



Australian Government

AHCNAR502 Conduct biological surveys

Release: 1

AHCNAR502 Conduct biological surveys

Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to plan and conduct biological surveys and produce a biological survey report, according to client requirements and biological components to be surveyed.

This unit applies to land restoration managers who provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable and unpredictable problems.

No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication. However, all units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Natural Area Restoration (NAR)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Carry out preliminary design activities for the biological survey	1.1 Identify survey scope, objectives and constraints according to client requirements 1.2 Source, collate and evaluate current data relevant to survey requirements 1.3 Develop processes for data collection and processing consistent with the survey scope, objectives and constraints 1.4 Design survey plan that reflects client requirements and present to

Element	Performance criteria
	client for approval 1.5 Incorporate work health and safety and environmental sustainability and biosecurity procedures into plan
2. Determine requirements of the biological survey	2.1 Identify biological survey indicators and evaluate constraints and opportunities for data collection 2.2 Identify data collection points that are repeatable and statistically representative 2.3 Identify hazards associated with a biological survey, assess risks and develop controls, determine costs, and document in the survey design 2.4 Determine tools, equipment and machinery required for the survey and confirm availability with suppliers, contractors and personnel 2.5 Schedule survey activities and surveyor access according to the survey design 2.6 Document survey procedures and schedules and present to appropriate personnel and client for approval
3. Conduct the biological survey	3.1 Conduct field visit to verify previous data and gather further information on species frequency, distribution and health or habitat values 3.2 Conduct the biological survey according to the survey design 3.3 Monitor survey activities for accuracy, compliance to the survey design and out-of-specification procedures or events 3.4 Undertake staged data collection according to the survey design, scheduling and surveyor access requirements 3.5 Record all monitoring and survey data promptly and accurately according to specifications of the survey design
4. Compile a biological survey report	4.1 Analyse data and draw conclusions based on appropriate evidence and reasoned arguments 4.2 Prepare a biological survey report that describes survey findings according to the survey scope and objectives, identifies areas requiring remedial action for improvement and details recommendations for action 4.3 Present report to the client

Foundation Skills

Foundation Skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

This unit is equivalent to AHCNAR502A Conduct biological surveys.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCNAR502 Conduct biological surveys

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must be assessed on their ability to integrate and apply the performance requirements of this unit in a workplace setting. Performance must be demonstrated consistently over time and in a suitable range of contexts.

The candidate must provide evidence that they can:

- plan, conduct and report on biological surveys according to client requirements, enterprise policy and industry best practice
- identify the scope, objectives and constraints for a biological survey according to client requirements, the biological components to be surveyed and enterprise policy
- assess the availability of current data and determine data collection and processing needs
- identify biological indicators that are repeatable and statistically representative
- develop a survey plan that documents survey methods and indicators
- schedule survey activities and establish access to the site
- conduct a biological survey with data collection staged and recorded according to the survey plan
- produce a biological survey report with detailed analysis and conclusion, including a description and assessment of the specified biological components, in agreed timeframes to client and enterprise standards
- design and conduct biological survey in accordance with work health and safety and environmental legislative requirements
- ensure survey plan and activities complies with Animal Welfare Codes of Practice
- apply work health and safety practices in the context of own work
- apply biosecurity measures in the context of own work
- apply appropriate sustainability practices in the context of own work

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- biological classification systems
- plant and animal recognition relevant to survey area

- environmental factors that impact on vegetation and animal populations
- requirements for ensuring the welfare of animals described in the relevant Codes of Practice
- ecological principles and terminology
- energy flows and trophic structures of communities
- legal requirements relating to the protection and clearance of vegetation and animal species
- assessment, reporting and client liaison procedures and best practice techniques
- enterprise work team management guidelines
- work health and safety legislative requirements and Codes of Practice
- hazard identification, assessment and control measures

Assessment Conditions

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs.

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