

Exercise: Transect Walk

Objectives

Use a systematic, structured approach to practice field observation with an environmental focus.

Instructions:

Along the transect line chosen by the facilitators, use the template on the next page to make a continuous observation record that covers the environmental components listed in the table below.

Use orthogonal distance of ____ m.

Environmental components of interest

Land use & cover	Flora & fauna	Topographic & Geologic Features
Beach/tidal Agricultural (crop type or fallow) Pastoral Woodlot Garden (ornamental landscape) Wetland Structures (note type & economic status) Parking area/transport yard Waste disposal Other	Note sitings of livestock, wildlife, numbers and species (if known). Note any large trees and species (if known)	Relative Elevation (note if profile is artificial) Paths & Roads (paved? Traffic density?) Waterbodies, waterways, & drainage (note water quality, level) Barriers (fences, walls) Utility lines Soil type (if apparent) Indications of erosion or soil degradation
Economic activity not captured by "land use"	Sanitation and contamination	
Note e.g. fishing & fish processing, roadside vendors, etc.	Note any indications of poor sanitation, uncontrolled waste disposal, standing gray water, etc.	

Post-walk discussion

Our invited experts and selected participants will highlight their observations & what they suggest regarding *environmental health*. That is:

- How intact are ecosystems & ecosystem functions?
- How healthy is the environment for the people who live in it?

