

Centre for Ecology Development and Research firmly believes in the highest standards of ethics in all research activities involving human participants, thus respect the rights, dignity, privacy, and safety of subjects and staff members. The following set of elements of ethics will apply to all research undertaken by CEDAR.

1. **Prior consent:** Every respondent is given an opportunity to understand the research purpose before asking to join as a respondent.
2. **Guarantee of privacy:** Every respondent is given an assurance that any information provided by here is kept secret and when published anonymity will be maintained. A respondent will be identified only with prior review and consent of the quoted text.
3. **Contested issue:** when engaging stakeholders on contentions issues, CEDAR adopts a careful strategy not to escalate conflicts, and by communicating the purpose of research and learning, CEDAR brings all conflicting stakeholders into confidence so as to ensure high quality research by minimising unnecessary intrusion into the existing social process.
4. All respondents names are anonymised with appropriate coding in the research database.
5. **Independence, integrity and quality:** Research should be designed, reviewed and undertaken in a way that ensures academic independence, integrity and quality.
6. **Informed consent and respect for confidentiality:** Free and informed consent by participants is essential to good research. The confidentiality of information given by respondents, and the anonymity of subjects, must be respected.
7. **Consideration for vulnerable people:** Enhanced ethical consideration should be given in respect of those who may be less competent or able to offer or refuse consent.
8. **Consideration of risks:** The ethical risk of any research should be considered before work is undertaken. Researchers proposing a procedure or project should consult their Principal Investigator, who should summarise the ethical risks envisaged, and

any protocols or precautions that are to be deployed to minimise them. If the proposal involves more than minimal risk, independent ethical review should be considered.

9. **Independent ethical review:** Where the proposal involves more than minimal risk, an independent review process, such as a panel or committee, should be used for appropriate scrutiny.
10. Ethical review need not be exhaustive, but it should be reasonable and proportionate. The primary consideration should be the welfare and dignity of subjects, as well as staff.
11. **Maximised benefit, minimized harm:** Research should balance the anticipated benefits against potential harms to human or animal subjects, colleagues, the environment and the wider academic community. Harm to research participants must be avoided.
12. **Other considerations:** The same consideration should be given to risks which become apparent during the programme of research. This policy should be read together with the Organisation's other research-related policies and codes, as well as research sponsors' guidelines, and relevant statutory requirements.