



SYSTEM AND RISK ANALYSIS + MONITORING SKILLS

System and Risk Analysis Skills for Green Careers



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Project number: 2022-1-DE02-KA220-YOU 000085086

Exercise 2: Environmental Monitoring Field Trip

Duration: Around 2 hours

Materials needed:

- Notebook or digital device for note-taking
- Camera or smartphone with a camera
- Access to a natural environment (e.g., park, forest, beach)
- Environmental monitoring checklist (downloadable worksheet)

Goal(s):

This exercise aims to develop participants' monitoring skills by immersing them in a real-world environmental monitoring experience. By actively observing and recording environmental indicators, participants will learn to assess environmental performance and make informed decisions.

Why do this exercise:

Hands-on experience is invaluable! By engaging in an environmental monitoring field trip, you'll strengthen your ability to observe, analyze, and interpret environmental data, preparing you for monitoring tasks in your future green career.

Instructions

Step 1: Begin by downloading the environmental monitoring checklist provided.

Step 2: Choose a natural environment to visit for your field trip. This could be a local park, forest, beach, or any other natural area accessible to you.

Step 3: Before starting your field trip, familiarize yourself with the environmental monitoring checklist. Take note of the specific indicators you'll be observing and recording during your visit.

Step 4: Once at the natural environment, begin your monitoring activities. Use your checklist to systematically observe and record environmental indicators such as air quality, water quality, biodiversity, and human impact.



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Step 5: Take photographs or videos of noteworthy observations, such as pollution sources, wildlife sightings, or ecosystem dynamics. As you conduct your monitoring activities, reflect on your observations. Consider how environmental factors interact with each other and how human activities may influence environmental health.

Step 6: After completing your field trip, review your notes and observations. Analyze the data you collected and identify any trends or patterns.

Step 7: Write a reflective report summarizing your field trip experience. Discuss your observations, insights gained, and any recommendations for environmental management or conservation efforts. Optionally, share your report with peers or colleagues for feedback and discussion.

Environmental Monitoring Checklist

Use this checklist to systematically observe and record environmental indicators during your field trip.

Take note of any noteworthy observations, and if possible, take photographs or videos to document your findings.

Reflect on your observations and consider how environmental factors interact with each other and how human activities may influence environmental health.

Environmental Setting	[Insert location/environment description]
Date of Monitoring	[Insert date]
Observer(s)	[Insert name(s) of participant(s)]



Indicators to Monitor	
Air Quality	
Smell	
Visible Air Pollution (e.g., smog, smoke, etc.)	
Noise Level	
Water Quality	
Clarity/ Transparency	
Odor	
Presence of Debris	
Temperature	
Biodiversity	
Species Diversity (Plants)	
Species Diversity (Animals)	
Signs of Wildlife Activity (e.g., tracks, nests, etc.)	
Invasive Species	
Human Impact	
Presence of Litter/ Trash	
Damage to Vegetation	
Evidence of Human Activity (e.g., trails, footprints, etc.)	
Infrastructure (e.g. roads, buildings, etc.)	
Observations and notes:	[Use this space to jot down any additional observations or notes during your monitoring activities]
Photographs/ Videos	[Insert links or descriptions of photographs or videos documenting noteworthy observations]
Reflections:	[Reflect on your observations and experiences during the field trip. Consider any insights gained and potential recommendations for environmental management or conservation efforts.]

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