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GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME

APPROVAL

The Uganda Wildlife Authority Board of Trustees approved these guidelines for accessing the UWA research grants for implementation at its sitting on ………..day …………….. 2020

Dr. Pantaleon Kasoma Mukasa  Sam Mwandha
Chairman, Board of Trustees  Executive Director
Uganda Wildlife Authority  Uganda Wildlife Authority
UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

PART 1: BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is mandated to manage wildlife and the wildlife protected areas in Uganda. UWA’s mission statement is “To conserve, economically develop and sustainably manage the wild-life and Protected Areas of Uganda in partnership with neighbouring communities and other stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global com- munity”.

UWA has a Strategic Plan (2020/21-2024/25) that outlines a num- ber of stra- tegic programmes which were developed to enable UWA address issues that affect the sustainability of wildlife management. Research and Monitoring is one of the strategic programmes articu- lated in the Strategic Plan for purpos- es of facilitating generation of data and information for effective conservation and management of wildlife and protected areas in the country. Research and Monitoring strategic programme is also intended to support tourism de- velopment undertakings as indicated in the National Development Plan (NDP III, 2020/21 – 2024/25). The implementation of the Research and Monitoring strategic programme is guided by the UWA Monitor- ing and Research Policy (1999), the National Wildlife Research Agenda (2019 - 2029) and the Wildlife Policy Implementation Plan (2016/2017 – 2025/2026).

The overall goal of the UWA Monitoring and Research Policy is “To pro- vide relevant, accurate and timely information that will improve the ca- pacity of UWA to conserve and sustainably manage wildlife resources and biodiver- sity inside and outside Protected Areas under its juris-diction for the benefit of the present and future generations of Ugan-dans and the global commu- nity”. The policy seeks recognition of the monitoring and research function in providing information to wildlife managers and policy makers. The policy outlines the importance of data management, the benefits of resources/in-
formation sharing, and the need for collaboration with partners in delivering the research agenda.

As one of the strategies to achieve the above mentioned policy goal, the monitoring and research policy underscores the need to support and undertake monitoring and research to answer key management and conservation questions.

1.2 UWA MONITORING AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

UWA’s research priorities have been drawn to address the organization’s mandate of conservation and development under four main themes: **Ecology**: The key elements under this theme are wildlife migrations, distribution, population dynamics, vegetation/food resources (evaluation of ecosystem services), impact of invasive species and climate change on biodiversity, fire (impact of fire and its management on wildlife), and disease (epidemiological surveys of major diseases affecting wildlife/domestic stock).

**Biodiversity**: This theme focuses on biodiversity inventories (general vegetation mapping, mapping and inventory of invasive species, species diversity, abundance and richness).

**Socio-economics**: The theme gives a reflection on communities and their interaction with wildlife. The main areas under this theme include the human-wildlife interface (impact of wildlife on community livelihoods, human encroachment on wildlife habitats and resettlement), benefit-sharing (potential for resource-sharing in protected areas, and use of traditional knowledge in sustainable management of wildlife), and the political landscape and dynamics.

**Impact of Development and policies**: This theme discusses the implication of the various developments and policies on wildlife conservation. Programmes such as tourism management (impact of tourism on wildlife and their habitats, and the potential for developing tourism in and around
protected areas), existing policies and institutional frameworks (impact of policies on wildlife conservation, trans-boundary/ national conservation, types of land-uses surrounding protected areas), and use rights and trade (effect of trade on wildlife species on conservation, potential and constraints of wildlife use outside protected areas) require research studies to provide guidance on how certain aspects in wildlife management could be handled.

1. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF UWA RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME

1. 3. 1 Problem statement

There are data gaps on the status of wildlife resources in Uganda despite the many researches which have been conducted within and outside protected areas. In view of the said gaps, there is limited understanding of the potential of wildlife resources and how best it could be managed to improve commu- nity livelihoods, contrib-ute to national economy and knowledge enhance- ment. The ex-istence of data gaps therefore hampers effective management of wildlife resources. With the above in mind, UWA has seen an urgent need for management-oriented research to aid the generation of information for management planning and formulation of wildlife conservation policies and strategies in the country. At the moment, the trends and distribution patterns of wildlife resources and the ecosystem services derived from the wildlife conservation areas are not well documented and understood. Like- wise, the econom-ic value of wildlife resources and wildlife habitats is also not known and documented. Little is also known about the abundance and dis- tribution of wildlife outside protected areas, the utilization of such resourc- es by local communities and the associated impacts of such utilization. The impact of tourism on wildlife resources and ecosystems is yet to be well un-

1 A formal arrangement put in place by UWA to facilitate funding support to eligible individual researchers, academicians and institutions as described under section 2.4 of these guidelines
derstood. UWA is also implementing a Wildlife Use Rights Program and the sustainability of this program such as trade in live animals need to be studied and understood. The impact of human activities, that include but not limited to developments within the wildlife habitats, encroachments on protected areas and wildlife corridors, increasing human population, land-use changes, inter-departmental policies and local and national politics, spread of invasive alien species, emerging and re-emerging wildlife diseases as well as climate change have not been fully studied and evaluated. In view of the above, it is important that the research and monitoring programme of the UWA Strategic Plan is implemented to address the said gaps as one way of achieving effective wildlife resource management.

1.3.2 Justification.
Most of the data/information that UWA is using in wildlife resource management have been largely generated through studies conducted by external researchers where most of the research topics are usually determined by the interests of the funders and may not necessarily address immediate UWA research priorities. For each financial year, UWA’s Monitoring and Research Unit is allocated some funds from internally generated revenues to facilitate the unit activities at operational level. Usually these funds are not sufficient to cover research priority needs for the organization. Having identified this shortcoming as one of the reasons why UWA’s research programme is not well developed, the UWA Board of Trustees established a Research Grant Scheme to avail financial resources for purposes of generating data/information that would guide decision-making in wildlife conservation and protected area management. The scheme is intended to support researchers to focus on UWA research priority areas. It is envisaged that the establishment of the Research Grant Scheme will attract complementary funding from donors, NGOs, individual researchers and research institutions. This framework will also foster the undertaking of applied research projects to answer
immediate UWA research questions and enhance information generation, publication, and application in the management of wildlife resources.

1.3.3 The Goal
To support management-oriented research and generate information required for effective wildlife conservation and protected area management.

1.3.4 Overall objective
To ensure timely undertaking of research studies to generate information for facilitating informed management decision-making, formulation of policies and strategies for effective wildlife resource management.

1.3.5 Specific objectives.
   a) To strengthen UWA’s research function to address critical biodiversity, ecological and ecosystem health gaps
   b) To support and ensure implementation of priority research projects for UWA
   c) To ensure availability of data and information needed to implement and evaluate management effectiveness.
   d) To contribute to knowledge enhancement and capacity building through supporting/ funding Ugandan-based students undertaking Masters and PhD studies, and individuals or institutions that are undertaking research which is in line with UWA research priorities.
   e) To fund or to complement other sources of funding to support researchers to undertake research that resonate with the information needs of UWA.
1.3. 6 Sources of funding for the Research Grant Scheme

The UWA Board will allocate funds every financial year from UWA’s internally generated revenues to support the scheme. The establishment of the Scheme also provides and framework and opportunity for donors, conservation partners, NGOs and individuals to contribute to the growth and implementation of UWA’s research agenda. The UWA Board may also fundraise or reach out to other institutions to source funds to support UWA’s research agenda. It should also be noted that the Research Grants Scheme is intended to complement, but not to replace, existing research funding mechanisms including those independent research projects being implemented by other institutions. The applicants to UWA Research Grants Scheme will be urged to explore all potential funding sources, including private organizations, government initiatives and consortia to secure complementary resources to co-fund their projects if such researches are not fully covered by the available UWA research funds.
PART 2: THE GUIDELINES

2.1. RATIONALE
Funding opportunities will be available for both basic and applied research so as to deepen knowledge and fill information gaps on wildlife conservation within and outside wildlife protected areas of Uganda. The UWA Research Grants Scheme is therefore intended to support researchers to carry out management-oriented research that will generate information needed for making informed decisions, and for formulation of management plans and policies. Based on UWA internally generated revenues as the initial sources of funds, the Research Grants Fund will have limited resources at the beginning. In this case, the fund will therefore be accessed on a competitive basis.

2.2. JUSTIFICATION OF THE GUIDELINES
These guidelines have been developed to outline the procedures for accessing funding from the UWA Research Grants Scheme.

2.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDELINES
a) To streamline the procedures of accessing funds from the UWA Research Grants Scheme.
b) To motivate qualified and eligible individuals and entities to undertake priority research on behalf of UWA.
c) To enhance data based decision making through well researched information.

2.4. ELIGIBILITY

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2 Financial resources set aside within the Annual budget of UWA from which research grants shall be drawn.
The funding from the Research Grants Scheme shall cover research projects that are designed to address management questions, inform management decisions, advance academic knowledge and promote better wildlife conservation interventions and approaches. The following persons and institutions shall be eligible to access the research grants from UWA:

a) Independent researchers, research institutions and NGOs wishing to undertake research projects in line with UWA research priorities.

b) Masters and PhD students, attached to accredited colleges or universities that are in need of funding for their research projects in line with UWA research priorities.

2.5 . SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH GRANTS

a) Medium and long term research project may be funded to the tune of UGX. 300,000,000/= (Three hundred million Uganda shillings).

b) PhD Students may be funded up to UGX 100,000,000/= (One hundred million Uganda shillings)

c) Masters Students may be funded up to UGX 50,000,000/= (Fifty million Uganda shillings).

d) The Research Grant shall cover:

e) Expendables necessary for field surveys; e.g. Laboratory tests and field equipment

f) Local travel expenses for field trips (accommodation, food and transportation)

g) Minimum labor costs necessary for research assistants and porters as well as student’s stipend.

h) Printing, publications and dissemination of research findings.

3 Researches that may take a period beyond a PhD, whose main aim may not necessarily be academic
i) The Research Grant **shall not** cover the following:

j) Tuition fee.

k) Salaries, purchase of laptops, tablets, vehicles and renting of office space.

l) Requests for retrospective funding of ongoing projects.

2.6. APPLICATION FOR THE RESEARCH GRANT

a) Every year, UWA shall call for applications through advertisement in Newspapers, on the notice boards of Universities, Conservation Areas, UWA headquarters and UWA website

b) Applicants shall be required to fill the UWA research application forms, attach a detailed research proposal and submit to it UWA Executive Director’s Office. The research application form is available at the UWA website [https://ugandawildlife.org/downloads/](https://ugandawildlife.org/downloads/) (annex 1).

c) In the case of students, applicants shall attach to their applications a letter of support from their respective universities and supervisors.

d) Independent researchers, research institutions and NGOs shall be required to compile a written report describing and quantifying their experience in undertaking research studies with appropriate references.

e) Independent researchers, research institutions and NGOs shall be required to provide 3 referees that can give their opinions about the applicant’s ability and capability to implement the proposed project and spend such funding with due responsibility and accountability. Referrees’ letters of recommendation shall be written on the institutions’ letterhead and signed by authorized officers.

f) Applicants shall include accurate and complete information regarding all other sources of funds inclusive of funding period and budget lines.
g) Funding requests shall be submitted in Uganda Shillings.

h) Research proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Director UWA by using the format and mailing address stipulated in the invitation for applications.

2.7. THE RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME VETTING COMMITTEE

UWA shall establish a Research Grants Scheme Vetting Committee to review the research proposals submitted for funding. The Committee shall also review the research reports and offer technical advice on a number of issues relevant to research undertakings. The Committee shall be composed of technical/qualified (Ph.D. or MSc) representatives appointed from the following institutions.

a) Uganda Wildlife Authority (Two representatives)
b) Uganda Wildlife and Research Training Institute (One representative)
c) Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (One representative)
d) Makerere University Biological Field Station (One representative).

Note:
- Technical person and institutions whose input is required will be co-opted.
- Attendance of the meetings of the vetting committee shall not be delegated.
2.8 . TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME VETTING COMMITTEE

UWA shall write to institutions outlined in Clause 2.7 above to nominate representatives to the Research Vetting Committee based on the required research expertise in various research disciplines. The nominated experts shall be formally appointed by UWA to the Grant Scheme Vetting Committee in their individual capacities. In undertaking their work, the Vetting Committee shall be guided by the following Terms of Reference:

a) Review the research proposals submitted for funding support and recommend them for funding under the UWA Research Grants Scheme.
b) Provide qualitative critique and quantitative scores for the applications and give recommendations to UWA management to make a final decision.
c) Provide technical advice to UWA for onward discussion with the successful applicants in the improvement of their research proposals for enhanced research results that are relevant to management of wildlife.
d) Assist in designing a standard format for report writing so that research findings are easily understood and implemented by UWA management and adopted by policy makers.
e) Provide technical advice to UWA on new advances in research methodologies.
f) Assist UWA to identify and interest experienced researchers in the relevant fields of UWA’s research priorities to carry out management-oriented research projects.
g) Deliberate and advise UWA on any other issues related to the implementation of the research programs/agenda in the organization.
h) Assist UWA to identify and interest potential donors to contribute funds to UWA Research Grant Scheme.
i) Generate research fundraising proposals for approval by UWA Board

j) Draft Research adverts/calls for proposals, for approval by UWA, that are tailored to the needs of UWA Research Agenda

k) Review the progress reports arising from research undertakings being supported by the UWA Research Grants Scheme to determine whether the researcher is in line with the expectations of the Organization

The Vetting Committee may co-opt any relevant expert to assist in the delivery of its mandate. Members of the vetting committee shall be required to declare their interest and excuse themselves from discussing research proposals that are submitted by their respective departments where they work.

2.9. APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

The Research Grants Vetting Committee shall use the following criteria to assess the applicants’ proposals:

a) Relevance of the proposed research to the overall UWA management goals and objectives

b) Scientific credibility of the proposed research

c) Technical feasibility of proposed research

d) Assessment of the significance of the research in addressing a critical research gap

e) Innovativeness (Novel approaches to solving a problem).

f) Relevance of the proposed research results to UWA management objectives and research questions

g) Ability to complete the research within the time frame stipulated in the research contract.

4 This applies to colleges and departments in a University, UWRTI, UNCST and MAAIF
2.10 . FEEDBACK TO THE APPLICANT

a) The award process will be a transparent procedure to ensure non-discrimination of any applicant.

b) Applicants will be notified in writing within a period of one month after proposal vetting regarding the status of their application.

c) Both the successful applicants and those not successful shall be notified accordingly.

d) The successful applicants may be invited for a discussion of their proposals if such proposals may require enhancement for better results.

e) Successful applicants shall be required to sign a UWA Research Grants Contract (Annex 2) after an agreed position is reached on the proposed research.

f) The successful applicant shall start the research within 2 months after receiving the first advance of the grant funds.

2.11 . DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

Disbursement of funds shall be phased as stipulated in the research contract and shall be transferred on researcher’s bank account through electronic transfer. Successful applicants shall therefore be required to provide the details of their bank account.

2.12 . ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE FUNDS

The researcher shall account for the funds in accordance with as the guidance that will be stipulated in the research contract
2.13 . DELIVERABLES

The following shall be the deliverables for all research grant recipients;

a) Quarterly progress reports about the research being under-taken.

b) A detailed fnal report (in both soft and 3 hard copies) based on the structure under Annex 3 with relevant photographs, maps and other illustrations.

c) A copy of fnal approved thesis in case of students.

d) A summary report highlighting key fndings and recommen-dations.

e) A paper ready to be submitted for international peer-review by a sci- entifc journal. Such a paper shall acknowledge UWA and her Intellec-tual Property Rights as well as allowing free use of the same by UWA.

2.14 . OBLIGATIONS OF UWA

a) Allocate funds every fnancial year from internally generated revenues to the Research Grants Scheme.

b) Mobilization of funds for the Research Grants Scheme from external sources.

c) Identify and advertise UWA priority research projects to be funded.

d) Call applications for UWA Research Grants available every year.

e) Receive and compile applications for review and vetting by Research Grants Scheme Committee.

f) Be the secretariat for the Research Grants Scheme Vetting Commit- tee.

g) Monitor implementation progress of the approved research projects and ensure that the grant recipients are compliant to the terms and conditions of the research grant.

h) Where appropriate supervise collection of samples.

i) Appointment of the Research Grants Scheme Vetting Committee.
2.15 . OBLIGATIONS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

a) Signing a research contract with UWA.
b) Execute the research in accordance to the approved proposal and the signed contract.
c) Submitting detailed quarterly progress reports on field data collection, data analysis, report writing and financial reports.
d) Ensure compliance to the terms of reference of the research contract.
e) Allow UWA to use the research report without any encumbrances.
ANNEX.I: ANNEX 1 RESEARCH APPLICATION FORM

UWA RESEARCH APPLICATION FORM
Uganda Wildlife Authority
Plot 7, Kira Road, Kamwokya,
P.O Box 3530
KAMPALA.

The research application shall be submitted in duplicate to UWA’s Executive Director. The forms shall be submitted at least 2 months before the intended starting date of the research together with a non-refundable application fee. Please attach a detailed proposal, a copy of your CV, an introductory letter from the institution of affiliation and 2 passport size photos.

All researchers shall submit reports to UWA at regular intervals as shall be specified in the approval license, plus a final report at the end of the research. Please note that researchers are required by law to get clearance from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology after approval from UWA.

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### METHODOLOGY, DURATION, BUDGET ETC

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GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME

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REPORTING

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ANNEX.II: RESEARCH CONTRACT

THE CONTRACTS ACT, 2010

RESEARCH GRANT CONTRACT

This Agreement is made between the UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY (UWA) of P. O. Box 3530 Kampala (hereinafter referred to as “the Authority”) on one part and ...............................................................
of address ....................................................................... (hereinafter referred to as “the Researcher”) WHEREAS the researcher is desirous of benefiting from the UWA Research Grant Scheme to carry out wild-life-based research. AND WHEREAS the Authority has approved the research to be undertaken and has agreed to fund the said research on the terms and conditions as contained herein.

IT IS NOW AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1: Research Area

a) The Researcher shall undertake research in the areas as approved by the Authority and utilize the funds provided for the sole purpose of undertaking the approved research.
UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

Article 2: Grant funds
a) The researcher shall be granted a total UGX to be used for purposes of undertaking the research as approved by the Authority.
b) The funds shall be disbursed to the researcher quarterly upon presentation of a progress report, accountability of funds disbursed the previous quarter and a written request by the researcher.

Article 3: Period
a) The said research shall run for a period of commencing on the day when the last signature is appended onto this agreement.
b) The researcher shall immediately refund all funds advanced by the Authority if the approved research is not concluded within the approved period.
c) The Authority may approve an extension of the research period, where the researcher requests in writing giving justifiable reasons for an extension.
d) The researcher shall submit quarterly technical and financial reports to the Authority on the progress of the research, which reports shall be the basis for further release of funds.
e) The researcher shall submit a detailed progress report after Months/ Years to the Authority and shall at the completion of the research submit a final report which shall include the analyzed data, findings and recommendations.

Article 4: Collection of specimen
a) The researcher shall make a written request to the Authority before any wildlife specimen is collected, taken or used in any research being undertaken. Such application shall be made to the Executive Director of
the Authority and shall indicate the exact need for the specimens and the number and categories of specimens required.

b) The researcher shall not hunt, collect, take, kill or injure any wild plant or animal or any part or a derivative thereof and shall not collect, take or use any specimen without the prior written approval of the Executive Director of the Authority.

c) The researcher shall exercise a high level of professionalism and integrity expected of a researcher and shall not be involved in any actions that may put the Authority to disrepute.

Article 5: Representation and Publicity

a) Neither Party shall use the name of the other Party in any publicity, advertising, news release or other media without the other Party’s prior written approval.

b) Neither party shall represent the other in any undertaking or use its mark or sign for any representation without prior written approval.

Article 6: Confidentiality

a) The researcher shall maintain strict confidentiality of all Confidential Information disclosed by the Authority Party during the research period.

b) The researcher shall not use, disclose nor grant use of such Confidential Information except as expressly authorized by this Research Agreement.

c) To the extent that disclosure is authorized by this Research Agreement, the disclosing Party will obtain prior agreement and make sure that the information is not used for any purpose other than those permitted by this Research Agreement.

d) Each Party will use the same standard of care as such party uses to protect such Party’s own Confidential Information to ensure non-disclosure or any unauthorized use.
e) Each Party will promptly notify the other Party upon discovery of any unauthorized use or disclosure of the Confidential Information.

f) Each party will have the right to disclose the Confidential Information to the extent such disclosure is reasonably necessary to protect intellectual property, prosecuting or defending litigation, or complying with applicable laws, statutes, rules, governmental orders and regulations; provided, however, that if such Party is required to make any such disclosure of Confidential Information, such party will to the extent practicable give reasonable advance written notice to the other Party and, except to the extent inappropriate in the case of protecting intellectual property, will use such Party’s best efforts to secure confidential treatment of such information required to be

Article 7: Intellectual Property

a) All right, title and interest in and to all intellectual property, conceived or developed jointly while undertaking the research shall be jointly owned by both Parties.

b) Neither party shall license such jointly owned Intellectual Property without the prior written consent of the other party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

c) For the avoidance of doubt, the researcher shall be authorized to use the intellectual property in the research developed for academic purposes.

Article 8: Discontinuation of the Research Grant

The Authority reserves a right to terminate continuation of the research grant where the researcher violates any terms of this agreement or gets involved in circumstances that bring disrepute to the organization.
Article 9: Dispute Resolution and Termination

a) Either Party may terminate this Research Agreement upon forty-five (45) calendar days prior written notice to the other Party.

b) If a dispute arises between the Parties relating to the interpretation or performance of this Research Agreement or the grounds for termination thereof, and the Parties cannot resolve the dispute within ten (10) calendar days of a written request by either Party to the other Party, the Parties agree to hold a meeting, attended by individuals with decision making authority regarding the dispute, to attempt in good faith to negotiate a resolution of the dispute prior to pursuing termination or other available remedies, legal or otherwise.

c) A Party may terminate this Research Agreement prior to the expiration of the Contract period upon or after a material breach of any provision of this Research Agreement by the other Party if the breaching Party has not cured such material breach within thirty (30) calendar days after written notice thereof by the non-breaching Party.

d) Termination of this Research Agreement by either Party for any reason will not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties that accrued prior to the effective date of termination.

e) Where the termination is initiated by the researcher or owing to the researcher’s default, the Authority shall be entitled to recover any funds advanced to the researcher and claim for any damages occasioned by the default.

Article 10: Governing Law

This agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Uganda.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the parties hereto have set their hands, hereunto on the day and year above mentioned.
UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

Signed for and on behalf of Uganda Wildlife Authority on this ...............................  
Day of............................ 20..........

............................................................ ............................................................
Name ....................................................... For executive Director (UWA)

In the presence of

............................................................ ............................................................
Name .......................................................... Witness

For and on behalf of the Researcher

............................................................ ............................................................
Name .......................................................... Witness

In the presence of

............................................................ ............................................................
Name .......................................................... Witness
ANNEI.III: RESEARCH PROPOSAL CONTENTS.
A research proposal aims to present the researcher’s idea or question and the expected outcomes with clarity and definition. It also seeks to make a case as to why the researcher’s question is significant and the value it will add to the stock knowledge. The proposal must contain the following elements:

a) Title; The title should clearly indicate what the proposed research is about. It should clearly represent the research idea and should have a single interpretation, and the format should be in accordance with the Guidelines for Masters Research and Dissertation.

b) Technical Abstract; The researcher briefly or clearly summarizes what the research is about. Key aspects of what will be investigated as well as the expected outcomes are outlined. In this section the researcher briefly covers the what, why and the how.

c) Introduction; In this section, the researcher discusses the meaningfulness of the issues to be investigated, and the expected outcome. In brief, this section should include the historical, theoretical, conceptual, and contextual perspectives of the research topic.

d) Conceptual framework; Conceptual Framework is an intermediate theory that connects all aspects of an inquiry from the problem statement, through objectives, research questions/hypothesis, literature review, methodology, data collection, to analysis. It is used to clarify concepts and propose relationships among the concepts in a study, and provide a context for interpreting the study findings or explaining observations. It explains either graphically or in narrative form the key factors, constructs or variables to be studied and the presumed relationships among them.

e) Statement of the Problem; Here the researcher will give a concise description of the issues that need to be addressed. Statement is more
specific than a topic and states what will be studied, whether it will be done through quantitative or qualitative investigation and what the purpose of the findings will be.

f) Objectives; objectives summarize what is to be achieved by the research or study. Objectives are the targets and desired outcomes of work to be achieved within the expected time frame and with the available resources. Objectives should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic or Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART).

g) Justification of the study; under this section the researcher states the rationale for the research or the reason why the research should be done.

h) Significance of the study; this is the part where the researcher explains how the research would be beneficial to wildlife conservation, specific people or to part of society and how the beneficiaries could use the findings.

i) Review of the Literature; under this section the researcher gives an evaluative report of the information found in written documents about the ideas and views that have been established on a topic to help the researcher to identify the difference between what has been done and research at hand.

j) Research questions and/or Hypotheses; through research question the researcher identifies the phenomena to be investigated by carrying out the proposed study. A Hypothesis is a focused statement about an expected relationship between two variables through tests.

k) Scope of study; This section covers;

i. Contextual scope – clearly define the issues to be covered

ii. Spatial scope – location and space the research will cover

iii. Temporal Scope – the period of the research and the duration

iv. Logistic scope – the required resources must be available
l) **The Design Methods and Procedures:** A researcher is expected to give an overview of the methodology and techniques that will be used to conduct the research. Which materials and equipment that will be used and highlighting why choosing a particular methodology, detailing its own merits, but also why others may not be as suitable.

m) **Limitations:** Challenges, risks and assumptions.

n) **Work plan and budget:** A work plan indicates the feasibility of completion within the time frame. Budget gives an indication of how realistic the research proposal is in terms of financial requirements. e.g. All other necessary approvals