# Code of Conduct for contributors

## Code of Conduct for researchers contributing articles to *Oryx – The International Journal of Conservation*

*Oryx* is concerned above all with the conservation of wild species. It is essential, therefore, that all those who contribute articles to the journal adhere to the highest ethical and legal standards in the field. In particular:

1. All research must have the necessary approvals and permits from appropriate institutions and statutory authorities in both the host country and the researchers' country of origin (if different).

2. Any intellectual property rights on data and results obtained from the research must be managed within the legal requirements of the host country and be shared fairly among the participants, especially those from the host country. Such arrangements should be formalized prior to initiating the research through prior informed consent by the host country and institutes. Research should not infringe local rights in intellectual property.

3. *Oryx* recognizes the importance of capacity building as an important component of conservation activity, as well as the importance of full involvement by all stakeholders in research activity. Therefore, we recommend that:
   - any social, anthropological or ethnobiological research should follow the highest standards of research ethics;
   - researchers should confirm that their research conforms to the standards set out by a reputable source, such as the guidelines developed by the British Sociological Association, which are based on the ethical codes produced by the American Sociological Association, the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth and the Social Research Association (www.britsoc.org.uk/about/ethic.htm).

4. Any research undertaken in a foreign country should, wherever possible, be based on active collaboration with appropriately qualified and experienced individuals from the host country. One objective of the research should be, where necessary, to enhance the capacity of scientific and technical staff in the host country.
   - Copies of any reports and publications resulting from the research shall routinely be provided to all relevant institutions in the country where the research is being undertaken. Wherever appropriate researchers from the host country should be included as co-authors of all relevant publications.
   - Where appropriate, the results of research should be reported back to relevant local and national organizations.
   - Where research involves fieldwork in areas occupied by people, or affects species or ecosystems within which people have *de facto* or *de jure* tenure rights or cultural connections, it should be carried out in a way that respects local beliefs, economic and cultural interests, and rights.
   - Where relevant, research should involve the participation of local partners, and should have regard for the enhancement of local capacity to understand and manage ecosystems and populations.

5. Field researchers should adopt the highest precautionary standards to avoid the accidental introduction and distribution of invasive and pathogenic organisms.

6. Researchers are encouraged to adopt existing IUCN/SSC guidelines (e.g. reintroductions and invasive organisms) as a framework for professional procedure and are encouraged to design their studies and research to match the research and management needs stated in SSC Action Plans and National Biodiversity Action Plans.

7. Research on species should where possible be non-intrusive, but it is recognized that responsible collection of data by intrusive means may be necessary in some cases. Moreover, useful research can be conducted using specimens taken or killed by others (for example, as part of wildlife management operations). The following guidelines for the treatment of individual specimens should be followed.

(a) In cases where specimens are collected and/or killed by the researcher:
   - data collection involving the killing of an organism should only take place when such collection is essential to the scientific integrity of the research being undertaken;
   - the number of specimens collected should be the absolute minimum required for research integrity;



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- the specimens collected should not be of species that appear on national or international lists of threatened species unless they are necessary for the purposes of research aimed at enhancing their conservation. In such cases, the researchers must have the appropriate permits from the relevant statutory authority.

(b) In cases where information is collected from specimens that have been killed by others:

- if data collection makes use of existing game control, hunting or harvesting operations, it should take place in such as way that no additional mortality occurs as a result of the research, either directly or indirectly (e.g. through increased demand).

8. Animal capture and handling techniques should conform to the highest standards of animal welfare. If animals are to be killed they must be killed humanely. Researchers should confirm that they have followed a code of conduct from a reputable source, such as that developed by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour and the Animal Behaviour Society – see Dawkins & Gosling (1992) *Ethics in Research on Animal Behaviour*, Academic Press, London or *Animal Behaviour* (2000) **59**, 253–257 (www.academicpress.com/anbehav).

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