



WHC Conservation Certification® Standard Revision

Version 1.1 | 2019

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WHC Conservation Certification Version 1.1 Overview

Modifications to WHC Conservation Certification as part of Version 1.1 (v1.1) were implemented during the transition to a new online system. The decisions were made by an inter-departmental group of WHC staff that represented corporate, site/program, and communication perspectives as well as the credibility, reviewer and data considerations of the Certification Department.

Most modifications were enacted for consistency across project types to allow for improved reporting capabilities. Questions that were not evaluated as part of the application, did not result in reportable data, and were often misunderstood by applicants were removed. Two upload fields were added based on feedback received from applicants. No changes were made to the scoring.

All 2016-2018 data was mapped into improved fields to ensure consistency of future reporting. The effective date for all v1.1 modifications was June 6, 2019 (the launch of the new online system).

Habitat

Caves & Subterranean

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Cave/Subterranean-dependent wildlife; Hydrology, erosion and/or stability; Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Desert

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Desert-dependent wildlife; Hydrology, erosion and/or stability; Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Forest

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Forest-dependent wildlife; Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Grassland

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Grassland-dependent wildlife; Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Landscaped

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Invasive species; Landscape-dependent wildlife; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Marine Intertidal

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Hydrology, erosion and/or stability; Invasive species; Marine Intertidal-dependent wildlife; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Other Habitats

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Added Question	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Specific habitat-dependent wildlife; Other	Consistency with other habitat project types.

Rocky Areas

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Hydrology, erosion and/or stability; Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Rocky Area-dependent wildlife; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Wetlands & Water Bodies

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Management	Added Question	Provide a timeline of maintenance and other completed activities.		Consistency with other habitat project types.
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Hydrology, erosion and/or stability; Invasive species; Plant abundance and/or diversity; Wetland/Water body-dependent wildlife; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Species

Avian

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Removed Question	Briefly describe what activities are taking place to address the targeted species.		Duplicative of management and monitoring questions.
Scope	Removed Question	Does a significant percentage or a significantly large number of one or more targeted bird species use the project location?		Question was often not understood by applicants and did not earn points.
Scope	Removed Question	If so, please list the species, estimate of the population size, and the significance of the population.		Question often not understood by applicants and did not earn points.
Scope	Removed Question	Is the project targeting native bird species found at the project location or in the area?		Duplicative of targeted species question.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Removed Question	How important is this type of feature to maintaining populations of the targeted species?		Question often not understood by applicants and did not earn points.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Updated Checkbox Options	Which of the major habitat and/or life cycle needs does your project address for the targeted species?	Breeding or Nesting; Foraging; Hibernating or Wintering; Migratory stopover; Movement corridors; Shelter; Water; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.
Monitoring	Added Question	If applicable: List any external organizations the monitoring data is submitted to.		Consistency with other species project types.

Avian (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Bats

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Added Question	What plants or structures have been added or maintained to benefit the species?		Consistency with other species project types.
Scope	Removed Question	Briefly describe what activities are taking place to address the targeted species.		Duplicative of management and monitoring questions.
Scope	Removed Question	What specific features have been added or maintained to benefit the species?		Duplicative of plants or structures added or maintained question.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	Did specific design or placement considerations maximize the benefit of new features like an artificial water source?		Duplicative of question asked about considerations for new features.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	Did specific design or placement considerations maximize the benefit of new food sources for the targeted bat species?		Duplicative of question asked about considerations for new features.

Bats (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Design of New Features	Removed Question	How did specific design or placement considerations maximize the benefit of new food sources for the targeted bat species?		Duplicative of question asked about considerations for new features.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	How did specific design or placement considerations maximize the benefit of new features like an artificial water source?		Duplicative of question asked about considerations for new features.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	Upload documentation of the specific considerations.		Duplicative of documentation upload for new features.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	Upload documentation of the specific considerations.		Duplicative of documentation upload for new features.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	Was the artificial water source installed to provide alternative habitat components due to the impact of operations?		Consistency with other species project types.
Design of New Features	Removed Question	Was the food source installed to provide alternative habitat components due to the impact of operations?		Consistency with other species project types.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Added Question	Describe how the plants or structures address each of the habitat and/or life cycle needs selected above.		Consistency with other species project types.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Added Question	Upload documentation of the plants or structures that benefit the species.		Consistency with other species project types.

Bats (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Added Question	Which of the major habitat and/or life cycle needs does your project address for the targeted species?	Breeding or Nesting; Foraging; Hibernating or Wintering; Migratory stopover; Shelter; Water; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.
Management	Added Question	Describe the population management measures being taken to achieve or maintain a healthy population.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Is population management part of your bats project?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Select the types of population management you are doing.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Upload a population management plan if applicable.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Removed Question	Describe how you are managing or maintaining your artificial roost or hibernaculum.		Duplicative of management question.
Management	Removed Question	Describe how you are managing or maintaining your artificial water source.		Duplicative of management question.
Management	Removed Question	Describe how you are managing or maintaining your food source.		Duplicative of management question.
Management	Removed Question	Describe how you are managing or maintaining your natural roost or hibernaculum.		Duplicative of management question.
Management	Removed Question	Describe how you are managing or maintaining your natural water source.		Duplicative of management question.

Bats (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Management	Removed Question	What other bat-specific management activities are taking place that have not yet been described?		Duplicative of management question.
Management	Removed Question	Which habitat components are you maintaining or managing?		Duplicative of habitat/life cycle and management questions.
Monitoring	Added Question	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.
Monitoring	Removed Question	Is there active monitoring of the project?		Duplicative of monitoring question.

Invasive Species

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Added Question	If applicable: List any external organizations the monitoring data is submitted to.		Consistency with other species project types.
Monitoring	Added Question	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Consistency with other species project types.

Invasive Species (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Removed Question	Is there active monitoring of the project?		Duplicative of monitoring question.

Mammals

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Removed Question	Briefly describe what activities are taking place to address the targeted species.		Duplicative of management and monitoring questions.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Updated Checkbox Options	Which of the major habitat and/or life cycle needs does your project address for the targeted species?	Breeding or Nesting; Foraging; Hibernating or Wintering; Movement corridors; Shelter; Water; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.
Management	Added Question	Does the project address a specific threat to the targeted species?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Identify the specific threat to the targeted species and describe measures being taken to address the threat.		Consistency with other species project types.
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Other Species

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Management	Added Question	Does the project address a specific threat to the targeted species?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Identify the specific threat to the targeted species and describe measures being taken to address the threat.		Consistency with other species project types.
Scope	Removed Question	Briefly describe what activities are taking place to address the targeted species.		Duplicative of management and monitoring questions.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Added Question	Which of the major habitat and/or life cycle needs does your project address for the targeted species?	Breeding or Nesting; Foraging; Hibernating or Wintering; Migratory stopover; Movement corridors; Shelter; Water; Other	Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Is population management part of your other species project?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Select the types of population management you are doing.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Upload a population management plan if applicable.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Describe the population management measures being taken to achieve or maintain a healthy population.		Consistency with other species project types.
Monitoring	Added Question	If applicable: List any external organizations the monitoring data is submitted to.		Consistency with other species project types.

Other Species (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Added Question	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Consistency with other species project types.

Pollinators

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Removed Question	Briefly describe what activities are taking place to address the targeted species.		Duplicative of management and monitoring questions.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Updated Checkbox Options	Which of the major habitat and/or life cycle needs does your project address for the targeted species?	Breeding or Nesting; Foraging; Hibernating or Wintering; Migratory stopover; Shelter; Water; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.
Management	Added Question	Does the project address a specific threat to the targeted species?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Identify the specific threat to the targeted species and describe measures being taken to address the threat.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Is population management part of your pollinators project?		Consistency with other species project types.

Pollinators (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Management	Added Question	Select the types of population management you are doing.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Describe the population management measures being taken to achieve or maintain a healthy population.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Upload a population management plan if applicable.		Consistency with other species project types.
Monitoring	Added Question	If applicable: List any external organizations the monitoring data is submitted to.		Consistency with other species project types.
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Reptiles & Amphibians

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Removed Question	Briefly describe what activities are taking place to address the targeted species.		Duplicative of management and monitoring questions.
Habitat & Life Cycle Needs	Updated Checkbox Options	Which of the major habitat and/or life cycle needs does your project address for the targeted species?	Breeding or Nesting; Foraging; Hibernating or Wintering; Migratory stopover; Movement corridors; Shelter; Water; Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.
Management	Added Question	Does the project address a specific threat to the targeted species?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Identify the specific threat to the targeted species and describe measures being taken to address the threat.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Is population management part of your Reptiles & Amphibians project?		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Select the types of population management you are doing.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Describe the population management measures being taken to achieve or maintain a healthy population.		Consistency with other species project types.
Management	Added Question	Upload a population management plan if applicable.		Consistency with other species project types.

Reptiles & Amphibians (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Monitoring	Added Question	If applicable: List any external organizations the monitoring data is submitted to.		Consistency with other species project types.
Monitoring	Updated Checkbox Options	Select each type of monitoring that is being carried out.	Direct observation of the target species (e.g. visual counts, call surveys); Observation of indicators that the target species was present (e.g. tracks); Remote observation of the target species (e.g. camera trapping); Other	Streamlined for consistency in data reporting.

Education

Awareness & Community Engagement

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Added Question	Upload documentation of how the project supports a community need, if applicable.		Some applicants had documentation but lacked a place to provide this information.
Evaluation	Added Question	Upload documentation of the implementation evaluation, if applicable.		Some applicants had documentation but lacked a place to provide this information.

Formal Learning

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Added Question	Upload documentation of how the project supports a community need, if applicable.		Some applicants had documentation but lacked a place to provide this information.
Evaluation	Added Question	Upload documentation of the implementation evaluation, if applicable.		Some applicants had documentation but lacked a place to provide this information.

Training

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Added Question	Upload documentation of how the project supports a community need, if applicable.		Some applicants had documentation but lacked a place to provide this information.

Training (continued)

Application Section	Change Type	Application Question	Updated	Reasoning
Scope	Removed Question	List the lessons/experiences along with the learning goals/requirements that they meet.		Consistency with other education project types.
Scope	Removed Question	What is the source of your learning goals?		Question was often not understood by applicants and did not earn points.
Evaluation	Added Question	Upload documentation of the implementation evaluation, if applicable.		Some applicants had documentation but lacked a place to provide this information.