

Appendix A. Structured questionnaire survey.

Informed Consent

Purpose of study: You are being asked to take part in an academic (PhD) research study. Before you decide to participate in this study, you must understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and contact the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information. The purpose of this study is to evaluate drivers, barriers and enablers in marine volunteering. Marine volunteering encompasses people volunteering their time for marine conservation and research, planning to partake in activities such as data collection and restoration, either as part of a holiday (also referred to as marine voluntourism and marine research tourism, among other terms) or as part of a project requiring public contributions during specific times under the coordination of scientists (also referred to as participatory science or citizen science, among other terms).

Study procedures: The research was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of FEMS at the North-West University under the ethics code NWU-00767-19-A4. The survey will not take longer than 15 minutes to complete. Socio-demographic questions are used because these are the antecedents of most variables that are measured in social science research. Therefore, it is indispensable to measure socio-demographics in the research project. These data will be grouped in such a way (keeping all data anonymous and as a group) that it will be impossible to distinguish or identify a given participant.

Risks: There is no foreseeable emotional discomfort, inconvenience or risks to you.

Benefits: There will be no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, we hope that the information obtained from this study will assist with the valorisation of marine volunteering as a tool to contribute to society, environment and conservation, economies, and personal development of the participants. Further, the data collected will be used for the development of structural and functional guidelines for marine volunteering, to improve its marketing efforts, and to enhance its sustainability. The results of this study will also be used for academic purposes, through the PhD itself and publications in academic journals that will be available to scientists, governments, destination marketers, educators and practitioners around the world.

Confidentiality: Your participation in this study will be completely anonymous. Every effort will be made by the researcher to preserve your confidentiality including the following: 1) Assigning code names and numbers for participants that will be used on all research notes and documents, and 2) Keeping all notes and identifying participant information in a locked cabinet in the personal possession of the researcher.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation is completely voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time without any consequences. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign a consent form. When you start completing the survey, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you withdraw from this study before data collection is completed, your data will not be used.

Consent

I have read and understood the information provided. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

For any questions, please contact:

Prof Serena Lucrezi: 23952997@g.nwu.ac.za

Section A: Profile of the Respondent

1. Are you interested in marine volunteering?	Y	1	N	2
2. Do you have any previous experience in volunteering?	Y	1	N	2

3. Gender	M	1	F	2
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4. Year of birth	Specify			
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5. Highest level of Education	
School	1
Tertiary	2
Other	3

6. For tertiary education, specify your main subject
Specify

7. Country of origin
Specify

8. Occupation	
Student	1
Employed	2
Unemployed	3

9. If you are/have been employed, what is/was your profession?
Specify
Specify

Section B: Drivers in Marine Volunteering

I would participate in marine volunteering because:	Not at all important	Not important	Neutral	Important	Very important
I want to contribute to marine conservation	1	2	3	4	5
I want to contribute to animal protection and welfare	1	2	3	4	5
Marine conservation and marine issues are very close to my heart	1	2	3	4	5
I want to be a part of solving marine issues	1	2	3	4	5
I want to contribute to the successful management of marine areas	1	2	3	4	5
I want to give something back to the marine environment	1	2	3	4	5
I am compassionate towards threatened marine animals	1	2	3	4	5
I want to understand more about the function of marine ecosystems and species	1	2	3	4	5
It is an opportunity to learn about marine life	1	2	3	4	5
I want to understand more about the interactions between people and the ocean	1	2	3	4	5
It could be an opportunity to explore career options in marine sciences	1	2	3	4	5
It could be an opportunity to meet and interact with marine scientists	1	2	3	4	5
It could provide me with an opportunity to gain important skills	1	2	3	4	5
It could be fun	1	2	3	4	5
It could be a good escape from my daily life	1	2	3	4	5
It could help me to work through my personal problems	1	2	3	4	5
It could help me feel less lonely	1	2	3	4	5
It could make me feel important and useful	1	2	3	4	5
It could be the chance of a lifetime	1	2	3	4	5
It could be a fulfilling experience	1	2	3	4	5
My family and friends partake in volunteering	1	2	3	4	5
It is part of my society's traditions and/or culture	1	2	3	4	5
It is an opportunity to make new friends with similar interests	1	2	3	4	5
I want to feel part of a volunteer community	1	2	3	4	5
I want to experience the local traditions and cultures	1	2	3	4	5
It could be an opportunity to have unique interactions with people	1	2	3	4	5

Section C: Barriers to Marine Volunteering

What makes it difficult for me to participate in marine volunteering includes:	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I don't have the time to volunteer	1	2	3	4	5
Volunteering does not fit into my schedule	1	2	3	4	5
I'm busy with other activities	1	2	3	4	5
I have family responsibilities to attend to	1	2	3	4	5
I have work commitments	1	2	3	4	5
Financial costs to partake in marine volunteering are too high	1	2	3	4	5
Additional financial costs (accommodation, flights, food etc.) are too high	1	2	3	4	5
I don't have the skills to volunteer with marine life and habitats	1	2	3	4	5
Marine volunteering is not accessible to me (e.g. too far away)	1	2	3	4	5

Section D: Enablers in Marine Volunteering

What would help me to participate in marine volunteering includes:	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I'm already convinced to participate in marine volunteering in future	1	2	3	4	5
I have more time available	1	2	3	4	5
I have a higher income	1	2	3	4	5
Someone came to me and talked about marine volunteering	1	2	3	4	5
Information on the nature and purpose of marine volunteering	1	2	3	4	5
Media coverage of marine volunteering	1	2	3	4	5
Website for marine volunteering projects	1	2	3	4	5
Information on issues I can assist with through marine volunteering	1	2	3	4	5
Help (e.g. assistance with transport)	1	2	3	4	5
Training course	1	2	3	4	5
Something that is offered and is incentivised in my workplace	1	2	3	4	5