



**Ascension Island Government
Environmental and Non-Environmental Activity
Permitting Policy**

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1. Background

The Ascension Island Government (AIG) is committed to supporting individuals and organisations intending to engage in activities including research, commercial filming, and photography on Ascension Island.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to establish a coordinated permitting framework for environmental and non-environmental activities on Ascension Island, and provide a framework to protect Ascension's natural and human environment, prevent duplication of effort, ensure responsible access to sensitive sites, and support knowledge generation benefiting Ascension's community, environment, and wildlife.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Environmental and Non-Environmental Activity Permitting Guidance Notes*. This document is regularly updated to outline the operational and practical requirements to obtain activity permits and engage in intended activities on Ascension Island.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all off-island external individuals or organisations intending to obtain a permit to conduct on-island activities, including research, commercial filming, or photography. This policy does not apply to photography or filming for non-commercial or personal use, or for recreational fishing.

4. Definitions

Research:

Any structured activity undertaken to collect data, conduct experiments, undertake monitoring, or evaluate environmental, cultural, social, or physical conditions. Includes academic and private-sector studies.

Commercial Filming:

The recording of motion images for sale, promotion, broadcast, advertising, monetised online content, or other profit-driven purposes, regardless of crew size or production scale.

Commercial Photography:

Still photography produced for commercial sale, advertising, promotional use, product marketing, or any activity intended to generate revenue or commercial exposure.

5. Permit Types

AIG issues two types of permits:

a. Environmental Activity Permit (EAP)

Required for any activity interacting with the natural, physical, or human environment. Activities involving protected species also require a Protected Wildlife Activity Licence, issued through the EAP process. This includes: environmental research and monitoring, commercial filming/photography involving environmental subjects, and other activities that may affect wildlife or habitats.

b. Non-Environmental Activity Permit (NEAP)

Required for external individuals or organisations carrying out activities on-island, including research and monitoring, commercial filming/photography, that do not directly interfere with or are considered low-impact upon the environment.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- The AIG Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) reviews EAP applications, issues decisions, and enforces environmental safeguards.
- Administrator's Office reviews and issues NEAP applications.
- The Administrator reviews and has final decision on all appeals.
- Applicants must comply with all permit conditions, reporting requirements, data-sharing obligations, and relevant legislation.

7. Decision-Making and Timelines

EAP and NEAP decisions will be issued within two weeks of submission. Applications may be approved, amended, or declined based on the information provided. Declined applicants may appeal to the Administrator, who has final say on permitting permissions.

8. Fees

- Environmental Activity Permit (EAP): £250
- Non-Environmental Activity Permit (NEAP): £250
- Conservation staff time for activities in protected areas: set by AIGCFD
- Fees may only be waived with written approval from the Administrator.

9. E-Visa Entry Requirements

In addition to activity permits, all applicants must meet the *Entry Control Ordinance, 2017* requirements and obtain the appropriate entry permit:

- Business Visitor permit for commercial filming/photography
- Scientific/Research Visitor permit for research activities

10. Environmental Protection Obligations

Applicants must follow the *Environmental and Non-Environmental Activity Permitting Guidance Notes* document to accurately apply for an activity permit.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure minimal environmental impact, and thorough implementation of mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the

Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 2013, any relevant CITES obligations. Additionally, the applicant must be compliant with all relevant biosecurity regulations and import restrictions, including required approvals for exporting samples or materials.

11. Military and Restricted Site Activities

Any proposals involving activities on or near sensitive military sites or installations must obtain clearance from the Commander Ascension Island Base (CAIB) and the US Installation Commander during the assessment process. Such clearance is required in addition to EAP or NEAP approval and may affect processing timelines.

12. Reporting and Data Sharing

As a condition of the permit, applicants must provide a completed project report, copies of all publications and theses, and any original datasets upon request, under agreed access controls. These documents must be provided within one month of completion.

13. Enforcement

Misleading information, non-compliance, or violations of this policy may result in permit revocation or future denial.

14. Policy Renewal

AIG's Policy Officer and Director of Conservation and Fisheries are responsible for the maintenance and review of this policy, which will be reviewed every three years or earlier if legislation or organisational needs change.