

# PHOTOGRAPHING CHANGING GENDER IDENTITIES IN SOUTH AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT

### ***What is the research project about?***

You are invited to participate in a research project about gender roles, identities and expectations in conservation. People in the Greater Kruger region and throughout South Africa are saying that gender roles, identities and expectations are changing and that these changes are affecting conservation practices and management strategies. We (the research team) would love to learn about your experiences around gender in terms of your day-to-day work in conservation. We are looking to recruit around 20 participants who are actively working in the conservation field, who represent a range of gender identities across categories of, e.g. men, women, non-binary and gender fluid, and who are above the age of 18.

### ***What will I be asked to do?***

If you decide to take part in this project, you will be asked to take photos that tell stories about who you are (your gender, race, class and other ways you identify) and your experiences in the field of conservation. We will collaboratively create captions for these photos. This project will take place between July-September 2023. During this period, the research team would like to interview you four times, where you will have the chance to share and discuss the photos you have taken. Based on these discussions, the researchers will write captions for your photos, and will share them with you for your verification. We will decide details of these meetings together with you when we first meet, but we estimate that each meeting will be about 1 hour. We would like to audio record each of these meetings. We will provide you with copies of these recordings to keep for yourself. *No recordings will be taken without your permission. If you ever want to have the audio recorder turned off for a while during a session, just tell the researcher and he/she will do that.*

### ***How will my information and photos be used?***

You will hold the copyright to your photos and captions. By agreeing to take part in this project you are giving the research team permission to use your photos and captions. You can choose if you want to use your real name or if you wish to remain anonymous (by using a pseudonym). We would like to use your photos and captions and the information you share during our meetings for research purposes including: (1) making a photographic exhibit for display online, (2) writing articles for organisational newsletters, (3) writing articles for academic journals, (4) presenting information at academic and public meetings, (5) planning the next stages of this research project, (6) writing grants to expand our efforts and address important issues.

### ***What are the potential benefits of taking part?***

The project will provide a space for you to share your experiences of gender roles, identities and expectations in the Greater Kruger conservation region, and to share these experiences with a wider audience - including other South African conservation communities, the general public, academics and policy makers. We hope that the online exhibition and the display of your and

other participants' images will allow the public to enjoy and learn from your photos, as well as encourage conversation around discrimination, diversity and inclusion in conservation.

### ***What are the potential risks of taking part?***

Taking part in this research should not put you at risk of any physical or psychological harm. You may feel uncomfortable taking photos of certain situations, or discussing particular issues in our meetings. *You will never be required to take photos of anything you do not wish to. Also, you will never be required to discuss anything that you do not want to discuss.* It is important for you to know that participating in this project is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason, and without consequences. If you do so, any photos or interviews that you have already provided will be destroyed if you wish for that to happen.

### ***Who is doing this research?***

This photography project is part of a bigger project called: *Silverbacks, Black Mambas and Deadly Women: Changing gender identities in South African and Australian biodiversity conservation*. The project is funded by Formas (the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) and the responsible researchers (from Stockholm University, Sweden) are Dr Vanessa Masterson and Dr Simon West, and the research assistant is Laura-Bethia Campbell, MSc. In this project we want to learn from you about your experiences of gender in conservation - so if you participate, you will be the expert in the research team!

### ***Who do I contact for more information about the project?***

For more information you can contact Vanessa Masterson at +27673172589 or [vanessa.masterson@su.se](mailto:vanessa.masterson@su.se), Simon West at +46701917902 or [simon.west@su.se](mailto:simon.west@su.se), or Laura-Bethia Campbell at +46730788911 or [laura-bethia.campbell@su.se](mailto:laura-bethia.campbell@su.se). This project has been assessed by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority (Etikprövningsmyndigheten) and the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) ethics subcommittee. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this project you can contact the SRC ethics subcommittee at: [src-ethics-review@su.se](mailto:src-ethics-review@su.se)

### ***How do I sign up to participate in this project?***

If you are interested in taking part in this research project **please read the following copyright and consent statements very carefully**. Then, if you would still like to participate, please answer the questions, sign and date the form, and return it to a team member via email. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the project or the consent forms, we can call you to arrange that before any interviews take place. We very much look forward to meeting and working with you!

## **1. COPYRIGHT FOR MY PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPTIONS**

I confirm that I, \_\_\_\_\_, am taking part in the Gender Identities in Conservation project and understand that, as part of the project, I will produce

photographs and captions (my 'Work'). I understand that I retain copyright to my Work and can use my Work in any way I see fit. I give permission for members of the Gender Identities in Conservation project team (Vanessa Masterson, Simon West and Laura-Bethia Campbell) to keep copies of my Work for use as agreed in Section 2 below. I understand that when used, my Work will be credited as follows:

© <PARTICIPANT NAME/ANONYMIZED NAME> <DATE> | Gender Identities in Conservation | Greater Kruger, South Africa

I want my photographs and captions to be credited with my full real name (as stated in Section 5 of this form, below) or by the following nickname \_\_\_\_\_:

Yes  No

I understand that if I have ticked 'No,' I will be credited with an anonymized name devised at a later date by the project team. I recognize that while every effort will be made by the project team to keep my contribution anonymous, community members in the Greater Kruger region may still be able to identify me through my Work.

## 2. CONSENT FOR USE OF MY PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPTIONS

I give my permission to Stockholm University and in particular the Gender Identities in Conservation project team, to use my work for purposes of research, teaching and societal collaboration, in any media whatsoever, anywhere in the world and without time limit. Such uses may include:

- (a) Planning for the next stages of the Gender Identities in Conservation research project
- (b) On the Gender Identities in Conservation project website, available publicly to anyone with internet access worldwide
- (c) In public exhibitions (e.g. on a public website)
- (d) In articles for academic journals
- (e) In articles for the local, national and international press, including newspapers, magazines, blogs, organizational websites, and community newsletters
- (f) In presentations at public and academic meetings
- (g) On social media related to the Gender Identities in Conservation project (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
- (h) In videos and short movies about the Gender Identities in Conservation project
- (i) To write grants to expand Gender Identities in Conservation project efforts and address important issues

More information on Stockholm University data handling procedures is available here:  
<https://www.su.se/english/about-this-website/privacy-policy>.

I understand that the Gender Identities in Conservation project team is committed to acting in good faith, and wherever feasible will discuss and negotiate research outputs, products and uses with participants.

I understand that while the Gender Identities in Conservation project will only use my Work in line with its aims and objectives, the ethical standards of Stockholm University, it is possible that photographs and captions made public on the internet could be copied and used by others in different ways, and the Gender Identities in Conservation project team cannot be held responsible.

### **3. PERMISSION FOR AUDIO RECORDING**

I give permission to the Gender Identities in Conservation project team to audio record our meetings together. I understand that I will receive audio and transcribed written copies of these recordings to keep. I also understand that I will be provided 10 working days upon receipt to review the material and amend or remove any information they contain.

- I give my permission for the research team to audio record our meetings
- I do not give my permission for the research team to audio recording our meetings

### **4. UPDATES ON RESEARCH PROJECT**

I would like to receive updates on the Gender Identities in Conservation research project as it progresses, and receive copies of or access to any research outputs, including for instance: academic reports, online photographic exhibitions and newspaper articles:

- Yes
- No

### **5. STATEMENT OF CONSENT AND CONTACT DETAILS**

I have read and understood the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I have been provided a copy of this form.

- I agree to participate in this research project

Participant's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_