

Ethics Statement

We recognise the fundamental importance of ethical research. However, neither of our institutes in Cambodia (Kit) or China (Amaël) have an ethical review board so we are unable to provide official ethical approval for our project. Instead we provide the following statement of ethical considerations which is based on the guidance given in the National Institutes of Health "[Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guidebook](#)" and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "[Belmont Report](#)".

Overall

- Our project is based around the use of the free software iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org) which is available for anyone anywhere to use. As such we will not be asking anyone to do anything that they could not do on their own.

Animals in Research

- The use of animals in this project involves nothing more than photographing them in their natural environment
- Every effort will be made to ensure animals are not disturbed (even the invasive species)
- Our Education Pack will contain detailed guidelines for photographing animals without disturbing them and strongly worded instructions to avoid disturbing animals or their habitats

Humans in Research

- The participation of anyone in our project is entirely voluntary. No one will be contacted directly unless they contact us first by signing up to receive an Education Pack
- Our main avenue of approach will be at our launch at the [16th Annual STEM Festival](#) which is online for the first time. The STEM Festival receives support and approval from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport.
- Receipt of an Education Pack does not mean that anyone is required to take part in our project. We will simply encourage people to use iNaturalist and provide full guidelines for how to do so. While we hope people will take advantage of this opportunity, for our project particularly but also to help provide a more comprehensive assessment of Cambodian wildlife, if people choose not to that is completely their choice
- All participation will be anonymous except for user names supplied to iNaturalist and any information necessary to provide an Education Pack and/or instructions. We will not report or publish any personal information
- We will strongly emphasize safety in our Education Pack. The animals we are focusing on in our project can be found in urban, rural and natural environments. Although they are aquatic species they mostly live in shallow water and can only be photographed outside of water. No one should need to approach too closely to water to obtain a photograph and we will instruct people not to do so.