Appendix A. Participation-Confirmation Form for Survey123 and Soil Sampling
Project Title: Adapting Citizen Science for Environmental Research in Post-War South Lebanon: Civilian Science in Action
Institution: American University of Beirut (AUB)
Research Team Contact: [Name, role], [email], [phone/WhatsApp]
Local/Municipal Focal Point (optional): [Name/role], [phone]
Date: ____ / ____ / 202_
General Area/Village: _____

1) Purpose of the project

You are invited to participate voluntarily in a community-based environmental monitoring project that documents war-related impacts on land and collects soil samples to support scientific assessment and future recovery planning.

2) What participation involves

If you agree, you may be asked to do one or more of the following (depending on your ability and convenience):

- Complete a short mobile survey (Survey123) about the affected site (e.g., land type, historical land use, visible damage).
- Record coordinates of the affected location (Soil_X / Soil_Y) using Google Maps.
- Upload photos of the affected area for visual documentation.
- Provide a soil sample collected from your own field/orchard/backyard garden or another location you consider safe and accessible, following the project guide.

3) What information may be collected (as part of the survey and sampling)

Depending on what you choose to provide, we may collect:

- **Optional contact information:** name, phone number, email (for follow-up only, if you choose).
- **Location data:** map pin and/or coordinates (Soil_X / Soil_Y).
- **Site information:** land type (e.g., agricultural, forest, residential), historical use, proximity to water sources.
- **Photos (optional):** images of the affected area.

4) Risks and safety (important)

Participation should not require entering hazardous areas. However, in conflict-affected environments, risks may exist (e.g., restricted zones, unstable terrain, unexploded ordnance). To reduce risk:

- Do **not** enter bombed, fenced, or military-marked areas.
- Do **not** touch or disturb metallic fragments or suspicious objects.
- Collect samples only from **safe, accessible areas**, preferably your own land (field/orchard/backyard garden).
- Sample during daylight and stop immediately if you feel unsafe. Your safety comes first. You should not participate in any activity that you consider risky.

5) Voluntary participation and right to withdraw

Your participation is **free and voluntary**. You may refuse to participate, skip any question, or stop at any time without consequences.
If you later wish to withdraw your submission, contact the research team using the details above and provide your village/area so we can locate and remove your record where feasible (especially before analysis/public reporting).

6) Confidentiality and data protection (including sensitive location data)

- We will not publish your identity. Any contact information you provide will be used only for project coordination and will not be shared publicly.
- **Geolocation and photos may be sensitive.** Coordinates and images will be stored securely and accessed only by authorized project personnel.
- In publications and public reports, locations may be **generalized** (e.g., village or area level) and any identifying details in photos will be removed or avoided.
- Data will be stored on secure institutional systems and handled according to responsible data management practices.

7) Compensation

No financial remuneration is provided. Participation is voluntary and based on community concern and convenience. Project materials and laboratory analyses are supported by institutional research funding.

8) Ethical status / oversight

This project involves voluntary environmental sampling and site documentation and does not collect personal health, behavioral, or medical data for research analysis. Following institutional clarification, the AUB HRPP/IRB confirmed that the described

activities do not fall under the definition of Human Subject Research and do not require IRB review. Ethical safeguards consistent with participatory environmental research were applied, including transparency, voluntary participation, risk minimization, responsible data handling, and protection of sensitive location information.

9) Participation Confirmation (required)

Please read and confirm:

☐ **I confirm that I understand the purpose of the project and what I may be asked to do.**
☐ **I understand that participation is voluntary, I can skip questions, and I can stop at any time.**
☐ **I understand the safety guidance and will not enter hazardous or restricted areas.**
☐ **I voluntarily agree to participate.**

Signature (optional if paper-based): _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
If verbal confirmation: Witness name/role: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Reason written confirmation not feasible: ☐ participant preference ☐ accessibility

10) Tiered Permission Options (check all that apply)

To respect privacy and safety, please choose what you agree to share:

A. Contact / follow-up
☐ I agree to be contacted by phone/WhatsApp/email for clarification or coordination (if I provided contact details).
☐ I do **not** want follow-up contact.

B. Location sharing
☐ I agree to share **precise coordinates (Soil_X/Soil_Y)** with the research team (not publicly).
☐ I agree to share **generalized location only** (village/area; no precise coordinates in outputs).

C. Photos (optional)
☐ I agree to upload photos for research documentation (team access only; identifying details will be avoided/removed).
☐ I do **not** agree to share photos.

D. Use of de-identified data

☐ I agree that my de-identified submission (without personal identifiers) may be used in scientific publications and reports.

☐ I agree that my de-identified submission may be used in future related analyses consistent with this project’s aims.