

ANZSCO comprehensive review team
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Online submission; cc: updating.anzsko@abs.gov.au

Level 3 329 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
info@alca.org.au
ABN 80 637 680 310

14 April 2023

Dear ANZSCO review team,

RE: Submission to ANZSCO comprehensive review – consultation round 1

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' round 1 consultation on the Australian New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

Please note that ALCA is happy for this submission to be published in full.

About the Australian Land Conservation Alliance

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance is the peak national body representing organisations that work to conserve, manage, and restore nature on privately managed land. We represent our members and supporters to grow the impact, capacity, and influence of private land conservation to achieve a healthy and resilient Australia. Our members include:

- Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust NSW
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Greening Australia
- Landcare Australia
- Nature Foundation
- Queensland Trust for Nature
- South Endeavour Trust
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy Australia
- Trust for Nature (Victoria)

ALCA member land conservation efforts have influenced over 3 million square kilometres with more than 4,000 landholders. We have over 70,000 supporters and our combined annual turnover exceeds \$260 million. Together ALCA and its members address some of the most pressing conservation issues across the country, including restoring endangered ecosystems, building the protected area estate, tackling invasive species, expanding private conservation finance, and funding and using nature-based solutions to tackle climate change.

Through their active land management, ALCA member organisations are deeply embedded in rural communities and economies, providing jobs, securing significant regional investment, and safeguarding remaining native habitat, with its many positive spill-over effects for community, wellbeing, and food security. We seek to demonstrate the role and value of private land conservation as a cornerstone of the Australian economy.

Some ALCA members are statutory entities; the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent the views of the Government administering those statutory entities.

Summary

The interrelated challenges of two of our biggest challenges, biodiversity loss and climate change, mean that both the protection and management of our natural capital and the application of nature based solutions are increasingly important.

ALCA member organisations engage in direct ownership and management of land for conservation, and in working with landholder partners (such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and farmers) to support their conservation and restoration efforts. The value of managing natural capital and biodiversity assets is increasingly recognised, and aligns with national and international frameworks and strategies, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Biodiversity Framework¹, and the emerging work of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)². The application of environmental economic accounting is increasing and likely to become a critical element of land management activities and reforms.

Productive and conservation lands with biodiversity assets are being managed and protected through covenants or conservation agreements across thousands of properties around Australia, and this land requires active management. Restoration across privately managed land can occur at scale. Private protected areas for conservation are ordinarily described as reserves or nature reserves; or conservancies or nature conservancies.

These efforts occur across Australia in every State and Territory, often on privately managed lands and Indigenous Protected Areas³, and often at a large scale, including within Australia's pastoral estate. The conservation and land management sector can be considered the training ground for skills that are and will become increasingly important.

Typical occupations / occupation titles include:

- Conservation Scientists, Ecologists, Field Ecologists, Wildlife Ecologists, Agro-Ecologists and Restoration Ecologists
- Nature Reserve Managers / Assistant Managers / Officers; Indigenous land managers/ coordinators/ Rangers; Sanctuary Managers / Assistant Managers / Officers; Conservation Land Managers / Assistant Managers / Officers; Land Management Officers; and equivalent occupation titles
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships / Engagement Officer, and equivalent occupation titles

Typical activities include managing and eradicating invasive species (e.g. feral pests and weeds); restoring degraded landscapes; reintroducing native species; planning, monitoring and evaluating conservation efforts; outreach, engagement and partnership activities; managing contractors for environmental works; maintaining equipment used for conservation; and a range of other related activities.

In its current state, the classification of operations could be strengthened by recognising the increasingly important role of managing conservation and cultural values across lands seas and waters and the increasing importance of Indigenous and private protected area managers in this work. We recommend consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land managers to review the classifications for appropriateness of language to reflect their specific roles and responsibilities.

¹ See: <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-final-text-kunming-montreal-gbf-221222>

² See: <https://tnfd.global/>

³ See: Australia's protected areas, DCCEEW; <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/nrs/about-nrs/australias-protected-areas>

Recommendations

139912 Environmental Manager

1. The description should be updated as follows [**edits in bold**]:

Plans, organises, directs, controls and coordinates the development and implementation of an environmental management system within an organisation by identifying, solving and alleviating environmental issues, such as **invasive species**, pollution and waste treatment **or ecosystem restoration**, in compliance with environmental legislation and to ensure corporate sustainable development **or environmental sustainability**.

2. The following specialisations should be added:

Conservation Manager

Short description: A conservation manager has oversight of the development and implementation of programs or regulations for the management, protection, restoration or recovery of marine life, wildlife, vegetation, and other natural resources. [note how this relates to the edited description for 23411 Conservation Officer below].

23411 Conservation Officer

3. The description should be updated as follows [**edits in bold**]:

Develops and implements programs **and or** regulations for the protection, **restoration or recovery of fish, marine life**, wildlife, **vegetation**, and other natural resources.

234312 Environmental Consultant

4. The description should be updated as follows [**edits in bold**]:

Analyses and advises on policies guiding the design, implementation and modification of government, or **commercial non-government** environmental operations and programs.

234313 Environmental Research Scientist

5. The description should be updated as follows [**edits in bold**]:

Studies and develops policies and plans for the control of **adverse factors environmental factors, or for the protection, effective management, restoration or recovery which may produce pollution, imbalance in or degradation** of the environment.

6. The following specialisations should be added:

Restoration Ecologist

Short description: A restoration ecologist works to understand and inform ecological restoration practices and to repair ecosystems that has been degraded or damaged, including through industrial processes.

Agro-Ecologist

Short description: An agro-ecologist works to inform and apply ecological concepts and processes to improve and sustain agricultural production systems.

Conservation Scientist

Short description: A conservation scientist works to protect and conserve ecosystems, including marine life, wildlife, vegetation, and other natural resources.

234314 Park Ranger

7. The title of the position should be amended from “Park Ranger” to “Ranger”.
8. The description should be updated as follows [**edits in bold**]:

Assists in controlling a State or national park, scenic area, historic site, nature reserve, **Indigenous protected area, private protected area**, recreation area, or conservation reserve ~~in accordance with authorised policies and priorities.~~

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ comprehensive review of ANZSCO.

ALCA and its members are happy to make ourselves available should you wish to follow up on any issue raised in the submission.

Australian Land Conservation Alliance