

**MAHAGNAO VOLCANO NATURAL PARK (MVNP)**  
**GUIDELINES ON THE ENGAGEMENT / CONDUCT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**  
**AND STUDIES**

## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1.1 Purpose

These guidelines establish the standardized process for the conduct of research and scientific studies within Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park (MVNP). Aimed to align all scientific activities with the principles of biodiversity conservation, responsible resource management, and compliance with Philippine environmental laws.

To safeguard MVNP's biodiversity while enabling high-quality science, all research must also uphold clear ethical standards (objectivity, transparency, accountability, intellectual property protection, confidentiality, social responsibility, non-discrimination, researcher competence, legality, and wildlife protection). These principles guide proposal screening and field conduct.

**Legal Basis.** Pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 (IRR of RA 11038), the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) is authorized to approve policies, plans and programs for the management of the protected area and to issue rules and regulations; and the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) is mandated to formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules, regulations, and programs. These guidelines are issued under that authority to operationalize research management within MVNP.

### 1.2 Scope

These guidelines apply to all individuals and institutions (*academic, governmental, non-governmental, private, and international*) seeking to conduct research within the 340.82-hectare MVNP. These Guidelines likewise apply to studies involving fisheries, aquatic habitats, limnological assessments, freshwater biodiversity, hydrological processes, and reproductive or spawning sites of aquatic organisms within MVNP's lakes, streams, springs, and associated water bodies. Routine DENR monitoring activities (*such as BMS, BAMS, etc.*) are exempted from this requirement.

Foreign researchers must comply with Philippine immigration and education rules (*e.g., Student Visa and Special Study Permit, as applicable*), in addition to DENR permits.

#### 1.2.1 Territorial Scope

These provisions cover the officially declared MVNP protected area. Research activities beyond MVNP's boundaries (*e.g., adjacent timberlands, forest reserves, or Alienable and Disposable lands*) are not covered unless the study's scope overlaps with MVNP.

Research activities may be conducted within the Strict Protection Zone (SPZ) and the Multiple Use Zone (MUZ).

Research within the SPZ shall be limited to non-invasive and minimal-impact studies focused on biodiversity, ecology, or conservation, while research within the MUZ may include socio-economic, applied, or management-oriented studies that contribute to sustainable resource use and protected area management. All research permissible within the SPZ may likewise be conducted within the MUZ.

**Movement/Route Pattern Studies Originating in MVNP** (*across taxa and environments*). Where the study is initiated inside MVNP (*e.g., capture/marketing, device attachment, initial observations*) and the focal species subsequently ranges beyond MVNP, whether volant (*birds, bats*), terrestrial (*mammals, herpetofauna*), or aquatic (*freshwater species*):

- a) **Coverage of MVNP Clearance.** Authorizes capture/handling, tagging/device attachment, device retrieval, nest/den/burrow access, receiver deployment/servicing, and observation points located within MVNP, and authorizes desk-based analysis of movement data (*e.g., GPS/GSM/satellite/VHF/acoustic or camera-trap detections*) even when such data include locations outside MVNP, provided no field activity occurs outside MVNP.
- b) **Field Activities Outside MVNP.** Any fieldwork beyond MVNP (*e.g., capture/handling/retagging, device retrieval, receiver servicing, nest/den access, systematic counts along roads/rivers/coasts, boat or foot transects on public or private land*) must be undertaken under separate authority by the competent DENR Field Office(s) (*PENRO/CENRO/Region*) via appropriate RA 9147 instruments (*e.g., WGP coverage, Local Transport Permit for biological specimen/sample movements*), and with LGU/Barangay and, where applicable, private landowner consent. Where routes traverse other protected areas, obtain that PA's PAMB/PASu research clearance.
- c) **Endorsement/Certification.** MVNP-PAMB shall issue an Endorsement/Certification of Research Clearance Scope (*Annex E*) to facilitate inter-agency coordination and DENR permit coverage outside MVNP.
- d) **UAS/Drones & Vessels.** Operations outside MVNP must comply with applicable aviation/maritime regulations and local permissions.
- e) **Confidentiality.** Precise external locations of sensitive roosts/nests/dens/burrows/staging/breeding/haul-out sites shall remain confidential and be shared only with competent authorities; public outputs should use generalized/aggregated mapping for sensitive sites.

The MVNP-PAMB's rule-making authority and the PASu's policy-formulation mandate are derived from DAO 2019-05 (IRR of RA 11038); however, jurisdiction is limited to the protected area. Activities outside MVNP fall under general RA 9147 permitting (*e.g., WGP, Transport/Export permits per IRR*) administered by the appropriate DENR office.

### 1.3 Key Clarifications

Ethical community engagement is strongly encouraged, including courtesy calls and briefings with local barangay officials.

Researchers shall exercise discretion in publicly sharing sensitive information (*e.g., nest sites, rare species locations*). Prior consent from PAMO/PAMB is required before posting materials that could compromise species or site protection (*including social media*).

If the research proposal does not meet the requirements or fails during presentation or review, the proponent may re-present or reapply up to two (2) times, provided that all comments and deficiencies identified by the TWG or PAMB have been fully addressed. Endorsement or clearance shall proceed only after complete compliance with all requirements and guidelines.

To expedite the processing of research activities with no critical impact or harm to the environment, proposals classified as non-invasive (*including studies with no specimen collection, no wildlife handling, and no voucher sampling*) shall undergo TWG review only. Upon favorable evaluation, the TWG shall directly issue the corresponding Research Clearance without requiring PAMB endorsement, consistent with the prescribed review process.

#### **1.4 Legal Bases**

Republic Act No. 11038 (Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018)

Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act)

DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 (Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the ENIPAS Act)

Presidential Decree No. 705 (Revised Forestry Code)

#### **1.5 Definition of Terms**

**Aquatic and Fisheries Research** - Studies involving aquatic organisms, freshwater biodiversity, population dynamics, spawning grounds, reproductive biology, limnology, fishery resources, aquatic vegetation, and the ecological processes of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater systems within MVNP.

**Commercial or High-Impact Research** - Activities with significant potential environmental impact or commercial intent, including but not limited to bioprospecting, extensive species collection, or the use of heavy equipment, which require full PAMB review and endorsement.

**Ethical Standards Review** - Screening of proposals against objectivity, transparency, accountability, confidentiality, social responsibility, non-discrimination, competence, legality, and wildlife protection.

**Long-term Research** - Fieldwork exceeding three (3) years.

**Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park (MVNP)** - The 340.82-hectare protected area located in Burauen, Leyte, officially declared under Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act of 2018), managed for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and scientific research.

**Medium-term Research** - Fieldwork completed in two (2) to three (3) years.

**Multiple Use Zone (MUZ)** - This refers to areas where settlement, traditional and/or sustainable land use, including agriculture, agroforestry, extraction activities, and other income-generating or livelihood activities may be allowed to the extent prescribed in the protected area management plan.

**Non-invasive Research** - Studies or activities that do not involve specimen collection, habitat alteration, or other physical impacts, including but not limited to visual observation, photographic documentation, acoustic monitoring, and drone-based aerial surveys.

**Protected Area (PA)** - As defined in RA 11038 and its IRR (Section 3): “identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.”

**Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)** - The multisectoral governing body that oversees the protected area, chaired by the DENR Regional Director, with representation from NGAs, LGUs, NGOs/POs, IPs/ICCs, academe, and the private sector, as provided under DAO 2019 05.

**Protected Area Management Office (PAMO)** - The executive unit responsible for the daily operations of the protected area, led by the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu).

**Protected Area Superintendent (PASu)** - The head of the PAMO, tasked with implementing policies, coordinating field activities, and enforcing the management plan.

**Research Clearance** - The written authorization issued by the PASu or PAMB permitting the conduct of approved research activities within MVNP.

**Research Fee** - A fee charged per approved study to support MVNP management and monitoring.

**Research Repository** - The digital or physical archive maintained by MVNP and DENR Region VIII for storing research reports, raw datasets, and related outputs submitted by researchers.

**Sampling-based Research** - Research activities involving the collection of biological samples, soil, water, or other natural resources, including but not limited to tissue sampling, vegetation sampling, or insect trapping, even if minimal in quantity, for scientific analysis.

**Short-term Research** - Fieldwork completed within one (1) year.

**Spawning Sites** - Locations within aquatic habitats where fish or other aquatic organisms release, deposit, or incubate eggs, brood young, or exhibit reproductive behaviors requiring protection.

**Strict Protection Zone (SPZ)** - These are areas within the protected area with high biodiversity value which shall be closed to human activity except for scientific studies and/or ceremonial or religious use by the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs). It may also include habitats of threatened species and degraded areas that are designated for restoration and subsequent protection, and such other areas as may be defined in the management plan.

**Technical Working Group (TWG)** - The team constituted by the PAMB to provide technical review and recommendations on research proposals submitted to MVNP.

**Wildlife Gratuitous Permit (WGP)** - The permit issued under RA 9147 allowing the legal collection or sampling of wildlife species for scientific purposes, subject to terms and conditions set by DENR.

## II. APPLICATION PROCESS

### 2.1 Initial Coordination Meeting

All researchers must first arrange a face-to-face meeting with the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) or the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) to discuss the proposed study and its intended scope, methodology, and potential implications. This is required prior to formal submission.

### 2.2 Submission of Research Proposals

All applications must be submitted online via the designated Google Form managed by the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).

*Required Attachments:*

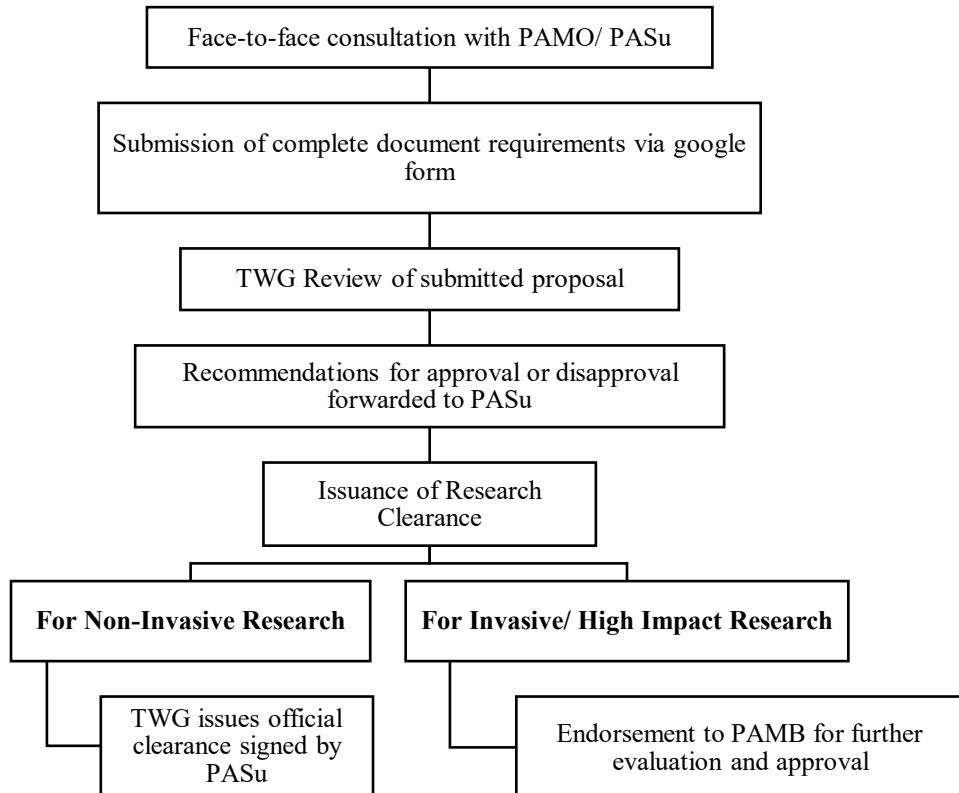
1. **Research Proposal (PDF)**, including:  
Title and Introduction / Background of the Study  
Objectives  
Methodology (including site access, sample size, data collection tools)  
Expected Outputs
2. **Institutional Endorsement Letter**
3. Budget and Funding Source (if available), to clarify resources and logistics supporting the fieldwork.
4. For foreign students, submit a copy of the Student Visa and Special Study Permit as applicable.
5. If the proposal already underwent an institutional ethics review, attach the certification (the study will still pass MVNP screening).
6. For telemetry/movement studies likely to extend beyond MVNP, include an External Areas Plan and a Permitting/Coordination Plan (target DENR Field Offices, LGUs, landowners).
7. Valid Identification Documents (IDs) of all principal researchers or field researchers, to verify identity and affiliation (e.g., school ID, government-issued ID such as passport, driver's license, or national ID).

### 2.3 Review and Approval Timeline

Type of Research	Review Duration	Reviewing Body	Requirement
Non-invasive (e.g., biodiversity surveys, visual observations)	15 working days	Technical Working Group	PAMB endorsement not required; clearance issued by TWG/ PASu

Type of Research	Review Duration	Reviewing Body	Requirement
Sampling-based / minimal collection	30 working days	Technical Working Group and PAMB ( <i>if deemed necessary</i> )	Shall require PAMB resolution for certain taxa, Wildlife Gratuitous Permit
Commercial / high-impact	60 working days	Technical Working Group + Full PAMB endorsement	Mandatory PAMB approval and clearance issuance

## 2.4 Evaluation Process



## 2.5 Research Fees

Fees support MVNP protection, monitoring, and research oversight.

Fee Type	Amount
Application/Processing Fee	₱100.00
Local Undergraduate	₱500.00
Local Graduate	₱1,000.00
Local Professional	₱2,000.00
Foreign Undergraduate	₱3,500.00
Foreign Graduate	₱7,000.00
Foreign Professional	₱10,000.00

## 2.6 Clearance Issuance and Terms & Conditions

Issuance of the MVNP Research Clearance is contingent upon payment of applicable fees and execution of the Terms and Conditions for Research Clearance (Annex D). The Terms and Conditions shall be signed by the Principal Researcher and the MVNP-PAMB (through the PAMB Chairman or PASu by authority of the PAMB) prior to the start of field activities.

For sampling-based research activities involving the collection, capture, handling, possession, transport, or utilization of wildlife or biological specimens, the proponent shall secure a valid Wildlife Gratuitous Permit (WGP) pursuant to

Republic Act No. 9147 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. All Terms and Conditions stipulated in the issued WGP are hereby incorporated into, and shall form an integral part of, the MVNP Research Clearance. Any deviation, non-compliance, or conduct of activities beyond the authorized scope of the WGP shall be considered a violation of both these guidelines and the research clearance, and shall constitute sufficient ground for its suspension or revocation, without prejudice to the filing of administrative, civil, or criminal cases under RA 9147, PD 705, RA 11038, and other applicable laws.

### **III. FIELD RESEARCH RULES AND STANDARDS**

#### **3.1 Access Restrictions**

Core zones or ecologically sensitive sites (e.g., breeding or nesting habitats) require special clearance. Nighttime fieldwork must be justified and approved.

All activities must be coordinated with PAMO, concerned LGUs/Barangays, and when necessary the PNP for safety and law-enforcement interface.

#### **3.2 Sampling Limits**

Destructive sampling must be minimized and well-justified in the proposal. Collection of wildlife specimens, including flora and fauna, requires a Wildlife Gratuitous Permit in accordance with RA 9147. The Terms and Conditions of the WGP, once issued, shall automatically attach to and form part of the MVNP Research Clearance pursuant to Section 2.6 of these guidelines.

The PASu shall verify collected specimens (number, taxa) against the authorized quantities and methods prior to transport.

#### **3.3 Local Community Engagement**

Researchers are encouraged to hire local guides from Barangay Mahagnao, Burauen, Leyte and Brgy. Bocawon, La Paz, Leyte. Barangay officials must be informed through a pre-field briefing. Respect for local customs, sites, and practices must be upheld at all times.

Researchers shall promptly report incidental observations relevant to protection (e.g., suspected illegal activities, injured fauna) to PAMO for action and, where feasible, assist with safe turn-over of wildlife to the nearest accredited rescue facility.

#### **3.4 Specimen Transport and Export**

Inspection Certificate from PASu is required prior to local transport; obtain relevant DENR transport permits.

Local Transport Permit (LTP) is required for movement of wildlife/specimens within the Philippines outside the original collection locality, pursuant to RA 9147 IRR.

No shipment outside the Philippines without required CITES/Export Permits or Wildlife Certification, where applicable.

Collected specimens are not for commercial use/bioprospecting under RA 9147.

For taxonomic work abroad, ownership remains with the Philippine Government; specimens routed through the Philippine Herbarium and returned after verification.

## IV. POST-RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Deliverables

Researchers are required to submit the following within 60 days after fieldwork completion:

1. Final Technical Report or Manuscript or Published Article (Word or PDF)
2. Raw Data (Excel / CSV format)
3. High-resolution images or photo documentation of study sites and specimens (if applicable). Medium- to Long-term studies shall submit annual progress updates/presentations to PAMB or as requested by PAMO.
4. Researchers shall present the final results and key findings to the PAMB (in a regular or special meeting) for management uptake and policy alignment. The PAMB Secretariat/PAMO will schedule the presentation at the next feasible meeting; presentation materials shall be furnished in advance as requested by the Secretariat.

### 4.2 Data Use and Sharing

Research data will be made accessible through the MVNP Research Repository. Authorship must be declared clearly.

Respect intellectual property rights and properly acknowledge MVNP, PAMO staff, local guides, and contributors. When inputs are substantial (e.g., co-design, data collection, analysis), offer co-authorship consistent with scholarly norms; otherwise, include contributors in acknowledgments.

## V. COMPLIANCE, MONITORING, AND SANCTIONS

### 5.1 Monitoring

PAMO staff and DENR personnel shall conduct random inspections and spot-checks. Research activities extending beyond 30 calendar days must submit monthly progress reports to PAMO.

### 5.2 Sanctions

Violation within MVNP	Penalty
Unpermitted or unauthorized research	Blacklisting from future research activities within MVNP and notification to the researcher's affiliated institution.
Failure to submit post-research outputs	Temporary suspension of research privileges within MVNP until compliance is met.
Environmental damage or illegal collection	Filing of appropriate criminal charges pursuant to <b>Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and</b>

<b>Violation within MVNP</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
	<b>Protection Act), Presidential Decree No. 705 (Forestry Code), or Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act of 2018), as applicable.</b>
Misrepresentation in research proposal	Revocation of MVNP Research Permit and formal notification to the researcher's home institution or organization.

## **VI. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY**

The PASu, through the PAMO and with support from the TWG, shall submit to the PAMB an Annual Research Compliance & Status Report covering the preceding calendar year, to include at minimum: (a) list of research clearances issued/renewed/extended; (b) active and completed studies with timelines; (c) compliance status on deliverables and PAMB presentation of results; (d) monitoring/inspection activities conducted and findings; (e) sanctions imposed or cases endorsed for legal action; (f) fees collected and utilization note; (g) updates to the MVNP Research Repository (reports, datasets, photos); and (h) coordination undertaken with DENR Field Offices/LGUAs for activities outside MVNP. The report shall be calendarized for the first regular PAMB meeting of each year and archived in the MVNP Repository.

## **VII. UPDATING OF THE RESEARCH GUIDELINES FRAMEWORK**

The TWG shall lead a periodic review of these Guidelines every three (3) years, or earlier as necessary due to new laws/policies, permitting procedures (e.g., RA 9147 issuances), technological developments (e.g., drones/telemetry), or management needs. The review process shall, at minimum: (a) assess implementation experience and stakeholder feedback; (b) circulate proposed amendments to key stakeholders (DENR Region/PENRO/CENRO, LGUs, academe, partner institutions) for not less than 15–30 days of comments; and (c) recommend final revisions for PAMB approval via Resolution. Approved revisions shall supersede prior versions, be posted on official channels, and be version-controlled/archived in the Repository. Updates to fees may be enacted by separate PAMB Resolution and reflected in the Annex on Fees.

## **VIII. EFFECTIVITY**

These Research Guidelines shall take effect immediately after approval and adoption by the MVNP-PAMB through a PAMB Resolution, and upon posting at the MVNP-PAMO bulletin board and official electronic channels. The PASu shall issue an advisory implementing these Guidelines and shall furnish copies to DENR Region 8, concerned PENRO/CENROs, LGUs, partner institutions, and the MVNP repository/website.

*Transitional Provisions.* Applications filed prior to effectivity but not yet approved shall be processed under these Guidelines, unless the proponent opts in writing within thirty (30) calendar days to proceed under the previously applicable version (if any). Existing Research Clearances remain valid until their expiry; renewals, amendments, and extensions shall comply with these Guidelines.

## **IX. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **6.1 Submission and Coordination**

Email: mvnp.pamb@gmail.com  
 PASu Mobile No.: 09611783329/ Forester Wincel M. Nuñez  
 Office Address: Protected Area Management Office, MVNP, Burauen, Leyte

## **6.2 Emergency and Safety Contacts**

Burauen MDRRMO/ Rescue: 09954144987/ 09694559428

Bureau of Fire Protection-Burauen: 09676636100

Burauen District Hospital: (053) 332 2705

Burauen MPS-PNP Station: 09985986488/ mps.burauen@gmail.com

MVNP Emergency Response Team: 09611783329

Barangay Mahagnao Emergency Contact:

## **Annex A- Technical Working Group (TWG) Review Checklist**

This checklist is a tool for the TWG to make sure every research proposal is complete, useful for the Protected Area (PA), and does not duplicate ongoing or past studies.

### **I. Basic Document Requirements**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Verified</b>
Proposal is in the required format	<input type="checkbox"/>
Endorsement letter from the institution is attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Gratuitous Permit application is attached (if sampling is needed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Application and researcher information form are complete and signed	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **II. Relevance to the Protected Area**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Verified</b>
Research supports the goals of the PA, such as biodiversity conservation or sustainable use	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expected results can help improve PA management or add to scientific knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposal does not go against existing PA policies	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **III. Quality of the Proposal**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Verified</b>
Objectives are clear and specific	<input type="checkbox"/>
Methods are appropriate and well explained	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sampling design and data collection methods are adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timeline is realistic and achievable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research team has the right expertise and experience	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **IV. Environmental and Community Concerns**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Verified</b>
Activities will not cause significant disturbance to habitats or species	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to core zones or sensitive sites is justified and approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan to involve or inform local communities (e.g., courtesy calls, hiring local guides) is in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fieldwork risks and safety measures are well considered	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **V. Duplication Check**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Verified</b>
Proposal has been compared with entries in the PA Research Repository	<input type="checkbox"/>
No duplication of existing studies unless for long-term monitoring or justified follow-up research	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **VI. Data and Output Commitments**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Verified</b>
Researcher commits to submit a final technical report, raw data, and photo documentation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data-sharing terms or acknowledgments are clear	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan for proper authorship and recognition of the PA is provided	<input type="checkbox"/>

**VII. TWG Decision**

<b>Decision</b>	
Recommended for approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recommended for revision (state reasons)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not recommended (state reasons)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reviewer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Review: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex B- Application and Researcher Information Form (Google Form)**

### **Instruction:**

This form must be completed and signed by the principal researcher and submitted together with the research proposal. Incomplete forms may delay the review and approval process.

### **A. General Information**

Title of Research Proposal	
Type of Research ( <i>Non-invasive / Sampling-based / Commercial or High-impact</i> )	
Proposed Duration (Start and End Dates)	
Purpose of the Study	
Remarks (if any)	

### **B. Principal Researcher Information**

Full Name	
Position / Designation	
Institution / Organization	
Address	
Contact Number	
Email Address	
Signature and Date	

### **C. Research Team Members**

Name	Role/Responsibility	Institution	Contact No.	Email	Signature

### **D. Site and Methodology**

Proposed Study Sites / Areas	
Methodology Overview	
Expected Outputs ( <i>e.g., reports, datasets, publications</i> )	

### **E. Permits and Endorsements**

Requirement	Status (Yes/No)	Reference No. / Date
Institutional Endorsement Letter (if applicable)		
Wildlife Gratuitous Permit (if applicable)		

### **F. Researcher Acknowledgment**

I certify that the information provided in this form is true and correct. I understand that any false information or failure to comply with the Protected Area (PA) guidelines may lead to revocation of clearance or other applicable sanctions.

Name & Signature of Principal Researcher  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ANNEX C – Ethical Standards Checklist (for TWG)**

- a. Objectivity (bias minimization)
- b. Transparency (full disclosure for evaluation)
- c. Accountability (roles, responsibilities)
- d. Intellectual Property (no plagiarism, proper credit)
- e. Confidentiality (data protection)
- f. Social Responsibility (mitigate social harm)
- g. Non-discrimination
- h. Competence (team qualifications)
- i. Legality (policy compliance)
- j. Wildlife Protection (least-harm, appropriate methods)

## **ANNEX D – Terms and Conditions for Research Clearance**

*This Terms and Conditions forms an integral part of the MVNP Research Clearance. By signing, the parties agree to the following:*

1. **Authority & Validity.** Issued under the authority of MVNP-PAMB pursuant to RA 11038 and IRR (DAO 2019-05). Valid only for the approved title, objectives, team, methods, sites, and schedule.
2. **Compliance.** The researcher shall comply with all applicable laws and MVNP Guidelines, including RA 9147, PD 705, RA 11038, and pertinent DENR issuances.
3. **Permits.** Prior to fieldwork, secure all necessary permits (e.g., Wildlife Gratuitous Permit (WGP) for sampling-based activities, aviation clearances for drones, LGU/agency permits) and present copies to PAMO. For studies requiring a WGP, all Terms and Conditions of said permit are hereby incorporated into and made integral to this Research Clearance. Any breach of WGP stipulations shall constitute a breach of this Clearance and shall subject the proponent to applicable sanctions.
4. **Access & Escorts.** Entry into core/sensitive zones requires specific authorization. PAMO may assign guides/escorts when warranted for safety/protection.
5. **Safety & Risk Management.** The researcher is responsible for team safety, first-aid readiness, and emergency coordination. Report incidents to PAMO within 24 hours.
6. **Minimal Impact.** Minimize disturbance; restore any site alteration as directed by PAMO.
7. **Specimen.** Follow authorized taxa, quantities, and methods. PASu shall verify collected materials prior to transport.
8. **Transport/Export & Ownership.** Follow DENR rules. No export without permits. Biological specimens remain property of the Philippine Government; taxonomic consignments routed via Philippine Herbarium and returned.
9. **Data & Deliverables.** Within 60 days after fieldwork, submit final report/manuscript, raw data (CSV/Excel), and photo documentation. For medium-/long-term studies, deliver annual progress updates/presentations to PAMB and a final presentation of results and key findings at a regular/special meeting.
10. **Attribution.** Acknowledge MVNP/PAMO, local guides, and contributors. Substantial contributions warrant co-authorship consistent with scholarly norms.
11. **Confidentiality & Sensitive Information.** Treat precise locations of sensitive sites as confidential; public posting requires prior consent from PAMO/PAMB.
12. **Community Engagement.** Observe proper courtesy with LGUs/barangays and prioritize local hiring for guides/porters.
13. **Incidental Findings.** Report suspected illegal activities and injured/sick wildlife encountered during fieldwork; facilitate safe turn-over to accredited rescue centers where practicable.
14. **Monitoring & Access.** PAMO shall conduct spot checks; accommodate reasonable site visits and submit progress reports when requested.
15. **Fees & Records.** Fees are due prior to clearance release and are non-refundable. Official Receipts issued by the authorized Collecting Officer.
16. **Breach & Sanctions.** Violations may result in suspension/revocation, blacklisting, and/or legal action, without prejudice to damages or administrative remedies.
17. **Dispute Resolution.** Disputes shall be elevated first to the PAMB for administrative resolution without prejudice to legal remedies.
18. **Cooperation with Monitoring & Reporting.** The Proponent agrees to coordinate with PAMO/TWG for monitoring, support the Annual Research Compliance & Status Report with timely updates, deliver annual progress updates (for medium/long-term studies) and a final PAMB presentation, and submit presentation materials in advance as requested by the Secretariat/PAMO.

## **SIGNATURES**

For the Research Proponent:

Name & Signature of Principal Researcher  
Affiliation / Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
— and, if applicable —

Name & Signature of Authorized Institutional Representative  
Designation / Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_

For MVNP-PAMB:

PAMB Chairperson (or Authorized Representative)  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Protected Area Superintendent (PASu), by authority of the PAMB  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_

PAMO Control No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
O.R. Nos.: \_\_\_\_\_ (Application / Research Fees)

**Witnesses:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Include Acknowledgment/Notarial block as required.)

## **ANNEX E – Certification of Research Clearance Scope and Endorsement (Template)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Protected Area Management Office  
Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park  
Brgy. Mahagnao, Burauen, Leyte



MVNP-PAMO Reference No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
To: \_\_\_\_\_ (DENR PENRO/CENRO/Regional Office)  
Cc: \_\_\_\_\_ (LGU/s, Barangay/s, Landowner/s)

This is to certify that [Name of Proponent / Institution] holds MVNP Research Clearance No. \_\_\_ (dated \_\_\_\_\_) for the study titled “ \_\_\_\_\_” covering field activities within Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park (MVNP). The study involves species movement/telemetry which may indicate routes outside MVNP.

In view of the foregoing, the MVNP-PAMB/PAMO endorses the proponent's coordination with your office for any external activities that may require permitting under RA 9147 and its IRR (e.g., Wildlife Gratuitous Permit coverage amendment, Local Transport Permit, and other authorizations as may be necessary), as well as LGU/barangay permissions. Kindly take appropriate action.

Issued upon request of the proponent for permitting/coordination purposes.

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PAMB Chairman (or Authorized Rep)

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PASu, by authority of the PAMB

## ANNEX F. MVNP RESEARCH CLEARANCE (issued by the Technical Working Group)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Protected Area Management Office  
Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park  
Brgy. Mahagnao, Burauen, Leyte



### MAHAGNAO VOLCANO NATURAL PARK RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR NON-INVASIVE RESEARCH

MVNP Research Clearance No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Proponent / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Research: Non-Invasive (No Specimen Collection / No Handling)

Approved Duration: \_\_\_\_\_

This research clearance authorizes the conduct of the study within Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park (MVNP). The study is confirmed to involve no specimen collection, no wildlife handling, no destructive sampling, and no activity that may cause harm to the environment. The proponent is permitted to implement the study only within the approved locations, methods, and schedule indicated in the evaluated proposal.

#### Conditions

1. Coordinate with MVNP-PAMO and concerned LGUs/barangays prior to fieldwork.
2. The study shall remain strictly non-invasive; collection or handling of any wildlife or specimen is not allowed.
3. Activities must avoid disturbance and must not cause harm to the environment or sensitive habitats.
4. Submit a Final Report, raw data, and photo documentation within 60 days after fieldwork completion.
5. Present results to the PAMB when scheduled by the Secretariat.

Issued by

Protected Area Superintendent (PASu)

*By authority of the MVNP Technical Working Group*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### PROPOSER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge receipt of this clearance and agree to comply with all conditions for non-invasive research.

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Name & Signature of Principal Researcher

Date: \_\_\_\_\_