Australia's
Strategy for Nature 2024–2030

Implementation Plan

Our Vision:

Australia will halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, putting nature on a path to recovery, meaning that by 2050 we will be living in harmony with nature.

Australia's nature, now and into the future, is healthy and resilient to threats, understood, and valued both in its own right and for its essential contribution to our health, wellbeing, prosperity and quality of life.

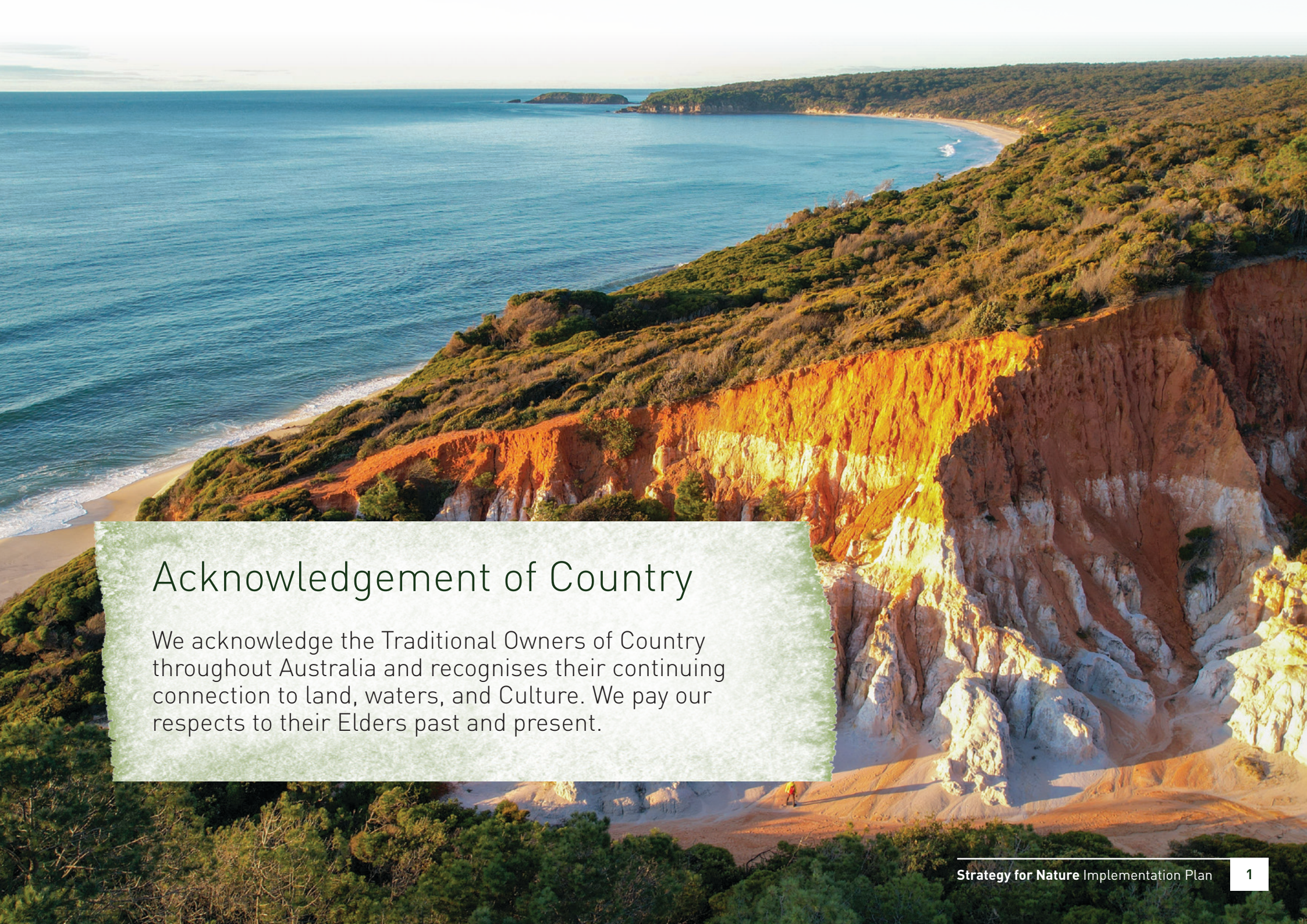
Attributed as: DCCEEW 2026, Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030: Implementation Plan, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra, April. CC BY 4.0.

Acknowledgements

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030: Implementation Plan was prepared by the interjurisdictional Biodiversity Working Group convened under the Environment Ministers Meeting. The Biodiversity Working Group consists of representatives of the Australian, state and territory governments. This publication was endorsed at the March 2026 Environment Ministers Meeting.

The authors thank all who inputted into the development of this publication, including state and territory agencies, Australian Government agencies and the public.

Contents



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters, and Culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

1. Introduction

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 (the Strategy) provides a roadmap for understanding, caring for and sustainably managing nature. It is Australia's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - an international commitment under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The Strategy is aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and to live in harmony with nature by 2050. The GBF has 23 targets to achieve by 2030 and 4 goals to achieve by 2050.

Agreed by all environment ministers in 2024, the Strategy recognises the importance of all 23 GBF targets but highlights 9 priorities for Australia. The Strategy sets **6 ambitious national targets** to address biodiversity decline and **3 enablers of change** to drive the transformational action needed to achieve them. These priorities will be the focus of the Strategy's delivery to 2030.

Implementing Australia's Strategy for Nature

This implementation plan should be read in conjunction with the Strategy and sets the strategic direction for its implementation. The implementation plan provides guidance for action across society, government and all sectors and seeks to foster cooperation, coordination and partnerships to deliver outcomes for nature that no single jurisdiction or organisation could accomplish alone. Rather than prescribing every step, the plan sets the direction and invites everyone to determine how they can contribute.

Australia already has policies and initiatives in place to halt and reverse the decline of our marine, coastal, inland water and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting the delivery of the national targets and enablers of change.

The implementation plan outlines the **outcomes** we want to achieve for each target and enabler of change by 2030, highlights **current actions** and identifies areas of **future focus** to build on existing efforts.

Actions have been grouped by how soon we should aim for results (short, medium and long term) – but everyone can start now. Every action matters, and most will need ongoing effort. Some will grow in scale or complexity as we build foundations. The action groups are as follows:

- Short-term (S-T): quick wins that should deliver results by 2028.
- Mid-term (M-T): actions that build on early progress, scale up efforts and tackle more complex challenges by 2030.
- Long-term (L-T): transformational actions that take longer and will guide work beyond 2030.

Public feedback was invited on a discussion paper that tested key parts of the implementation plan before it was finalised. A significant proportion of respondents highlighted the need for additional funding to achieve the Strategy's targets and enablers. Governments continue to invest, while joining businesses and the philanthropic sector in looking for ways to expand funding for nature. This includes mobilising private sector finance that benefits nature (see the 'Mainstreaming' enabler of change).

Many of the targets and enablers of change are closely linked, with overlapping actions. Considering these interconnections will help deliver outcomes across multiple targets. In a resource-constrained environment, it is essential to prioritise actions that offer the greatest overall benefit.

Figure 1 – Key elements of this implementation plan

Targets

Enablers

Each **target** and **enabler** of change has its own chapter in this plan that details how it will be achieved.

Outcomes

For each target and enabler of change we identify **outcomes**. These are key deliverables that all players should contribute to.

Overview

We provide an **overview** of each outcome, including the current state of play and the key current actions being undertaken.

Future focus

We then identify areas of **future focus** to build on current efforts to achieve the targets and enablers of change.

Tracking our progress

Australia's Strategy for Nature will adopt the **monitoring framework** of the Global Biodiversity Framework to track and report on progress.

A plan for all Australia

Everyone has a role in delivering the Strategy.

This is a national effort and all governments - federal, state, territory and local - must coordinate and deliver initiatives that support the Strategy.

Researchers build the evidence base that guides priorities, shapes methods and enables ongoing evaluation.

Landholders, communities, non-government organisations (NGOs) and regional natural resource management groups lead onsite action. They raise awareness and mobilise resources, directing both to where they are most needed.

Businesses and financial institutions can align their actions, strategies and investments to reduce their impacts and support better outcomes for nature.

Connection to Country is central to First Nations culture, identity and wellbeing. Embedding their leadership and knowledge in conservation and restoration delivers stronger results for nature and supports community wellbeing. This implementation plan is flexible in design, which allows communities to tailor actions based on knowledge, priorities, and governance arrangements.

A First Nations perspective

First Nations representatives have shaped the outcomes and future focus areas in this plan through a series of interviews, a workshop, and feedback on a publicly released discussion paper.

Callout boxes featuring a First Nations person's perspective have been woven throughout this plan, encouraging us to see the living world not just as the environment but also as mother, as kin and as ancestor.

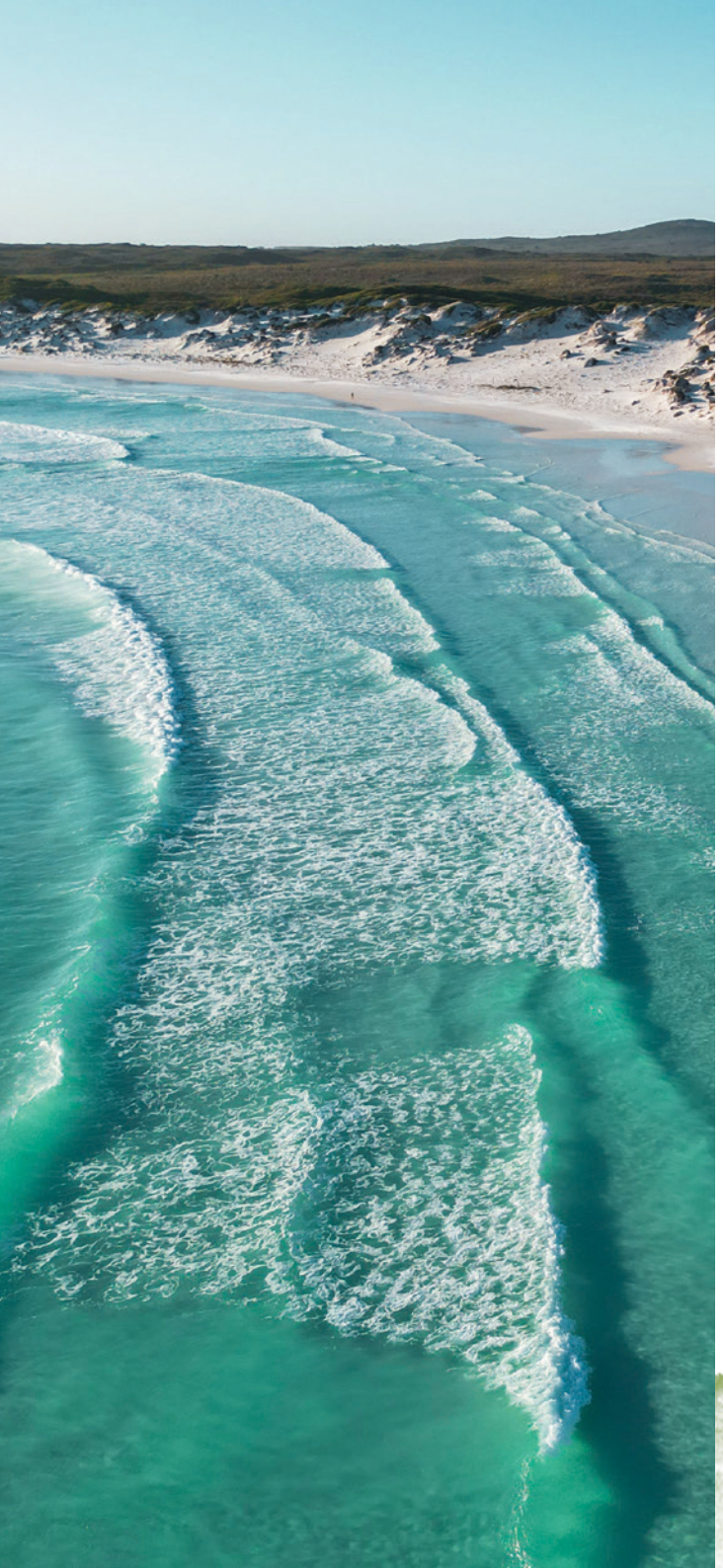
This perspective has been shared by Mr Tibau (Stan) Lui – a Torres Strait Islander from Erub (Darnley Island) in the Kemer Kemer Miriam Nation (top eastern Torres Strait). Stan is a member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee which operates under national environmental law to advise the Minister for the Environment and Water on environment protection, heritage, policy development and First Nations engagement.

First Nations peoples hold diverse perspectives across Australia. It is essential to seek and consider these views at every stage – across planning, action, monitoring, reporting and course correction. Early, genuine and ongoing engagement with relevant Traditional Owners is critical to the effective delivery of this plan. Building on existing relationships, networks and alliances will also be important.

A First Nations perspective

Caring for Country isn't new. It's been our lore, our practice, and our responsibility for thousands of generations. This work, these targets and enablers, can only be made strong if they are grounded in the knowledge systems that have held this continent in balance since ancient times.

What follows are quiet reflections. They offer another way of seeing, one shaped by story, kinship, and obligation to place. These reflections come from a long memory, from lores shaped by time, by Country, and by kin. But the work ahead doesn't rest on First Nations peoples alone. Healing land, sea and sky will take all of us. Every Australian has a part to play in restoring balance. When we listen deeply, walk gently, and act with respect, we find a future that's not just sustainable, but shared.



Leadership and direction setting

Australian environment ministers – representing the Commonwealth and all states and territories – lead national efforts to ensure a healthy, resilient environment and oversee delivery of the Strategy. They are supported by officials from environment departments through the interjurisdictional Biodiversity Working Group, which will evaluate progress and report to the ministers on the Strategy's implementation, in collaboration with other government agencies.

The Indigenous Advisory Committee has provided independent advice on the development of the national targets and enablers of change in the Strategy and on this implementation plan.

Tracking our progress

The Australian Government, including Environment Information Australia, will track and measure implementation of the Strategy at the national level using the GBF Monitoring and Reporting Framework agreed in February 2025. Australia will report on all 23 GBF targets.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting are central to Australia's contribution to the GBF. Tracking progress, identifying gaps and keeping the public informed will help guide action, build trust and ensure accountability as we work towards the 2030 national and global targets.

Australia's national reports against the GBF – due in February 2026 and June 2029 – will be publicly available and will also serve as the national report for the Strategy. We will also explore opportunities to further align Australia's State of the Environment reporting and Environmental Economic Accounts with monitoring of Australia's biodiversity targets.

Under the GBF Monitoring and Reporting Framework, countries report using globally agreed, robust and transparent scientific methods, including a mix of quantitative and qualitative data. Further details on Australia's approach to monitoring and reporting is at Appendix A.

2. Implementing Australia's targets

Australia's Strategy establishes national targets in 6 priority areas of the GBF that are most relevant to addressing the drivers of biodiversity decline in Australia.

Target: Priority degraded areas are under effective restoration by 2030

Priority degraded areas (across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems) are under effective restoration by 2030 to recover biodiversity, and improve ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity

Healthy ecosystems help to regulate climate and supply the food, fibres and medicines essential for our health, wellbeing and livelihoods.

Despite efforts across communities, government, business and individuals, Australia's ecosystems continue to decline and climate change is amplifying the risks to biodiversity.

The restoration target is about bringing damaged areas back to life – with clean water, healthy soils and thriving ecosystems – so they can build resilience to the effects of a changing climate and keep providing us with all the benefits nature brings.

Restoration is a critical contribution Australia makes to international commitments under the Rio Conventions, the Convention on Wetlands, and the Freshwater Challenge.

In December 2025 the United Nations recognised the restoration of Australia's shellfish reefs as a World Restoration Flagship under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. The Reef Builder Program was delivered by the Australian Government and The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with local communities, to restore vital coastal ecosystems at 13 locations across 6 states.

The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032, the Nature Repair Market, the Murray–Darling Basin Plan and the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan provide a strong foundation to build on.

A First Nations perspective

Restoration isn't just about land; it's about restoring our relationship with it. Country heals when we return to it with care, ceremony and responsibility. The knowledge to do this has never been lost; it's been waiting.

Outcome 1:
Restoration efforts are coordinated and supported by spatial planning to guide restoration where it will best support native species and ecosystem recovery

Overview

Coordinated action across governments, communities, businesses and conservation groups is essential to restore Australia's ecosystems. By identifying and mapping national priorities for restoration, we can focus efforts where they matter most, use resources effectively and have the greatest impact on halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

Future focus

- Develop criteria and supporting principles to prioritise degraded areas for restoration nationally. (S-T)
- Deliver a publicly available spatial map of national restoration priorities to support long-term planning and coordination and guide investment decisions. (S-T)

Outcome 2:
Effective restoration is clearly defined and communicated to promote wise practice

Overview

To restore nature effectively, we need to be clear about what success looks like, including in changing climatic conditions. Practical guidance on effective restoration will help those undertaking restoration to set goals and choose the right reference sites to ensure efforts are sustainable, support resilient ecosystems and reflect wise practice.

Future focus

- Define 'effective restoration' for the purposes of this target at the national level. (S-T)
- Identify and synthesise existing guidance, or develop new guidance, on effective restoration. Clarify actions and outcomes needed to support biodiversity through changing climatic conditions. (M-T)

Outcome 3:
Onsite restoration is supported and sustained over time

Overview

We need to scale up our capacity to deliver restoration onsite.

Market schemes like the Australian Government's Nature Repair Market and Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme support private landholders to participate in restoration.

Collaborative science programs, such as the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP), bring together Traditional Owners, government, community and industry to design research that informs restoration, environment and climate policy.

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership improves the representation and genetic diversity of collections in Australia's seed banks, providing important supplies for seed restoration activities.

Scaling up restoration needs careful planning; policy shifts; workforce development; and a focus on barriers such as seed supply, land access and knowledge sharing.

Future focus

- Better enable the delivery of restoration projects by identifying opportunities to streamline and simplify planning and approval processes. (S-T)
- Encourage and enable landholder and waterway user participation in biodiversity stewardship and restoration through incentives, policy, guidance and support. (S-T)
- Advance Nature Repair Market methods for nature restoration. (S-T)
- Identify and promote funding pathways and investment opportunities for restoration projects. (M-T)
- Improve and upscale Australia's industries that supply products to support restoration (e.g. native seed, conservation aquaculture, nurseries and hatcheries). This could include through improving quality, supply, market coordination, regulation or information sharing. (L-T)
- Grow the skilled restoration workforce by strengthening training, education and career pathways in restoration. (L-T)
- Support First Nations led restoration initiatives and intergenerational connection to Country. (L-T)
- Identify, support and promote the use of an online platform to report on restoration projects, share information and collect data. (L-T)

CASE STUDY

Victorian Government investment in biodiversity

The Victorian Government invests in biodiversity conservation across public and private land, including the Parks Victoria estate, through a strategic landscape-scale approach. This investment is guided by tools such as the Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) tool and Specific Needs Assessments, which inform where resources are best directed to achieve the greatest biodiversity outcomes:

- SMP integrates spatial data on species distributions, threats and management costs to identify cost-effective conservation actions and prioritise areas where interventions will deliver the greatest benefits.
- Specific Needs Assessments complement this by providing targeted strategies for species or ecological communities requiring specialised management within public land reserves, ensuring critical threatened species are not overlooked in broader landscape planning.

Investment is applied through programs focused on priority and emblematic species, alongside integrated threat management initiatives that address peri-urban weeds and pest species across the Parks Victoria estate. For example, Victoria's $77 million BushBank program used SMP to help identify target areas for restoration across private and public land, achieving outcomes for biodiversity and climate action.

Target: Protect and conserve 30% of Australia's landmass and 30% of Australia's marine areas by 2030

Protect and conserve at least 30% of Australia's terrestrial and inland water areas and marine and coastal areas by 2030, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ensuring protected and conserved areas are ecologically representative, well connected and effectively managed, recognising and respecting the rights of First Nations peoples

Protected and conserved areas play a vital role in preserving biodiversity and can support efforts to enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change. Australia is already taking strong steps towards this target. For land, the National Roadmap for protecting and conserving 30% of Australia's land by 2030 has been published and, as at December 2025, close to 25% of land is protected.

For marine areas, 52% of Australian waters are in marine protected areas, with 24% in highly protected 'no-take' zones. Australia is committed to increasing these protections so that 30% of our marine areas are highly protected by 2030. This will be considered as part of the revision of statutory management plans for Australian Marine Parks which expire in 2028, that will be guided by scientific and stakeholder input.

A First Nations perspective

We've been protecting land and sea long before protection had a name. Conservation isn't new to us; it's our lore. When places are held through cultural authority, they're not just protected; they're loved, spoken to and kept alive.

Outcome 1:
Public and private protected and conserved areas are expanded on land

Overview

Governments in Australia have programs that support the creation or expansion of public and private protected areas on land. Continued implementation of the National 30 by 30 Roadmap will be key to achieving the target. All governments, along with First Nations groups, businesses, NGOs and the philanthropic sectors, need to work together to expand protected areas.

Conserved areas will also play an important role in meeting this target. They provide recognition of places that are important for biodiversity but where formal protected area designation is not possible, appropriate or supported.

The National Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) Framework identifies principles to guide OECM recognition, provides information on implementation of these principles and includes a site assessment tool.

Future focus

- Deliver Australian, state and territory government programs in partnership with environmental organisations, private investors, landholders and First Nations communities. (S-T)
- When reviewing relevant state and territory policies and plans, align them where appropriate with the National 30 by 30 Roadmap and identify further actions towards the target. (M-T)
- Scale up the assessment and recognition of conserved areas across Australia. (M-T).

Examples of government initiatives and programs that contribute to the 30 by 30 target

- The 5-year $250 million Australian Bushland Program was announced in the 2025–26 Budget. The program will support activities to help us meet the 30 by 30 land target in alignment with the principles, criteria and pathways set out in the National 30 by 30 Roadmap.
- Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) are areas of land and sea that Traditional Owners have voluntarily agreed to manage for biodiversity conservation. IPAs currently cover more than 54% of the area of the National Reserve System.
- Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020–2030 is supporting the growth, better management and sustainability of the state's protected areas. Queensland has more than 1,000 national parks and other protected areas.
- New South Wales provides around $70 million per year to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to partner with landholders to protect and enhance biodiversity on private land. NSW has more than 2,500 Private Land Conservation agreements. The Trust delivers the unique offering of in-perpetuity covenants with annual payments generated from invested funds, to manage conservation forever.
- Western Australia has created 6.5 million hectares of new marine and terrestrial protected areas, a 28 per cent increase in conservation estate, as part of Western Australia's 2019 Plan for our Parks initiative. Forty-three per cent of Western Australia's conservation estate is now jointly managed with First Nations partners.

CASE STUDY

Weranga Scarps – Australia's first conserved area

Weranga Scarps was recognised as Australia's first conserved area under the OECM Framework in July 2025. The OECM Framework allows for the formal recognition of areas that achieve long-term biodiversity conservation outcomes outside of protected areas.

Weranga Scarps, located in the Western Downs region of Southern Queensland, has significant biodiversity values, including ecologically rich eucalypt and cypress woodland ecosystems that provide important habitat for threatened species such as the yakka skink, koala and glossy black cockatoo. The site is also home to 127 bird species and mammals, including the sugar glider and the inland brushtail possum. The property is owned and managed by the Wildlife Land Fund Limited – a not-for-profit public company established by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland to facilitate an increase in private ownership of important wildlife habitats in Queensland for long-term conservation outcomes.

Recognition of this conserved area acknowledges the landholder's commitment to long-term biodiversity conservation.

Outcome 2:

Protected and conserved areas on land are prioritised in areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecosystem function and services; and are ecologically representative and well connected

Overview

Australia aims to protect and conserve its full range of regional ecosystems and important environmental values. A scientific framework guides the identification of areas for protection, ensuring that examples of all ecosystems are included over time. The objective is to create a system of protected areas that is comprehensive, adequate and representative. This framework also applies to identifying areas to be conserved.

The National 30 by 30 Roadmap sets criteria for identifying priority areas for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. These criteria can be applied at national, regional or local scales. The roadmap also recognises that state and territory governments, along with private conservation organisations, use sophisticated tools and methods to guide where they focus their conservation efforts. While these approaches vary, they are based on similar criteria.

Future focus

- Strengthen methods for identifying and prioritising areas that contribute to the National 30 by 30 Roadmap, adapting as new data and information become available. (S-T)
- Governments continue working with research and environmental organisations to identify and focus efforts on priority areas to be protected and conserved. (S-T)

Outcome 3:
First Nations peoples are supported to care for Land and Sea Country

Overview

For over 65,000 years, First Nations peoples have cared for and protected Country during dynamic climatic conditions, using scientific and cultural knowledge. First Nations peoples make an important contribution to the National 30 by 30 Roadmap target, including through programs such as Indigenous Protected Areas, Indigenous Rangers programs, and joint management of public protected areas.

Future focus

- Continue support for the IPA and Indigenous Rangers programs (including state, territory and Commonwealth initiatives). (S-T)
- Identify additional public protected areas that could be transitioned to jointly managed protected areas. (M-T)
- Continue to maximise opportunities for First Nations leadership under the Nature Repair Market. (M-T)

Outcome 4:
Protected and conserved areas across land and sea are effectively managed

Overview

Protected and conserved areas need to be managed so they deliver real benefits for biodiversity. This means setting clear objectives, continually adapting management processes in response to changing circumstances and allocating adequate resources. Strong monitoring systems are also essential to check that the areas are being managed effectively over time.

Future focus

- Revise management plans for Australian Marine Parks to achieve 30% of our oceans in highly protected zones by 2030. (M-T)
- Continue to improve the effective management of marine protected areas through the 10-year statutory reviews of Australian Marine Park management plans. (M-T)
- Apply nationally agreed principles for assessing management effectiveness to enable consistent national monitoring and reporting. (L-T)

Target: Eradicate or control invasive species in priority landscapes and further minimise their introduction by 2030

Minimise and mitigate the impacts of invasive species by eradicating or controlling established invasive species in priority landscapes and places; and further minimise the introduction and establishment of new invasive species to maximise threatened species recovery and protect biodiversity and related cultural heritage values

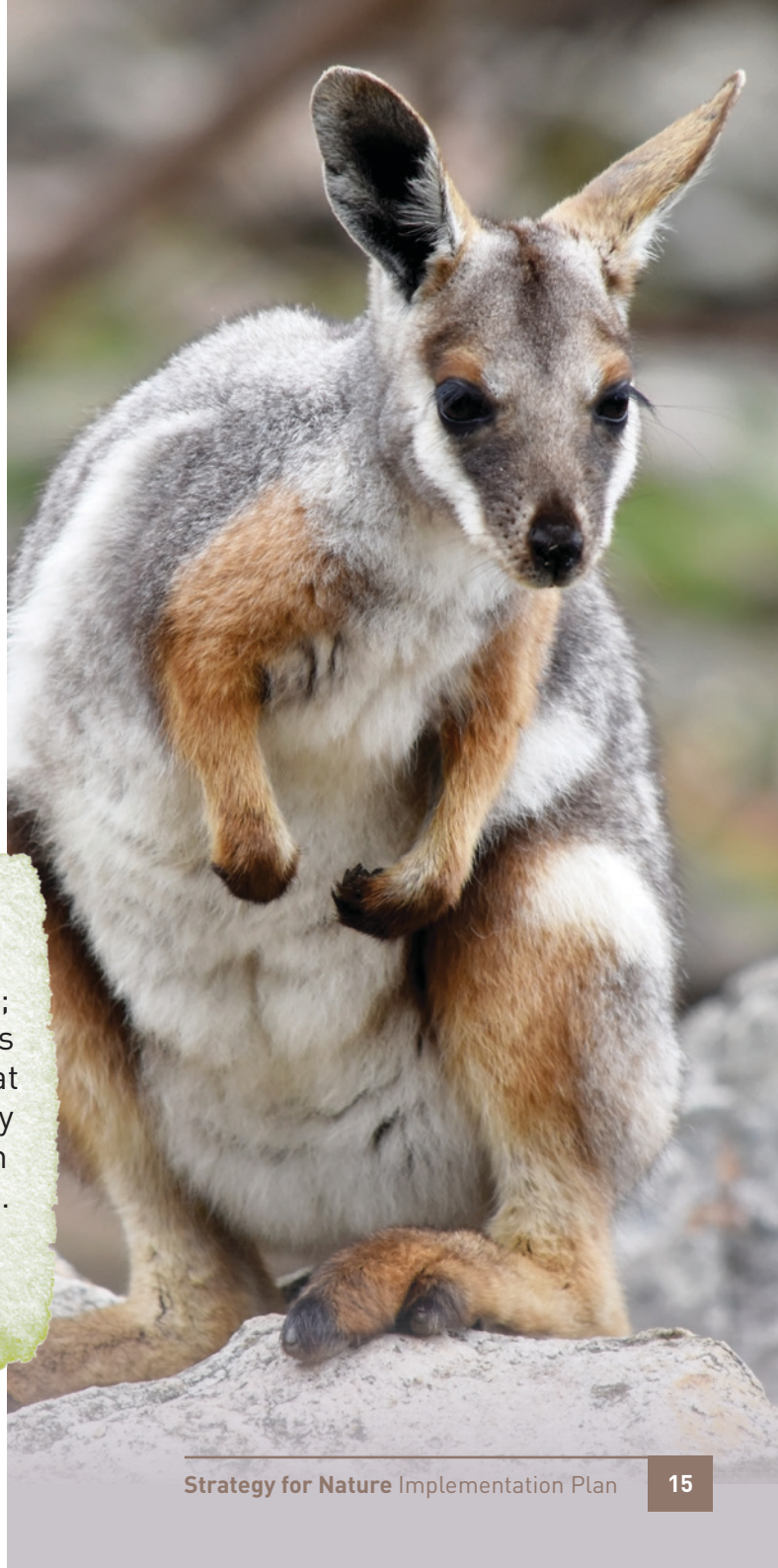
Achieving this target requires a coordinated national effort. The most effective and cost-efficient approach is prevention, stopping harmful species from being introduced and becoming established in Australia. Climate change is amplifying these risks by altering ecosystems and creating new pathways for invasive species to spread and persist. Where invasive species are already established, containment and asset protection are critical to managing their impacts on our environment and industries long-term.

Australia has robust policies, programs, regulations and governance arrangements that set the strategic direction for this work. Effective delivery of these priorities is key to meeting the ambition of this target. Our biosecurity system assesses the risks and impacts of invasive species on our environmental, cultural and economic assets.

Complementary national policy frameworks guide the management of established invasive species, including those of national significance, and identifies priority areas for threat abatement. The Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032 supports these efforts by outlining measures to protect threatened species, including their adaptation and resilience to climate change, and identifying priority places for tackling the impact of invasive species.

A First Nations perspective

Invasives don't just disrupt ecosystems; they disrupt lore. They shift the rhythms our old people knew and the stories that shaped how we cared for place. Country knows what belongs. When we act from that understanding, balance can return.



Outcome 1:
Stronger collaboration and alignment across governments and sectors improves invasive species management

Overview

An integrated national approach to identify, prevent and manage emerging and established invasive species is critical. This outcome seeks to strengthen planning and coordination across governments, natural resource managers, First Nations peoples, NGOs and businesses.

Governments at all levels can foster collaboration by providing policy leadership, sharing information and resources, supporting integrated management, and aligning policies and regulations. The Environment and Invasives Committee provides national policy advice on the identification, prevention and management of invasive species. Australia's biosecurity system, threat abatement planning and key policies such as the Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017–2027 and Australian Weeds Strategy 2017–2027 guide action across all jurisdictions and stakeholders.

Groups with on-ground reach, like natural resource management groups, NGOs and local governments, already play an important role in raising awareness, engaging communities and delivering in practical ways. The research sector and industry also contribute expertise, funding and innovation.

Future focus

- Support integrated approaches to management that identify priority assets and sites most impacted by invasive species at national, regional and local scales, with a focus on reducing these impacts. (S-T)
- Continue to share information and expertise to strengthen collaboration across sectors, borders and tenures. (S-T)
- Scale up development and coordinated implementation of threat abatement plans and national action plans to address priority invasive species affecting biodiversity, agricultural and cultural assets. (M-T)
- Build public understanding and trust in biosecurity initiatives by delivering clear, transparent and science-based communications. (M-T)
- Increase community participation and partnerships to improve outcomes for biosecurity and invasive species management. (M-T)

Outcome 2:
On-ground action controls and, where feasible, eradicates invasive species in priority landscapes, seascapes and places

Overview

We need to accelerate best-practice, on-ground management to protect native species and ecosystems and help threatened species and ecological communities to recover. Efforts should be focused on priority landscapes, seascapes and species, directing resources to the most important areas across regional, landscape and seascape scales and across land tenures and jurisdictions.

Policies such as the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 and national frameworks like threat abatement plans guide investment and collaborative action to eradicate or reduce the impact of invasive species. Australian governments are investing in on-ground programs to tackle invasive species, protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable agriculture. The following are key programs that address invasive species impacts across priority places and other important landscapes identified in the Threatened Species Action Plan:

- Saving Native Species Program
- Natural Heritage Trust
- Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program.

Priority landscapes, seascapes and places for invasive species management

Priority landscapes, seascapes and places are areas targeted for invasive species management because they support high-value environmental and cultural assets.

Nationally, these include:

- the 20 priority places, identified in the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032, where landscape-scale action, including invasive species management, is being undertaken to benefit threatened species and ecological communities
- World Heritage areas, National Heritage places, wetlands of international importance and IPAs where invasive species are identified as an issue
- individual threat abatement plans and national action plans, which also identify priority areas for threat abatement.

States, territories and local councils have additional priority landscapes and places to meet the management goals of their jurisdiction.

Future focus

- Enhance our understanding of threat interactions between multiple invasive species and other threats like climate change to guide integrated and targeted interventions. (M-T)
- Scale up investment, knowledge, partnerships and planning for coordinated on-ground action on invasive species, to protect valuable assets such as threatened species and ecological communities, wetlands of international importance and heritage sites. (M-T)
- Continue to support Indigenous ranger teams and IPA managers (through state, territory and Commonwealth initiatives) who deliver on-ground invasive species control efforts to protect biodiversity and cultural heritage. (S-T)
- Scale up community-led initiatives, including citizen science, to: (M-T)
  - improve early detection, eradication and control methods
  - raise public awareness and encourage behaviour changes that help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Outcome 3:
Environmental biosecurity minimises the introduction and establishment of new invasive species

Overview

Australia has a strong biosecurity system designed to stop harmful invasive species from entering the country. It uses a risk-based approach to identify the pathways these species could take and focuses on prevention through strict border controls and import rules. If a high-risk species does enter Australia, the system works quickly to prevent it from spreading.

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity strengthens this system by promoting collaboration between all levels of government, recognising biosecurity is a shared responsibility. Complementing this, the National Biosecurity Strategy provides the overarching strategic direction for Australia's biosecurity system.

Preventing new invasive species from being introduced or established relies on government, industry and the community all playing their part. When an exotic pest or disease is detected, industry and governments work together to coordinate and fund eradication efforts. Several national biosecurity agreements, including the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement, guide the coordinated response.

Future focus

- Strengthen surveillance and risk assessment processes to identify possible entry points for invasive species early. (M-T)
- Work closely with First Nations communities in biosecurity decisions to reflect their needs and protect cultural values. (M-T)
- Raise awareness of environmental biosecurity and its benefits for the environment, economy and everyday life. (M-T)
- Keep improving national policies to boost preparedness and rapid response to invasive species to prevent them becoming established. (M-T)
- Continue improving tools and technologies to detect new invasive species quickly and maximise the chances of eradication before establishment. (L-T)

Outcome 4:
Research and development improve tools and technologies for managing the risks and impacts of invasive species

Overview

Ongoing support for research and development on new and improved tools and technologies is crucial for improving how we detect, monitor, manage and, where possible, contain or eradicate invasive species.

Governments and industry are investing in smarter ways to do this, supporting monitoring techniques that give us better information for decision-making; and advanced control methods such as carefully targeted biological and chemical controls, genetic modification and automation technologies. For example, the Australian Government's Saving Native Species Program is investing in the development of new tools, methods, technologies and products to reduce the impact of invasive species on threatened species and ecological communities.

Future focus

- Increase focus on improving management effectiveness. This could include landscape-scale assessments and integrated threat abatement activities that use methods or tools to target more than one species at once. (M-T)
- Continue to support the research, development, deployment and improvement of threat abatement measures to reduce the impacts of invasive species. This should be conducted in a way that is inclusive of diverse knowledge and expertise, including from Traditional Owners. (L-T)

CASE STUDY

Flinders Island Safe Haven

South Australia's fourth largest island, Flinders Island, is currently undergoing targeted eradication operations in an attempt to rid the island of feral cats and invasive rats and mice. The Australian Government has invested $3.8 million under the Saving Native Species Program, with a further $1 million provided by the South Australian Government through the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board. The project will support the reintroduction of several threatened mammal species and provide a safe haven for important beach nesting and migratory bird species.

The restoration of Flinders Island will add more than 3,800 hectares to Australia's network of safe havens, which means we have more than 100 predator-free islands and 20 fenced areas that provide habitat for vulnerable mammals.

CASE STUDY

Western Shield - protecting Western Australia's unique wildlife

Western Shield is the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' lead wildlife recovery program. It has been running for close to 30 years and is one of the largest wildlife conservation programs in Australia. With a focus on threatened species, it aims to protect priority native animals, primarily small and medium-sized mammals and some ground-nesting birds and reptiles, that are vulnerable to predation by foxes and feral cats.

Fox and feral cat control is conducted across more than 4 million hectares of conservation reserves, state forest and partner lands under Western Shield and feral cat programs. Monitoring shows native species are able to persist in the landscape when feral cats and foxes are controlled. Western Shield's work has facilitated increases in the population size and distribution of native species, including the numbat, quokka, western brush wallaby and black-flanked rock wallaby.

Target: No new extinctions

Prevent new extinctions of native species, support the recovery of threatened species and maintain their genetic diversity

This target is focused on ensuring the continued survival of Australia's unique plants and animals and preventing any new extinctions. It aims to strengthen management efforts and protection for threatened species and aligns with both national and global biodiversity commitments. Recovering threatened species is a multi-step journey towards reduced extinction risk. All recovery efforts are important for preventing extinction, including maintaining genetic diversity to maximise species' future resilience, particularly in a changing climate. Four pillars to prevent extinctions and recover threatened species are:

- identifying species at the brink of extinction
- tailoring interventions to prevent extinctions and recover species at local scales
- taking action at landscape and seascape scale to tackle threats impacting multiple species to reduce their risk of extinction
- strengthening planning and regulatory frameworks to coordinate effective recovery action and protect species.

A First Nations perspective

Every species is kin - they're part of our story, our ceremony and our lore. When a species disappears, it's not just ecological loss; it's cultural grief. Keeping them strong means keeping our connections whole.

Outcome 1:
Species at imminent risk of extinction are identified and supported to persist

Overview

Alongside action to address broadscale threats to biodiversity across Australia, targeted resourcing and effort is required for highly imperilled species at local scales. This means identifying species at greatest risk of imminent extinction and acting quickly to prevent their loss. Conservation plans for threatened species and ecological communities identify the actions needed and bring governments, scientists, communities and other stakeholders together to coordinate efforts. Preventing new extinctions is a signature objective of the Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032.

Future focus

- Expand work to identify species at imminent risk of extinction and develop a rapid response framework to guide urgent action after major environmental events. (S-T)
- Reduce the imminent risk of extinction for species by tackling key drivers of species decline, such as invasive species and habitat loss and degradation, including through strong threat abatement measures. (M-T)

Outcome 2:
Actions are underway to recover priority threatened species and ensure healthy ecosystems

Overview

Identifying and prioritising actions is an important first step for recovering threatened species. Many face multiple pressures such as habitat degradation and loss, competition or predation by invasive species, changed fire or water regimes and climate change. Alongside reducing direct threats, we can support recovery by protecting intact ecosystems, restoring damaged areas and reconnecting landscapes so species can move and thrive.

Protecting and improving the condition of existing habitats is one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to secure the future of threatened species. Actions aimed at one species or ecological community often benefit many others. Restoration and recovery efforts are already underway across Australia. Continuing this work will be key to delivering this target.

Future focus

- Continue to support key actions to identify and recover priority species and protect and restore habitat in priority places such as those in the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 (see also definition of priority places and invasive species management above under 'Priority landscapes, seascapes and places for invasive species management'). (S-T)

CASE STUDY

Working together to save the Mountain Frog

The endangered Mountain Frog (*Philoria kundagungan*) is only found high up in the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area, in the border ranges between Queensland and New South Wales. Its survival is under severe threat as climate change warms and dries its habitat and feral pigs damage these fragile rainforests. After years of drought, the 2019–20 bush fires destroyed much of its remaining habitat, making urgent action critical to prevent its extinction.

Through the Saving Native Species Program, the Australian Government is funding work led by Southern Cross University to boost the frog's numbers and help it adapt to a changing climate. This includes captive breeding and releasing frogs into safe refuge sites, as well as monitoring wild populations to track health and genetic diversity. A complementary New South Wales Government project has built exclusion fences around key sites to protect the frog's habitat from feral pigs.

Image: Mountain Frog (*Philoria kundagungan*) (image credit: Kerry Cameron)

Target: Minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity

Minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions, including by embedding climate change adaptation in all relevant decision-making, and through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimising negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity

Australia, along with all parties to the Paris Agreement, has committed to the global goal of holding the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2 °C of warming and pursuing efforts to keep warming to less than 1.5 °C.

The Australian Government has set a national target to reduce emissions by 62–70% below 2005 levels by 2035. This target is ambitious, achievable and a significant step up from our legislated 2030 target to reduce emissions to 43% below 2005 levels. It is a credible contribution to global action on climate change.

Even with rapid global action to reduce emissions, the impacts of climate change will continue to increase over the coming decades due to past emissions of greenhouse gases. Australia needs to prepare for and manage these impacts.

A First Nations perspective

Climate change is not separate
from us - we feel it in our seasons,
our animals and our stories.
But we've adapted before, through
lore, movement and memory.
The answers aren't new; they live
in the knowledge we've carried
through fire, flood and time.

Outcome 1:
Accelerate Australia's efforts to mitigate climate change and deliver on Australia's net zero emissions by 2050 target

Overview

Australia is accelerating climate action consistent with our global peers and taking major steps to realise the opportunities of an efficient, productive, net zero economy. This will require innovation and investment across all sectors.

Australia's Net Zero Plan sets out how we will achieve a fair, orderly and efficient transition to net zero. It provides a framework for action that builds on Australia's natural strengths to ensure all people in Australia benefit. The plan demonstrates how Australia can transition while growing the economy, reducing cost pressures, creating new jobs and protecting the environment.

The Net Zero Plan is complemented by 6 sector emissions reduction plans. Each sector plan outlines actions to reduce emissions to meet the 2035 target and a pathway to net zero by 2050. Plans capture the full breadth of the economy and include the electricity and energy, agriculture and land, built environment, industry, resources and transport sectors. The Agriculture and Land sector plan includes a focus on enhancing the role of land in a net zero economy including through protection and restoration. Together these plans will drive down emissions, support investment and deliver Australia's net zero ambitions.

The Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme is a voluntary market-based scheme which incentivises new emissions reduction activities, helping to minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity. The scheme encourages people and businesses to deliver projects that reduce emissions or store carbon. Eligible projects may include using new technology, upgrading equipment or changing the way vegetation is managed. The ACCU Scheme can also enable projects that directly restore or protect biodiversity through vegetation management, alongside the Nature Repair Market scheme. Project proponents can 'stack' projects on the same land, meaning they can earn both a biodiversity certificate and ACCUs providing they meet the eligibility criteria of both schemes.

Protecting and restoring more ecosystems will help mitigate climate change and improve biodiversity outcomes. Nevertheless, mitigation activities should avoid maladaptation risks, particularly unintended impacts on resources, including water.

Future focus

- Implement Australia's Net Zero Plan, including by reviewing and refining Australia's climate policies and measures over time. (M-T)
- Implement the 6 sector emission reduction plans, including the Agriculture and Land sector plan. (M-T)
- Continue to develop new methods for the ACCU Scheme, ensuring alignment with the Nature Repair Market where possible and supporting participation and confidence in these markets. (M-T)

Outcome 2:
Nature is thriving to the greatest extent possible with climate change

Overview

Climate change is creating serious challenges for Australia's biodiversity. Extreme weather events, droughts and rising temperatures are direct threats to biodiversity – and they make the impact of other pressures, like habitat loss and invasive species, even worse.

Assisted adaptation and resilience building is essential to address climate change hazards for nature. This includes reducing existing threats and strengthening ecosystems by protecting healthy habitats, restoring damaged areas and reconnecting landscapes. In some cases, targeted interventions and assisted adaptation will be essential to give species the best chance of survival. Helping nature to adapt will also deliver benefits across all other targets.

In September 2025 the Australian Government published Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA) – the most comprehensive analysis yet of current and future climate risks and impacts nationally. The NCRA found the current risk to the natural environment system to be very high and is expected to be severe by 2090. For example, under 3.0 °C of warming, 40–70% of native plant species will be exposed to climatic conditions that they do not currently experience. This evidence base will guide action across Australia.

Alongside the NCRA, the Australian Government released Australia's National Adaptation Plan, which establishes a framework for responding to nationally significant climate risks. The National Adaptation Plan outlines current initiatives and future measures to help communities, industries and the natural environment prepare for the impacts of climate change. It identifies the natural environment as one of 7 priority systems for action and maps a pathway for how Australia will strengthen the adaptive capacity of Australia's environment and natural assets.

Future focus

- Develop an action agenda to support delivery of Australia's National Adaptation Plan. (S-T)
- Governments and land managers work together to reduce overall rates of habitat loss, increase connectivity and improve ecological function. (M-T)
- Enhance general threat abatement activities to reduce the overall pressures on biodiversity, landscapes and seascapes in the shorter term and increase resilience. (M-T)
- Identify where adaptation action is most needed and scale up proactive measures, such as finding climate refugia on land, in freshwater and marine environments, and relocating species and ecosystems that cannot adapt or migrate naturally. (M-T)

Outcome 3:
Integrated climate and nature policy approaches are embedded across policy and decision-making

Overview

Businesses and governments at all levels need to work together to align policy, planning and decision-making so that action on climate and nature happen side by side. Given the diversity of Australia's landscapes and seascapes, this integration is essential for tackling climate pressures that affect biodiversity and to support a natural environment that is more resilient to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

A more resilient environment supports the continuation of ecosystem services critical to climate mitigation, such as carbon storage and sequestration.

Future focus

- Improve data and risk-management information and spatial mapping capabilities to increase understanding of future climate scenarios and equip decision-makers to identify policy solutions, implement effective adaptation decisions and embed practical measures. (S-T)
- Build capacity for integrated policy and decision-making across governments, industry and communities. (M-T)
- Embed climate risks, mitigation and adaptation in biodiversity policy, land-use planning, natural resource management, water resource management and planning, heritage protection, protected area management and other decision-making frameworks. (M-T)

Target: Increase Australia's circularity rate and reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity by 2035

Increase the circularity of Australia's economy to reduce our material footprint and waste generation by 2030. Reduce pollution in Australia's environment and its impacts on biodiversity, including reducing plastic pollution

A circular economy is an economic model that promotes sustainable and efficient use of resources. Increasing circularity in Australia represents a profound shift toward an economy where waste is designed out, materials are continually cycled, and products are built to last. By embracing these principles, we can regenerate nature; reduce environmental pressures; take a systemic approach to addressing climate change; and build a thriving, future-proof economy.

Significant work is underway to achieve this target. Australia is strengthening confidence in recycled content through the National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability and the ReMade in Australia certification scheme. We are also stimulating market demand at scale for sustainable products through the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy.

To help address pollution already in the environment, the National Pollutant Inventory tracks pollution across Australia, supporting governments in planning and management and helping communities to access information about pollutants and the transfer of toxic substances that may affect them locally.

The implementation of this target will be underpinned by these frameworks to design out waste and pollution, keep materials in use for longer and reduce the impacts of pollution on biodiversity.

A First Nations perspective

Country teaches us not to waste - everything has its place, its cycle and its return. Pollution breaks that cycle. It shows where respect has been lost. Healing that breach means remembering how to live with Country, not over it.

Outcome 1:
Markets are developed to support producers and consumers to shift to a circular economy

Overview

The development of effective markets that incentivise, scale and sustain a circular economy will support our whole-of-society and whole-of-economy transition. Demand for circular goods and services can be delivered through clear market signals and prices that reflect the true environmental costs of goods and services. Demand can also be driven through government and business procurement power.

Future focus

- Invest in recycling infrastructure for glass, plastics, cardboard, tyres, food and organic waste. (S-T)
- Encourage adoption of technologies to reuse materials and reduce our impact on the environment. (M-T)
- Expand product stewardship action to support the management of products and materials over their life. (M-T)
- Align policies across jurisdictions to facilitate waste reduction, increase recycling and decrease contamination of waste streams. (M-T)
- Embed circular economy principles in a broader suite of government policies and programs, including in procurement, to help drive change. (M-T).
- Work across governments and with industry to reform national regulations so that packaging sold in Australia is designed sustainably, collected efficiently and recycled into valuable materials. (M-T)
- Review our regulatory settings to ensure they are fit for purpose and support Australia to increase our circularity and reduce our material impact on the environment. (M-T)
- Increase the recovery of resources from waste by supporting markets for recycled content and design for circularity. (L-T)

Outcome 2:

Pollution and its impacts on biodiversity are understood, measured and managed at local, state and national levels, with a focus on plastics and harmful pollutants

Overview

Pollution is a major driver of biodiversity loss and the focus of this outcome. Plastics and other pollutants harm living organisms and ecosystems. While we have a growing understanding of how pollution impacts biodiversity, improving this knowledge, including of combined and cumulative impacts, will help us to further reduce harm. This can be supported by investing in research and strengthening our ability to measure, monitor and manage pollution.

Future focus

- Improve the strength and consistency of pollution regulation and monitoring across jurisdictions and share information more effectively. (M-T)
- Strengthen management to further reduce pollution's impacts on biodiversity, including for light and noise pollution. (M-T)
- Support research to better understand how different pollutants interact and their combined and cumulative impacts on biodiversity. (L-T)

Outcome 3:

Efforts to clean up contaminated environments are enhanced and implemented at scale

Overview

In addition to reducing pollution, we also need to address existing contamination. This means using on-ground management techniques and technologies to remove pollutants from soil, water and air. Improving our ability to restore these environments will require research, innovation and the trial of new technologies. These efforts are vital for the health of species, ecosystems and people.

Future focus

- Support research and new treatment technologies that target harmful pollutants, such as certain PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) that are harmful and difficult to clean up. (M-T)
- Expand clean-up activities nationwide to improve water quality, restore habitats and reduce pressures on biodiversity – aligning these efforts with land-use planning and restoration. (M-T)
- Make polluters responsible for clean-up costs, ideally with payments helping to restore ecosystems and support biodiversity recovery. (M-T)
- Combine natural remediation activities with other biodiversity management actions, such as using wetland restoration to address water pollution; and bioremediation to break down, remove or neutralise contaminants in soil, using living organisms such as microbes or fungi. (L-T)

3. Supporting enablers of change

The Strategy's enablers of change support Australia's efforts to achieve transformational change and deliver Australia's targets. Implementing the enablers, alongside Australia's targets, recognises the broader efforts required to support Australia's capability to protect our biodiversity.

Enabler: Ensure equitable representation and participation in decisions relating to nature, particularly for First Nations peoples

This enabler recognises the benefits to biodiversity from equitable participation, engagement and representation of diverse perspectives and voices across age, gender, ability, location, ethnicity and other backgrounds. It has a particular focus on the representation and participation of First Nations peoples in decisions related to nature.

First Nations peoples have cared for Country for tens of thousands of years through deep cultural, spiritual and ecological knowledge systems. Building strong partnerships with First Nations peoples and ensuring their representation and participation in environmental decision-making is essential to effectively halt and reverse biodiversity loss and supports Closing the Gap Priority Reforms.

Including people of different ages, genders, abilities, locations, ethnicity and other backgrounds helps ensure policies are fair and equitable. It also strengthens long-term care for nature and can bring new ideas and approaches to protecting biodiversity and strengthening its resilience to climate change.

A First Nations perspective

Our governance doesn't come from policy; it comes from Country. It's held in kinship, lore and the responsibilities we inherit. True representation means listening to the voices that carry this lore and knowing that Country speaks through them.

Outcome 1:
First Nations peoples are empowered to preserve and apply intergenerational knowledge systems, languages, ceremony and lore/law on Country

Overview

Supporting and facilitating First Nations cultural continuity affirms the inextricable link between biodiversity and cultural survival. For example, by reviving and maintaining First Nations languages, we protect the rich worldviews and knowledge about Country they contain.

To the extent desired by First Nations peoples, traditional knowledge systems, cultural practices and stewardship principles can be meaningfully recognised and embedded into biodiversity and water policy, programs and regulation to support ongoing connection to Country.

Future focus

- Build on work to implement Outcome 15 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters.* (S-T)
- Expand reporting methodologies to measure the outcomes of including traditional knowledge in biodiversity policies and programs. (M-T)
- Embed in decision-making the understanding that Country teaches us how to live well and care for all life, recognising First Nations knowledge systems as valid science and respecting Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property. (M-T)
- Support documentation of First Nations' ecological knowledge, in partnership with First Nations representatives and with their free, prior and informed consent. (M-T)

Outcome 2:
First Nations led governance arrangements and sustained capacity building enable culturally grounded, self-determined decision-making

Overview

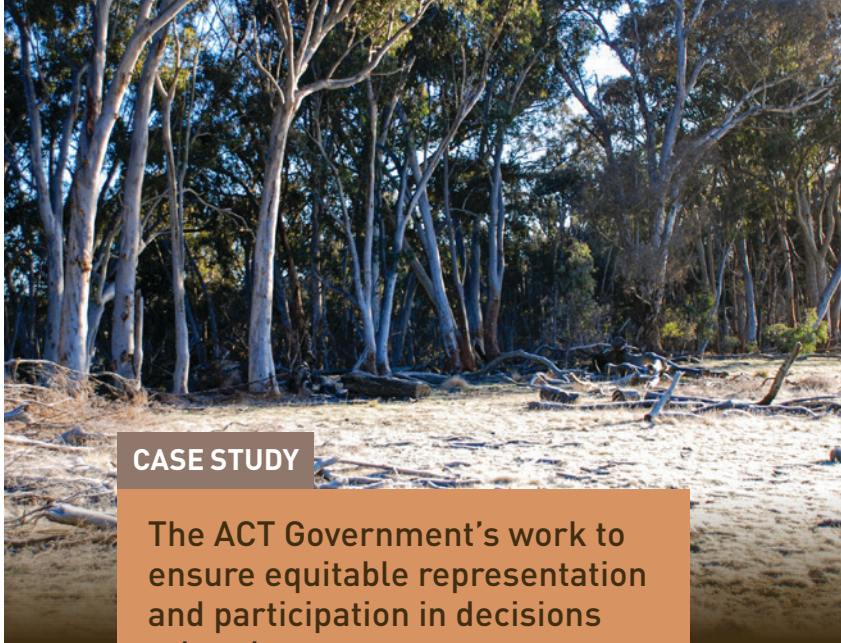
First Nations led governance arrangements and leadership can empower communities to engage on their own terms, lead local implementation and shape biodiversity outcomes from a position of strength.

Existing programs such as IPAs and Indigenous Rangers programs; Cultural Flows Planning for Cultural Economies Grant Program and the Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program delivered in the Murray–Darling Basin; Sea Country and Healthy Country planning arrangements; and First Nations led approaches to carbon farming and fisheries governance provide a strong foundation for self-determined decision-making with regional and cultural governance practices.

Partnership arrangements should be long-term, place-based relationships of trust and reciprocity, where co-design extends to co-decision.

Future focus

- Continue to support First Nations led inland waters management, such as the Cultural Flows Planning for Cultural Economies Grant Program, delivered in the Murray-Darling Basin. (S-T)
- Develop a National Environment Standard for First Nations engagement under national environmental law. (M-T)
- Explore mechanisms to embed First Nations leadership in public and private sector contexts to support consistent oversight and meaningful inclusion of First Nations perspectives in environmental strategies. (M-T)
- Provide long-term support and build the capacity of First Nations led governance platforms already contributing to biodiversity outcomes. This can support the economic empowerment of First Nations communities, strengthen First Nations leadership and support broader environmental goals. (L-T)



CASE STUDY

The ACT Government's work to ensure equitable representation and participation in decisions related to nature

Since 2023, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has been undertaking a habitat restoration project that actively engages Ngunnawal Cultural Advisors and promotes First Nations leadership in restoring Country. ACT is also a partner on an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant led by the Australian National University and NSW partners to undertake Traditional Owner-led burning on Country in endangered Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Woodland.

The ACT has initiated a First Nations conservation training program to provide opportunities for local First Nations peoples to access training and build experience in natural resource management. This Kickstart program targets First Nations youth and school-age children to become involved in various cultural experiences on Country.

Outcome 3:

Decision-making processes actively seek perspectives and contributions from diverse voices, including youth, people with disabilities and people of all genders

Overview

Programs that encourage representation and participation and give diverse groups a voice help to strengthen Australia's efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity. Examples of current initiatives include the Commonwealth Youth Forum, Equality in Energy Transitions Initiative and Ambassadors Program, the Climate Change and Water Youth Advisory Group and the Youth Advisory Council on International Climate Change.

Future focus

- Develop case studies that showcase community-owned self-governance of biodiversity projects to support other communities to build their own governance models and better participate in decision-making. (S-T)
- Support metrics for tracking inclusivity and representation across biodiversity projects and programs. (M-T)
- Establish mentorship programs to support youth and under-represented groups to participate in policy making to support biodiversity. (M-T)
- Establish new initiatives to address social and economic barriers to participation in biodiversity policy and programs. (L-T)

Enabler: Mainstream nature into government and business decision-making, including in financing, policies, regulations and planning processes

Mainstreaming nature means embedding consideration of nature into decision-making, rather than treating it as a separate or secondary issue. This will help businesses, financial institutions and governments build their understanding of the value of biodiversity, manage nature-related risks and impacts, and act on opportunities.

This plan builds on existing efforts to mobilise private and public action and aims to make nature a priority in all relevant decision-making. The goal is to create conditions where businesses, financial institutions and governments avoid harming and contribute to restoring nature as part of their operations. This is essential to address the underlying causes of environmental decline.

Investment in nature and sustainability is growing as businesses and governments in Australia increasingly engage with their nature-related risks, dependencies and opportunities. At the same time, the Australian Government's Nature Repair Market is providing a mechanism to accelerate private sector investment in nature. Australia has an opportunity to build on these developments and be a global leader.

A First Nations perspective

Nature isn't something to add into decisions; it's what decisions should begin with. Country has its own lores. When those lores are honoured, we find ways to live, trade and govern that are in balance, not in control.

Outcome 1:
Protection and restoration of nature is embedded in the planning, policy and regulatory decisions of government

Overview

Integrating nature into decision-making at all levels of government ensures the policies and actions of our public institutions protect and restore Australia's biodiversity. Building capability across government is essential to embed sustainable practices.

South Australia's *Biodiversity Act 2025* makes tackling biodiversity loss a shared responsibility. This responsibility is enacted through several provisions, including through a new 'General Duty' and a requirement for all state government agencies to report on how they address biodiversity in their work.

Regional planning plays a key role by taking a landscape-scale approach to environmental planning. It is helping to manage threats to nature, guiding development away from environmentally sensitive areas and supporting developers to reduce their impacts. The Australian Government's Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy is also reducing the environmental impact of government activities and creating demand for sustainable products.

Future focus

- Deliver stronger environmental protection and restoration, more efficient and robust project assessments and greater accountability and transparency in decision-making through implementation of Australia's reformed national environmental law. This includes the development of new national environmental standards that set clear and measurable outcomes for regulated activities and the establishment of a new National Environmental Protection Agency to help enforce the law. (S-T)
- Support the development of national marine spatial planning principles to guide consistent, integrated decision-making on ocean use. (M-T)
- Modernise environmental compliance and permitting processes to ensure they are coordinated, fit for purpose and effective. (M-T)
- Leverage opportunities in the net zero transition to integrate action on climate change that is complementary to biodiversity outcomes. (M-T)
- Strengthen engagement across government – at all levels – to ensure policies that affect biodiversity consider and reduce impacts. (M-T)
- Increase accountability and transparency in tracking progress towards Australia's national environmental goals. (M-T)

Outcome 2:
Businesses embed nature in their decision-making

Overview

Businesses increasingly recognise that they both depend on nature and impact it through their operations and supply chains. Protection of nature cannot be achieved by one sector or organisation alone – it requires collective action from all sectors.

Significant progress has been made to provide businesses and investors with tools and guidance to understand their relationship with nature and take positive action. For example, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures has developed a global framework to help businesses and financial institutions identify and respond to nature-related risks, dependencies and opportunities.

While leading businesses are already integrating nature into their strategies, a broader shift in mindset and an uplift in capability is needed to embed nature into more businesses' decision-making and strategic planning. Businesses should review their supply chains, adopt sustainable sourcing practices and set clear nature-related targets.

Governments will continue working with businesses to embed nature into their decision-making and mobilise private sector investment and innovation to achieve the targets in the Strategy.

Future focus

- Continue to develop tools and guidance to support the voluntary uptake of nature-related financial reporting. Through the Nature Positive Matters initiative, the Australian Government will work with partners to embed nature in decision-making processes. (S-T)
- Continue to develop new methods and guidance for the Nature Repair Market to support opportunities for broader participation. (M-T)
- Closely monitor the work of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystems services and consider its sustainability disclosure requirements in light of any global baseline developed by the ISSB. (M-T)
- Support funding arrangements that are sustainable and can be deployed at scale to meet Australia's biodiversity goals. (M-T)

CASE STUDY

Nature Repair Market

The Australian Government's Nature Repair Market is a legislated national biodiversity market designed to increase investment in nature and deliver high-integrity biodiversity outcomes.

Projects under the Nature Repair Market encourage land management practices that improve biodiversity. Project proponents design projects in line with a method, which sets out how a particular type of project must be carried out. Proponents register the projects with the Clean Energy Regulator, which ensures projects are delivered in line with requirements. Proponents can earn a biodiversity certificate once a project's biodiversity outcome has been, or is likely to be, achieved. Project proponents can attract investment at various stages of the project life cycle, including through selling biodiversity certificates.

The first method under the Nature Repair Market covers projects that enhance biodiversity by replanting native forest and woodland ecosystems on historically cleared land. The Australian Government is developing further methods that will provide broader opportunities for participation, covering a variety of ecosystems across Australia.

The Nature Repair Market operates alongside the ACCU Scheme. The first Nature Repair Market method allows a nature repair project and an ACCU project to be undertaken on the same parcel of land. This alignment facilitates investment in activities that achieve biodiversity and carbon benefits in tandem, where the projects meet the requirements of the applicable methods of each scheme.

Outcome 3:
People and communities better understand and care for nature and its many values

Overview

Beyond the intrinsic and cultural value of nature, it underpins much of the value of our economy and wellbeing. It supports industries like agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism and health; and provides essential ecosystem services like clean air, clean water and fertile soils. To achieve better outcomes for biodiversity, we need to grow community understanding of nature's importance in everyday life. When people feel connected to nature, collective action to protect and restore our environment becomes possible.

Australia is also measuring progress in new ways. Measuring What Matters is Australia's first national wellbeing framework, which tracks our wellbeing progress alongside other critical indicators like GDP, employment and wages. It tracks how we are building a healthier, more sustainable, secure, cohesive and prosperous Australia. Similarly, Australia's National Ecosystem Accounts help us understand the value of nature and how it benefits people. They can also show how Australia's environment is changing over time – and what that means for our economy and wellbeing.

Future focus

- Look for opportunities to embed the Measuring What Matters Framework into decision-making. (M-T)
- Promote communication and education programs to raise awareness of the value of biodiversity and encourage community involvement in decisions and actions to help address environmental decline. (L-T)
- Support local demonstration projects that show practically what it means to live in a way that supports Australia's goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and live in harmony with nature. (L-T)

Enabler: Environmental data and information are widely accessible and support decision-making

Data and information are critical to informing our understanding on how to effectively protect and recover Australia's biodiversity. They enable prioritisation of actions, informed decision-making and monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

Environment Information Australia (EIA) has been established within the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to improve environment information, data and reporting. EIA works with experts and partners across Australia, including governments, industry, researchers and First Nations peoples, to improve the way environmental data is collected, shared and used.

A First Nations perspective

Knowledge doesn't belong to systems; it belongs to relationships. We hold knowledge through story, through practice and through Country itself. When decisions are shaped by many ways of knowing, including those that come from deep listening, the path forward becomes clearer.

Outcome 1:
High-quality, consistent and fit-for-purpose data and information is produced to address identified gaps and needs and support decision-making and evaluation

Overview

High-quality data and information are essential for making good decisions about nature. They help us understand our natural systems, the threats they face, and whether our actions are working. Without reliable data, it is hard to make regulatory and investment decisions, set priorities, measure progress or design effective policies and programs.

Future focus

- Enhance governance, sharing arrangements and standards for environment data and information to improve access, interoperability and quality of data and information to inform decision-making. (M-T)
- Encourage and enable relevant agencies, businesses, landholders and the public to contribute data, including through citizen science. (M-T)
- Continue to develop enduring national environment data and information to provide a consistent foundation for biodiversity conservation planning and prioritisation across jurisdictions. (M-T)
- Value local knowledge by incorporating qualitative on-ground expertise into planning and decision-making. (M-T)
- Fill critical gaps in the quality and coverage of data and information to support better decision-making, monitoring and reporting on biodiversity outcomes. (M-T)

Outcome 2:
Improved and interoperable systems and tools are developed and made accessible to analyse and apply data effectively

Overview

Environmental data and information needs to be easy to access, understand and apply. It should also be able to be supplemented with location or project-specific details to support decisions that fit local contexts. To plan and act effectively at both landscape and national scales, data must be standardised and combined from multiple sources, including state, territory and local governments. It should be regularly updated to provide appropriate coverage over time and help track changes in our environment.

Examples of existing national data sharing platforms containing datasets from various sources, including states and territories:

- EIA Data and Information Portal brings together a range of new and existing information, tools and resources.
- Environment Information Viewer is an interactive, browser-based map viewer.
- Environmental Indicators Dashboard provides graphs, statistics and maps that summarise Australia's ecosystems.
- Biodiversity data repository is a foundational data repository for biodiversity.
- Protected Matters Search Tool is used to check if protected matters exist in and around an area of interest.
- Environmental Economic Accounts Dashboard provides a spatial view of the National Ecosystem Accounts, allowing users to explore regions of interest.
- Atlas of Living Australia is a National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy hosted by CSIRO, providing users with trusted biodiversity data services.
- Australian Ocean Data Network operates online infrastructure for marine and climate data resources.
- Australian Wetlands Database provides information on Australia's internationally important wetlands, and sites listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia — wetlands identified as nationally important.

States and territories also have their own data and information sharing platforms, such as ACT Mappi (Australian Capital Territory), SEED (New South Wales), NR Maps (Northern Territory), NatureMaps (South Australia), Queensland Globe (Queensland), TASVEG (Tasmania), NatureKit (Victoria), and Environment Online and Djandoo (Western Australia).

Future focus

- Continue to improve platforms that help capture, analyse and share data and information, complemented by decision-making tools. (M-T)
- Build the capabilities of decision-makers so that data and information are used effectively. (M-T)

Outcome 3:
Indigenous data are recognised as high quality, are governed according to the FAIR and CARE principles and are considered in and meaningfully inform decision-making

Overview

First Nations peoples have cared for Country for over 65,000 years, drawing on deep cultural, spiritual and scientific knowledge and connection to the Australian landscape. Their role in managing and restoring biodiversity should be embedded in decision-making through the application of the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, Ethics) and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent principles to ensure data and knowledge are used appropriately.

First Nations sovereignty, cultural and intellectual property rights, and control over their own knowledge, information and data, should be protected. Any action under this implementation plan that uses or shares First Nations knowledge, data or information should have Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The Strategy and this plan seeks to ensure the culturally safe and appropriate use of First Nations data and information, including Indigenous ecological knowledge.

Future focus

- Strengthen data governance frameworks, policies and procedures to ensure that any use of First Nations data protects Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property and that its sharing and use is founded on the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. (M-T)
- Support First Nations leadership in data collection and sovereignty through community-based, participatory monitoring initiatives. (M-T)

CASE STUDY

Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data

The Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data provides Australian Public Service (APS) agencies with a single framework for working with Indigenous data.

Vision: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have greater agency over how their data are governed within the APS so that their priorities and aspirations are reflected.

Guiding principles:

1. Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
2. Build data-related capabilities
3. Provide knowledge of data assets
4. Build an inclusive data system

Outcome 4:

Research and development improve tools, technologies and understanding for managing drivers of biodiversity decline and assisting recovery efforts while meeting the needs of end users, especially First Nations communities

Overview

Research plays a vital role in improving the data and information needed to manage and restore biodiversity effectively. It helps us develop better methods, create new tools and improve how we use technology and monitor the effectiveness of our actions.

Future focus

- Improve coordination and governance of biodiversity research across governments, research institutions and practitioners to ensure a strategic, joined-up approach that tackles the most urgent conservation challenges. (M-T)
- Develop and deploy new technologies, such as through satellite, drone technology, bioacoustics, eDNA and artificial intelligence, to monitor the health and trends of nature. These tools will improve our knowledge and help us manage and evaluate biodiversity outcomes more effectively. (L-T)

CASE STUDIES

National Environmental Science Program

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) combines science and traditional knowledge to help us care for the environment with projects informing decision-making and on-ground action. NESP consists of 4 hubs:

- Resilient Landscapes Hub
- Marine and Coastal Hub
- Climate Systems Hub
- Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub.

CSIRO biodiversity research

CSIRO undertakes research and development to protect and restore Australia's biodiversity and ecosystems by translating complex science into decision-ready information, tools and methods to support planning and actions by governments, industries and communities.

Appendix A. Monitoring and reporting

Australia's monitoring and reporting approach will align with the GBF Monitoring and Reporting Framework and include:

- using headline and binary indicators from the GBF monitoring framework for all GBF targets wherever possible
- applying national indicators in some circumstances where they better address Australia's targets and enablers of change or reflect Australia's specific circumstances
- reporting on progress towards national targets and enablers of change by:
  - describing the main actions taken for implementation
  - summarising progress, including main outcomes achieved, key challenges and future actions needed
  - providing examples or cases to illustrate effectiveness of implementation actions
- reporting on progress towards the GBF Goals
- providing a summary assessment of the implementation of the GBF, including the main achievements and the major challenges encountered for Australia.

Like many countries, Australia is embarking on a process of continuous improvement to develop the capability to report in the specified globally standardised way. Where there are gaps in our capability to report using the specified indicators, we will work to address the gap to improve our reporting in the future.

Table 1 below displays Australia's 9 priority areas (6 national targets and 3 enablers of change), corresponding GBF targets and associated GBF headline and binary indicators. Australia will seek to report against these indicators to the extent possible.

Table 1 – Monitoring and reporting approach

Strategy for Nature targets and enablers	GBF targets	GBF indicators (b = binary)
Priority degraded areas are under effective restoration by 2030	Target 2	2.1 Area under restoration
Protect and conserve 30% of Australia's landmass and 30% of Australia's marine areas by 2030	Target 3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures
No new extinctions	Target 4	A.3 Red List Index
		A.4 Proportion of populations within species with an effective population size greater than 500
Eradicate or control invasive species in priority landscapes and further minimise their introduction by 2030	Target 6	6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment
		6.b Number of countries adopting relevant regulations, processes and measures to reduce the impact of invasive alien species
Minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity	Target 8	8.b Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity
Increase Australia's circularity rate and reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity by 2030	Target 7	7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential
		7.2 Pesticide environment concentration and/or aggregated total applied toxicity
	Target 16	16.b Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices

Strategy for Nature targets and enablers	GBF targets	GBF indicators (b = binary)
Ensure equitable representation and participation in decisions relating to nature, particularly for First Nations peoples	Target 13	C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments
		C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international access and benefit-sharing instrument
		13.b Number of countries that have taken effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
	Target 22	22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities
		22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender responsive representation and participation, in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by, women, and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders
	Target 23	23.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring women's equal rights and access to land and natural resources

Strategy for Nature targets and enablers	GBF targets	GBF indicators (b = binary)
Mainstream nature into government and business decision-making, including in financing, policies, regulations and planning process	Target 14	14.b Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework
	Target 15	15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts
		15.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production
	Target 18	18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use
		18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity
	Target 19	D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA), for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystems
		D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
		D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

Strategy for Nature targets and enablers	GBF targets	GBF indicators (b = binary)
Ensure environmental data and information are widely accessible and support decision-making	Target 1	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems
		A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems
		1.1 Percentage of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans
		1.b Number of countries using participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030
	Target 20	20.b Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation
	Target 21	21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
	Target 11	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems
	Target 5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
		5.b Number of countries with legal instruments or other policy frameworks to regulate trade in wild species
	Target 9	9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species
		9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations
		9.b Number or countries with policies to manage the use of wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities
	Target 10	10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
		10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management
	Target 12	12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green or blue space for public use for all
	Target 17	17.b Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19


ENV836.1125