research    5. A description on how the researcher intends to disclose the use of temporary deception in a debriefing[[2]](#footnote-2), including an opportunity to to withdraw from the study *[please attach participant debriefing procedures]* | | |
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| Privacy and Data Stewardship | | |
| 1. Where will the study take place and how long will it last? | | |
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| 1. What procedures or protocols are you using for maintaining participant confidentiality or anonymity, especially if recordings, photographs, movies or videotapes will be used? (upto 100 words) | | |
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| 1. How will you mitigate participant grievance ? (upto 100 words)   *[Suggested statement:“Take as long as you like before you make a decision. We will be happy to answer any question you have about this study. If you have further questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the researcher(s), <(insert name(s)> at <phone number(s)>. If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research subject, you may contact the ATREE Academy for Conservation Science and Sustainability Studies: madhavi@atree.org]* | | |
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| Benefits and Risks to Participants | | |
| 1. Are there benefits for the participant of being in this study? (upto 100 words)  * *[Describe any direct benefits to the participant that may be reasonably expected as a result of the research]* * *[Describe benefits expected to accrue to the population the participant represents or to society in general (e.g. advancement of knowledge, health benefits to others) or benefits to the researcher]* * *[Do NOT include payments for participation or other incentives and gifts as a benefit of participation]* | | |
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| 1. Are there risks for the participant of being in this study? (upto 100 words)  * *[Inform the participant of any foreseeable risks (e.g. physical, emotional, social) as a result of study procedures. Each procedure should be identified and then the associated risks described]* * *Identify immediate and latent risks and list them in appropriate order, from most likely to least likely to occur. Identify steps taken to minimize risks.* * *Please indicate any unforeseen risks – particularly from the use of intrusive technologies such as drones and camera traps]* | | |
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| 1. In the context of the pandemic, what measures will you take to safeguard both participant/respondent and researcher safety? (In 150 words) | | |
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| Conflict of Interest | | |
| 1. Have the the participants of the study been informed of other professional or public roles of any of the researchers’ that conflict with the goals of your study? | | |
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| 1. Could the financial situations or professional positions of the researchers (or their families) be directly impacted by your study (viz. through promotions, contacts of clients)? | | |
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| 1. Will the participants be provided and compensation or incentives for their participation in your study?  * *Compensation is acceptable as long as the compensation cannot be interpreted as coercive among the participant population.* | | |
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# Part II: Declaration

The principal investigator, and co-investigators (if any) each affirms by their signature the following:

1. The proposed research will be conducted by individuals who are responsibly entitled to do so, and changes from the submitted protocol (including a change in principal investigator or sponsorship) will be submitted to the IRB for approval prior to its implementation or effecting of that change.
2. I/we will comply with all institutional policies and procedures to protect human and animal subjects and plants in my/our proposed research.
3. I/we understand the ethical responsibilities of research investigators and have read the core principles for ethical research at ATREE. (available at www.atree.org/irb/irbprinciples)
4. I/we will assure that the consent process and research procedures as described herein are followed with every participant in the proposed research

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| Signature of the Principal Investigator (PI): | Date: |
| Signature of the Co-Investigator(s): |  |
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1. Deception occurs as the result of investigators providing false or incomplete information to participants for the purpose of misleading research subjects. The IRB accepts the need for certain types of studies to employ strategies that include deception. However, employment of such strategies must be justified. In general, deception is not acceptable if, in the judgment of the IRB, the participant may have declined to participate had they been informed of the true purpose of the research. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A description of the post-study procedure that informs the research subject on the use of deception as a research protocol and includes the opportunity for research subjects to withdraw their data or participation from the study. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)