



## **Policy on Collaborative Research and Local Capacity Building - RED SEA PROJECT™**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the guidelines for conducting research, academic partnerships, and technical collaborations at the facilities of RED SEA PROJECT™. These guidelines ensure that all projects are integrated, equitable, and provide measurable contributions to local capacity while protecting the organization's integrity and regional scientific sovereignty.

- **Anti-Parachute Science Integration:** All collaborations must be designed as integrated partnerships rather than extractive projects. RED SEA PROJECT™ strictly prohibits "parachute science." Every project must demonstrate a commitment to involving local researchers, staff, or community members in all stages, from design and data collection to analysis and publication.
- **Mandatory Assessment and MoU:** Every collaboration or partnership with a third party or academic institution requires a formal impact assessment and a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU shall define the specific roles, duties, and responsibilities of all parties to ensure transparency and accountability prior to project commencement.
- **Local Capacity Building:** All projects must include a clear "Capacity Building Component." This may include, but is not limited to, training for local staff, donation of equipment to local facilities, or mentorship programs for regional students. Projects that do not provide a clear benefit to local expertise will not be approved.
- **Permits and Regulatory Compliance:** The visiting partner or entity is responsible for identifying and obtaining all required legal and environmental permits. Evidence of these permits must be provided to RED SEA PROJECT™ prior to the start of any field work or data collection.
- **Use of Data and Research Findings:** All research findings and data collected at RED SEA PROJECT™ facilities must be shared with the organization. No data may be published, integrated into third-party databases, or referenced in external journals without prior written consent and the appropriate acknowledgment (or co-authorship) of local contributors.
- **Advertising and Publicity:** Neither Party shall publish any external advertising, press releases, or social media content relating to the collaboration until both Parties have agreed in writing on the specific form and content.



- **Rights to Raw Materials and Data:** RED SEA PROJECT™ reserves the right to receive a complete copy of all raw data, samples, and digital materials generated. These materials may be used by the organization for awareness, conservation management, and educational purposes without further obligation.
- **Non-Binding Nature:** This policy and any initial MoU are not legally binding and do not commit either Party to a sole or exclusive relationship, legal liability, or financial expenditure without a further, specific legally binding agreement in writing.
- **Governing Law and Jurisdiction:** Any Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with Austrian law and European Union law and shall be deemed to have been made in Austria. Any legal proceedings shall be brought exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction in Austria.
- **Restrictions on Commercial Use:** No part of the research, data, or intellectual property produced during the collaboration shall be used for commercial purposes without explicit, prior written permission from RED SEA PROJECT™.
- **Financial Responsibility:** The collaborating partner is responsible for all costs associated with their project, including travel, compensation, and the use of specialized equipment, unless a separate funding agreement is formally established.

**Reviewed 2026**