

2 A SAMPLE OF A RECONNAISSANCE CHECKLIST

A planning visit to the location of your expedition is a good investment and will help with your planning and risk assessment. During a visit collect as much detailed information as you can, even though you may not think it necessary at the time. When you are back in the UK, your colleagues will value the detail. Establishing good local contacts will make your planning much easier.

Research

Government ministries
British Embassy or High Commission
British Council
Research institutes
University and schools
Tourist agencies
Other non-government organisations
Aid organisations
Library and museum
UK companies

Administration

Research permits
Government departments
Local government
Immigration (visa)
Police
Customs and Excise
Health authorities (hospitals)
Survey and maps
Aerial photographs

Emergency assistance (casualty evacuation)
Financial advisers
Insurance (in-country)
Bank – transfer of funds and exchange rate
British companies
Couriers

Accommodation

Hotels/B&Bs
Rest houses
Tented facilities
Hostels/clubs
Friends' houses

Science programme

National research programmes
Links to academic community
Development agencies
Support bodies (e.g. Met Office)
Scientific supplies

APPENDIX 2: A SAMPLE OF A RECONNAISSANCE CHECKLIST

Technical support
GIS back-up

Education programme

Government links
Local education schemes
Local schools
Lecturing plans

Media

Key newspapers
Other publishers
Television networks
Radio stations
Press agencies
Press releases

Transport

Aeroplane/helicopter
International, internal
Charter, military
Bus, taxi
Car hire
Boat
Porters
Mule/camels
Trekking guides

Workshops (nearby)

Electronics
Computer
Engineering
Welding
Garages
Carpentry
Marine
Photographic

Communications

Email and website links
Mobile phone coverage

Radio network and frequencies
Post office facilities
Telecommunications (buy telephone directory)
Local radio station
Pigeon, cleft stick

Supplies

Timber
Roofing
Pipes
Stationery
Chemicals (for lab)
Medical
Consumables, e.g. batteries, candles, etc.
Hardware

Rations

Fruit
Vegetables
Meat
Rice/pasta
Tinned food
Drinks (alcoholic)
Soft drinks

Water

Collection
Purification
Sterilisation
Storage

Fuel

Methylated spirits
Petrol/diesel
Kerosene (paraffin)
Calor gas/butane
Camping gaz
Coal/charcoal
Hexamine blocks

EXPEDITION HANDBOOK

Medical, health, safety

National medical advisers
Inoculation requirements
Map of nearby hospitals
Medical back-up
Flying doctor service
Private ambulances
Nearest airport (for ambulance)
Local medical resources
Back-up in emergency
Decompression chamber

Field equipment

Tents/campsheets
Camp beds/hammocks
Mosquito netting
Cooking equipment
Rucksacks/kitbags
Local clothing/boots
Climbing equipment
Scientific supplies
Lamps (pressure and wick)
Photographic/film
Containers
Data loggers
Surveying companies

Main field base

Laboratory facilities
Water supply
Water pumps/showers
Power – generators
Solar power
Battery chargers
Refrigerators
Lighting
Computer area

Liason

Home agent
Ex-patriate community
Local government and officials
Local chief/headperson