

## **Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan – Oden land activities**

**Project Overview:** This Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan concerns the land research activities of the North Green Earth Ocean Ecosystem Observatory (GEOEO) expedition endorsed by the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS). The main goal is to study prehistoric changes in Greenland, but depending on sea-ice conditions, some activities might be needed in Canada. The Arctic has a complex history of species colonization and extinction. We hope to uncover more of this history, such as the arrival and disappearance of muskox, and how climate changes affected marine ecosystems.

### **Objectives:**

1. Minimize disruption to natural habitats and wildlife during sample collection, with particular consideration for the polar bear and Peary caribou.
2. Implement measures to mitigate potential impacts on local flora and fauna, especially endangered species.

### **Mitigation Measures:**

- **Site Selection:** We will select sampling sites away from critical habitats, such as polar bear denning areas and Peary caribou migration routes.
- **Sampling Techniques:** Non-destructive methods, including careful collection and documentation, will be employed to minimize disturbance to habitats.
- **Timing Restrictions:** Sampling will be conducted during periods that minimize disturbance to sensitive species, such as avoiding polar bear denning seasons and Peary caribou calving times.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** All sampling equipment will undergo thorough cleaning and sterilization to prevent the spread of contaminants.
- **Minimizing Footprint:** We commit to limiting the area disturbed during sample collection and promptly restoring any disturbed areas to their original state.
- **Education and Training:** Our project team will receive training on identifying and handling procedures specific to polar bears and Peary caribou to prevent accidental harm.

### **Monitoring Protocol:**

- **Pre-sampling Surveys:** Comprehensive surveys will be conducted to assess the presence of polar bears, Peary caribou, and other wildlife before commencing sampling activities.
- **Real-time Monitoring:** Trained observers will be deployed to monitor wildlife activity during sampling and adjust procedures to minimize disturbance.
- **Reporting and Adaptation:** Regular reporting of monitoring findings will inform adaptive management strategies aimed at minimizing impacts on endangered species.

**Emergency Response:** Protocols for responding to unexpected encounters with polar bears, Peary caribou, or other wildlife during sampling activities have been developed and will be implemented.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** We will engage with local communities, wildlife experts, and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to incorporate local knowledge into project planning.

### **Contacts:**

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