RESEARCH REGISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Informative session on current processes & requirements

Leah Nawegulo
Uganda National Council for Science &
Technology
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Introduction

• Regulatory oversight is a procedure undertaken by statutory bodies to ensure that ethical and scientific standards, institutional requirements are maintained and guidelines observed before, during and after the conduct of research

REGULATORY BACKGROUND-UNCST

• UNCST is a semi-autonomous government agency established in 1990 (CAP 209 of the laws of Uganda to:

Develop and implement strategies for integrating S & T into national development process

Provide advice to government on policy matters necessary for advancing S & T

Oversee and coordinate research and development activities in Uganda

RESEARCH OVERSIGHT BY UNCST

In executing specific function relating to R & D,

UNCST liaises with Research Secretariat Office of the President to clear researchers to undertake projects in Uganda

other relevant agencies with research in wildlife, environment, climate change, conservation, human-wildlife conflict....

- -Ministry departments e.g. MTTI
- -Uganda Wildlife Authority
- -National Forestry Authority
- -Uganda Museum
- -University departments....

GENERAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNCST

Research proposal & all data collection tools and support documents

MTA documents (where applicable)

UNCST/RC 1 form (Principal Investigator)

RS 6 form in triplicate (Principal Investigator & co-researchers)

• 4 passport photographs (research team)

GENERAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNCST-CONT'D

Relevant documents-CVs for team leader

Ethics approval letter – for all research involving humans as research participants

- -agency approvals (where applicable)
- -Institutional support letter
- -Recommendations e.g. from sponsors

Research fee

Ref: www.uncst.go.ug

RESEARCH MONITORING

• The systematic assessment of the conduct of a particular research to enable review of its compliance with applicable regulations and laws.

Main issues of focus during monitoring

- To ensure compliance with protocol and regulatory requirements
- Identifying instances of good practice that can be used as examples to others.
- Discuss mechanisms of addressing challenges identified

MONITORING MECHANISMS

- Approval (1 year)- renewable
 - Progress report
- On-site monitoring/dissemination meetings
- Independent monitoring
 - -Investigator driven (Standard operating procedures)
 - -UNCST monitoring (may be announced or unannounced
 - -Collaborative monitoring with other agencies

Areas of focus may include:

- Proof of Regulatory Approvals (UNCST/NFA/ UWA/...
- Proof of support letters from relevant departments/ academic institutions
- Protocol and relevant documents
- plan on Dissemination of Results findings
- Study management and Team meetings
- Staff training aspects
- Study progress/ changes
- Standard Operating procedures
- MoUs/ Agreements (collaborative research)

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Giving feedback (positive/negative)
- Cases of regulatory deficiencies immediately addressed
- Report is communicated by UNCST
- Investigator makes a response within specified time frame

Issues to consider

- Networking (aspects of data sharing, best practices)
- Research in humans (human-wildlife conflict, human perspectives)- ethical issues/approval from Institutional Review Committees-

ref: National Guidelines for research involving humans as research participants (2007)