

Modification history

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

AHCOCM5X01	Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources
Application	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	On Country Management (OCM)

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 1.3 Assess scope of information for adequacy against the requirements of legislation, codes of practice, guidelines and cultural protocols 1.4 Identify 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 Identify stakeholders in consultation with local Communities and groups, 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 Determine 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

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. 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 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 techniques and safe operation in the 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 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 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, such as cultural reference groups and other groups, where assistance is required to direct investigation, access information to address issues or review the significance of place or area
5. Conduct field investigations	5.1 Inspect sites to assess condition and availability of further information Undertake consultation and fieldwork to obtain information required to meet investigation objectives 5.2 Follow work health and safety, environmental sustainability and biosecurity policies and procedures when working in field 5.3 Adjust previously determined methodology in light of 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 Identify and record evidence of culturally significant resources in area 5.7 Identify impacts from areas external to natural and cultural resources in area under investigation 5.8 Deploy equipment, techniques and people to carry out investigations 5.9 Document and approve each field operation according to legislative and organisation requirements for work in the research environment 5.10 Source appropriate equipment and skills for the capture, management and sampling of animal species

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
6. Report on the field investigation outcomes	6.1 Analyse information for impact since previous report 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	
<i>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.</i>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret, analyse and extract information from a range of sources including legal documents, policies and procedures
Oral Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use culturally appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCOCM5X01 Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources	AHCILM501 Conduct field research into natural and cultural resources	Minor changes to Application Minor changes to Elements and Performance Criteria Added Foundation Skills Revised Performance Evidence to express assessment in terms of frequency Revised Knowledge Evidence Revised Assessment Conditions to include Assessor requirements	Equivalent

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72 .
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for AHCOCM5X01 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 natural and cultural resources 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 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 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
- organisational recording processes
- assessment of hazards and risks in designated environment
- workplace health and safety requirements,
- 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, and national and international issues and agreements within and external to the organisation
- impacts from areas external to natural and cultural resources in area under investigation
- differences between native title and land rights legislation
- within the required time schedules and ensure they are appropriate to the environments that will be encountered
- systems and processes for assessing cultural significance
- capture, management and sampling of animal species
- 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

Knowledge Evidence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> legislation under which organisation operates and research is commissioned. 	
Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to specific legislation/codes of practice relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local Community Elders and/or Custodians. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment must be undertaken by a workplace assessor who has expertise in this unit of competency and who is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Elder and/or Custodian <p>or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
Links	<p>Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72.</p>