

GSGSSI Regulated Activity Permit (RAP) Categories

Please email all enquires and applications to: permits@gov.gs

Does your project involve *:

Wildlife disturbance/handling

- An element of animal husbandry/captive breeding
- An activity which may cause significant disturbance or mortality to wild birds or mammals
- Geophysical marine surveys

Sampling / removal of material

- Removal of significant quantities of soil, peat or minerals which is likely to have permanent change to appearance or ecology of site

Equipment/Structures

- Installing equipment or building a structure which there are no specific plans for removal
- Use of manned aircraft including helicopters
- Demolition, movement or alteration to a historic structure or material changes to a heritage site

Waste / hazardous materials

- Generating waste that is not dealt with under existing management procedures i.e. hazardous waste or contaminated ground
- Bringing any radioactive material into the Territory

Site / location

- Work at a site which has been identified as highly sensitive under the Terrestrial Protected Areas framework

Any other activities that would otherwise breach the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance or subsidiary legislation

YES →

Category 3 - comprehensive RAP application

- Projects classified as having potential for high risk to the environment
- Usually a bespoke application process and tailored mitigation measures
- A two phase application process may be used for large projects.
- Public consultation may be required
- Project may subject to external review process
- Time frame to assess and process applications is dependent on complexity of project but advisable to allow 12 months or more

Does your project involve:

Wildlife disturbance/handling

- Working in close proximity to wildlife (see RAP guidelines)
- Handling wild birds or mammals or entering into a breeding site / colony during the breeding season

Sampling / removal of material

- Removal of soil, peat or mineral materials (soil, shale, sand, rock) which may affect an area of greater than 1m²
- Collection of biological material which may affect an area greater than 1m² or take longer than 1 year to recover

Equipment / structures

- Installing/deploying temporary marker posts, equipment or a structure
- Operation of a drone within 12nm of SGSSI if unable to comply with ALL standing conditions
- Use of vehicles (other than wheelchairs for those with impaired mobility) on land
- Active acoustics in the marine environment outside those used as part of normal navigation or in licenced fisheries

Waste / hazardous material

- Generating any waste which will not be removed from the territory and that will be disposed of via incineration, burial or landfill
- Bringing hazardous materials to the Territory which will be used outside of a vessel / station building

Site/location

- Work at recognized visitor landing sites
- Work at the non-visitor landing sites / sites with no established scientific study areas
- Work on the South Sandwich Islands
- Overnights stays in field huts or tents at coastal locations associated with a recognized science or media project***

No other activities that would otherwise breach the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance or subsidiary legislation

YES →

Category 2 - RAP application

- Projects with medium-low environmental risk
- Online application form tailored to individual project needs
- Project ordinarily reviewed internally by GSGSSI.
- Applicants should allow up to 90 days for their application to be assessed and processed

Does your project involve:

Wildlife disturbance/handling

- GSGSSI animal welfare and movement guidance followed

Sampling/removal of material

- Removal of soil, peat or mineral materials (soil, shale, sand, rock) which may affect an area of greater than 1m²
- Damage to vegetation invertebrate communities affect an area greater than 1m² or take longer than 1 year to recover

Equipment/structures

- Repair, maintenance and/or affixing structures to existing buildings
- Use of heavy plant machinery or other other than wheelchairs for those with impaired mobility) on land
- No new structures constructed
- Operation of drones where all standing conditions can not be met and/or involving flights over wildlife aggregations and/or drones fitted with active sensors e.g. LIDAR

Waste / hazardous material

- Generating any waste which will not be removed from the territory and that will be disposed of via incineration, burial or landfill

Site/location

- Building and maintenance work within the footprint of King Edward Point, Grytviken, Bird Island or existing field huts

No other activities that would otherwise breach the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance or subsidiary legislation

YES →

Category 2 - construction and maintenance - RAP application

- Projects with medium-low environmental risk
- EIA matrix detailing activities, impact and mitigation
- Project ordinarily reviewed internally by GSGSSI.
- Applicants should allow up to 90 days for their application to be assessed and processed

Does your project involve:

Wildlife disturbance/handling

- Drone flights **not** involving flights over wildlife aggregations i.e will maintain a minimum of 200m horizontal separation and 80m AGL

Equipment / structures

- Operation of a drone within 12nm of SGSSI if complying with all standing conditions

Site / location

- All work done at recognized visitor sites as part of a permitted visitor landing

No other activities that would otherwise breach the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance or subsidiary legislation

NB – if operation of the drone is in conjunction with other science or media/film activities you should apply within a 'Category 2 RAP'

YES →

Category 1- Drone RAP

- For projects where only activity is drone flight
- Standard mitigation measures can be used
- Project reviewed internally by GSGSSI
- Applicants should allow up to 60 days for their application to be assessed and processed

Does your project involve:

- Citizen science projects that do **not** involve collecting any samples or working in close proximity to wildlife
- Professional media projects with no requirement for filming in close proximity to wildlife or installation of any specialist equipment

Site / location

- All work done at recognized visitor sites as part of a permitted visitor landing

No activities that would otherwise breach the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance or subsidiary legislation

YES →

Category 0 - Notification

- Projects will be assessed to confirm the planned activities do not breach any SGSSI legislation
- A confirmatory note will be issued and the project activities logged in the RAP database
- Applicants should allow up to 60 days for their notification to be assessed and notification document issued

NOTE – there is no legal requirement to complete a notification, but it is encouraged to aid in monitoring activities in the Marine and Terrestrial Protected Areas

***overnight stays at inland sites should apply through the expedition/adventurous activity application system

** GSGSSI reserves the right to re-classify any project as a Comprehensive RAP or require additional information on intended activities if it deems additional information is needed in order to make an effective environmental assessment

If you have a Category 2 RAP for a long-term project, providing you have met all permit conditions, you can use the RAP renewal form to renew this up to **THREE** times, after which you must submit a new, full application. If your work involves animal handling, as part of the renewal process you must submit up to date ethical approval **EVERY** year. Applicants should allow up to 60 days for a renewal to be processed. There is no renewal option for projects which work on the South Sandwich Islands.