

Accredited Expert Form

Form version: 07/09/2021

Application to become an AfN Accredited Expert

**Purpose of this form**

The purpose of this form is to enable environmental accounting specialists to apply to become accredited experts under the Accounting for Nature® (AfN) Framework and to be listed on the AfN Accredited Expert Register.

**What is an Afn accredited expert?**

An AfN Accredited expert is deemed by AfN Ltd to have the necessary skills and experience to work with project proponents to create environmental accounts and to advise on key aspects of the AfN Framework. Proponents do not have to use AfN Accredited Experts to develop environmental accounts but they are encouraged to do so.

**Expert Accreditation pathways**

There are two ways in which individuals can apply to become AfN accredited experts:

* **Category 1 Experts** have demonstrated applied scientific expertise, including at least three years’ experience in experimental design and the undertaking of a specific systematic ecological measurement and monitoring program. Category 1 Experts must nominate their area of specialisation (e.g. “native vegetation”, “fauna”, “soil” etc). In addition to their technical expertise, Category 1 Experts are deemed to have the capability to develop environmental accounts. Category 1 Experts must also have relevant vocational or tertiary-level qualifications in natural sciences, environment, sustainability management or other related disciplines.
* **Category 2 Experts** with demonstrated experience in fields related to environmental accounting, such as carbon, environmental management and/or financial accounting, sustainability management, auditing, environmental consultancy/policy etc. Category 2 Experts are deemed to have the capacity to lead the development of environmental accounts, however AfN recommends that they assess whether there is a need to be supported by Category 1 Experts where Methods require specialist scientific expertise for experimental design or ecological monitoring or measurement. Category 2 Experts must have a minimum of two years work experience in a related field, such as the application of environmental accounting, natural resource audits, environmental impact studies, ecological surveys, monitoring & management of environmental assets on farm etc**[[1]](#footnote-1)**.

Upon submission of this application form, and subject to meeting the above criteria, successful applicants are notified and their details are registered on the AfN Accredited Expert Register, typically within 4 weeks of lodgement. AfN Accredited Experts will initially receive “**Provisional**” accreditation until they provide evidence to AfN Ltd that they have developed (or played a key role in the development of) their first environmental condition account.

**accredited expert fees**

Costs for applicants, which include training and accreditation fees, are listed in the AfN Fee Schedule on the AfN website.

**How to submit**

The application to become an accredited AfN expert along with supporting documentation can be emailed to: [certification@accountingfornature.org](mailto:certification@accountingfornature.org).

**Privacy statement**

AfN is committed to protecting privacy in accordance with the AfN Ltd Privacy Policy, accessible on the AfN website.

**Contact and support**

Further information regarding this process is available on the Accounting for Nature website. For help with the application process, the AfN Certification Manager can be contacted at [certification@accountingfornature.org](mailto:certification@accountingfornature.org).

**Disclaimer**

AfN Accredited Experts are not employees of AfN Ltd. The views, advice and conclusions reached by AfN Accredited Experts do not constitute an endorsement or reflect the view of AfN Ltd or any of its employees. No representation, warranty or guarantee express or implied is made by AfN Ltd that the information provided by AfN Accredited Auditors and AfN Accredited Experts is accurate, current or complete. AfN Ltd and its officers, employees, agents, advisers and sponsors will not be liable for any errors, omissions, misstatements or mistakes in any information or damages resulting from the use of information or any decision made or action taken in reliance on information provided by AfN Accredited Auditors and AfN Accredited Experts.

# Part A. Applicant details

* **A.1. Applicant’s full name and title**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Mr |  | Mrs |  | Ms |  | Dr |  | Other |  |
| First Name | Mitchel | | | | | | | | | |
| Surname | Rudge | | | | | | | | | |

* **A.2. Applicant’s organisation/entity**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Trading name (if any) | Bush Heritage Australia |
| Entity identifier (ABN, ACN, ARBN, ICN etc) | ABN 78 053 639 115 |
| Applicants position  (e.g. CEO, owner, environmental manager etc) | Project Officer Remotely-sensed data |
| LinkedIn profile address (optional) |  |

* **A.3. Organisation’s Postal address**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Address Line 1 | Level 1, 395 Collins St |
| Address Line 2 |  |
| Suburb/city | Melbourne |
| Post code | 8009 |
| State/territory | Victoria |
| Country | Australia |

* **A.4. Applicant’s contact details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Phone number | 0448 174 829 |
| Email address | mitchel.rudge@uq.edu.au |

* **A.5. Billing details**
* Fees to become accredited as an AfN Expert can be found in [AfN’s Certification Quick Guide & Fee Schedule](https://www.accountingfornature.org/key-documents/#QG).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name and address to be included on the invoice (if different from above) |  |

# part b. qualifications and experience

* **Applicants must attach a copy of their CV.**
* AfN reserves the right to request copies of any formal qualifications.
* **B.1. Academic qualifications**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| List relevant academic qualifications.  Include:  - Qualification  - Name of institution  - Year awarded | Bachelor of Science (hons 1), Charles Darwin University. Awarded 2015 |

* **B.2. Work experience**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Describe relevant work experience (at least 3 years in areas such as natural resource audits, environmental impact studies, ecological surveys, natural resource management, farm management etc.)  Include:  - Description of responsibilities  - Company  - Year | Responsibilities  - Lead vegetation surveys in Kakadu National Park and the Ranger mining  lease, including sampling design, safety management, field work  coordination and data analysis  - Synthesise and analyse field survey data and present findings to various  stakeholders, including a scientific technical committee  - Coordinate drone missions to collect vegetation survey data to inform mine  site restoration  **Company** *Department of the Environment and Energy (now Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment),, Supervising Scientist Branch*  **Year** 2015-2018 |

* **B.3. Other relevant qualifications and skills**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| List relevant transferable skills (e.g. carbon accounting, financial audits, or demonstrated proficiency in relevant Australian or International Standards (e.g. ISO 14040). |  |

* **B.4. Development of an AfN Technical Protocol and/or Method**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Have you developed, or been part of a team, that has developed an AfN certified Technical Protocol and/or Method? | Yes |  | No |  |
| If yes, list the name and ID of the Technical Protocol and/or Method and briefly describe your role. |  | | | |

* **B.5. Development of an AfN certified environmental account**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Have you developed, or been part of a team, that has developed a certified environmental account? | Yes |  | No |  |
| If yes, list the project name, project ID and briefly describe your role. |  | | | |

* **B.6. Expert category nomination**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nominate the Expert Category (Category 1, Category 2, or both) that you think best applies to you. If you select Expert Category 1 please identify your areas of scientific specialty (e.g. native vegetation, fauna, soil etc). Please provide a brief explanation as to why you think you are best suited for your nominated category and specialisation. |  |

# Part C. AfN Expert Training and assessment

* **C.1. Completion of the AfN Accredited Expert Training Course**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Did you complete the AfN Accredited Expert Training Course? | Yes |  | No |  |
| If yes, please attach your certification of completion. |  | | | |

# Part D. AfN Accredited Expert code of ethics

* The following ethical requirements have been adapted from Australian Auditing Standard ASA 102 and APES 110. These Standards have been developed with a clear public interest focus and reflect best-practise ethical guidelines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **I will abide by the following fundamental ethical principles:** | |
| **Integrity** | I will be straightforward and honest in all professional and business relationships. I will not mis-represent my relationship with AfN Ltd. |
| **Objectivity** | I will not compromise professional or business judgements because of bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others. |
| **Professional competence and due care** | I will attain and maintain professional knowledge and skill at the level required to ensure that a client or employing organisation receives competent advice, and I will act diligently and in accordance with applicable technical and professional standards. |
| **Confidentiality** | I will respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships. |
| **Professional behaviour** | I will comply with relevant laws and regulations and avoid any conduct that I know or should know might discredit the profession. |

# Part E. declaration

As an applicant to become an AfN Accredited Expert, I make the following declaration:

* I have the necessary qualifications and experience as outlined in this application form to be accredited as an AfN Expert and I have attached my CV.
* I have undertaken relevant AfN training and passed all assessment tasks and I have attached my certificate of completion.
* I will comply with the AfN Accredited Expert Code of Ethics in its entirety as described in Part D above.
* I agree to undertake Continual Professional Development where reasonable, to ensure my skills and experience remain relevant with respect to being recognised as an environmental accounting expert.
* I certify that to the best of my knowledge all information provided in this application is true and correct and not misleading by inclusion or omission. Should the information that I have provided in this form change, I will inform AfN Ltd immediately.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant Name |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

1. Special application provisions for those with “other relevant skills and experience - if the applicant has a background in applying financial, environmental or carbon accounting (for example) other than described above, applicants can contact AfN to assess their eligibility to be accredited as an Expert before undertaking the AfN Accredited Expert Course.   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)