

## DUTIES OF NAVIGATOR / RECORDER

**Species:** Determine which species are to be counted and distances measured, and which angles (lateral and/or vertical, if required).

Decide a data coding system for recording species etc.

**Before Beginning:** **Equipment required:** clipboard and plastic cover, duties reminder sheet, writing implement and spare blank data sheets; maps and/or route details, 'Silva' compass; timepiece (watch or smartphone); radio and spare battery, GPS unit, food, drinking water; suitable clothing, rainwear, headgear, footwear; binoculars (optional).

1. Familiarize yourself with the Silva **magnetic compass**; check that you can read and set a bearing correctly; check no. of degrees per scale marking and how to read accurately.
2. Familiarize yourself with **GPS** design and operation.
3. Find out how to classify **habitat types** (e.g. vegetation).

**Tasks:** While travelling a transect:

1. Make sure you know the coordinates of the intended starting point, the route details and the intended finishing point.
2. Set the transect direction for your the team as it travels the transect. Monitor your direction and position as you go. Check the map.
3. Radio a third party with your position at set intervals if required.
4. Record transect details before beginning (e.g. transect name, date, weather conditions, starting time).
5. Record the habitat type at the start, then monitor it as the transect proceeds. Each time you move from one habitat type to another, record the time (and GPS position if required). Measure from/to middle of transition zones.
6. Record the section number and, for each detection, the number of individuals visible, the detection distance and, if required, lateral angle bearing and/or angle of elevation.
7. Simply record the number of individuals in each group that overtakes from behind.

**At the Start:** **Set the compass** to the appropriate magnetic bearing.

**Mark the data sheets** with starting point, weather conditions and names of team members. Number the first transect section as '1', and write in the starting time.

**During the Transect:** If you are following a compass bearing, make sure that the **bearing** is followed as

closely as possible. Keep the compass away from steel objects (e.g. metal clips on a clipboard, steel watchstraps).

Identify a **landmark** to walk to (e.g. a distant tree or other distinctive object), walk there, then repeat the procedure. [If your transect requires you to vary the direction,

use the map to make sure you follow the correct route.]

**Monitor the time**; end a transect section if the habitat changes greatly (e.g. you move from forest to open grassland).

Keep the **pace** slow and as even as possible. If a few minutes' **break** is needed, take it at the end of a transect section.

**Watch for animals** whenever the observer is using the rangefinder or is otherwise diverted from making observations.

As you walk, record the main **vegetation type** around you and any marked change in the prevailing **weather conditions** where it occurs.

The **relevant habitat** type for each observation is the habitat the observer is looking through to make an observation, not the habitat type at the detection point itself.

**Record detection data from the observer only.**

Suggested format for ***n x r observations***: ' EK1 x 122, EK2 x 89, BW1 x 48, (EK3) '

Suggested format for ***n x r x (angle) observations***: '

' EK1 x 122 (2°), EK2 x 89 (104°), BW1 x 48 (73°), (EK3) '

*i.e.* EK1 x 122 (2°) = species EK, 1 at 122m., bearing 2°  
(EK3) = species EK, 3 overtaking from behind survey team

If **weather becomes unsuitable** (e.g. heavy rain starts to fall), suspend the transect until it passes. If greatly altered weather persists, stop the transect at that point, to be resumed if possible next day or an ensuing day.

**Vegetation Changes:** End a transect section and begin the next if the vegetation changes greatly, or (if desired) 10 minutes or so has elapsed since the section began.

Record the **finishing time** for that section and the **starting time** for the next. Give it a new transect section number.

Record the **main vegetation type** of the previous section. If uncertain, enter a short vegetation description.

**At the End:** If you are being picked up, radio in about 20 minutes before the transect is likely to end.

Complete (or revise) all **details you can on the data sheet provided**, except perhaps the distance travelled, which needs to be done carefully from a map.