



2024 UC Field Safety Leadership Retreat
Bodega Marine Lab & Reserve
March 8-10, 2024



Planning for Evacuations & When to Call it Quits

Risk Planning and Mitigation

- Prevention should always be the focus during planning
- Establishing good safety protocols
- Setting up safety classes before the team departs
- Establishing communication protocols
- Understanding where resources will be coming from in an emergency
- Taking risk mitigation steps during the entire trip

Resources for Planning and Mitigation

- **UC Davis Travel Security**
 - Provides Risk Mitigation plans for security risks during your trip
- **UC Davis Travel Medicine Program**
 - The Travel Medicine Program can obtain free immunizations required for travel.
 - The program also provides detailed health reports.
- **UC Davis Office of Research**
 - Can answer questions regarding [Export and Import control](#).
 - Can provide guidance to travelers going to countries under US sanctions (e.g., Cuba, Syria, Sudan, Venezuela, etc.)
- **UC Davis Field Research Safety**
 - The Field Research Safety program provides resources, training, equipment and guidance to support researchers working outdoors.
 - The Field Research Safety team also provides equipment loans including satellite communication devices for travelers in remote locations.

Example of Pre Trip Planning High Risk Destination Nigeria



Overview Of Trip

- The trip was in partnership with three Universities including UC Davis with another university as the lead organization
- The trip is for bat sample collections in Wula, Nigeria in the AFI Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (once in the park radio contact with a central location is the only guaranteed communication)
- One faculty member and one graduate student from UC Davis will be participating
- The team will arrive in Lagos and be met at the airport by members of their local team (this team provides local support and logistical support)
- The team flies from Lagos to Calabar before driving to Wula

Risk Mitigation Planning

- Setting up a communication and check in plan
- Violent Crime
- Kidnapping
- Terrorism
- Civil Unrest (Upcoming Elections)
- The Regional Security Officer in Lagos has directly recommended that this trip be avoid due to security risks and the US has limited ability to provide support due to security concerns. The Canadian and Australian governments also recommends travelers avoid all but essential travel to these areas.



Where will Help Be coming From



Administrative Map of Nigeria

Afghanistan Example

- Rapid fall of the Afghan Government to Taliban forces (Aug 15, 2021)
- Evacuations through Kabul airport start held by US and International Forces (Aug. 14 – Aug. 30)
- UC Davis Teacher informs Travel Security of possible student stuck in Kabul Aug. 20
- UC Davis Student confirmed to be in Kabul with mother and 3 younger siblings Aug. 20

Afghanistan Example Continued

- Gathering of all available resources
 - UCOP
 - Private Security group with contract with UC System
 - Campus contacts including government affairs
 - Personal contacts at private companies and Universities
 - Personal Contacts in Pakistan (Police Commanders and Pakistani Intelligence)
 - Military contacts
 - U.S. State Department
- All options were considered to get the student and her family to the airport.

Risks and Concerns

- Situation at the airport was dangerous and risks of terror attacks were very high
- Risk of traveling through Taliban check points
- Possibility of losing communication due to power outages or loss of internet connection
- Risk of traveling overland to Pakistan
- Risk of communications that might put the traveler at risk

Afghan Situation Results

- Student and family were securely transported to the airport
- Family was flown to Qatar, then D.C. then to SFO and reunited with family in the US
- Student Identified as possibly in country 8/20 8:30 am
- Student Identified as being transported out of Afghanistan 8/22 5 pm