Participant Information Sheet

1. **Research Project Title:**
   GMSE-GAME: gamesourcing decision-making data in natural resource management

2. **Background, aims of project**
   - This project aims to develop new ways to collect data on human decision making in natural resource management, and to use this data to better understand and predict the consequences of such decision-making on sustainable resource use.
   - We have developed an interactive online game, which acts as the "front-end" for a socio-ecological model. During this game, participants (players) are tasked with making management decisions about a simulated natural resource population (for example, herbivorous animals) which affects a landscape (for example, yield on farms). By collecting such management decisions as well as varying the simulated environment, we will gather data on which management decisions are more or less effective given certain environmental conditions.

3. **Why have I been invited to take part?**
   You have been invited because we think you have either a professional or personal interest in the natural resource management. You may be a conservation scientist, practitioner, land- or site manager, applied or field ecologist, or be employed by an NGO or governmental agency involved in some form of natural resource management.

4. **Do I have to take part?**
   - No. You do not have to take part.
   - If you do decide to take part, you can withdraw your participation at any time without needing to explain and without penalty by advising us of your decision. You can do so by email at any time before, during or after participation (jm241@stir.ac.).
   - All data collection is anonymous and we do not collect personal data or data that may personally identify you. We do ask for a participant nickname but this is only to allow us to provide you with immediate feedback following participation.
   - If you withdraw we will not collect any more data from you. Any data collected up until the point that you withdraw may be kept and used in the data analysis, unless you ask us to remove all data. You can do so at any time by email (jm241@stir.ac.uk) by providing us with your participant nickname and date of participation, up until January 2022. Beyond this date we may no longer be able to remove your anonymised data.
   - You can access and download this sheet at any time here, and will be ask to confirm your consent to participate on an online form.

5. **What will happen if I take part?**
   When you take part, you will be presented with an online game during which you will be asked to make a series of management decisions in a simulated natural resource management scenario. The online game will last for a variable amount of time (at least a minute but up may be up to several minutes). You can either end or restart the game at any time, and play as many times as you like. Your in-game decisions and player nickname will be stored in a secured database. When the game ends you will be presented with a scoreboard (leaderboard) and the ability to restart or end game play.

6. Are there any potential risks in taking part?
There are no foreseeable risks in taking part.

7. Are there any benefits in taking part?
There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part.

8. What happens to the data I provide?
Your anonymous in-game decisions will be stored in a secure database only accessible by the researchers. This data will be analysed to better understand and predict how people may make decisions in natural resource management.

9. Future uses of the data
Due to the nature of this research, it is very likely that other researchers may find the data to be useful in answering other research questions. We will ask for your explicit consent for data to be shared in this way and, if you agree, we will ensure that the data collected cannot be traced back to you before letting others used it.
After the completion of the study, the anonymised data collected will be stored in an online repository in accordance with funder recommendations; again we will ensure that this data cannot be traced back to you.

10. Will the research be published?
The research will be published in an open access peer reviewed journal. You or your data will not be identifiable in any report/publication.

11. Who is organising and funding the research?
This research is part of the ConFooBio project, which is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Horizon 2020 grant (agreement no. 679651).

12. Who has reviewed this research project?
The ethical approaches of this project have been approved via The University of Stirling General University Ethics Panel.

13. Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?
If you would like to discuss the research with someone please contact the lead researcher:
Dr Jeroen Minderman (jeroen.minderman2@stir.ac.uk), lead researcher, Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA.

If you wish to discuss the research with an independent person you can contact:
Prof. Kirsty Park (k.j.park@stir.ac.uk), Head of Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA.

You have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (https://ico.org.uk/concerns/).
The University's Data Protection Officer is Joanna Morrow, Deputy Secretary. If you have any questions relating to data protection these can be addressed to data.protection@stir.ac.uk in the first instance.

A copy of this information sheet can be <mark>downloaded here</mark>.
Thank you for your participation.