



## **Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management**

### **METSI RULES AND REGULATIONS**

To ensure a safe and satisfying experience during fieldwork at METSI trip, kindly adhere to the following rules and regulations. Transgression of the rules and regulations as summarized below may result in project termination and/or penalties.

1. **PROJECT REGISTRATION:** Research at METSI may only commence once the Standard Research Application form has been approved.
2. **INDEMNITY:** Researchers entering the facility will be required to sign the Research Agreement document which includes the indemnification of METSI against any claim, action, judgment, costs and/or expenses which may be made against METSI.
3. **THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT** – Please take careful note that the speed limit leading to METSI and on the facility itself 50 km/h.
4. **DRIVE SAFELY** – General rules of the road apply at METSI. It is an offence to drive on South African roads without a recognized driver's license or under the influence of alcohol. Driving or operating any vehicle in a reckless or negligent manner or in a deliberate disregard for the safety of a person, animal or property is a serious offence and can result in a summons being issued. Driving a vehicle in a manner that constitutes a nuisance, disturbance, inconvenience or danger to any other person may also be subject to a summons being issued.
5. **ACCOMMODATION** – Researchers are only allowed to stay at the booked and recognized overnight facility and notify METSI before occupying accommodation or camping.
6. **ACCOMMODATION UTILITIES** – No appliances/utensils/kitchen ware/furniture/bedding or any other METSI property at the accommodation unit may be removed from the unit or used for fieldwork purposes.
7. **DRIVING AREAS** – Vehicles must remain on the designated roads at all times and off-road driving or driving on closed or no-entry roads is a serious offence. Off-road driving may lead to disturbance of other research underway at METSI and may lead to serious consequences.

8. FLORA & FAUNA – No plant, animal, wildlife or any natural or cultural items may be removed from the facility without permission. To cut, damage, destroy or be in possession of any plant or part thereof, including dry wood or firewood is a serious offence. Importing of any specimen of an alien or listed invasive species into METSI is prohibited.
9. VEHICLE RESTRICTION – Please take note that the use of a 4x4- or High-Rise vehicle is advised for access to/on the facility.
10. LITTER-FREE ZONE – Littering is prohibited. Deposit or leaving of any litter except in receptacles for that purpose will result in a fine. Researchers are responsible for their own waste removal. If waste is not removed, the research project may be terminated.
11. DECLARE DANGEROUS ITEMS – All dangerous weapons of any sort, any explosive, trap or poison must be declared upon entry.
12. FIRE HAZARD – Starting or causing of any fire, whether it be intentional or unintentional other than in a fireplace or container purposely made available is strictly prohibited and will result in a summons being issued, unless research protocol requires burning and has been stated on the Standard Research Application Form.
13. BEHAVIOUR – Behaving in an offensive, improper, indecent or disorderly manner or in any manner likely to disturb/hinder any species or specimen or local residents or other researchers is strictly prohibited and will be fined if not adhered to. The hindering, intimidating or obstructing of an authorized official in the execution of his/her duties or the performance of his/her functions will not be tolerated and is subject to a penalty. Violation, refusal or failure to obey or comply with any prohibition, request or instruction imposed by these regulations or by any METSI management authority or authorized official will result in project termination.
14. ENVIRONMENTAL LOSS – No research causing net loss of sensitive environments may occur. By implication, this rule applies to watercourses, wetlands, ridges and the remaining pristine vegetated areas of the most endangered veld types present in the study area.

Should you be unclear on any of these regulations or want more information, please feel free to contact us.