**Stage 1 Outdoor Education**

**AT1: About Natural Environments**

**Focus Area: Perspectives and Use of Natural Environments**

**Task Description:**

This assessment will look at human impacts and strategies for managing, improving and maintaining the ecologically sustainable development of a natural environment, through consideration of different perspectives on its use, and its connection with Australian State, Conservation or National Parks.

**Introduction:**

* Provide general background information about your chosen Park – include location, map, pictures, physical size, visitor numbers, key environmental structures (plants, animals and significant features) and other key facts. (Include some historic dates)

**Exploration:**

An outline of your exploration and findings for the park/natural environment you have chosen, including the perspectives you have considered.

See the next page for some possible factors you could explore and different perspectives to consider that are relevant for the park/natural environment that you have chosen

**Conclusion:**

Based on your exploration, discuss your findings and draw conclusions about the positive and negative influences, perspectives and strategies for the future sustainable use of the park you are investigating – e.g. the right balance of different uses for not only survival but flourishing of the area.

Make sure that personal opinions are based on research & evidence

*“Human actions are the strongest drivers of how ecosystems and linked human social systems evolve and transform (Walker et al. 2004), so human knowledge about the environment and about human/nature relationships is a powerful influence over potential for sustainability.”*

**Submission Information:**

Written or oral/multimodal report - Word count: 1100 words if written or 6 min multimodal.

Reference work appropriately and include a reference list (not included in word count)

**Assessment:**

Exploration, Understanding and Analysis (EUA1) - Exploration of the natural environment, considering different perspectives.

| - | Exploration, Understanding, and Analysis |
| --- | --- |
| A | Insightful and thoughtful exploration of the natural environment, considering different perspectives.. |
| B | Mostly insightful and thoughtful exploration of the natural environment, considering different perspectives. |
| C | Competent exploration of the natural environment, considering different perspectives. |
| D | Some exploration of the natural environment, considering different perspectives. |
| E | Limited exploration of the natural environment, considering one or two perspectives. |

**Exploration options:**

Some possible factors you could explore and different perspectives to consider that are relevant for the park/natural environment that you have chosen:

**Indigenous Australians Connections:**

* Research the original indigenous people of the area. Who they are, where they lived and some cultural information about them.
* What ways did they use the environment? Provide detail of one way that the local Indigenous people interacted with their environment (examples include transport, food, trade, cultural, Spiritual)
* How did they ensure that they used the area in a sustainable way? Again, highlight one example of how they did this successfully. Were then any negative effects?
* Are there any practices / knowledge that could be still used today to help manage the area?

**Early Europeans:**

* When did they arrive in the area?
* What impact did they have on local Indigenous population?
* Was your chosen park used for any different purposes before becoming a State, National or conservation area?
* Success / support of economic growth in area? Does any of this go towards the natural environment?
* What was the primary agricultural use for the area? Has this changed over time?
* Have there been any positive changes to the environment?
* Any successful coexistence between Agriculture and natural environments?
* What impacts or changes have occurred in this environment? (positive / negative)

**Recreation or Tourism Pursuits:**

* Why do people come to the area? What is main attraction or activities?
* List the current recreational uses of the Park. The list should be in order from the one *you* believe causes the most damage to the natural environment to the one that you believe causes the least. Justify why the activity you ranked first and last are in those positions
* Have there been any significant development for recreation within your area?
* Any current or previous environmental issues that recreation has caused to the area, what has been the consequences?
* Discuss at least 2 strategies that will allow successful and sustainable recreation within your park.
* What programs or policies are in place to help the natural environment?

**Mining:**

* Any historical or current projects within your chosen park? If so, what was main production?
* Discuss the impacts / issues caused as direct result of mining to your area?
* Any significant incidents – major spills / Extinction of species?
* Does any economical benefit go towards conservation of park management?
* Are there any management strategies in place to address environmental impacts? Evidence of improvement or successful co-existence?
* If mining no longer exists, what recovery or conservation has taken place?

**Teacher Marking Guide**

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| **EUA1 - E****xploration of the natural environment, considering different perspectives.** | **Key points** |
| Exploration of the natural environment | Description of chosen park – statistics, historicalKey features of ecosystems – plants / animalsMap of area Significant resources – tourism / agriculture / activities / mining / conservation |
| Different Perspectives | At least 3 different uses of area.Connect Human impacts to environmental issues / concernsEvaluation of sustainability / health of areaSuggestions for future shared use supporting natural environment |
| Environmental Issues | Identification of CausesReference to H.I.P.P.O principleConsequences of impacts to environment Human v natural causes could be mentioned |
| Sustainable Practices | What management strategies have been used in past? Any success or otherwise?What management strategies are being used currently?Are they effective?Future of different ideas? |