**Questionnaire on regulations in European countries concerning the collecting/sampling of geological material.**

Note to contributors: No responsibility is expected for the correctness and completeness of the information you provide.

Country: Israel

1. Apart from sampling in national parks and other officially protected sites (e.g. UNESCO World Heritage site, geotope), are there any legal restrictions affecting sampling and exporting of rocks, fossils, and/or minerals in the country?

 Actually the law is not very clear. However we do need permission for sampling and excavation of fossils.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority protects nature, including habitats, ecosystems, and plant and animal diversity in nature reserves, national parks and open spaces.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is also signed on CITES 2017, so for example it will be difficult to export or import a piece on an fossil elephant tusk.

1. If there are legal restrictions, which constitutional level regulates the law(s) (e.g. national, federal state, provincial; multiple answers are possible)?

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority was established as two entities (which were unified in 1998), based on a law passed by the Knesset in 1963, for the purpose of fulfilling the goals of the National Parks Law, the Nature Reserves and Commemoration Sites Law and the Wildlife Protection Law.

1. Where is the legal information available? If available online, please provide a link to the website(s). If not available online, please state where it can be obtained.

https://www.parks.org.il/en/about/

The detailed laws are in Hebrew online

1. If the text is not in English, please provide a short summary of its/their main statements on sampling, transportation and exportation restrictions. The above law that protect any "natural value"; CITES 2017.
2. What types of permission are legally sufficient (e.g. an official permit, written letter or verbal agreement) for different types of landownership (e.g. government, private or company).

Please see next, it is all through the The Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

1. How and where does one apply for a sampling permit? [Please provide link(s) to website(s)]

There is a file named – Permission for research of natural protected items. After submitting the file, there is a need to visit with the local ranger the localities mentioned in the application.

https://www.parks.org.il/files/%D7%94%D7%99%D7%AA%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%98%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%95%D7%90%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%9D/

1. Does the collector have to follow any best codes of practice for a field area (e.g. specific ways of entering the field area, prohibited use of certain tools to extract samples or expose fresh rock surfaces, the amount of sampling allowed, the condition you should leave the area when finished). Please state where this information can be found.

In general there is no permission for a vehicle to get off the lanes-roads marked in the open space or reserves. We are also suppose to cover the damage we indude to the environment. This is all under to first law that protects " nature, including habitats, ecosystems, and plant and animal diversity in nature reserves, national parks and open spaces".

1. Are export permits needed to export geological material (rocks, minerals, fossils, sediment)? Are different permits needed for national postal services and private postal services?

There is a need for expost and import of material of fossils not for any other geological samples.

1. Are there any known issues of using certain shipping companies/postal companies when exporting samples outside the country?

We have learned that it is best to use the regular post otherwise taxes are required from all parties.

1. Are there regulations about type-specimen deposition (i.e., may holotypes/paratypes be deposited at foreign institutions or is a law in place that necessitates the return of type material even when legally sampled and exported)?

As much as I am aware there are no type-specimen regulation (and indeed I still encounter publications of "forage materials" from the area!).

1. Additional comments:

We are trying to create a new form that will be suitable for the actual paleontology work field, surveys and excavations. In a way to follow the Israel Authority of Archaeological which laws are successfully enforced.