



Michael Painter  
CHAIR  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY IRB

**IRB EXEMPTION DETERMINATION DATE: 15 September 2022**

TO: Diego Montecino

FROM: Michael Painter, WCS IRB

STUDY TITLE: Use of SMART to record wildlife health information in protected areas around the world, REF# 22-53

SUBMISSION DATE: 12 September 2022

Thank you for your recent request for IRB exemption regarding the project referenced above. The Wildlife Conservation Society Institutional Review Board (IRB) has determined that:

☒ The research activity with the above-referenced title is exempt from IRB review, based on the federal regulations, §45 CFR 46.104(d)(2). The WCS IRB has made this determination because information is being gathered in such a manner that human subjects cannot be readily identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects. Furthermore, the research involves no more than minimal risks to participants and any disclosure of human subjects' responses outside of the research setting would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to their financial standing, employability, educational advancement or reputation. ***Please note that this approval is contingent on the members of the WCS IRB receiving documentation that the members of the Activity Management Team have completed ethics training in human subjects research before data collection begins. Also, any proposed changes to the research activity prior to implementation may trigger the need for a new exemption determination by the IRB, and/or full IRB review and approval. Failure to complete ethics training and document completion or to notify the IRB prior to making changes during implementation will nullify this finding.***

☐ The above-titled research activity is not exempt from IRB review, because it does not fall within any of the categories for exemption in the federal regulations, 45 CFR 46.101(b). In order to proceed with the research activity, you must submit a Full Review Application and undergo IRB review and approval. Please see the IRB Procedures for details regarding the information that is required to be included with the Full Review Application.

**Please note that IRB review and approval is required prior to the start of any data collection or recruitment of human subjects.**

If you have any questions regarding this IRB exemption determination, please contact Michael Painter, Chair, [mpainter@wcs.org](mailto:mpainter@wcs.org), or the WCS IRB at [wcsirb@wcs.org](mailto:wcsirb@wcs.org).

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