



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



Guide for applying to conduct scientific research in Christmas Island National Park and Pulu Keeling National Park

Christmas Island National Park

☎ +61 (08) 9164 8700
Fax +61 (08) 9164 8755
✉ christmasislandnp@environment.gov.au
✉ PO Box 867 Christmas Island
INDIA OCEAN 6798

Pulu Keeling National Park

☎ +61 (08) 9162 6678
Fax +61 (08) 9162 6680
✉ pulukeelingnationalpark@environment.gov.au
✉ PO Box 1043 Cocos (Keeling) Island
INDIA OCEAN 6799

Please address your permit application to the Natural Resource Manager, Christmas Island National Park

Introduction

This guide outlines the process and requirements for applying to conduct research in Christmas Island National Park (CINP) and Pulu Keeling National Park (PKNP). This guide will also help you determine whether your scientific research may require other permits.

CINP and PKNP are Commonwealth reserves under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Internationally recognised for their unique ecosystems and wildlife endemic to the Islands, the reserves attract researchers from around the world. The parks and surrounding land and waters are Commonwealth areas for the purposes of the EPBC Act.

You will need a permit or approval to carry out scientific research in these Commonwealth reserves. The application form can be found at: www.environment.gov.au/resource/researchers-4.

This form can be used to apply for a permit to:

- conduct scientific research in these Commonwealth reserves
- take native biological material/specimens from a Commonwealth area; and/or
- conduct scientific research on a protected species on Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island territories outside of a Commonwealth reserve .

When to lodge your application

You will need to submit your application at least eight weeks before your research is proposed to start. If you have an existing research permit and need more than the permitted time to complete the research, you will need to reapply for another permit well before your permit expires.

Please allow at least three months for applications to be assessed if your research involves listed EPBC species or protected species. More information on listed EPBC species can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl> . The groups listed as protected species under Schedule 12 can be found at: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013C00713/Html/Text#_Toc365628074

Additional permits or approvals you may need

Depending on the nature and type of research you wish to conduct, you may need to obtain other permits/approvals. Please refer to **Attachment 1** to determine what permits you may require to conduct your research. The Natural Resource Manager can assist you to identify if you require any additional permits.

Research and monitoring priorities

CINP and PKNP each have their own set of research priorities. The research priorities are outlined in their respective management plans, and aim to provide:

- an improved understanding of marine and terrestrial ecosystem diversity, processes, values, threats and management; and
- evidence for making conservation management decisions based on an integrated understanding of ecosystem processes and trends.

The CINP research priorities can be found in the Christmas Island National Park Management Plan at: www.environment.gov.au/resource/christmas-island-national-park-management-plan-2014-2024

The PKNP research priorities can be found in the Draft Pulu Keeling National Park Management Plan at: www.environment.gov.au/resource/management-plan-2004-pulu-keeling-national-park

Application process

- Step 1: Please read through the permit conditions to carry out scientific research in the Commonwealth reserve (page 3 of application form) to ensure you understand and will be able to comply with them.
- Step 2: Complete the application form and ensure you have attached all required supporting information/documents. The application has 5 parts:
- Part 1 Details of proposed permit holder
 - Part 2 Details of proposed scientific research
 - Part 3 Agreement
 - Part 4 Declaration
 - Part 5 Statutory Declaration (for collecting biological specimens from native species)
- Step 3: Complete Part 5 Statutory Declaration **only** if your research will involve the collection of biological specimens from native species. A signed and witnessed statutory declaration is required to obtain a permit to access biological resources in a Commonwealth area. Please specify the exact quantity of material you wish to collect in your application.
- Step 4: Submit your application (with all supporting documents) to the Natural Resource Manager via:
Email: christmasislandnp@environment.gov.au
Post: PO Box 867, Christmas Island, INDIAN OCEAN 6798
Fax: +61 (08) 9164 8755
- Step 5: The factors considered when assessing permit applications are outlined on the permit application form. If your application is approved, you will be sent a copy of the permit including the applicable permit conditions.
- Step 6: The CINP Natural Resource Manager will advise you if any additional permits/approvals are required to conduct the proposed research and assist you in liaising with the relevant permitting areas (including for research sites outside of the reserves).
- Step 7: After your permit to conduct research in the Commonwealth reserve is issued you can then proceed to apply for other relevant permits (see **Attachment 1**).

Reporting requirements

To conduct research in a Commonwealth reserve, you will need to meet certain reporting requirements. Details of these requirements are outlined in Part 3 and Part 5 of the application.

Please note, copies of all subsequent reports, publications and other information arising from research in CINP and/or PKNP, including recommendations for management practices or future research must also be provided to the CINP Natural Resource Manager within one month of publication or finalisation.

A copy of data arising out of the research on CINP and/or PKNP may also be requested. Data provided to CINP or PKNP will be used for internal purposes relating to biodiversity management and conservation. Data may include (but is not limited to):

- photographs and/or observational data of flora and fauna of high conservation concern;
- distribution data of flora and fauna species of importance;
- summaries of the range of invertebrate specimens collected;
- lists of all biological samples collected including the quantity and measurements of each sample and the location of where each sample was collected; and
- lists of all geological specimens collected including the quantity and measurements of each specimen and the location of where each sample was collected.

If you are issued with a Part 8A Permit, a list of samples, quantities collected and the collection locations must be reported using the template provided with your Part 8A Permit.

Work health and safety

The Director of National Parks is committed to and has an obligation under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to provide and maintain a safe and healthy workplace for all of its employees and visitors. It is a permit condition that you take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of your team and the general public before conducting any research. A list of relevant emergency contact numbers and radio call signs is included with every permit to assist you in the event of an emergency or to report an incident.

As a visitor to CINP and/or PKNP, you have an obligation to take reasonable care for your own and your team's health and safety. You need to ensure that your activities do not adversely affect the health and safety of others. This includes ensuring you and your team:

- wear the appropriate personal protective equipment;
- are aware of potential hazards and emergency procedures;
- comply with any reasonable instructions given to them by park staff relating to work health and safety in the parks; and
- report any incidents or near misses to the Park Manager immediately.

In the application you must provide details of specific measures you will take to minimise risks to safety. You must also attach a copy of your institutions' safety procedures/risk assessment plan (if any) or complete and return a *Risk assessment for remote fieldwork template* provided by the reserve (if applicable).

NOTE: All chemicals and waste relating to the research must be removed from Commonwealth reserves and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

Useful links and contacts

- **Protected species** – Further details are available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/territories-protected-species.html> and a list of protected species is available at http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013C00713/Html/Text#_Toc365628074.
- **Listed EPBC species** – These are species that are listed as a threatened, migratory and marine species (and listed ecological communities), whales and other cetaceans, listed marine species. To see what species are listed, please go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/lists.html>. You can also search for a listed species on the [Species Profile and Threats Database](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl) at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>
- **Importing and exporting wildlife for research purposes** – more information is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/sources/non-commercial/research.html>. A list of exempt native specimens is at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/lists/exempt/index.html>.
- **Department of Agriculture Import Permit** – for general importing information go to: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/import/general-info>. To obtain an import application form go to: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/import/application>
- **Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development** – The office on Christmas Island can be contacted on phone: +61 (08) 9164 7901.
- **Department of Fisheries Western Australia** – for general information go to: <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx>. Email any research queries to: IndianOceanTerritories@fish.wa.gov.au

Further information

If you would like further information, you can find out more by:

- visiting the Parks Australia website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/researchers-4>
- emailing the Natural Resource Manager on christmasislandnp@environment.gov.au
- calling the reserve on +61 (08) 9164 8700

Permit or approval requirements for scientific research in and around Christmas Island National Park (CINP) and Pulu Keeling National Park (PKNP)

Answer the following questions to find out what permits you may require:

1. Are you proposing to undertake scientific research inside Christmas Island National Park or Pulu Keeling National Park?

If **Yes**, you will need a permit issued under Part 12 of the EPBC Regulations. Please use the application form to conduct scientific research in a Commonwealth reserve located at:

- www.environment.gov.au/resource/researchers-4.

2. Will your research involve the collection of native biological resources from the Christmas Island National Park, Pulu Keeling National Park or in the surrounding land/water?

If **Yes**, you will need a permit issued under Part 8A of the EPBC Regulations (to access biological resources from Commonwealth areas). You do not need to complete a separate application if you are using the above mentioned research permit application form. You must complete Part 5 (Statutory declaration) of the application and ensure it is signed and witnessed. If you are collecting samples for commercial purposes you will also need to enter into a benefit sharing agreement. More information on permits for accessing biological resources can be found at:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/science-and-research/australias-biological-resources/permits>

NOTE: A permit issued by the Department of Fisheries Western Australia may also be required under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (WA), where research that involves the collection of aquatic specimens is proposed within the 12nm territorial waters outside of Commonwealth reserve areas. For more information on Western Australian research permits email:

- IndianOceanTerritories@fish.wa.gov.au

3. Will your research be done on either Christmas or Coco (Keeling) Islands, outside of Christmas Island National Park or Pulu Keeling National Park?

If **Yes**, you will need approval from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The Natural Resource Manager at Christmas Island National Park can assist you with seeking this approval. You do not need to complete a separate application if you are using the above mentioned research permit application form.

4. Will your research involve killing, injuring or taking a member of a protected species, and/or damaging or destroying a nest or dwelling place of a member of a protected species outside Christmas Island National Park or Pulu Keeling National Park?

If **Yes**, you will need a permit issued under Part 9 of the EPBC Regulations. You do not need to complete a separate application if you are using the above research application form. Protected species are groups of native species identified in Schedule 12 of the EPBC Regulations. For more information on protected species go to:

- http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013C00713/Html/Text#_Toc365628074

5. Will your research involve killing, injuring, taking, trading, keeping or moving a member of a listed threatened, migratory or marine species or an ecological community; or involve cetaceans?

If **Yes**, you may need to separately apply for a permit issued under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. You will not need this permit if:

- the action is done inside Christmas Island National Park or Pulu Keeling National Park and is authorised under a management plan for the park (please contact the park by emailing christmasislandnp@environment.gov.au to see if this applies to your research); or
- the species you propose to impact upon is listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and the action is undertaken in accordance with a [recovery plan](#) that is in force (please email EPBC.permits@environment.gov.au to see if this applies to your research).

You can search for a listed species on the Department's Species Profile and Threats Database located at:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

For more information on permits related to listed EPBC species and ecological communities go to:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/permits>

For more information on permits related to actions involving whales, dolphins and porpoises go to:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/marine-species/cetaceans/research-permits>

6. Do you propose to import or export wildlife?

If **Yes**, you will need to separately apply for a Part 13A of the EBPC Act. For more information, or to apply for a permit, please go to:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/trading/non-commercial/research>

7. Does your research propose to transport biological material to mainland Australia from Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands?

If **Yes**, you will need to separately apply for an **Import Permit** from the Department of Agriculture. For more information, or to apply for a permit, please go to:

- <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/import/application>