FORMAK Header Guide

Introduction

The table below sets out the definition of some of the general fields that need to be filled in when completing FORMAK measurement forms for the four different modules. The right hand columns in the table below identify which modules require the information.

It is essential that these are filled out correctly as they record information about the measurements

that allows them to be effectively analysed and potentially related to other data sets.

	m to be effectively analysed and potentially related to other di				
Field	Description	Site Assessment	Vegetation Plot	Bird Count	Pest Animal Transect
Assessed by	 Firstname & Lastname of person who is making the measurements / assessments. This is the person who is most experienced and makes the final decision on what is recorded. 	1	√	√	1
Recorded by	Firstname & Lastname of the person who is recording the measurements / assessments called out by the assessor. In many cases the assessor will work on their own – also undertaking recording. In these cases their name is also recorded in the recorder field.	V	√	√	V
Date	In the format: dd/mm/yy e.g. 03/04/04	1	1	1	1
Time	In 24 hr clock format: hour hour: minute minute e.g. 09:40, 15:23 etc			1	
Region	The local government regional or unitary authority boundary (see appendix for map of boundaries). From the list of: √ Northland √ Tasman √ Auckland √ Nelson √ Waikato √ Marlborough √ Bay of Plenty √ West Coast √ Taranaki √ Canterbury √ Manawatu - Wanganui √ Otago √ Gisborne √ Southland √ Hawkes Bay √ Chatham Islands √ Wellington	٧	٧	٧	٧
Catchment	 The main river catchment in which the measurement is located. This river name must appear on a NZMS 260 map of the area. 	1	1	1	1
Site Name	 A well accepted location name of the area that has been used over many years. If the area is a reserve – this will be the reserve name. 	1	1	1	1
Ownership	The general category of ownership of the site from the list of: √ Private √ Department of Conservation √ Local Authority √ Other	√			

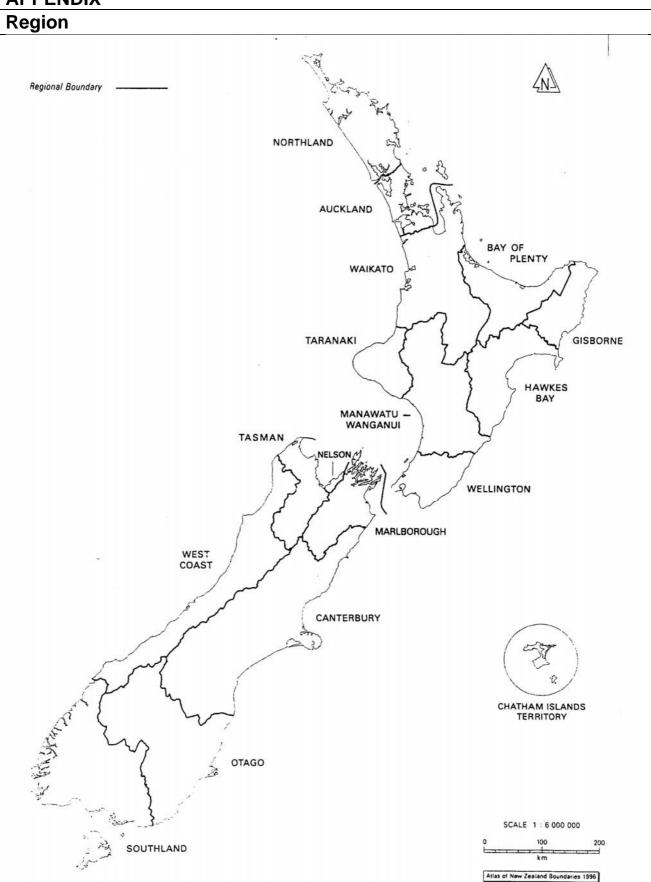
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Field	Description	Site Assessment	Vegetation Plot	Bird Count	Pest Animal Transect
Legal Protection	Broad category of legal protection from a choice of √ Informal (no legal protection) √ Legal Covenant √ Reserve (legally gazetted reserve) √ Conservation Estate	1			
NZMS 260 map number.	 The letter and number of the NZMS 260 series map e.g. R26. If a GPS is used for locations, this is not required. 	1	√	√	7
Map grid reference East	The 3 digit easting (or x coordinate) read from a 260 series map by recording the first 2 digits from the bottom of the map and then estimating the 3 rd digit (see instruction for grid references on 260 series map and in the Location Guideline).	1	√	√	√
Map grid reference North	The 3 digit northing (or y coordinate) read from a 260 series map by recording the first 2 digits from the side of the map and then estimating the 3 rd digit (see instruction for grid references on 260 series map and in the Location Guideline).	1	√	√	√
GPS East	The seven digit easting from a GPS unit displaying New Zealand Map Grid (see Location Guideline).	√	√	1	√
GPS North	The seven digit northing from a GPS unit displaying New Zealand Map Grid (see Location Guideline).	1	1	1	1
GPS Accuracy	The accuracy reported by a GPS unit in metres. E.g. 12.4m	1	1	1	1
Offset Bearing	The magnetic bearing in degrees from the point where a location was taken to the measurement point (see Location Guideline).	1	1	1	1
Offset Distance (m)	The distance in metres from the point where a location was taken to your measurement point. This will generally be estimated by pacing (see Location Guideline).	1	1	1	1
Assessment Radius	This is only recorded for a Site Assessment. It is the distance from the location point (which is as close to the centre of the site as possible) to the edge of the site. It is recorded in metres. In some cases this will be several thousand metres (i.e kilometres).	1			
Landform	Choice of: √ Terrace √ Gully √ Face √ Ridge ✓ Ridge		1		

Field	Description	Site Assessment	Vegetation Plot	Bird Count	Pest Animal Transect
Altitude	Metres above sea level (from map, GPS or altimeter)		√		
Slope	 Average slope over the plot area in degrees (see Height Estimation Guideline for use of clinometer). 		1		
Aspect	 This is the predominant direction that the hill slope faces. Hold your arms out in either direction along the contour of the slope. Bring your hands together in front of you – this point is the direction of the aspect. Measure with a compass and record magnetic direction (i.e read directly from the compass – see field guide for use of compass). 		√		
Drainage	Choice of √ Poor: swampy sites where water stands for long periods √ Medium: runoff may be slow, with water accumulating in hollows for a day or two after rain. √ Good: water runs of site rapidly.		1		
Location Diagrams	Show approach to plot to allow relocation in future. Draw a sketch showing how to practically locate the plot in the field. Include distinctive features such as watercourses, major slips, fences, roads etc that are close to the plot		√	1	1
Description / sketch of area assessed.	Show the layout of key features in the plot area – big trees, windthrow, canopy gaps etc.	1	1		
Notes	 Any additional relevant information on the measurements / assessment. Include notes on any significant observations, e.g less common or unusual bird species seen. Record any key issues that could influence the measurements recorded e.g. "stock have recently entered the area and browsed and trampled vegetation". 	√	√	√	√

APPENDIX



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