

Environmental Impact Assessment for Fieldwork Activities

Fieldwork Activity				Location		
Potential Impact	Likelihood (1-3)	Severity (1-3)	Total score	Impact reduction strategies	Revised Likelihood	Revised Total score
Noise disturbance to fauna: Talking / shouting / giving instructions. Noise of movement through an area. Noise generated through the use of tools or equipment.				Keep loud instruction giving to a minimum. Ensure groups stay together to avoid shouting. Advise students of excessive noise. Minimise the length of time that noisy equipment is being used. Record decibel levels and ensure they do not exceed 60dB.		
Presence disturbance to fauna: Scents from food / drink. Rapid movement in an area. Foreign objects (equipment) left in situ.				Avoid using camp cooking as sustenance means. Ensure packaging from food and drink is stored away carefully once used or removed from the site entirely. Take all litter home / back to school rather than use local litter bins. Avoid running and blustering movement through a field site. Ensure all equipment is kept close to people working and removed from the site when not in use. Use an area of the field site that is suitable in size for the activity and do not extend working beyond this area. If fauna is detected, keep as far away as possible or observe until it moves out of the range of the group. No handling or feeding of wildlife.		
Physical damage to flora / fauna habitats Removal of samples. Marking of sample areas. Trampling of underfoot habitats. Long term disruption to growing / breeding cycles.				Wherever possible, samples should not be removed from the field site. Where this is necessary, samples should be returned to the field site as soon as possible after analysis. Manipulation studies (shading / heating / addition of compounds) should be avoided. Marking equipment should be used minimally and be temporary in nature. Appropriate footwear should be worn for the condition of the terrain and established footpaths used wherever possible. In breeding seasons (such as bird nesting periods) access to the field site should be minimised. Where field sites are used regularly these should be given 'rest periods' and alternative sites used cyclically. No fires should be lit at a field site. No 'souvenir' elements (such as beach pebbles or shells) to be removed from the area.		

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Air pollution or reduction in quality: Long distance travel to field site. Direct / indirect foreign gaseous release (e.g. smoking / vaping).				Smoking and vaping should not occur at the field site (designated area created if necessary). No use of aerosols / sprays at the field site. Travel to the field site should be planned such that public transport or walking can be used as much as possible. No fires should be lit at a field site.		
Water pollution or reduction in quality: Direct / indirect foreign liquid release (e.g. cleaning materials).				Spills and leaks are immediately cleaned up and any broken containers removed from the site. Field equipment / boots / clothing etc should not be washed at the site using foreign chemicals such as detergents or solvents. Unused liquids (such as water) carried onto the site should be removed rather than dumped at the field site. Public toilets should be used rather than open toileting wherever possible. Chemical use should be carefully monitored and minimised if necessary.		
Soil contamination or reduction in quality / fertility: Direct / indirect foreign body release (e.g. littering).				Boots / fieldwork equipment should be cleaned between visits to different field sites. All litter and spent fieldwork equipment should be entirely removed from the site on exit and not just placed in on-site litter bins. As much as possible all excess packaging should be removed from sustenance / equipment before entering the field site. Each person is responsible for their own belongings. Ensure light equipment / personal belongings are weighted down in case of windy conditions. Public toilets should be used rather than open toileting wherever possible.		

In addition:

- Always check with land owners for any conservation projects etc that may mean your access to certain areas or types of activity are going to have a negative impact.
- Report any unintended damage to local authorities and/or land owners. Restore in-situ as best one can before leaving the field site.
- Handling of some wildlife may require certain wildlife licencing.
- Check the field site carefully before entering it fully with students. Be aware of signs of recent animal / bird activity.
- Consider how the season or time of day might affect your level of impact.
- Follow the principles of reduce / reuse / recycle when thinking about the purchase of fieldwork equipment, clothing and PPE.