**Exploring the relationship between heavy metal pollution in freshwater systems and fish biodiversity.**

**Researchers: Abdallah El Sayed**

**Introduction**

We’re inviting you to participate in a survey for research purposes. Your involvement in this study is completely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any time without any negative consequences. This document is designed to provide you with information about the study to help you decide whether you would like to participate.

**Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between heavy metal pollution in freshwater systems and fish biodiversity. By gathering data through this survey, we aim to understand how public awareness and observation relate to environmental health and aquatic ecosystems, with a focus on urban freshwater environments.

**What will I do?**

If you choose to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a survey consisting of questions related to water quality, pollution, and the presence or absence of fish species in local freshwater areas. The survey will be conducted online and will take approximately 2-4 minutes to complete. Your responses will be anonymous, and no personally identifiable information will be collected.

**Risks**

Participation in this study involves minimal risks. However, there is a possibility of discomfort or inconvenience associated with answering sensitive questions related to demographic information, location information or any other question, to mitigate any potential discomfort, you are encouraged to skip any questions that you do not feel comfortable answering.

**Estimated duration**

The survey is anticipated to take approximately 2-4 minutes to complete. This estimation is based on the average time taken by previous participants to respond to the survey questions. Your actual completion time may vary depending on your individual pace and the level of detail you provide in your responses.

**Data retention period**

The data collected as part of this survey will be kept for a period of 6 to 8 months, which is necessary for the completion of the research project and any subsequent analysis, design or verification. After this period, all personally identifiable information will be securely deleted or anonymized to ensure confidentiality. The anonymized data may be retained for an extended period to facilitate ongoing research or for archival purposes. However, any identifiable information will be permanently removed to protect your privacy. If you have any concerns about the retention of your data, please feel free to contact the researchers for further clarification or for the immediate deletion of your data.

**Compensation**

There is no compensation offered for participating in this survey. Your involvement in this research is voluntary, and there are no financial or material incentives provided. You are participating purely out of your interest in contributing to scientific inquiry and advancing knowledge in the field.

**Possible benefits**

While there are no direct benefits to you as a participant, your involvement in this study will contribute to a better understanding of the environmental impacts of freshwater pollution. The findings may help support educational and conservation initiatives relating to aquatic biodiversity and pollution awareness.

**Access to your data**

Only authorized personnel directly involved in this research project will have access to the data collected from this survey. This includes the researchers conducting the study and any designated assistants or collaborators. Access to the data will be strictly controlled and limited to individuals who require it for the purposes of data analysis, interpretation, and reporting.

**Confidentiality safeguards**

All individuals with access to the data are bound by strict confidentiality agreements and ethical guidelines. They are obligated to handle the data with the utmost care and to maintain the confidentiality of all information provided by participants. Measures such as encryption, password protection, and secure data storage will be implemented to safeguard the privacy and integrity of the data.

**Data sharing and disclosure**

Your individual responses will not be shared or disclosed to any third parties without your explicit consent, except as required by law or institutional regulations. Aggregated data may be shared in academic publications, presentations, or reports; however, no personally identifiable information will be included in these publications. Additionally, any data shared for research or academic purposes will be anonymized to protect your privacy.

If you have any concerns about who can access your data or how it will be used, please do not hesitate to contact the researchers for further clarification. Your privacy and confidentiality are our top priorities, and we are committed to ensuring that your data is handled responsibly and ethically.

By proceeding with the survey, you indicate that you have read and understood the information provided in this consent form and voluntarily consent to participate in the study. If you have any questions or concerns about the study, you may contact the researchers at [contact information]. If you agree to participate, please click "I agree" to begin the survey.

**To take this survey, you must meet the following criteria**

You must be at least 16 years old.

If you meet the above criteria and consent to participate in the study, please proceed by clicking the "I agree" button below. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria or choose not to participate, you may exit the survey at any time.