



Ecological Monitoring System Australia

Monitor App Companion Guide

Version 1.0

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Version

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Readers are advised that this document will undergo revision as the EMSA Monitor app undergoes new refinement and updated versions become available. The appearance and names of the fields may vary slightly from the modules and the datasheet during this process.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this guide

This document is a companion guide to the first Monitor app guide [Manual for using the Monitor App](#). The first guide provides guidance on getting users started using the app and works through the key EMSA modules of Plot Selection and Layout, Plot Description, Floristics, Cover. This companion guide elaborates on additional issues, steps and troubleshooting techniques that have emerged from running the EMSA helpdesk to date. It walks users through some common Monitor setup issues, highlights key considerations prior to commencing field work, and outlines troubleshooting steps for frequently encountered issues. There is some overlap with this document and the earlier Monitor app guide however our view is that this overlap serves to make user learning easier and faster.

As with the [Manual for using the Monitor App](#), this guide is intended to assist practitioners, contractors and ecologists who are working on Natural Resource Management (NRM) projects delivered through the Australian Government Panel of Regional Delivery Partners.

This guide is structured around four key areas:

1. **Monitor Access and Setup** – including account activation, permissions, device compatibility and configuration, and links to access the Monitor app and training videos.
2. **Using Monitor** – providing an overview of core navigation, data entry workflows, syncing processes and essential system logic.
3. **Preparing for Field Surveys with Monitor** – outlining pre-field preparation tasks such as downloading projects, checking modules, confirming site allocations and ensuring devices are ready for remote conditions.
4. **Common Errors and Warnings** – describing typical system messages, validation prompts and syncing conflicts, along with practical troubleshooting techniques to resolve them efficiently.

The final pages of this guide include a consolidated **pre- and post-fieldwork checklist**, designed to help ensure that field work runs smoothly, and all data is preserved upon completion. Additionally, we have created a **glossary of key terms** and a list of frequently used **links and support resources**.

In addition to these guides, users are expected to be familiar with the relevant EMSA modules and monitoring requirements for their project prior to data collection. This document provides targeted, operational guidance to help users more confidently navigate the Monitor app and avoid common setup and workflow challenges, however does not replace a close read of the relevant manuals, accessing other training materials on the EMSA website and attending any on-ground training where possible.

2 Monitor Access & Setup

2.1 Accessing Monitor

Monitor works best when accessed and installed as a Progressive Web App (PWA) via Google Chrome. Instructions for saving the PWA to your device can be found on page 4 of the [Manual for using the Monitor App](#) and a short video is available on the [Video Tutorials Page](#). Users should make sure they download the correct versions of Monitor for your data collection:

1. [Monitor Staging](#) – is for practicing with test data
2. [Monitor Production](#) – is for REAL data ONLY

In-progress surveys are linked and saved to the browser and device that they are started on. Therefore, surveys started on the PWA installation, but not completed, will also be accessible on the Google Chrome Browser of the device.

Note: Clearing cached data on your Google Chrome browser will also clear any in-progress surveys or surveys that are waiting to be synced in the Monitor app.

2.2 Device Selection

Monitor works best on Android devices and computers using Google Chrome. While Monitor may work on iOS software (Apple iPhone and iPad), EMSA Help Desk support is only for Android platforms. Desktop/laptop computers, mobiles and tablets can all be used; however, the app will run better on tablets and computers than on phones. The EMSA team recommend using the Samsung S-series models released after 2020 or the Samsung Galaxy Active series.

For more information check out our FAQ page.

2.3 Logging-in

Monitor uses the same login credentials as MERIT. If you do not have an Atlas of Living Australia account (for accessing MERIT) you can create an account [here](#).

Before you can access any EMSA modules in Monitor, your MERIT Project Administrator will need to add you to the relevant project (or projects) in MERIT.

Once setup, your login details will give you access to both the Staging and Production versions of the App.

2.4 Ensure your MERI plan has been approved

If you are a Regional Delivery Partner (RDP) and need assistance with your MERI plan or with selecting EMSA Modules, please contact your Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) contract manager. For technical questions about MERIT please email merit@dcceew.gov.au. If your MERI plan has not been approved, you will be unable to access the modules in Monitor.

2.5 Additional Device Setup

2.5.1 App permissions

Camera & microphone

Monitor uses the device camera and microphone to take photos and sound recordings, as well as to access photos and sound files from your device or computer. When Monitor is first accessed on your device you will be prompted to allow camera and microphone permissions. Please ensure that the device camera and microphone permissions are enabled to avoid pop-up errors. Preferences on your device can be updated in menu > preferences.

Location

Monitor requires access to your location for core data-collection processes. Location access is also required for connecting a GNSS device for use with the app.

When Monitor is first accessed on your device you will be prompted to allow location permissions. Please ensure that the device's geolocation is enabled. If you choose not to allow permission, then some app features will not work. If denied, you will need to change location preferences in your browser settings.

Notifications

When the Monitor app is first opened you will be prompted to allow notifications. Allowing notifications will mean that you are informed about important updates, scheduled maintenance etc. Permissions can be changed in app preferences.

2.5.2 Keyboard

The default numeric keyboard on some Android devices does not include a minus sign (-). This appears to specifically affect Samsung devices. It is recommended to change the default keyboard of your device. To change your default keyboard:

1. Go to the device **settings**
2. Select General Management > Keyboard List and Default
3. If available, toggle on **GBoard** or **SWIFT KEY** to set it as the **Default Keyboard** If no alternate keyboards are available, download one from the app store (this requires an internet connection)

Note: The steps for your device's make and model may be slightly different, if you run into trouble, try Googling the steps for changing the default keyboard for your specific device.

3 Using Monitor

The following sections will help familiarise you with some of the common Monitor app functions and buttons. The Monitor Staging platform was built for training and practice purposes to help you become familiar with the app and how it works before you go into the field. Please spend some time entering *test data* from mock surveys – never enter real data into Monitor Staging. The Staging app is automatically refreshed every Sunday and any data entered will be deleted.

Note: Your project's MERI plan needs to be approved before you can access the modules in Monitor.

3.1 Refer to Manuals

3.1.1 Manual for Using the Monitor App

The [Manual for using the Monitor App](#) covers preparing the Monitor app for a field survey and working through key EMSA modules that are likely to be included in the monitoring requirements for a number of projects (i.e. Plot Selection and Layout, Plot Description, Floristics, Cover). The guidance provided on the use of these key modules represents a template for all modules as most app functions, components and work-flow logic are shared across the app.

3.1.2 Module Manuals

You will need to use the module manuals as you work through the App. Use of the app is not always initially intuitive and there is a lot of additional detail in the Manual for using the Monitor App and the individual Module Manuals. Some modules interact and build on each other, while others are standalone. Users should be familiar with the EMSA modules and protocols relevant to their project and have them on hand while using the app.

They are available on the [Document Downloads](#) page of the EMSA website.

The [Manual for using the Monitor App](#) is available on the Learning & Resources page of the EMSA website.

3.2 The Projects Page

Once logged in, the Monitor app will open to the Projects page (section 3.3, figure 1). On the projects page you will see: the modules assigned to your project listed as icons, the current context (figure 1 & section 3.4, figure 2) and any collections that are in progress or waiting to be synced (section 3.7.1, figure 6). A side menu is accessible from the menu button that appears at the top left corner of any page. If you contact the Help Desk team you may be asked to provide information listed in this side panel such as the Build, Version and Git Hash.

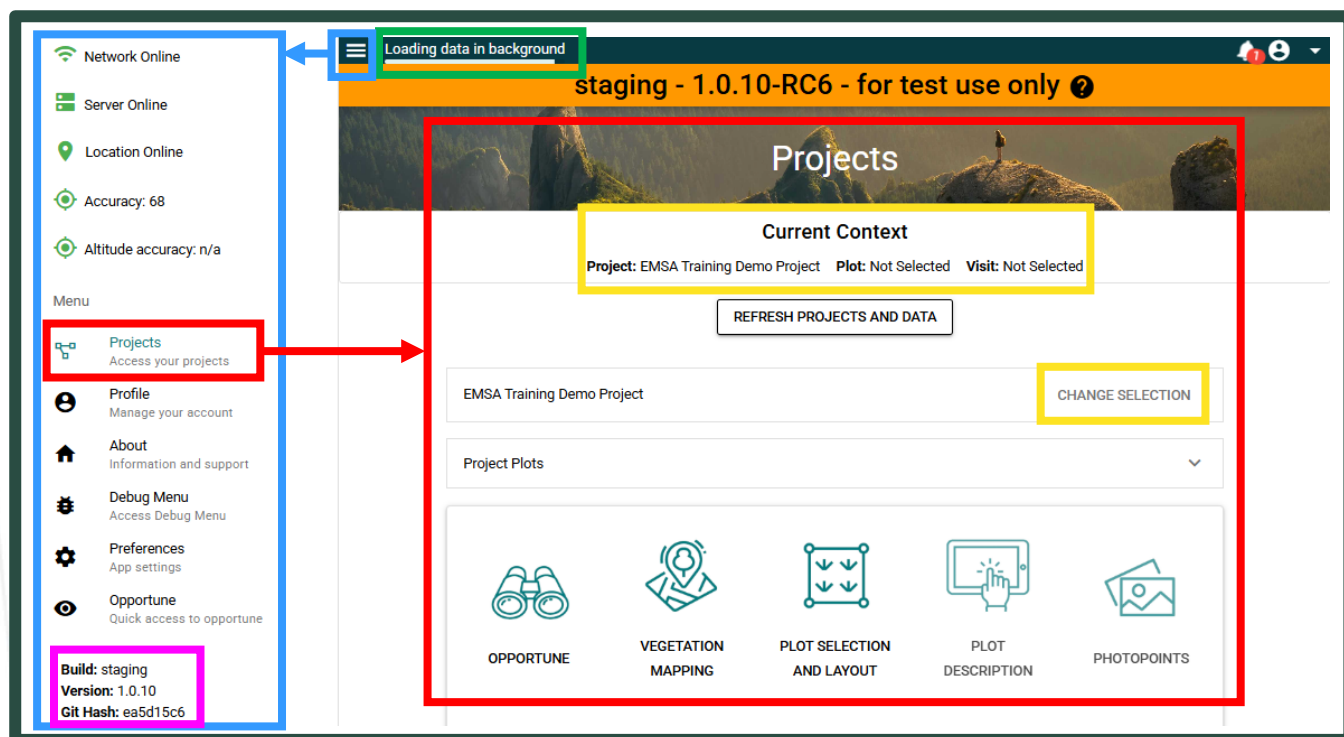


Figure 1: Screenshot of the Monitor app showing elements to become familiar with. The loading banner (green) indicates that data must finish loading in the background before the app is used. The side menu (blue) opens the menu panel for app navigation, versioning (pink), and connectivity. Version information (pink) displays the current Monitor version, which may be requested by the Help Desk. The navigation button (red) returns users to the projects page with a list of available modules. The current context (yellow) can be changed to reflect the appropriate project, plot, and visit, and can be adjusted via 'Plot Selection and Layout > Plot layout', or using the 'Change Selection' button (yellow).

3.3 Current Context

The 'current context' indicates the Project, Plot and Visit context of data being entered into the app. The current context shows what metadata any surveys will be tied to. The context can be changed via the Plot Layout and Visit Protocol in the Plot Selection and Layout Module. Always check that you are in the correct context before beginning a survey

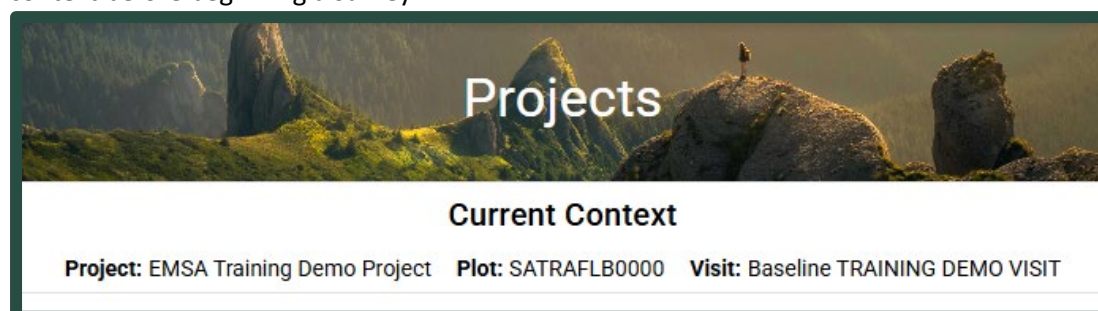


Figure 2: Screenshot showing the 'current context' in Monitor

3.3.1 Setting the 'Current Context' in Monitor

It is not necessary to 'create a new plot' or a 'new visit' every time you enter data into Monitor, you can set the context by choosing an existing plot and visit within a project using the following steps.

1. Open the <i>Plot Selection and Layout Module</i> and start the <i>Plot Layout and Visit</i> protocol	 PLOT SELECTION AND LAYOUT
2. Click <i>Select existing</i>	SELECT EXISTING
3. Select the name of the plot you're working in	
4. Select the <i>Complete Plot Layout Component</i> button	COMPLETE PLOT LAYOUT COMPONENT
5. Select the <i>Complete Plot Fauna Layout Component</i> button	COMPLETE PLOT FAUNA LAYOUT COMPONENT
6. Click <i>Select existing</i>	SELECT EXISTING
7. Select the name of the visit you are working in	
8. <i>Complete the Plot Visit Component</i>	COMPLETE PLOT VISIT COMPONENT
9. Review the data	
10. Select the <i>Set Plot Context</i> button	SET PLOT CONTEXT

Note: creating a new plot or visit will also set the plot context to the new plot/visit. For further instructions for swapping between projects and plots see section 2.1.5 in the Manual for using the Monitor App.

3.4 Navigating within Modules

Navigation tools within modules are common throughout the Monitor App. Understanding the function of each tool will help users to easily move through a module, and ensure that your work is saved at the necessary points ([section 3.4, figure 3](#))

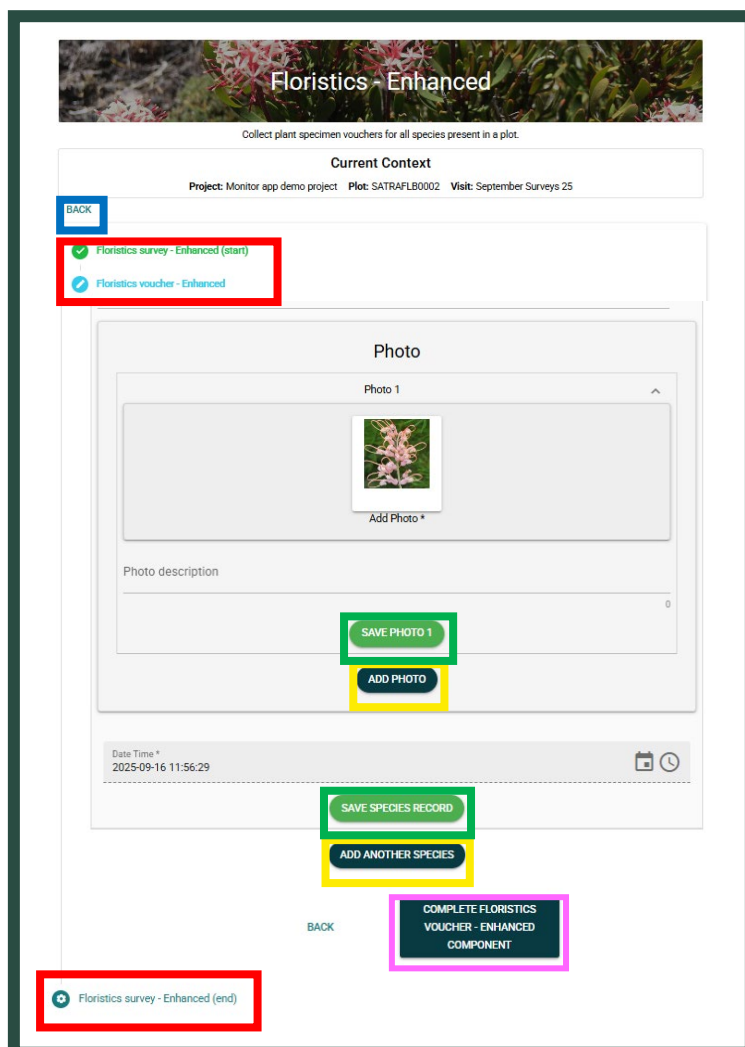


Figure 3: Screenshot of the Monitor App, Floristics Enhanced protocol, highlighting key elements for users to be aware of. Many of these features are common throughout protocols in the Monitor App. Save buttons (**green**) must be clicked to save any data in the section directly above. The BACK option (**blue**) returns users to the projects page. Protocol steps (**red**) indicate progress; once completed users may navigate backwards by selecting a completed step, while forward navigation requires use of the 'Complete' button (**pink**). Add buttons (**yellow**) allow users to include additional images to the current record or create a new record. The 'Complete' button (**pink**) is used to finish completed collections.

3.5 Collections Summary Table

Open and completed collections pending sync will appear in a 'Collections Summary' table below the 'current context'. The appearance of the collections summary table is determined by if a user has; (1) in progress collections, (2) collections pending sync or (3) sync errors.

When a protocol is complete and it has been submitted as a collection to the queue for syncing, it will become visible on the projects page under the heading 'summary collections (pending sync)'. The 'sync queued collections with cloud' button will only appear when your device is connected to the internet. To

view a summary of data previously collected on your user, use the side menu and navigate to the 'Profile' page.

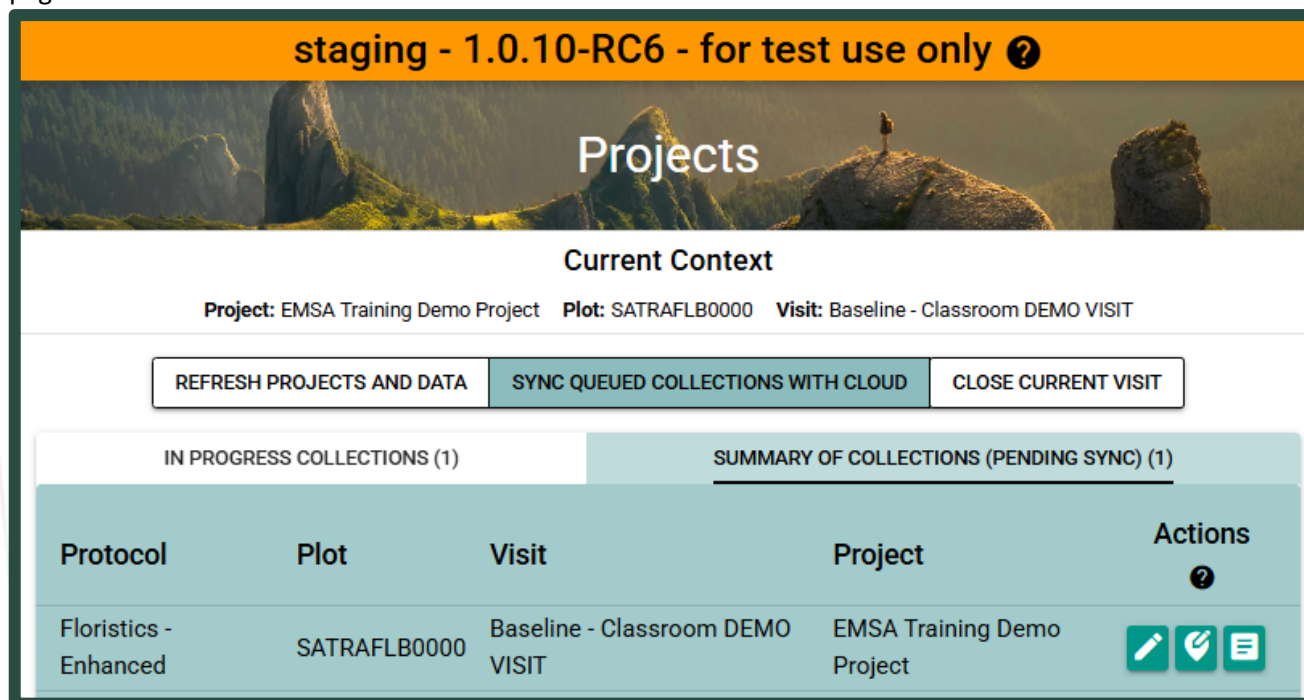


Figure 4: Screenshot of the projects page in Monitor, showing the collections table. Users should be familiar with checking this table for collections that are in progress (**red**) and collections waiting to be synced (**blue**). Sync button (**green**) only appear when the device is connected to a strong and stable internet connection. The option to edit item in queue (**yellow**) is available for a limited number of protocols. An additional tab will appear if a sync error occurs when syncing queued collections with cloud.

3.5.1 In Progress Collections

Users may navigate away from incomplete collections to access other modules. It is important to complete and save any active sections (e.g., floristics vouchers, cover point etc) before navigating away from the page ([section 3.4, figure 3](#)). Users can view their 'in progress collections', including information about what plot, project and visit they are tied to, in the 'in progress collections' tab of the Collections Summary table.

3.5.2 Summary of Collections (Pending Sync)

When a protocol is complete and it has been submitted as a collection to the queue for syncing, it will become visible on the projects page under the heading 'summary collections (pending sync)'. These collections can be synced using the 'sync queued collections with cloud' button. This button will only appear when the device is connected to a strong and stable internet connection. To view a summary of data previously collected (and synced) on your account, use the side menu and navigate to the 'Profile' page.

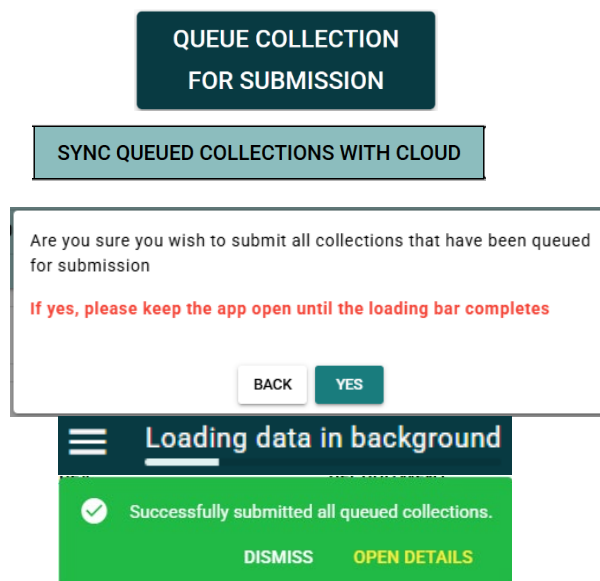
Editing data in the queue

Once submitted to the queue, collections are considered complete. A limited number of protocols allow for changes to be made to queued collections. This feature can be particularly useful for the floristics module where after completing a floristics survey and moving on to other modules, users may encounter additional specimens which require vouchering.

Note: Most modules do not allow for data to be edited after queuing. Take care to check your data in the data summary of each collection before queuing the collection for submission.

3.6 Syncing

1. Review the **Summary** of your collected data. Any incorrect data should be addressed here, prior to queuing.
2. Select the Queue Collection for Submission button
3. On the projects page, click Sync Queued Collections with Cloud
4. Read and Acknowledge the popup. Once synced, Data cannot be edited.
5. Wait for the loading bar to complete and the green **Successfully submitted all queued collections** message banner to appear before navigating away from the page



3.7 Successfully loading data

3.7.1 In Monitor

When data collections are successfully synced, the collection will disappear from the 'summary of collections (pending sync) tab, and a green pop-up will appear at the bottom of the screen ([section, 3.7.1, figure 6](#)). Successful syncing removes data from the local device storage to the EMSA database.

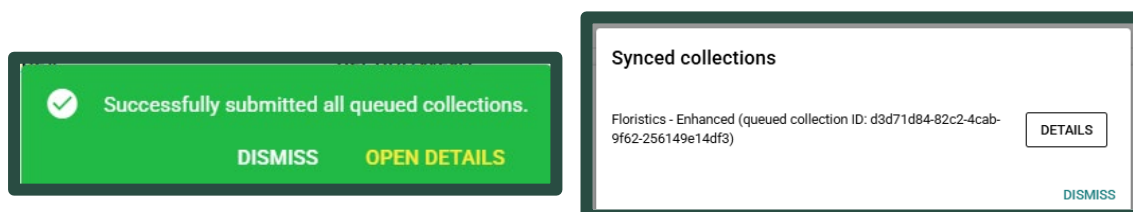


Figure 6: When collections are successfully synced, the green pop-up (left) will appear at the bottom of the Monitor app. The 'Open details' button will open a list of the synced collections (right)

The 'OPEN DETAILS' button ([section, 3.7.1, figure 6](#)) will open a short list of submitted collections. Further details for each collection can be viewed by clicking 'DETAILS' next to the collection of interest. A 'summary of collected data' is created on the left-hand side menu panel ([section 3.2, figure 1](#)) of your profile page giving a list of all protocols completed and the data collected.

3.7.2 In MERIT

MERIT users holding an 'admin', 'editor' or 'grant manager' access can navigate to their project's 'data set summary' tab. When a collection has successfully synced in Monitor, a 'data set summary' for will be automatically generated and appear under the 'dataset summary' tab in MERIT. When viewed, some of the fields, such as 'collection date' will be pre-populated with metadata from Monitor.

4 Pre-Field trip tasks

Prior to heading out into the field, several tasks must be completed to ensure that users have access to the most up-to-date data for their project and equipment for each module that will be undertaken. Section 4 of this manual outlines pre-field tasks that are necessary to use the Monitor app in the Field. Tasks which must

be completed by users with MERIT admin level access are denoted by the Dual orange cog icon ().

4.1 Complete Desktop Components

4.1.1 Selection of project extent in MERIT

The project extent is not the same as the 100x100 plot required by many EMSA modules and should be large enough to include all of your plots within it. Think of it as the area in which all plots for your project will fit. Consider making the project area large enough to cover your whole NRM region.

Project extent selection must be completed by a user with MERIT admin access to the project before commencing any surveys in Monitor. This task is best completed on a computer, not a tablet or mobile. Selecting the project extent can be completed in MERIT or Monitor. Refer to the [MERIT User Guide](#) for further information.

4.1.2 Plot selection – Desktop Component

Plot selection is a desktop protocol which must be completed by a user with MERIT admin level access, prior to fieldwork commencing. Plot selection is an initial desktop stratification of the project area to identify key areas of interest and select proposed plot locations based on environmental, scientific, historical and logistical information.

4.2 Prepare your device for use in the field

Before going into the field, it is essential that users click 'prepare for offline collection(s)' and 'refresh projects' in the app. This will ensure that any changes to the project (modules, project area plot selections etc.) and new data synced from other devices (e.g., floristics vouchers), are copied from MERIT and made available on your device.

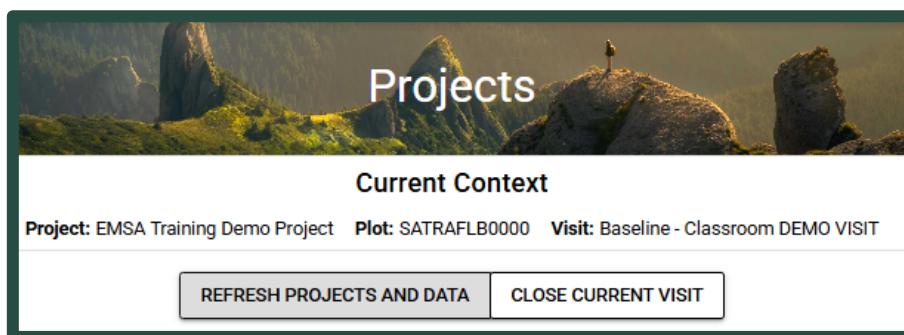


Figure 5: Users should click 'refresh projects and data' before going out to the field.

4.3 Gather field equipment

Equipment lists and other relevant information can be found in section 4 of the relevant EMSA [module manual](#).

4.3.1 Equipment loans

EMSA users can request free equipment loans for selected items required to complete EMSA protocols. Visit the [Equipment](#) page on the EMSA website for more information about loan requests, or to request free scale cards and basal wedges. Users can also access instruction manuals to support the creation of their own specialised equipment for use with EMSA modules.

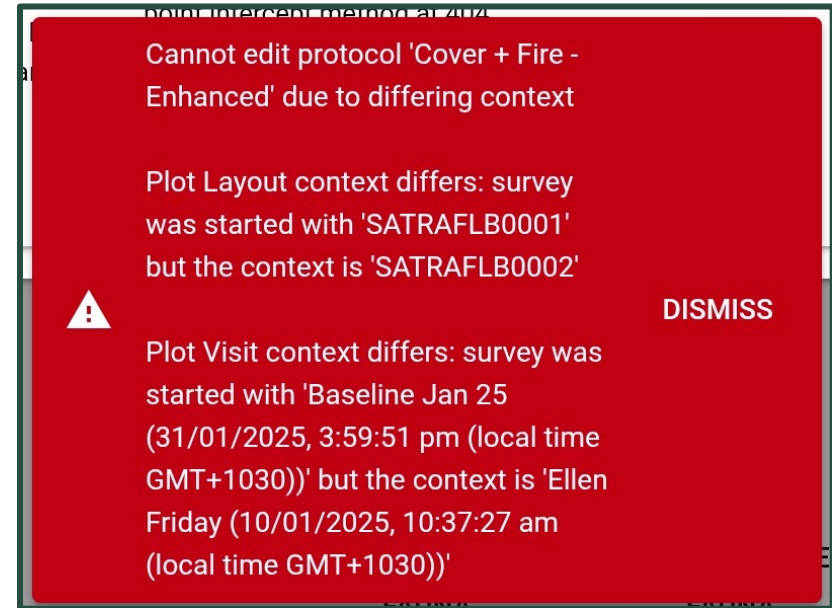
4.4 Contact the Help Desk

To contact the EMSA Help Desk please submit a ticket via our online portal including as much detail as possible (including screenshots): <https://emsa.tern.org.au/helpdesk>

You can contact the EMSA Help Desk on the phone at (08) 8318 4122

When contacting the Help Desk, the more information the better - screenshots are particularly useful.

5 Common error and warning messages

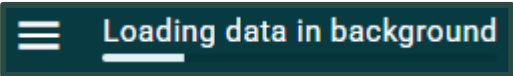
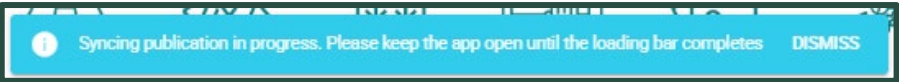
Message Description	Screenshot
Description: 'Cannot edit protocol due to differing context'. This message appears when the 'current context' (project, plot and visit), does not match the context in which this protocol was started. Solution: If you wish to edit the selected protocol you will first need to set the correct context. Details of the context needed to edit the protocol are in the last paragraph of the warning message.	
Description: 'Device is offline. All ongoing downloads/uploads have been aborted'. This message appears when the device is not connected to a strong and stable internet connection. The app is still able to be used for data collection but will be unable to pull updated data from MERIT or sync completed collections until a network connection has been restored. Solution: Continue data collection as normal and connect to a strong and stable internet connection to sync or refresh projects/prepare for offline collection.	

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Description: 'syncing publication in progress'.

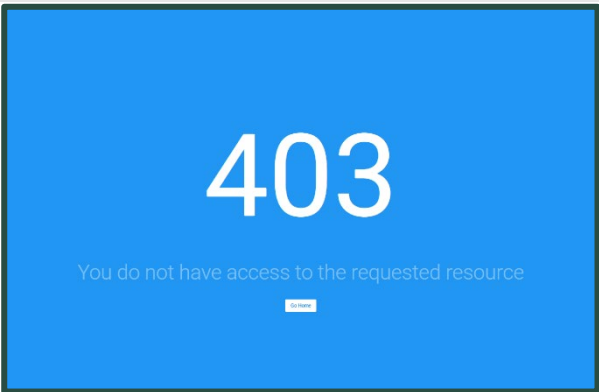
This message appears when the app is completing syncing of data with MERIT, a loading bar will also appear in the top left corner of the app screen.

Solution: Do not close or navigate away from the app screen until syncing is completed and the 'loading data' message has disappeared. Remain connected to the internet while syncing is completed.



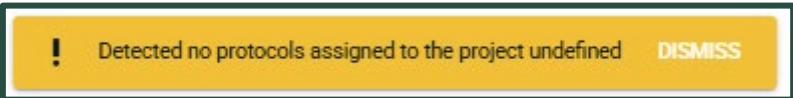
Description: '403 You do not have access to the requested resource'.

Solution: The page you were trying to access has failed to load, to resolve this select 'go home' and login to Monitor again.



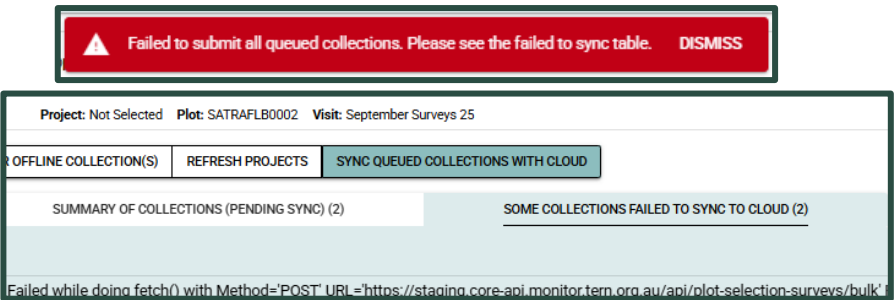
Description: 'No project has been selected'.

Solution: Log out and back in to Monitor, then select a project to continue. If the message persists please refresh the page.



Description: One or more collections has failed to sync with MERIT, resulting in a sync error.

Solution: Check that you have a strong and stable internet connection and try again. If the issue persists contact the [EMSA Help Desk](#) and include a screenshot of the sync error. Users can view the corresponding collection in the 'Summary of Collections (Pending Sync)' tab.



Description: There are in-progress collections open under another user account.

This message indicates that you are not able to continue collections under the current account on this device until the open collections have been queued for syncing or deleted.

Solution: Log in to the account that has open collections to complete & queue for syncing. If this is not possible, please contact the [EMSA Help Desk](#) for further assistance.

User **emsa_support@adelaide.edu.au** has collections that have not been queued! Please log in as **emsa_support@adelaide.edu.au** to complete and sync the collections. Once done, you can log in as a different user.

In progress collections

Protocol	Plot	Visit	Project
Floristics - Enhanced	n/a	Baseline TRAINING DEMO VISIT	n/a
Records per page: 5 ▾ 1-1 of 1			

LOGOUT

Description: 'Warning this is a new week'.

This message reminds users that the staging platform is cleared every Sunday, and notifies them that data in Monitor Staging is about to be wiped. All data input into Monitor Staging prior to Sunday is not retained.

Warning

This is a new week. Our database is wiped every Sunday. Some functionality might not work properly due to desynced between the app and our database. Do you want to clear the data to avoid such issue?

YES

Description: 'Warning! location out of bounds'.

This error may occur in either the 'Plot Selection' or 'Plot Layout and Visit' protocols if a user attempts to place a plot in a location that does not fall within the bounds of the project extent area.

Solution: Select a different location inside the project extent area or expand the Project extent area in MERIT (requires project admin access). If you are in the field, at the correct site then you can continue with monitoring and update the project area later.

Warning! Location out of bounds

Your selected location is outside of your project area. Are you sure you want to record it?

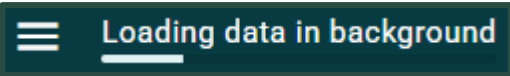
NO

OK

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Description: The 'Loading data in background' message appears whenever data is being synced or loaded to the device, including when refreshing projects.

Solution: Do not exit or navigate away from the app, or try to use other app features. Leave the app open and wait for the data to finish loading, this may take several minutes.



Description: 'Your authentication token has expired'.

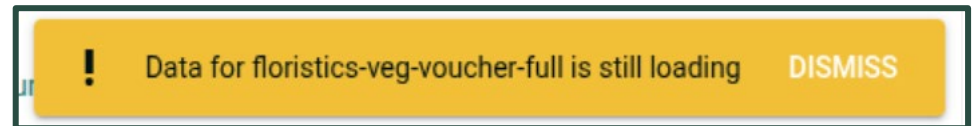
This message appears when the device has been logged in for a long time and requires the user to confirm their login details before syncing or preparing collections for offline use. The app may still be used for data collection with this message appearing.

Solution: Continue data collection as normal and when connected to a strong and stable internet connection, log out and back into the app before syncing. This will refresh the login tokens as well as prompting any necessary app updates.

Your authentication token has expired. Please re-login when you have a stable Internet connection so the Application can operate correctly.

Description: This message appears when data, such as plot layouts or floristics vouchers are still loading. A red counter may also appear in the top right of the notification.

Solution: Wait for data to complete loading and for the message to disappear before continuing use of the app.



6 Monitor Checklists

6.1 Pre-field work

	 RDP (Project Admin)	 Field team & Contractors
Create MERIT account	✓	✓
Check that you have been added to the project/s in MERIT	✓	✓
Add team members and contractors to the project in MERIT	✓	
Complete project area selection in MERIT	✓	
Complete Plot Selection protocol (desktop)	✓	
Obtain an appropriate device for use in field	✓	✓
Install the Monitor PWA (on desktop and mobile device)	✓	✓
Refresh projects & prepare for offline use	✓	✓
Bring GNSS Device	✓	✓
Bring portable charger/battery	✓	✓
Have a copy of relevant module manuals on hand	✓	✓
Have a copy of the 'Manual for using the Monitor App' on hand	✓	✓

6.2 Post-field work

	 RDP (Project Admin)	 Field team & Contractors
Submit collections to the queue as you go		✓
Use the profile page to view which protocols have been completed by your user account		✓
Connect device to stable internet connection and 'sync queued collections with cloud'		✓
Check MERIT to view dataset summaries	✓	

7 Useful Links

QR Code	Link description
	Module Manuals & Documents Browse and download the most up-to-date versions of EMSA module manuals, data sheets and decision support guidance material. https://emsa.tern.org.au/documents
	EMSA Equipment Request loan equipment and access guides about assembling and setting up equipment essential to some EMSA Modules https://emsa.tern.org.au/equipment
	Video Guides Introductory videos and guides for getting started in Monitor https://emsa.tern.org.au/learning-resources
	EMSA Help Desk Submit a ticket and you will be assigned an Ecologist for general assistance, help with ecological survey techniques, and sampling requirements or a Technician for technical assistance with the Monitor app. https://emsa.tern.org.au/helpdesk
	Threatened Species Survey Guidelines For the 110 threatened species identified in the <i>Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032</i> , 40 literature reviews and 70 literature overviews are available here. https://emsa.tern.org.au/threatened-species-survey-guidelines
	EMSA News Important updates for EMSA and Monitor users are shared here https://emsa.tern.org.au/blog/news-2
	FAQs Answers to some of our most frequently asked questions. https://emsa.tern.org.au/faqs

	EMSA Community Forums A space to learn from other users and share your knowledge and experience with other EMSA users. https://emsa.tern.org.au/forum
	Monitor Staging App - FOR TEST DATA ONLY Before going into the field, use the Staging version of Monitor to become familiar with the app and how it works. Anything put into the Staging app will be wiped and refreshed every Sunday – so never put your real data into staging. https://staging.app.monitor.tern.org.au/projects
	Monitor Production App - ONLY FOR REAL DATA The real Monitor app (production version) connects to the Australian Government's Biodiversity Data Repository (BDR), where all the data you collect in the field will be stored. Login is using MERIT credentials. https://app.monitor.tern.org.au/projects

8 Glossary of Terms

This is not an exhaustive list of terminology used in EMSA. For detailed definitions and terminology relevant to specific Modules see section 2.1 *Definitions and Terminology* of the Module document.

Term	Definition
BDR	The Australian Government's Biodiversity Data Repository. It stores all monitoring data collected using the Monitor app.
Dataset collection	Completed data collection for a single protocol in Monitor or MERIT
Data Dump	A snapshot of the data stored in Monitor on your device. The EMSA Help Desk may send you instructions for sending a data dump to them if you're stuck and they need to troubleshoot.
EMSA	Ecological Monitoring System Australia
Fauna plot	A paired 100 x 100 m plot adjacent to core monitoring plot, where the vertebrate and invertebrate surveys take place
In-progress data	Data being entered into the Monitor app for a single protocol. The protocol has not yet been completed and can still be edited.
MERIT	The monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement tool. It is the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) online reporting platform for Commonwealth-funded natural resource management projects.
Module	Section of the <i>Ecological Field Monitoring Protocols Manual</i> describing specific methods to accurately measure environmental change for a specific variable/s in the Australian environment.
Monitor	EMSA data collection PWA. Monitor is intended to be used in the field for live data collection.
On plot	A monitoring protocol that occurs within a plot
Off plot	A monitoring protocol that does not occur within a monitoring plot
Plot	A specified 100 x 100 m area where data is collected. Plots are generally established in locations that are homogenous areas representative of the stratified sampling units (or zones), with consistent vegetation, slope, relief and soil.
Production Platform	The production platform is for the collection of real monitoring data. This data will ultimately end up in the BDR. Do not use for practice or testing.
Project	Project name as it appears in MERIT.
Project area/ Project extent area	The overall area studied as part of a MERIT project, all the plots in the project must fall within the project area. This area may consist of a single parcel of land or multiple parcels. The Project (Extent) Area cannot be entered or uploaded as multiple areas and should encompass all parcels of land relevant to your project. Consider making this area include the entire area of your NRM region.
Protocol	The method used for monitoring and data collection. There may be one or several protocols described for a Module.
PWA	Progressive Web App. A web application that can be installed on a mobile device (tablet or phone) and performs like an app but has greater offline capability.

Queued dataset collection	A survey's dataset collection that has been completed in Monitor but not yet 'synced with the cloud' so that it will appear in MERIT and in the BDR. The data in a queued dataset collection is complete and cannot be edited.
Staging Platform	The staging platform is a space where you, your project partners and contractors can practice using the Monitor app and modules. It is a copy of the production (real) version, but all data entered into Monitor Staging will be deleted at the end of each week.
Survey	The act of collecting data, following steps outlined in one of the EMSA protocols.
Synced dataset collection	A survey's dataset collection that has been completed on Monitor and 'synced with the cloud' so that it is now appearing in MERIT and is on its way to the BDR. The data from a synced dataset collection is no longer on your device and is stored in a database before being sent to the BDR. This data is complete and cannot be edited.