



Australian Government

AHCOCM501 Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 9.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct field research into natural resource and cultural areas for resource management and related purposes.

The unit applies to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who have responsibility to gather appropriate research information to assist in the management of natural and cultural resources.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

On Country Management (OCM)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Review existing knowledge	1.1 Examine existing information gathered through previous investigation to determine key features 1.2 Identify information, records and places previously destroyed or damaged or under threat and report to management 1.3 Assess scope of information for adequacy against the requirements of legislation, codes of practice, guidelines and cultural protocols

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.4 Identify and access appropriate electronic and manual recording systems for data collection 1.5 Identify and access sources of expertise in research environments 1.6 Identify and record areas of inadequate information
2. Identify appropriate stakeholders	2.1 Consult with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Communities and authorised individuals 2.2 Conduct interviews under the direction of a relevant cultural reference group and according to organisational requirements 2.3 Investigate and record the current and relevant past land tenure for the site 2.4 Investigate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples' interests with regard to regional and Community organisations 2.5 Apply cultural protocols and conduct key consultations with regional and local Community organisations and individuals 2.6 Comply with privacy requirements according to the directions of stakeholders and legislative and organisation requirements
3. Develop research approach	3.1 Determine objectives of the field research in conjunction with key stakeholders 3.2 Use objectives to identify specific types of investigation, techniques to be used, and physical areas of investigation 3.3 Assess the types of investigation to be utilised 3.4 Review existing information and data records to determine the starting points for the fieldwork 3.5 Ensure research methodology is consistent with the research objectives 3.6 Identify and access required resources to establish and maintain the research program 3.7 Select appropriate research personnel and identify stakeholders to be included in the consultation process 3.8 Identify research techniques and safe operations within expected environmental and cultural conditions 3.9 Estimate and submit costs of field research for approval 3.10 Establish sampling and recording processes for research information according to best practice and scientific standards

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	3.11 Ensure investigations comply with guidelines and other legislative requirements
4. Develop process for involving decision-makers	4.1 Use information on stakeholders to determine interests held by organisations, groups and individuals, and cultural dimensions 4.2 Define and document issues to be addressed with interest groups 4.3 Develop consultation and decision-making process to address the issues with individuals, groups and organisations using appropriate cultural protocols 4.4 Provide appropriate time for consultative processes within groups and between individuals to occur and to obtain feedback on issues 4.5 Form a decision-making group, to assist in direct investigation, accessing information to address issues and/or review the significance of place or area
5. Conduct field investigations	5.1 Follow work health and safety, environmental sustainability and biosecurity policies and procedures when working in field 5.2 Inspect sites to assess condition and availability of further information 5.3 Adjust previously determined methodology considering progressive results and stakeholder feedback 5.4 Coordinate observations, records and monitoring in accordance with scientific practice and to meet research objectives 5.5 Determine ecological, biological and geological, microbiological and entomological diversity within specified area 5.6 Source appropriate equipment and skills for the capture, management and sampling of animal species 5.7 Identify and record evidence of culturally significant resources in area using appropriate recording equipment 5.8 Identify and record impacts from areas external to natural and cultural resources in area under investigation 5.9 Deploy equipment, techniques and people to carry out investigations 5.10 Document and approve each field operation according to legislative and organisation requirements for work in the research environment
6. Report on the field	6.1 Analyse and record information for impact since previous report

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
investigation outcomes	and other resources 6.2 Document outcomes according to legislative requirements, the organisation's policies and practices, and international and national processes 6.3 Brief stakeholders and record draft findings 6.4 Develop and submit a determination of significance report to the organisation and its external review processes as required by legislation and codes of practice

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Interpret, analyse and extract information from a range of sources, including complex legal documents, policies and procedures
Oral communication	Use culturally appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCOCM501 Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources	AHCILM501 Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources	Application updated Elements and Performance Criteria revised for clarity Foundation Skills added Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions updated	Not equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCOCM501 Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has conducted field research into a natural and cultural resource on at least one occasion and has:

- used a range of electronic and manual recording systems to support research
- identified stakeholders, including current tenure, local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander history and community interest
- sought permission from local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Communities and/or Cultural Authorities where required
- reviewed existing knowledge of national and cultural resources and sites using literature reviews, site inspections, consultation and expert advice
- developed research objectives and research design
- coordinated staff and resources for research project
- conducted field investigations to research impacts on fauna, flora and natural resources of the site
- facilitated a consultation and decision-making process
- reported on the field investigation to organisation and legislative requirements
- applied safe and humane animal handling techniques
- applied work health and safety practices in field investigations
- applied biosecurity measures in the context of own work
- applied appropriate sustainability practices in the context of own work.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- application of conservation legislation, charters, codes of practice relating to natural and cultural resource areas

- principles of free, prior and informed consent when consulting with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities
- communication techniques used for consulting with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People including:
 - verbal and non-verbal communication
 - active listening
 - appropriate questioning
- organisational recording processes
- assessment of hazards and risks in designated environment
- workplace health and safety requirements relevant to conducting field research
- access issues
- management of research in a range of weather and area conditions
- organisational policies and procedures for carrying out investigations, consultations and development of policies
- appropriate database and geographic information system
- identification of pollution, degradation and disturbance
- relevant legislation in relation to the safe, humane treatment and handling of animals
- methods for the safe, humane treatment and handling of animals
- equipment used for the safe and humane handling of animals in field research, including:
 - magnifying glass
 - tape measures
 - animal handling gloves
 - measuring calipers
 - live traps and tagging
- impacts from areas external to natural and cultural resources in area under investigation
- differences between native title and land rights legislation
- research techniques, including:
 - tracking
 - identification of species
 - sampling of plants and animals
 - historical data
- systems and processes for assessing cultural significance
- organisational reporting processes, strategies and plans
- biological diversity of the area under assessment, including aspects of living organisms, habitats and local communities, and interactions between species
- geological diversity of the area under assessment, including aspects of stratigraphy, palaeontology, paedology, and soil classification
- sustainability and conservation processes
- major impacts on natural resources, such as geological settings, ecological processes, and interaction between natural and cultural processes
- monitoring requirements, including fabric deterioration, damage and likely causes of deterioration and damage

- relevant legislation and agreements that apply to area, including a good understanding of the concepts and potential operation of the Burra Charter
- legislation under which organisation operates and research is commissioned.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated on Country and/or within an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- specifications:
 - specific legislation/codes of practice relevant to conducting field research and communicating with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community members
- relationships:
 - local Community Elders and/or Custodians.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. In addition, the following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit:

- Assessment must be undertaken by a workplace assessor who has expertise in this unit of competency and who is:

an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Elder and/or Custodian or:

- accompanied by, and in communication with, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who is a recognised member of the community with experience and knowledge of local cultural protocols.

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