**Centre for Ecology & Conservation MPhil to PhD upgrade report template**

*Use this template to complete your report. You may delete the instructions in italics but please keep the bold headings. The total text should be 3000-5000 words, excluding the reference list. Figures or tables may be included where appropriate but are not essential. You are not expected or required to include any details of data already collected or analysed, but it may be beneficial to do so should you already have some data.*

**Name:**

**Supervisors:**

**Title of thesis:**

**AI Statement:**

*Please see* [*the Postgraduate Research handbook, TQA Chapter 9, section 6.1.1 or 6.1.2*](https://as.exeter.ac.uk/academic-policy-standards/tqa-manual/pgr/9-upgradefrommphilormbyrestodoctoralstudy/#committee)*, and include the appropriate AI statement from the options provided.*

**Background:**

*Describe the problem/phenomenon being studied. Include a review of past literature on the topic including both theory and empirical findings to put your work into the context of previous research in your specific field. Include citations to previous literature.*

**Aims:**

*State the aim(s) of the project, and how this relates to the above background (e.g., it follows on from X, or fills a gap between Y and Z, or tests theory A in a new population B).*

**Chapter outlines:**

*For each planned data chapter, provide a working title, research question, hypotheses / predictions, data required, proposed methods for data collection, and analysis strategy (e.g., statistical tests to be used). You are not committed to this plan - PhD projects often change - but provide as much detail as possible. For non-data chapters (e.g., literature reviews, models), adapt the table as appropriate by deleting or adding sub-sections. You don’t need to provide outlines of the general introduction or discussion of your thesis.*

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| --- |
| **Chapter 1** |
| **Working title:** |
|  |
| **Research question:** |
|  |
| **Hypotheses/predictions:** |
|  |
| **Data required and proposed methods for data collection:** |
|  |
| **Analysis strategy:** |
|  |

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| **Chapter 2** |
| **Working title:** |
|  |
| **Research question:** |
|  |
| **Hypotheses/predictions:** |
|  |
| **Data required and proposed methods for data collection:** |
|  |
| **Analysis strategy:** |
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| **Chapter 3** |
| **Working title:** |
|  |
| **Research question:** |
|  |
| **Hypotheses/predictions:** |
|  |
| **Data required and proposed methods for data collection:** |
|  |
| **Analysis strategy:** |
|  |

*Add further chapter tables where appropriate*

**Expected timeline:**

*Provide a table or Gantt chart stating when you expect key milestones to be complete for each chapter, e.g., data collection, analysis, writing up. Discuss this timeline with your supervisor and ensure that you are working towards your personal target submission date (for funded students this should be the end of your funding period). For most PhD students this is 3 or 3.5 years of full-time study (but for some programmes, e.g., BBSRC SWBio, it is 4 years of full-time study).*

**References**

*Provide a list of references in standard format (e.g., Harvard or Vancouver style). This does not count towards the word limit of the report.*