

Overview

This standard is about developing and using systems to monitor environmental change, and interpreting and reporting on the results of such monitoring so that future action can be taken. The term 'monitor' is given a wide interpretation as it extends from the informal monitoring which takes place during day-to-day operations to the more formal monitoring of specific aspects of the environment.

You are likely to be monitoring indicators which may relate to changes in the condition of the environment, for example, the width or depth of eroding footpaths, the growth of vegetation in a newly enclosed area, the rate of erosion of a specific coastal feature, the decline in birdsong at set sampling times, or changes in the invertebrate population of a stream as a result of pollution. Indicators may also relate to the efficiency and effectiveness of policies, plans and their implementation.

This standard is designed for those employees and volunteers who are responsible for overseeing the monitoring and reporting on environmental change.

Performance
criteria

You must be able to:

- Monitor environmental change
- P1 the importance of developing and using systems to monitor environmental change
 - P2 methods of identifying relevant indicators for monitoring environmental change
 - P3 principles of monitoring against indicators
 - P4 sources of research data and information to monitor environmental change
 - P5 where and how to obtain relevant additional data and information
 - P6 which individuals and organisations to consult when selecting and agreeing indicators
 - P7 types of systems to monitor environmental change and their use organisational
 - P8 requirements in relation to the monitoring systems adopted methods of
 - P9 communicating guidelines clearly and in a format suitable for users the types of
 - P10 changes which may take place in the environment and the causes of these changes
 - P11 the need to review the monitoring systems and how this can be best achieved
 - P12 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
- Report on environmental change
- P13 techniques for recording data on environmental change
 - P14 ways in which records may vary according to the nature and objectives of the monitoring activity
 - P15 sources of information relevant to the interpretation of monitoring data
 - P16 types of supporting evidence which may be used
 - P17 effective ways of presenting and reporting results from monitoring activities
 - P18 ways in which the form, style and language of a report should vary according to the different recipients
 - P19 reasons for selecting particular ways of presenting data
 - P20 means of obtaining and handling feedback from the recipients of a report
 - P21 the importance of reporting on environmental change

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Monitor environmental change

- K1 the importance of developing and using systems to monitor environmental change
 - K2 methods of identifying relevant indicators for monitoring environmental change
 - K3 principles of monitoring against indicators
 - K4 sources of research data and information to monitor environmental change
 - K5 where and how to obtain relevant additional data and information
 - K6 which individuals and organisations to consult when selecting and agreeing indicators
 - K7 types of systems to monitor environmental change and their use organisational
 - K8 requirements in relation to the monitoring systems adopted methods of
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 - K10 changes which may take place in the environment and the causes of these changes
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 - K21 the importance of reporting on environmental change

Scope/range

Monitor and report on:

- 1 terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments
- 2 wildlife and wildlife habitats
- 3 effectiveness of habitat management
- 4 the impact of visitors and others on landscapes and wildlife
- 5 features of historical, archaeological and cultural importance
- 6 access network
- 7 water levels/flow
- 8 environmental conditions

Glossary

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions should be applied:

Survey: a one-off activity to collect data for a prescribed purpose e.g. baseline survey

Surveillance: a repeated survey building up a picture that can detect change but does not trigger action

Monitoring: repeated observations building up a picture that can detect change and trigger action.

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