



Beyond Permits, Toward Relationships: New NASA Planetary Science Division Requirements for Ethics in Fieldwork

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NASA's Astrobiology Program
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LPSC 2024
14 March 2024

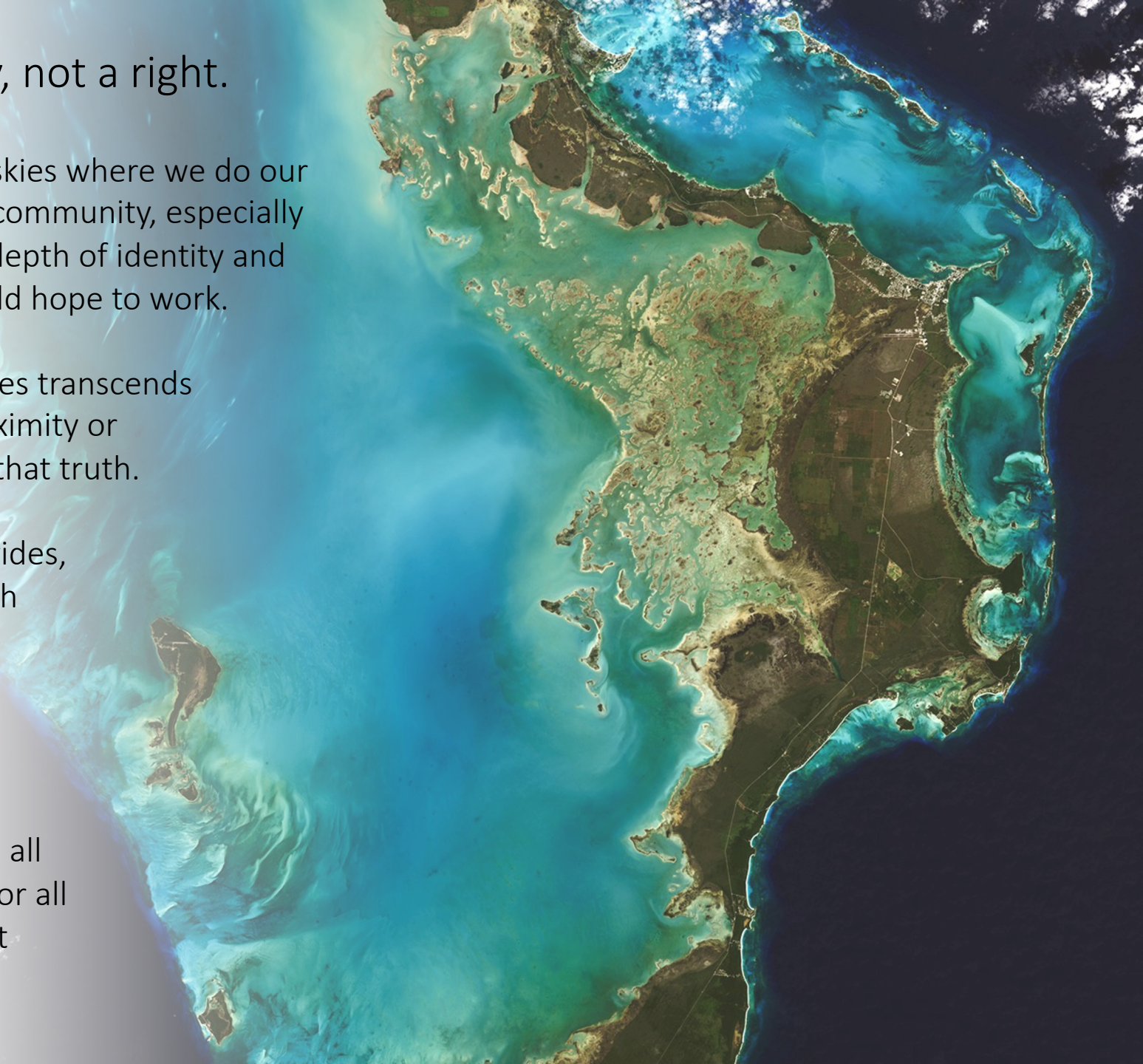
Scientific fieldwork is a responsibility, not a right.

Our care and passion for the lands, waters, and skies where we do our science is shared by many outside the scientific community, especially Indigenous communities, which have profound depth of identity and relationship with the field sites in which we would hope to work.

Their relationship to those lands, waters, and skies transcends governmental or legal status with respect to proximity or ownership, and our work should and can honor that truth.

Beyond what the typical permitting process provides, we can work to build long-term relationships with communities who care about the site, especially Indigenous communities...toward co-creation of the research, and service to societal goals of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We also have responsibilities to ensure safety on all levels, including creating healthy environments for all members of the field party, and following vigilant environmental protection practices.



ROSES-23 APPENDIX C. PLANETARY SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM

3.14 Fieldwork

Proposers conducting field research must include a description of their use of field site(s) that demonstrates:

- Respect for the values of other users of the site by considering the impact that their work will have on the environment (e.g., sensitive ecosystems or historic properties of religious, cultural, or scientific significance)
- A research plan that reduces impact to the site (if any)
- The intention to obtain relevant permits and follow their guidelines

Moreover, to help create an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination, proposers must cite a specific policy, code of conduct, or ground rules provided to participants in advance of the fieldwork.

There are still ROSES-23 elements open that may have to respond to these!

ROSES-24 APPENDIX C. PLANETARY SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM

3.14 Fieldwork

Proposers conducting field research must include a description of how the research plan addresses:

- Environmental Protection of the Site
- Access and Permitting
- Safety of the Field Party
- Relationships and Collaborations with Tribes and Indigenous Communities
- Cultural and Historical Heritage

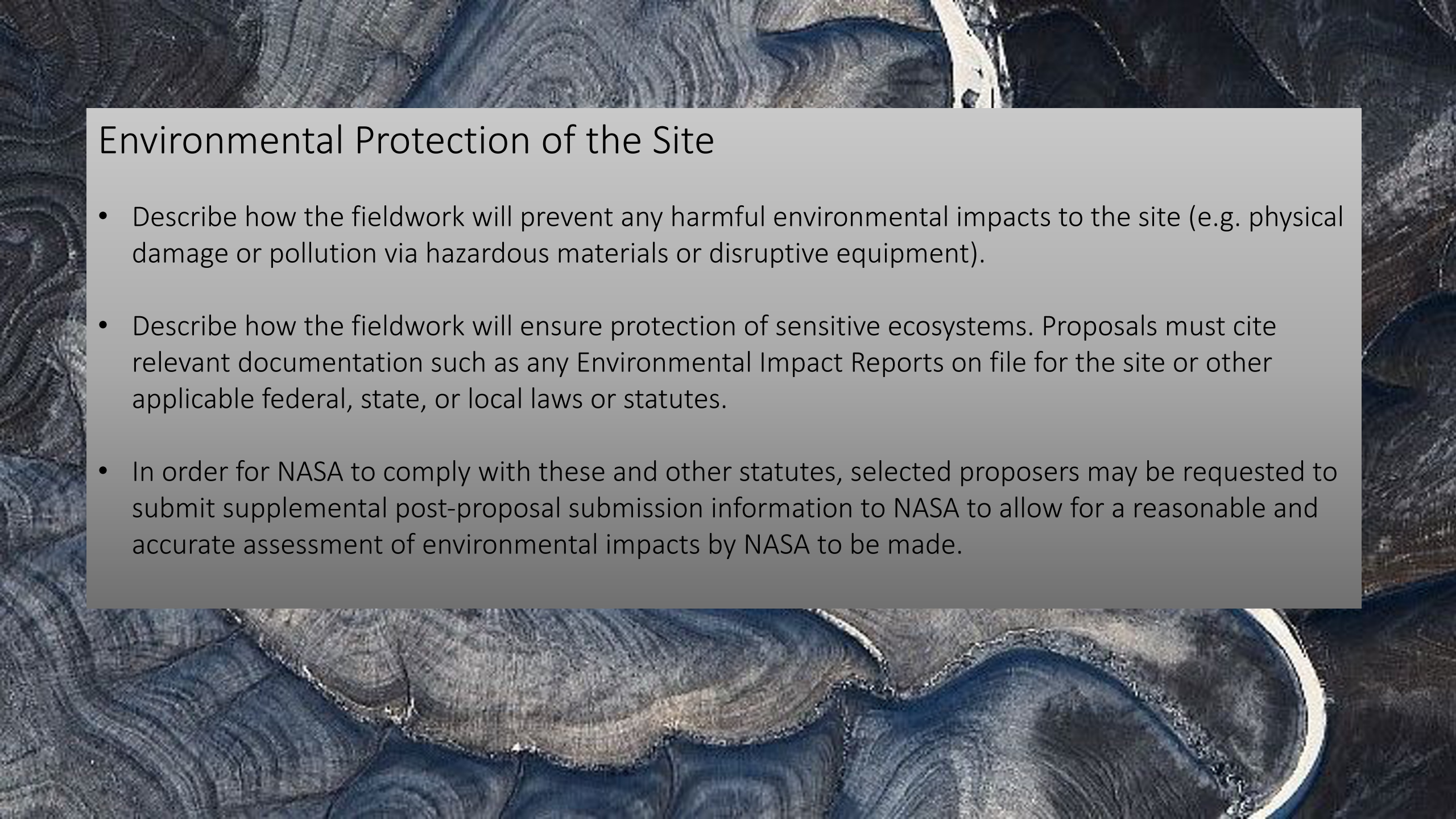
This description will be placed in a maximum of 2 additional pages, in the proposal PDF immediately following the OSDMP, which is placed after the references and citations for the S/T/M section of the proposal or in E&R section for DAPR programs.



For ROSES '24 Fieldwork Requirements



For ROSES '24 Fieldwork Resources



Environmental Protection of the Site

- Describe how the fieldwork will prevent any harmful environmental impacts to the site (e.g. physical damage or pollution via hazardous materials or disruptive equipment).
- Describe how the fieldwork will ensure protection of sensitive ecosystems. Proposals must cite relevant documentation such as any Environmental Impact Reports on file for the site or other applicable federal, state, or local laws or statutes.
- In order for NASA to comply with these and other statutes, selected proposers may be requested to submit supplemental post-proposal submission information to NASA to allow for a reasonable and accurate assessment of environmental impacts by NASA to be made.

Access and Permitting

- Projects that require access to areas that have regulated or restricted entry, or areas where the acquisition of data or samples are otherwise regulated, must include a description of the process to obtain permits or other permissions from the controlling authority, and what the permit will ultimately allow.
- Describe a plan to communicate with NASA about a successfully obtained permit before the team begins work at the field site.
- The treatment of such data and samples must be discussed in the Open Science and Data Management Plan (refer to Section 3.7 for additional information).

Safety of the Field Party

- Regardless of the field site's location (U.S. lands, Indigenous lands, and/or foreign lands), proposals must cite or include specific policies, ground rules, codes of conduct, and/or protocols that are agreed upon by participants in advance of the fieldwork that will ensure an environment free of harassment and discrimination and that provides psychological safety to the entire field party.
- Additionally, these protocols must contain descriptions of which behaviors are expected, which are not allowed, what to do if one experiences or witnesses prohibited behaviors (i.e., how offenses are reported for individual Team institutions), and how such issues will be dealt with (i.e., what are the potential consequences for such offenses).
- These protocols must also ensure the physical safety of the field party, especially students and others who are inexperienced in working under conditions that can be, at times, uncomfortable, unfamiliar, or threatening.

Relationships and Collaborations with Tribes and Indigenous Communities

- Proposals must describe either an existing relationship with the Tribes and/or Indigenous Communities on whose lands, waters, or skies their proposed fieldwork will take place or a plan to develop such a relationship.
- This requirement is in place whether the lands, waters, and skies of the proposed field site are recognized by the U.S. government as being held legally by a Tribe or Indigenous Community, or by historical association between the tribal community and the proposed field site.
- Within the description of the relationship or plan to develop it, proposals must discuss existing or pathways to future collaborative efforts with the Tribe or Community that represent shared intent, true partnership, and intellectual collaboration in which the expertise and specialized skills, facilities, and/or resources of the community are meaningfully engaged and represented in the work.
- Regardless of the stage of relationship between the proposers and the Tribal Nation or Community, the proposal must demonstrate free, prior, and informed consent from the Tribe or Community via a letter of acknowledgement from the relevant community organizations or tribal leadership.

Cultural and Historical Heritage

- Proposals must address how they will work with groups that represent any cultural value and scientific and/or historical heritage of the site.
- This includes consideration of the impact that their work will have on the site and the groups that care about it and for it (e.g., historic properties of religious, cultural, or scientific heritage; groups such as historical societies, private landowners, land trusts, volunteer groups, etc.).
- Can be demonstrated via a letter of acknowledgement from relevant organizations or individuals.

What is the spirit of these new requirements?

Not about stopping fieldwork

An evolution in geoethics, in our approach to our fieldwork, our science

Not punitive, but do need enforcement

Support the whole community to do the right things

What is working, what is challenging, how can we work together to make it better?

Build community and capacity – sharing experiences, learning from experts and prior successes

Thank
You!



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